

**Equine Health
Committee Report**

2006 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2006



The Equine Health Committee met on Wednesday, April 6, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM EST, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 34 people present. Dr. Peter Timoney served as the Chair and Ms. Amy Mann served as the Vice-Chair.

The committee session focused on Ensuring the Health Status of our Equine Population. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to selected equine diseases.

Dr. Robert Stout, Equine herpesvirus neurologic disease: How serious a threat is it posing to the horse racing/breeding industry?

The emergent significance of equine herpes virus neurologic disease was excellently reviewed with respect to aspects of its occurrence at performance venues, modes of diagnosis, and response management practices.

Dr. Kent Fowler, Piroplasmosis: The need for a more cohesive policy at both federal and state level for dealing with piroplasmosis seropositive imported horses.

Equine Piroplasmosis was considered in the context of the current status of the infection in the resident U.S. horse population. With implementation of an enhanced serologic diagnostic test (cELISA) in August of 2005, there is the likelihood that an undetermined number of sero-positive horses and carriers of *B. equi*, *B. caballi*, or both are present in the country. A range of options were proposed on how the current situation with respect to how these carrier animals should be addressed at both the federal and state regulatory level.

Dr. Lenn Harrison, Lawsonia intracellularis: An emergent enteric pathogen for the horse?

Lawsonia intracellularis was reported as an emergent infectious disease in the foal with increasing evidence of the prevalence of the infection where it has been studied both in the U.S. and certain other countries. The status of available diagnostic tests was considered as was current treatment modalities for the disease.

Dr. Amelita Facchiano, Current developments in electronic certification for interstate and international movement of animals.

An update was provided on the current status of development in electronic certification for interstate and international movement of animals. It was emphasized that the eCVI (certificate of veterinary inspection) will be the new gold standard pertaining to all regulated animal movements. It is hoped to have diagnostic laboratory connectivity later this year. It is intended that eCVI system will be fully integrated into the National Animal Identification System.

Ms. Amy Mann, EVA: Are we ready to pursue a national program for the prevention and control of this disease?

Following a summarized overview of the steps that have been taken at the federal level within the past five to ten years to address the need for testing stallions and semen on post-entry into the U.S., the issue was raised of whether the time was opportune to move ahead with a national control program for EVA.

Dr. Steven Halstead, Status of current initiative to enhance greater national control of equine infectious anemia.

The outcome of the EIA National Direction meeting held in Dallas/Fort Worth was reviewed. Significant discussion ensued on whether any enhancement of the current federal control program was justified in the absence of concerted support of the horse industry and the majority of state regulatory officials.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- No new resolutions were accepted.
- All seven existing resolutions were amended or revised.
- None were removed.

General discussion: The attendance and participation of those present exceeded expectations. At least 34 people, including the chair and vice chair, were in attendance. Others came in and out during the proceedings. The suggestion has been made to include an area on the attendance list for participants to indicate whether they are committee members or not and if not, whether there is interest in serving on the committee.

Committee Session adjourned at 11:55 AM.