

Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee Report April 6, 2005

The Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2005 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM CST, during the NIAA 2005 Annual Meeting in St. Paul Minnesota, with 140 people present. Dr. Robert Fourdraine served as the Chair and Drs. John Hunt and Cris Young served as the Vice-Chairs.

Committee chair, Dr. Robert Fourdraine, welcomed members and reviewed committee structure. The Animal Identification and Information Systems committee also includes a subcommittee Equine ID with Ms. Amelita Facchiano.

The committee session focused on the NAIS development.

The following speakers presented relevant information:

USDA Undersecretary Bill Hawks: Set the stage, background. Asked for help to get confidentiality legislation moving forward and stated program would go mandatory in 2009 pending resolution of the confidentiality issue. Report to Congress was submitted by Secretary Johanns on 4 April 2005. The Draft Strategic Plan will be published early to mid May in the CFR.

Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, USDA-APHIS-VS: Began with an update of the premise registration system showing state adoption. Next moved into discussion of Animal ID and tracking system. AIN system discussion centered on current efforts with an August 2005 roll out. AIN system will not be in final format when introduced. Tag approval process was discussed. Then moved into discussion of AIN managers. Highlighted a newly published 40 page document to review the 43 USDA funded projects. Wrapped up with the Draft Strategic Plan broadly discussing what will be included in the plan.

Dr. Mark Spire, KSU: Discussed USDA funded project on RFID plus GIS utilized for animal movement. 500-600 trucks daily are moving into Kansas with cattle. Goal is to track 20,000 head of cattle. Reads are done moving onto and off of the truck. Question: Do you have trouble with the tuning of the reader? Answer: No auto tuning system works well.

Dr. Mick Riesinger, North Dakota State University : Calf Aid Project. 25 herds with 4,672 head in project. Emphasized that RFID tags must be tamper resistant. Utilized high frequency RFID with excellent read rates at distances up to 22 feet. Stressed producer participation needs to be solicited.

Mr. Brian Bolton, CEO Allflex : Currently working with 30 nations on national animal identification programs. The US needs to develop a simple system based on proven technology and build from there. Education is an enormous task. Today's answer is LRFID. This may not be the case in 3-5 years and Allflex is aggressively pursuing new technology. Discussed ISO standards and discussed why ISO compliant does not address performance standards. Start with minimal requirements, begin with proven technology, move on from there.

Panel Discussion: Dr. Clarence Siroky, Dr. Todd Thrift, Dr. Dave Wiklund, Mr. Tod Fleming

- **Tod Fleming:** There is no off the shelf system available today that will read at the speed of commerce without customization. Would prefer to be able to read multiple animals.
- **Dr. Siroky:** Ergonomics of tagging has not been addressed. Tagging hundreds of animals could well result in a trip to the orthopedist. Acceptance has been tremendously positive during the process of premise registration in Idaho.

- **Dr. Thrift:** Florida producers have very little resistance to the NAIS plan especially the premise registration plan. Producers are not opposed to tagging cattle prior to entering commerce. Producers are interested in group movements while livestock markets are concerned that allowing group movements will put them at a competitive disadvantage.
- **Dr. Wiklund:** Minnesota producers are concerned about confidentiality, cost, increased labor, market flow, and technology aversion.

Questions:

- How is NAIS going to affect county fairs?
- Where did Idaho get the batch data for entry into the premise ID system?
- How many Minnesota producers responded to premise ID cards you mailed out?
- Was the read issue a problem with tags or readers?

Questions for Mr. Hawks and Mr. Hammerschmidt:

- Where is the FY05 \$33 million funding?
- How do you see the confidentiality issue play out over the next year or so?
- Will the program become mandatory once federal confidentiality is passed or will all states have to pass similar legislation?
- Has the Whitehouse weighed in on supporting the confidentiality legislation?
- How are we going to address standards like ISO devices vs performance issues?
- Are standards going to limit competition in the tag and reader industry?

Mr. Allen Bright, NCBA : NCBA has passed policy on a privatized database. NCBA will vigorously pursue this option only. NCBA has confidentiality policy. NCBA is working on tax credit policy for tags, readers, infrastructure investment, etc. Should be submitting a request for proposal by first of June for a database. Summary, "this is still America and we don't think we should have to

Mr. Jay Mattison, National DHIA : Began by describing the history and origins of DHIA. 100 years of experience has not shown the confidentiality of a public-private database to be a concern.

Old Business: None

New Business: Two amended resolutions, two new resolutions.

General discussion: None

Committee Session adjourned at 6:10 pm.