

# Animal Health and International Trade Committee Report

April 6, 2005

The Animal Health and International Trade Committee met on Wednesday April 6, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM, during the NIAA 2005 Annual Meeting in St. Paul Minnesota, with 31 people present. Dr. Alfonso Torres served as the Chair and Dr. Bob Kahrs served as the Vice-Chair.

**Mission:** Identify current problems with national and international trade by cross-disciplinary discussions between, government, academia, and industry and recommend solutions through novel application of information, communication, and technology.

The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to animal health and international trade.

I. Dr. Alfonso Torres, Committee Chairman and Associate Dean for Public Policy at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine presented a paper entitled "Update on OIE issues". He reviewed the key upcoming changes in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) code chapters, including: disease lists and notification requirements; the new proposed changes in the code chapter for BSE, avian influenza, bluetongue and classical swine fever; and the revised definition of "compartmentalization", "establishment" and "enterprise".

II. Dr. T.J Myers, co-Director, National Animal Health Programs, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary services, presented a paper entitled "Avian influenza update". He reviewed the national and international aspects of avian influenza and commented on the impact of the new OIE code for avian influenza in trade and disease control. He also presented to the Committee a good review of the situation at the Live Bird Markets and the increased participation of the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) in the surveillance for avian influenza.

III. Dr. Jay Mitchell, Trade Director for Europe and the Middle East Region, Trade Support Team, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, International Programs, presented a paper entitled "General approach to trade negotiations". He discussed in general the approach taken by APHIS, other USDA units, and other US Government agencies in trade negotiations in relation to sanitary issues on the international trade of animals and animal products. He illustrated these activities by focusing primarily on the events related to trade embargoes resulting from the recent outbreaks of avian influenza. He emphasized that of all the tools available to regain and expand markets for animal products, of the most effective ones are the OIE codes.

IV. Dr. Alfonso Torres presented a paper on "Update on Hemispheric Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)". He reviewed the progress of the Interamerican Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA) in the development of an Action Plan to accomplish the goal of eradication of FMD from the Americas by the year 2009 as defined in the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of FMD (PHEFA).

V. Dr. Robert Kahrs, Co-Chair of the Committee presented the paper: "AAVMC Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education: Impact on World Trade". He reported on the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) initiatives in cooperation with the US Army Veterinary Corps, the AVMA, and a growing list of cooperating organizations on efforts to veterinary education in developing countries. These actions will improve livestock health infrastructures, expedite international trade, and sew the seeds of world peace by supporting human-animal bonding and reducing starvation.

Old Business: No old business issues.

New Business:

- All four existing resolutions were reviewed. Three were amended and one was reaffirmed in its current form.
- Two new resolutions were approved by the Committee

General discussion: It was suggested that the topic of Regionalization/Zoning/Compartmentalization be a central theme for the 2006 meeting of the NIAA.

Committee Session adjourned at 11:45 AM