

**Cattle Health  
Committee Report**

**2008 NIAA Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2008**



**The Cattle Health Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, during the NIAA 2008 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana with 83 people present. Dr. Karen Jordan served as the Chair and Jon Johnson served as the Vice Chair.**

**The committee session focused on Cattle Welfare Issues. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to cattle welfare or well-being initiatives.**

**Dr. Jamie Jonker, National Milk Producers Federation,** presented "The National Dairy Animal Well-Being Initiative." Dr. Jonker explained the societal expectations of the dairy industry have changed. Producers must demonstrate that their production practices are ethical. The dairy industry must protect the high level of trust currently held with consumers. The National Dairy Animal Well-Being Initiative has been drafted by a coalition that describes broad principles and guidelines that are common in the daily well-being and care of dairy animals across the nation.

**Dr. Bailey Norwood, Oklahoma State University,** presented "Talking to Consumers about Farm Animal Welfare." Dr. Norwood posed the question: Why ask consumers what they think? We are producing a product for them. Consumers influence policy. Consumers know more than we do.

**Dr. Bob Smith, VRCS, LLC,** presented, "The Beef Industry's Response to Animal Welfare." Dr. Smith suggested Beef Cattle Animal Welfare is within the Beef Quality Assurance Program. A Transportation BQA has just been released whereby the trucking industry can view and understand the importance of proper transportation of Beef Cattle by viewing the Master Cattle Transporter DVD. The Beef Industry has also released to the Livestock Markets a Handling Cattle document.

**Dr. Dee Ellis, Texas Animal Health Commission,** presented, "Texas Fever Tick Program Update." Dr. Ellis informed that there are an increasing number of tick infestations outside of the Tick Quarantine Zone. Possible reasons for the spread of the ticks are: Mild winters, more cattle, more wildlife, decrease in number of Tick Ryders, acaricide resistance, inadequate budget from USDA. Inadequate funding of the Tick Program continues to be a major issue. \$13.3 million is needed. Last funding amount was \$5.2 million. The program needs \$7-8 million just to function each year.

**Dr. Kent Fowler, California Department of Food & Agriculture,** presented "Trichomonosis Program Update." In his presentation, he shared that California, at industry request, has started an enhanced Trichomonosis testing program. There has been widespread support of the program in California. Testing among labs needs to be validated. Standardization on Trich requirements needs to occur between states.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

- Number of new resolutions accepted - 1
- Number of existing resolutions amended or revised- 2

**Committee Session adjourned at 5:00 pm.**