

Cattle Committee Report

2010 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2010



The Cattle Committee met on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm during the NIAA 2010 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri with 59 people present. Dr. Karen Jordan served as Chair with Jon Johnson as Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on One Health implications for animal agriculture. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to zoonotic cattle diseases.

Paul Clayton, USMEF, presented, “Zoonotic Diseases Affecting International Trade” A countries disease situation can provide economic opportunity or economic challenges. Our country does a good job of controlling and containing diseases. With export there is a disease component and a political component to be able to export product. Oftentimes several agencies can be involved in the certification of meat products for export, i.e., USDA, FSIS, AMS etc

David Ward, Director of Government Relations in Dairy, Cooperative Network, WI, presented, “Raw Milk Controversy in Wisconsin” Wisconsin turns 85% of its milk into cheese, of this 95% of this cheese leaves the state. Food Safety is a big concern. There is concern that to legalize the sale of raw milk will be a public health hazard, could destroy the image of the dairy industry and create liability issues.

Dr. Purnedu Vasavada, University of Wisconsin, River Falls, presented, “Current and Emerging Organisms in Raw Milk that Affect Public Health” Milk is a nutrient rich medium. Lots of things can grow in raw milk. The source of these organisms is contamination from the cows skin, environmental contamination, equipment sources. Camplobacter, listeria, Brucella, E.coli, Enterobacter, spore formers, Salmonella, Yersinia, etc., therefore, raw milk can be a source of harmful pathogens for humans.

Dr. Jared Taylor, DVM, MPH, Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University, presented, “Beef Measles” Cysticercus bovis, a human tapeworm with larval stage in cattle. Humans shed proglottids (eggs). Cattle consume the eggs, the larvae hatch in the intestines, penetrate the intestinal wall, migrate through blood and lymphatics with cysts forming in striated muscle. To control beef measles: have a 6 week delay from application of human sewage until animals allowed to graze. Have toilet facilities available and convenient for employees. Use designated equipment for feeding cattle. Pasteurize or ensile potato or vegetable waste before feeding to cattle. When one infected carcass is found, then there are suspicions surrounding the entire lot, making these carcasses subjected to a more extensive inspection. Extensive infection is condemned. Light infections may be conditionally passed. Dr. Taylor also presented “Antimicrobial Resistance” The use of antimicrobials stimulates resistance. Animal agriculture uses Antimicrobials, and thus plays some role in antimicrobial resistance.

Steve Maddox, California Dairyman, presented, “A Dairy Producer’s Concerns about Human Tuberculosis” Establish a TB testing policy for employees. Testing pre – employment and retesting every 2 years. Workers traveling to high risk areas are retested 3-6 months after their return. This dairy group requires workers to complete a TB Questionnaire annually.

Ben Sun, California Department of Public Health, presented “Working Together to Prevent TB in Humans and Cattle” There is no standardized protocol for investigation of dairy workers. The role of public health officials needs to be defined for agriculture workers. There are no national recommendations for the screening for TB in dairy workers. Testing of workers can be problematic and costly.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Session adjourned at 6:00 pm.