



2026 Annual Meeting & Conference Speakers

Session Title:

Regulatory Boards as Champions for Informed Veterinary Workforce Policy:
Standardized Data Collection

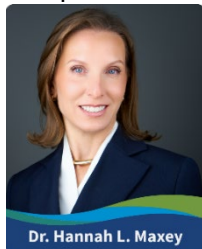
Friday September 25, 2026 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Session Summary:

Sound veterinary workforce policy depends on sound workforce data, yet across the country, state policymakers and program leaders are making high-stakes decisions about the animal health workforce without reliable, profession-specific information.

State veterinary regulatory boards sit at the intersection of professional oversight and public protection, giving them a strategic vantage point and a data collection opportunity that no other entity can match.

The session will examine why standardized data collection across states is critical to understanding veterinary workforce trends at both the state and national level. Attendees will be introduced to the Cross Profession Minimum Data Set (CPMDS), a practical, field-tested resource originally developed for health care that is now being applied to help veterinary regulatory boards collect consistent, comparable workforce data across professions and jurisdictions.



Dr. Hannah L. Maxey

Speaker Biography:

Dr. Hannah L. Maxey is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Director of the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy at Indiana University School of Medicine, where she leads initiatives to strengthen the health workforce, improve data infrastructure, and expand access to care. She is also a founding partner of Veritas Health Solutions, advising health care organizations and public sector clients on strategy, policy, and workforce development. A nationally recognized expert with over 20 years of experience, she has advised state and federal leaders, provided legislative testimony, and served on key Indiana health workforce and public health commissions.

Dr. Maxey's research and leadership continue to shape health workforce policy and public health systems across the United States, with a focus on sustainable, data-driven, and community-centered solutions.

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**Session Title:**

Community Readiness as a Workforce Strategy: Lessons from FJF's State Program

Friday September 25, 2026 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Session Summary:

Launched in 2022, Farm Journal Foundation's Veterinary Workforce Solutions Program addresses the U.S. shortage of rural and food-animal veterinarians — a gap threatening food safety, disease control, and rural economic health.

Working with NASDA and 40+ stakeholders, FJF built a State and Community Readiness Infrastructure to convert national awareness into local action. The two-phase model maps stakeholders, builds state coalitions, and assesses workforce readiness across academic, financial, and business dimensions before activating locally tailored solution frameworks.

Current state partners include Kansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, and Oklahoma. State assessments integrate agricultural demand data, veterinary supply and licensure information, workforce pipeline indicators from secondary through graduate education, and practitioner financial health metrics — building a comprehensive picture of shortage conditions from the ground up.

**Speaker Biography:**

Dr. Clint Neill is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in veterinary economics for the Cornell Center of Veterinary Business and Entrepreneurship and Managing Partner for Applied Economics Consulting. Dr. Neill focuses on creating sustainable solutions for the broad scope of issues that face the veterinary industry. His current work with the Farm Journal Foundation is focused on working with students, veterinarians, policymakers, and industry partners to educate and advocate for a better future for the veterinary profession. Dr. Neill completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech University, and received his Doctorate in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University. In addition to his research Dr. Neill focuses on bringing his academic research to real solutions for the veterinary and food industries.

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**Session Title:**

Shared Perspectives, Shared Progress: Advancing Veterinary Technician Education, Credentialing, and Support

Friday September 25, 2026 3:45pm – 4:45pm

Session Summary:

Leaders from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE), AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA), Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), and National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) are coming together to explore opportunities to strengthen veterinary technician education, credentialing, regulation, and professional support.

During this interactive panel, representatives will share progress on collaborative efforts, discuss what they have learned through this work, and invite attendees to ask questions and share perspectives as the collaboration moves forward.

Speaker Information:**AAVSB – Channing Benson, Program Manager, Exams**

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas. They are an association of veterinary medicine regulatory boards whose core purpose is to ensure and enhance the welfare of the public and animals. The AAVSB's leadership and comprehensive resources support and advance veterinary medicine regulation.

CVTEA – Dr. Beth Thompson, Associate Director

The AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities accredits undergraduate programs in veterinary technology within the United States and internationally. As the sole recognized accrediting body for veterinary technology programs in the U.S. The intent of the CVTEA is stated in its mission statement developed in 2001: to shape the future of veterinary medicine by promoting veterinary technology and the veterinary professional team through education, quality, integrity, service, leadership, and collegiality.

AVTE – Tricia Gorham, AVTE Past President

The Association of Veterinary Technicians Educators is a community dedicated to supporting student success in veterinary technician education. The mission of the Association shall be to promote quality professional education of the veterinary technician student. In addition, they are dedicated to facilitating lifelong learning and professional development by providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas to stimulate improvement in veterinary technician education.

CVMA – Heather Quilty, Co-Chair AHTVTPAC, CVMA

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association establishes the veterinary profession as the key influencer in shaping national legislation, regulation, policy, and social narrative on matters of animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health. The CVMA gives voice and support to Canadian veterinary professionals as they work to sustain and enhance animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, and the well-being of all.

NAVTA – Jennifer Serling, NAVTA President

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America is a diverse community of Credentialed Veterinary Technicians, students, and Veterinary Assistants, united in advancing the profession of veterinary nursing through strategic advocacy, awareness, and professional development.

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**Session Title:**

Top Legal Cases Impacting the Veterinarian Profession

Saturday September 26, 2026**1:30pm – 3:30pm****Session Summary:**

Join legal expert Dale Atkinson as he delves into the most significant legal cases affecting the veterinary community. In this insightful presentation, Dale will explore key rulings that have shaped veterinary practice, from malpractice lawsuits to regulatory issues.

Gain a deeper understanding of the legal challenges veterinarians face and how these cases influence the future of veterinary care and professional responsibilities. This session is essential for veterinary professionals seeking to stay informed on the legal landscape of their field.

**Speaker Biography:**

Dale J. Atkinson is a licensed Illinois attorney and sole managing member of The Atkinson Firm in Eden, Utah (formerly in Northbrook, Illinois). With over 30 years of experience in regulatory law, he advises not-for-profit associations on operations, licensure programs, disciplinary actions, and model legislation. For over 10 years, Mr. Atkinson has been a valued supporter of our organization. A frequent speaker and author, he also served as Executive Director of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards for over 21 years, promoting education and public protection in regulation.

“‘Minds Shared’ captures my commitment to the firm, my dedication to client representation, and comprehensive collaboration with the regulatory community and the public served.”

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**Session Title:**

AI-Powered Complaint Triage: Practical Tools and Governance for Veterinary Regulators

Saturday September 26, 2026**3:45pm – 4:45pm****Session Summary:**

This session will describe a practical approach to using AI to support complaint intake and triage workflows for veterinary regulatory organizations. Using real-world regulatory scenarios, the presentation will walk through how modern AI tools can help identify key allegations, extract critical facts, flag risk indicators, and route matters for appropriate follow-up—while maintaining human oversight and clear accountability.

Attendees will learn an implementation-minded framework that emphasizes transparency, auditability, and bias/quality controls, including how to set guardrails, validate outputs, and document decision-making. The session will also address common operational questions (what data is appropriate to use, how to manage confidentiality, how to evaluate vendor claims, and how to communicate limits to staff and stakeholders).

The talk is designed to be adaptable to the audience's interests and can include a short demonstration and/or deeper discussion of governance, policy considerations, and change management. Participants will leave with concrete steps and a checklist to evaluate and pilot AI-enabled triage in a way that improves consistency and efficiency without compromising fairness or trust.

**Speaker Biography:**

Frank Meyers is Director of Regulatory Innovation & Member Services at the Federation of State Medical Boards, where he leads initiatives on governance, regulatory modernization, and the responsible use of AI in healthcare regulation. He helps boards assess physicians' use of AI and apply it to functions like complaint triage. Previously, he spent over a decade in state regulation, serving in legal and executive roles in Missouri and Washington, DC, overseeing boards and programs for nearly 90,000 licensees. A frequent national and international speaker on healthcare regulation, he has also served on the FSMB Board, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission, and multiple national workgroups on telemedicine, emergency preparedness, and board governance.

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