

## Animal Identification & Information Systems Council Report

2011 NIAA Annual Conference

Wednesday, April 13, 2011



The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council met on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 from 8:00 am to 11:59 am during the 2011 NIAA Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas with 62 people present. Mr. Victor Velez and Dr. Michael Coe served as Co-Chairs

The committee session focused on progress on the animal disease traceability rule, manual recording of official ID, an update on challenges to trace residues in carcasses, current functionality of an electronic ICVI system as well as an introduction to a new technology for identification of equine. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the speaker notes listed below:

**Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, Program Manager, Animal Disease Traceability, USDA/APHIS/VS,** presented "Animal Disease Traceability Update by USDA." The USDA website, under "What's New," contains updates to the "ADT" Comprehensive Report. ICVIs will be required for Interstate Movement, with official ID recorded except for exempted classes of cattle, with a phased approach to elimination of exemptions. Official ID will be species specific as described in the CFR for that species. Bovine and bison CFR is being modified, and equine is being developed. All manmade ID is to be removed and correlated to carcasses.

**Dr. Boyd Parr, State Veterinarian, Clemson University Livestock & Poultry Health,** presented "Update on USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (SACAH)." Completed to meeting thus far under a 2 year term with the next meeting in May. He provided the completed membership list; several are NIAA members. Action Items from SACAH: Requested a 120 day comment period for ADT rule and requested that the ADT not be an under-funded mandate. The topics discussed include brands, confidentiality, technology and speed of commerce issues.

### **Panel Discussion: Manual Recording of Official ID Under USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Rule: Industry Compatibility: How do we make this happen?**

**State Animal Official:** Dr. Boyd Parr, State Veterinarian, Clemson University Livestock & Poultry Health  
Tagging facilities are inadequate at a lot of markets. There are multiple ID formats to contend with. We need maximum flexibility to meet "ADT" implementation requirements. Accuracy of hand written records is of concern. Some states of no brands or first point testing to rely on for the base of traceability. There is agreement with other states to use documents in place of ICVI is very important. The primary goal is traceability.

**Private Veterinarian:** Dr. Dave Rethorst, American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
The USDA has shifted responsibility to states. The recording of metal tags varies between states. \$3.50 is being charged per head to record animal ID at the markets. Cost of EID ranges from \$1.60 to \$2.25. Feeder cattle will need to utilize RFID to meet speed of commerce for "ADT."

**Data Management:** Mr. Tom DeMuth, AgSource Cooperative Services  
Accuracy for Milk Testing Critical to have 100%. Affects production for progeny testing and disease testing. A connection to WLIC is extremely helpful. Numbers vs. Letters on Brite Tags will cause editing issues for their databases. Dairies are using RFID (20% of Cows).

**Markets:** Mr. Charles Rogers, Livestock Marketing Association  
In New Mexico, 18 month cattle must have ID and brucellosis. There have been less painful transitions since New Mexico has been working on this issue. The cost is approximately \$3.00 per head to

accomplish. 6.8 million head \$3.00 per head. Keep it simple. The numbers of cattle coming in from the country with ID is increasing. It is less work to put in new tags than to read tags currently, but feeder cattle will be a different story; they should be tagged in the country. "The Wright Brothers did not build the Space Shuttle the first time."

**Packers Survey:** There are challenges collecting ID. Safety of cutting our metal tags. Cow wash "works" on tags also. Some facilities are collecting all ID and reporting it electronically, others not so much.

**Mr. Kevin Maher, President, GolbalVetLink,** presented "Uniform Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection."

**Dr. Katherine Ralston, Public Health Veterinarian/Enforcement Investigations Analysis Officer, USDA/FSIS,** presented "Antibiotic Residues and Traceability." FSIS is responsible to ensure all manmade ID is collected and presented with viscera. Animal ID attached to carcass and then transferred prior to clean portion of the facility. Issues with ID: missing, "washed off," error sequencing of carcasses, plastic bag with tags lost from carcass, metal tag collection is a safety issue. Suspect animal results returned in 3 to 5 days. The animal source is to be provided by plant. Forwarded to FSIS office, then to FDA if it is a repeat offender. 7.5% of residue trace backs could not be completed in 2009, and 5.5% in 2010. The methods for ID collection varies between plants

#### **Input and Discussion from NIAA Species Committees**

**Equine:** Mr. David Knupp, Global Animal Management, Inc., presented "eyeD™."

A new and innovative technology for identification of horses utilizing an iris scanning device is expected to be launched in the fall of 2011.

**Old Business:** None

#### **New Business:**

- One existing resolution is being allowed to sunset.
  - Position of Support for American Veterinary
- Two new resolutions were accepted.
  - Slaughter Surveillance and ID Collection
  - Traceability Funding
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development:
  - Manual recording of Official ID is a concern to all segments of the industry as it relates to cost and accuracy.
  - Funding for Animal Disease Traceability is a top priority to States, Tribes and Animal Industry
  - Collection of official identification at slaughter is a significant issue that needs to be addressed
  - Better communication is needed between FISI, VS, FDA, Harvest facilities and Auction Markets concerning residue traceability and ID collection and reporting

**General Discussion:** None

**Committee Session adjourned at 11:59 am.**