

**Animal Care
Committee Report**

2009 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 2009



The Animal Care Committee met on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm EDT, during the 2009 NIAA Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with ~45 people present. Dr. Jer Geiger served as the Chair, and Dr. Gail Golab served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on the welfare image of American animal agriculture. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to current animal care issues and shaping public opinion:

Dr. Rachel Cezar, USDA/APHIS/Animal Care, presented "Update on Spring." Dr. Cezar provided information and insight updates, developments since her 2008 presentation.

Ms. Essie Rogers, Kentucky Horse Council, presented "Factors Impacting Equine Welfare." Ms. Rogers discussed range of current conditions impacting equine welfare, including equine slaughter.

Dr. Gail Golab, American Veterinary Medical Association, presented "Ballot Initiatives: How do these things happen?" Dr. Golab addressed types and origins of ballot initiatives and consequences of various responses to precipitating events.

Ms. Beckey Reiter, Boone County and Kentucky Animal Control Boards, presented Humane Officers: Who are they? How are they identified? What are their rights and responsibilities?" Ms. Reiter provided first-hand impressions and needs of humane officers, recognizing variation across local communities. She emphasized the need for appropriate training.

Ms. Sherrie Niekamp, National Pork Board, presented "How the Pork Industry Shapes Public Opinion." Ms. Niekamp outlined the development and implementation of several NPB programs and materials including "Operation Main Street," PQA+ and TQA.

Dr. Jamie Jonker, National Milk Producers Federation, presented "How the Dairy Industry Shapes Public Opinion." Dr. Jonker outlined the National Dairy FARM Program, a joint project between DMI and NMPF to bring nationwide consistency to dairy animal care.

Old Business: Review of resolutions and policies.

New Business:

- No new resolutions were accepted.
 - None were offered, and none were discussed.
 - An amendment was offered but rejected for 1. Movement of Non-Ambulatory Animals to Slaughter.
- Two existing resolutions were amended or revised.
 - 1. Movement of Non-Ambulatory Animals to Slaughter, minor revision.
 - 3. Care of Newborn Calves, technical update.
- One resolution was removed.
 - 2. Flank Spaying, no longer relevant.

Committee Session adjourned at 5:45 pm EDT.