

Emerging Diseases Committee Report

2006 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2006



The Emerging Disease Committee met on Wednesday April 5, 2006 from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM EST, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 38 people present during the first hour, which was shared with the Poultry Health Committee for an Avian Influenza virus presentation, and up to 21 people during the latter part of the afternoon. Dr. David Zeman served as the Chair and Dr. Lanny Pace served as the acting Vice-Chair.

The committee educational session focused on emerging diseases in the U.S. and hot topics regarding foreign animal disease threats. The following speakers presented relevant information:

Dr. Mo Saif: Current Information on H5N1 Influenza Virus Infection

Dr. Saif gave an excellent presentation regarding avian influenza virus infection in animals and the potential threat to humans. Numerous questions and good discussion followed. The major concern over the potential pandemic is that so far when the current H5N1 avian influenza virus has crossed species to infect humans, it has caused approximately 50% mortality.

Dr. William White: FAD Update: Hot Concerns for U.S. Intrusion

Dr. White gave an excellent presentation with good group interaction and discussion during the delivery. He focused on FMD, VS, AHS, CSF, and ASF.

Dr. Lenn Harrison: Neurological Equine Herpes Update

Dr. Harrison gave an excellent overview of Equine Herpes virus diseases and then focused on the recent emergence of the neurological form of EHV-1. Good discussion regarding diagnostics and management were included.

Old Business:

- Novartis Animal Health was a new sponsor of the Emerging Disease Committee. Dr. Richard Harland, Research Director is the company contact. Novartis was recognized during the meeting. No one from Novartis was in attendance.

New Business:

- The business meeting was held with seven in attendance.
- The mission of the committee was reviewed and a revision is submitted for the Board of Director's approval. The committee revised the mission statement to better reflect the activities of the committee during the past 3 to 4 years.
- All resolutions were reviewed and several were slightly amended. An attempt was made to remove language that tended to rapidly outdate the resolutions (dates, specific numbers, etc).
 - Number of Current Resolutions/Position Statements: 10
 - Number of new resolutions accepted: 0
 - Number of existing resolutions amended or revised: 5
 - Number that were removed: 0
- A review was conducted of the format for this year's ED Committee educational meeting:
 - Those present felt that the joint first hour with the Poultry Health Committee went very well (co-sponsored the Avian Influenza Virus seminar). It appeared that this made efficient use of the invited speaker's efforts.
 - It was also felt that having a couple of in depth presentations (one hour) worked well and allowed for more discussion and dialogue on subjects.

- Suggested topic ideas for next year included: High Mortality Circovirus update (perhaps share a one hour speaker with Swine Health Committee); NVSL report on ED issues from their perspective.

General discussion:

- A discussion was held relative to working Dr. Lanny Pace into the co-chair position at some point in the future. Dr. Zeman agreed to visit with Dr. Ardans and determine his future plans relative to committee service, or seek the Board's advice. Dr. Pace is willing to serve as co-chair if Dr. Ardans takes over as chair after next year's meeting.

Committee Session adjourned at 5:15 pm.