



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**IOWA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO SPEAK AT ANIMAL HEALTH IN THE  
HEARTLAND: *ENSURING A SAFE FOOD SUPPLY SYMPOSIUM***

**DES MOINES** – June 6, 2017 – Bio Nebraska Executive Director Phil Kozera and Iowa Biotechnology Association (IowaBio) Executive Director Joe Hrdlicka announced today new Iowa Lt. Governor Adam Gregg will be a speaker at its animal health symposium scheduled for Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> in Ames that will focus on the biotech industry's role in mitigating animal health emergencies. Gregg will speak at approximately 8 a.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Kozera and Hrdlicka said they are again pleased to have Lt. Governor Gregg and commitments from some of the nation's foremost research and regulatory experts to lead the discussion on preventing past and future emergency outbreaks. The event kicks off with a 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. facility tour and a 5 to 7 p.m. networking reception on Tuesday, July 18th. The main symposium is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19th. Tuesday's facility tour will be located at the USDA National Centers for Animal Health in Ames with the networking reception following at Olde Main Brewing Co. Wednesday's events will feature presentations and panel discussions at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus.

Dr. John Schleifer, DVM, MS, DACPV, Staff Veterinarian with Rembrandt Inc. is scheduled to lead off the industry discussion on Wednesday followed by a list of leading animal health experts addressing critical topics to livestock producers and animal health professionals in government, academia and industry (**See full agenda at website listed below**).

Those interested in attending this event may register by clicking this link: [www.iowabio.org/animalhealth](http://www.iowabio.org/animalhealth).

Recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AIV) and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) have had serious consequences in the Heartland region, impacting animal health, human health, animal producers, the encompassing agriculture industry, and the overall

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economy both domestic and abroad, Kozera and Hrdlicka said. They indicated the impact of these recent outbreaks inspired the symposium.

“These were not the first diseases emerging in the region, and will certainly not be the last, Hrdlicka said. “In our discussion with industry and regulatory experts, we believe it’s critical to open the dialogue to minimize impact from future events.”

Kozera said our regions’ leadership in animal production dictates a need for an ongoing conversation on practices designed to quickly respond to outbreaks. “We have seen first-hand the significant dangers these diseases pose for the economies of Midwest states like Nebraska and Iowa,” he said. “It is critical that animal health professionals, producers, academia and government leaders collaborate in an effort to minimize future threats.”

Dr. Marcus Kehrli (director of the National Animal Disease Center with the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service) assisted the organizations coordinating the event. “I’m pleased to work again with these organizations on this event,” he said. “The discussion and collaboration is needed to prepare for these emergencies and raise the level of awareness surrounding the significant impact of these events.”

### **About IowaBio**

*Since 1994, the Iowa Biotechnology Association has provided benefits and services to promote the interests and growth of the life sciences industries in Iowa. We are a non-profit, membership-based organization with a diversified membership including industry companies from all segments of biotechnology, universities & colleges, state & federal associations, as well as numerous service & support companies. Our Association seeks to promote the success and growth of biotech-based business in Iowa, ultimately securing our strong biotech economy while growing our business & increasing our influence nationally and around the globe. For more information, visit [IowaBio.org](http://IowaBio.org).*

### **About Bio Nebraska**

*The mission of Bio Nebraska is to be the champion of biotechnology and to advocate for its member organizations, promoting academic, industry and government partnerships to foster the growth of life sciences within Nebraska. Nebraska biotechnology researchers expand the boundaries of science to benefit mankind by providing better health care, enhanced agriculture and a cleaner and safer environment, creating opportunities for economic development within the state.*

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