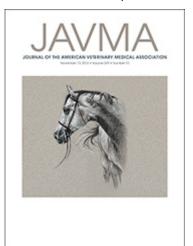
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PRACTICE

Building membership by showing ben AABP president sees chance to show organizati

By Greg Cima

Posted Nov. 2, 2016

Dr. Mark J. Thomas wants to build on his predecessors' work in recruiting and retaining memb of Bovine Practitioners.

That will involve showing fellow veterinarians in cattle practice what advocacy and other work behalf, beyond hosting an annual meeting.

Dr. Thomas, a dairy veterinarian in Lowville, New York, is the 2016-2017 AABP president, the He is a managing partner in Dairy Health and Management Services and Countryside Veterin cattle production medicine and consulting services.

He took office during the AABP's annual conference, hosted this September in Charlotte, Nort chairman of the program committee for the 2016 meeting, which included a mix of presentatio aspects of practice such as personal well-being, suicide prevention, and human resource mai

Aiding members

In an interview since the meeting, Dr. Thomas said he wants to continue his predecessors' wo ethics task force and to improve member recruitment and retention.

On the former subject, he noted that ethical views can shift with societal change. In 2015, AAB the Ethics in Cattle Practice Task Force to advise the board of directors and help AABP memb and continue to practice in an ethical manner.

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That includes reviewing the AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics, deciding whether a bovine practice is needed, as well as working with the AABP board to develop any necessary



As president, Dr. Mark J. Thomas plans to advance the American Association of Bov work on developing an ethics task force and improving member recruitment and reter veterinarian from Lowville, New York, specializes in dairy cattle production medicine, I consulting services. (Photo by Joyce Sullivan)

To aid in member recruitment and retention, he wants to see wider recognition of the services continuing education at the annual conference.

"I really want to highlight to our membership what else AABP does do for our members," he sa

Until he became a board member, Dr. Thomas said even he did not know about the daily activ president and board.

On the day he spoke with JAVMA, for example, he said the AABP was preparing a letter reque Administration extend the comment period on possible limitations on the duration of antimicro

"We really need to keep our membership updated on all the other aspects of what AABP is do he said.

He said AABP leaders can do better at telling members about work behind the scenes, such ε Cattlemen's Beef Association, the AVMA, and the American Association of Swine Veterinarian with members of Congress; and advocating in general on issues such as antimicrobial admin repayments. Improvements could range from expanding relationships with news media seen on Facebook of himself and other AABP leaders on Capitol Hill.

The AABP also is considering adding a nonvoting student representative to the AABP board c insight into the profession's future and increase age diversity among leaders. He noted that he board member when he joined around age 35, and he wants to see recent graduates become

He also would like to see student AABP delegates remain in leadership after graduation, whe

High student debt, the need for loan repayment programs, and the need to debunk a myth of a issues for the AABP, he said. Increasing requirements for veterinarian oversight of antimicrobi for veterinarians, particularly those in dairy practice.

Antimicrobials that are in drug classes considered important for human medicine and adminis veterinary feed directives or prescriptions for use by the end of this year. FDA officials have ar companies that own approvals for all such drugs have agreed to eliminate over-the-counter a drugs for production purposes such as growth promotion.

Leading in cattle medicine

Dr. Thomas grew up on a cow-calf farm in southeastern New York, where his family had horse was about 8 years old when he began dreaming of going to veterinary school.

He attended Cornell University, becoming president of Cornell's Block and Bridle Club as an I involved in the university's AABP student chapter while attending the College of Veterinary Me

Today, his work focuses more on research and consulting than clinical practice, but he said the developed in veterinary college continue to serve him.

Dr. Thomas was a member of the AABP Membership Committee from 2004-2008 and then un position he held until he became vice president. AABP officers serve four consecutive one-year president-elect, president, and immediate past president.

Dr. Thomas said he has become president during an exciting time, as leadership transitions in who has been executive vice president since March 2005, to Dr. K. Fred Gingrich II, who resig prepare for that job.

He praised Dr. Riddell for his insight and foresight and Dr. Gingrich for his ideas on opportunit expressed hope his own experience as an AABP board member will help during those chang

Dr. Thomas said veterinarians should remember to use science in their decisions, a lesson lea lost in moments of emotional responses. AABP members can help people realize the veterina well-being of livestock, livestock owners, and the public, he said, noting all AABP members he safety.

He also suggested that veterinarians watch for signs of stress among their clients, who are de and a fluctuating farm and livestock economy.



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