

**Cattle Health
Committee Report**

2006 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2006



The Cattle Health Committee met on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM EST, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 52 people present. Karen Jordan served as the Chair and Dr. Max Coats served as the Vice-Chair.

The committee session focused on Agroterrorism Preparedness and Response. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to Cattle biosecurity.

Dr. Sharon Avery, Director of Development and Operations, Western Institute for Food Safety and Security; The Dangers of Agroterrorism-Strategies for Preparedness

The Western Institute for Food Safety and Security is working with a DHS grant to create a model front line response team. They have worked on Building the Frontline Response Team, the components are: get the right team members to build a team, create effective planning and implementation, sustain the team (which requires future training), know each other, have a share vision and purpose, effective communication, and trust. They have taken this concept to the farm and have developed a FARM WORKERS AWARENESS COURSE. The first course developed was for dairy farm workers (courses in the future will be developed for produce, citrus, and other agriculture industries). They use coffee mugs that are in Spanish with signs of FMD printed on the mugs. They also have developed a novella (which is like a cartoon story in Spanish with characters describing the farm workers role in biosecurity). They have taken this frontline responder training to the farm and delivered the information in Spanish to the farm workers. The farm workers responses were that they were pleased to be invited and happy to participate in securing the farm.

Ms. Linda Leake, Michigan graduate student presenting a research paper; Reducing the Risks of Agroterrorism with public private partnerships: The Kansas Model

Ms. Leake presented the results from the study, titled: Defining Law Enforcement In Protecting American Agriculture from Agroterrorism. The objectives of the study were to identify agroterrorism vulnerabilities within the livestock industry, identify proactive measures to prevent an agroterrorism attack on agriculture, establish a law enforcement emergency response plan, and develop a law enforcement training module. This work in Kansas is the first of its kind for law enforcement to be directly involved in the preparedness to an agriculture bioterrorism event.

Dr. Tammy Beckham, Chief of the Disease Threat and Assessment Program, DHS, Plum Island

Dr. Beckham gave the committee an update on the production of FMD vaccine and immunomodulators. The ideal vaccine needs to provide protection within the week. So far at least one vaccine will give protection within 4 days. Vaccines need to be DIVA capable (differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals), one dose application, economical, multivalent and readily deployable. Work continues and hopefully by 2009 will be completed. Also, the use of immunomodulators can be used to enhance vaccine response or to give the animal protection until the vaccine can cause an immune response. The immunomodulators can stimulate interferon production within 24 hours with provides protection against FMD for 3-5 days.

Dr. Tom McGinn, Sector Specialist, DHS; Avoiding the Hurricane Katrina method of federal and state governments slow response to a disaster. A futuristic look at how animal agriculture should be prepared.

Dr. McGinn detailed the necessity of using assumptions as a way to focus on planning for disasters. He compared natural disaster to disease events and compared the surge response needed for a hurricane versus the long-term response needed for a biological disaster. He detailed the public and private partnerships that currently exist and the need to expand those partnerships with partners we don't typically deal with in agriculture. He emphasized the need to involve the NIMS and the ICS to

identify essential functions and to assign tasks and establish priorities. He urged that it is imperative to make sure that business can continue after the disease event.

Dr. Jason Lombard, Dairy Specialist Veterinary Epidemiologist for the National Animal Health Monitoring Service; Update on the Johne's Demonstration Project Herds.

The Johne's Demonstration Herds are meant to be a long-term project with 5-7 years worth of data to be collected. Economic data continues to be collected but is not available yet. There are some trends that are showing up. The number of positive fecal culture and positive ELISA test results in dairy are trending downward. The beef herds show the positive fecal culture trend is increasing.

Dr. Ken Olson, from the Johne's Education Initiative

Dr. Olson gave an update on the educational activities occurring under the cooperative agreement between NIAA and USDA APHIS.

Dr. Mike Gilsdorf, Co-Director of the National Center of Animal Health Programs, Ruminant Health Programs, USDA APHIS VS; Update on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Johne's and Cattle Fever Ticks.

Dr. Gilsdorf gave the latest statistical information on TB, Brucellosis eradication programs. He went over the proposed changes in the TB regulations that pertain to the movement of dairy animals. He also gave an update on the Cattle Fever Tick situation in South Texas.

No old business.

No new business.

Committee Session adjourned at 12:00 PM EST.