

**Cattle Health
Committee Report**

2007 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2007



The Cattle Health Committee met on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 pm PDT during the NIAA 2007 Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California with 65 people present. Dr. Karen Jordan served as the Chair and Mr. Perry Mobley served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on "Old Cattle Diseases that Never Go Away and New Challenges with Biofuels". The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to Cattle Diseases and Biofuels.

Dr. Michael Dutcher, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services - Tuberculosis- An Update on the Bovine TB Eradication Program

Michigan and New Mexico operate under a split state status for TB recognition. Currently there are several herds in several states that are under question due to TB trace back issues. Slaughter submissions have increased thereby improving the TB surveillance. Currently the USAHA TB resolutions are included in the current rule making process. Also, there is a rulemaking proposal on The Indemnity Reform Rule, which will require a herd plan prior to providing federal indemnity. Owners of affected herds must adhere to their herd plan. There is rulemaking on Rodeo Steers/Bulls and cervidae.

Dr. Soren Rodning, Auburn University - The Alabama Voluntary BVD Control Program.

Alabama developed a BVD control program to focus on education, management concerns, herd enrollment into the control program and herd testing. Submission of samples can occur by the veterinarian or by the producer (in remote areas where there is no access to veterinarians.)

Dr. Michael Carter, USDA, APHIS, VS, National Center for Animal Health Programs - Update on the National Johne's Disease Control Program

Dr. Carter gave a review of the current Voluntary JD Control Program with Risk Assessment and the development of a Herd Management Plan being the foundation of the program. Updates: last year the program incorporated pooled fecal cultures and environmental sampling as useful tools. The Milk Elisa test can be used as a screening tool; however, proficiency testing still needs to be done on the Milk Elisa test by NVSL. In 2006 8,736 herds were enrolled in the national program. Program herds (status herds) can be listed at Johne's Information Central through the Johne's Education Initiative.

Dr. Ken Olson, National Dairy Herd Improvement Association - Update on JEI and JDIP.

The Johne's Education Initiative operates the web site- [www. Johnesdisease.org](http://www.Johnesdisease.org). Program herds or status herds can be listed on this site, but must rely on the states to get this information to JEI for inclusion on the website. Through the efforts of JDIP the following has occurred: - development of the "Best Test for My Herd" document that appeared in JAVMA Dec. 15, 2006: standardization of animal challenge models, sharing of resources between the 30 some institutions, impact analysis – development of the white paper" that looks at the impact on the dairy industry should a public health problem be found.

Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries - What are the goals and purposes of the National Brucellosis Working Group?

The purpose of the Brucellosis Working Group is to outline an effective and efficient Surveillance Plan for bovine brucellosis. This plan will be a blueprint to efficiently use bovine brucellosis resources and to develop and communicate a practical implementation plan. The new recommendations regarding alterations of current surveillance sampling do not apply to states in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Alan Weber, National Biodiesel Board - Biodiesel-Industry Update and Livestock Sector Impacts

Biodiesel impacts the livestock sector, has an impact on feed prices and can increase the protein available to livestock. As we look to the future there may be a need to pull the corn oil out of corn before or after making ethanol. There may be the opportunity to recover fat from DDGS thereby changing the nutrient analysis of the DDGS. There may also be opportunity to recover the fat from Meat and Bone Meal. Federal Policy has served as a catalyst to the Biodiesel incentive. Fuel quality is of the utmost concern and importance. The BQ 9000 is a process to create a seal of approval for biofuel. The glycerin product coming out of biodiesel plants has value as a feedstuff for livestock, however there is great variability between plants in the purity of the glycerin.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

General Discussion:

One resolution was presented for consideration titled: Biometric-based Livestock Identification System for Imported Cattle. The resolution stated that the NIAA recommends that the USDA-APHIS implement a biometric-based livestock identification and tracking system for all imported cattle. The committee decided that more information was needed in order to discuss this in greater detail and would like to see the topic of biometric identification discussed in detail at the upcoming ID/INFO Expo. Topics that would need to be discussed are what would be the cost to APHIS and what would be the infrastructure needed in order to stockpile this type of data which could be used if needed in the investigation or trace back of a diseased animal. The Cattle Health committee would like to see a discussion of biometric identification at our next year's committee meeting. Nancy Robison made the motion with a second by Jon Johnson that the NIAA ID/INFO Expo planning group include this at the August Expo and if this is not possible then NIAA should approach the ID subcommittee of USAHA for inclusion on their agenda at their next annual meeting. The motion passed.

Committee Session adjourned at 12:00 noon.