

**PVS**



PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES

# WOMEN IN POULTRY

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The veterinary medicine profession has changed over the last 100 years. One of the major changes is the number of women involved in the field.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), in a traditionally male dominated industry, as of the year 2009, the number of female veterinarians in the field officially surpassed males.

In the 2017 class, more than 80 percent of students were women. This extraordinary change in the profession is growing and according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the current ratio is 55 percent female/45 percent male in the veterinary market (private and public).

# Every day more organizations empower women to be leaders in their fields



One of the organizations that is supporting women in the agricultural field is the Women in Agribusiness. The Women in Agribusiness organizes a summit every year that was created out of a recognized and confirmed industry need for a forum to address the challenges and opportunities for women in the agribusiness and food sector. The meeting brings together a powerful group of woman leaders in the global agribusiness and food production industries to facilitate networking, professional development, and mentoring in a fresh and innovative format.

Boehringer Ingelheim's Poultry Business Unit has been sponsoring our female poultry veterinarian members. It also sponsors other women in the

poultry industry to participate in the summit and become members of the association to encourage leadership and support for other women in the professional poultry sector.

Another very important new organization, which Boehringer Ingelheim's Poultry Business Unit is supporting and sponsoring, is the American Association of Avian Pathologist (AAAP) Women's Network. The AAAP Women's Network (AWN) is passionate about ensuring a welcoming organization to all while providing support to the increasing number of women who are entering the poultry industry. The steering committee and its members believe that great leaders learn from the past, embrace the present and look to the future with resilience and optimism. Thus, while this committee is focused on leadership and development opportunities for women in AAAP, their overarching goal is to be supported by and work collaboratively with the male counterparts within the organization.

Currently the AWN has over 90 members from different sectors within the poultry industry. Members are from academia, allied industries, poultry medicine, production, veterinary students, and veterinarians specializing in poultry services.

## One of our BI Poultry team veterinarians is a member of the steering committee.

The mission of the AWN is to encourage women to embrace opportunities for leadership and personal growth within this profession and their personal lives. Also, it seeks to motivate women to actively achieve leadership, policy and decision-making positions within AAAP and the poultry industry.

Finally, the World Veterinary Day is an opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of those that dedicate their lives to animal health and wellbeing as well as society.