

## The RA Minister of Agriculture Discussed Issues for Brucellosis Control with the USDA Delegation



On March 2015, the RA Minister of Agriculture Mr. Sergo Karapetyan hosted the USDA delegation represented by the director of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Valerie Ragan (DVM) and the director of Veterinary and Human Health Center Bess Pierce.

During the two-week visit, the delegation had meetings with representatives from the sector and the brucellosis working group developed and being supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture. Discussions were held particularly on brucellosis control and prevention measures to be undertaken.

“We highly prioritize the application of the efficient means for the control of brucellosis in the Republic, and in this regard, we appreciate your support and joint activities with Armenian experts”, mentioned the Minister.

During the meeting, both parties specifically focused on the importance of having equipped modern laboratories, on the establishment of advanced slaughter houses and having trained specialists.

“As a result of the activities implemented in

Armenia, it is planned to develop a complex-project for the control of brucellosis, which will contribute to more effective implementation of diagnostic and preventive activities”, mentioned Valerie R.

Two specialists Tatul Stepanyan, head of veterinary department of SNCO, and Pertch Tumanyan, head of veterinary department of Yerevan central laboratory, visited to USA for three weeks training on brucellosis topic. They are going to take the leadership on the development of Brucellosis control and eradication program. The training was financed by USDA organized by David White, Valerie Ragan and Carling Sitterley.

The Minister once again prioritized the implementation of projects aimed at eliminating the animal diseases and, in this regard, highly appreciated the collaboration between the US delegation and Armenian experts.

On July 2015, CARD will facilitate a business trip for the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Sergo Karapetyan and deputy minister Mr. Armen Harutyunyan to US for meeting with the USDA and the Government officials to discuss and get acquainted with the US brucellosis control and eradication program.

