



John P. Sanders, Jr. DVM, DACVPM

In November 2007, Dr. Sanders became Branch Chief of the Food Preparedness / Defense Coordination Branch of the Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense Division (FAV) of Office of Health Affairs (OHA) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am developing DHS's food strategic and communication plans. I am working the other Federal agencies in developing a coordinated response plan for the food events of national significance and protecting this critical infrastructure. The branch is working to communicate and coordinate with all stakeholders. Some of the ways we are accomplishing this is through the development of Food Shield and HSIN/FA.

From 1999 to 2007, Dr. Sanders has worked for US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) Emergency Coordination and Response Staff (ECRS) as General Health Scientist and Epidemiologist. The ECRS coordinates investigations and responses to emergencies and terrorism events involving food and cosmetic products regulated by FDA. He coordinates these activities with other federal, state, and local agencies and helps develop strategies for the prevention and detection of future outbreaks and emergencies.

Prior to his affiliation with the FDA, Dr. Sanders worked for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Services as the Eastern Regional Epidemiology Office. He served in that position for 9 years. He reviewed and coordinated Veterinary Services disease eradication programs, introduced new tools and skills to the Region such as Geographical Information Systems, Risk Analysis and accompanying software packages, and provided epidemiologic training programs for field veterinarians. Before working for APHIS, Dr. Sanders worked for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, fielding consumer complaints about illnesses related to meat and poultry products for the Epidemiology Branch's Meat borne Hazard Control Center. He started his career with FSIS as an inspector in charge at poultry plants in Alabama. During his tenure as a Federal employee, Dr. Sanders has received numerous awards and honors including 6 Certificates of Merit, Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service, Commissioner's Special Citation, and 18 other awards.

Dr. Sanders earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Tennessee and is a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. He is the Chairperson of the US Animal Health Association Public Health and Rabies committee. He is on the National Association of Federal Veterinarians Board of Directors, representing veterinarians in Health and Human Service and other non DOD or USDA departments. He is the President of American Association of Public Health Veterinarians. He is also active in the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians.