

**Poultry
Committee Report**

2011 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 12, 2011



The Poultry Committee met on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm during the 2011 NIAA Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas with 17 people present. Mr. Ray Hilburn served as Chair

The committee session focused on meeting the demand for safe and plentiful food in the face of disease challenge. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the 2010 SE egg recall and FDA Food Safety Rule and meeting an increase in demand for poultry in the face of H5N1 avian influenza:

Mr. Howard Magwire, Vice President, Government Relations for the United Egg Producers and the United Egg Association, presented “Fall 2010 Egg Recall.” Mr. Magwire reviewed the FDA Egg Safety Rule and the circumstances related to the recall of 550 million eggs implicated in the food borne outbreak of SE in humans across several states that occurred in 2010. The investigation on the implicated Iowa farm was related to actual human illness and was therefore vigorous and broad.

Dr. Gerardo Ramirez, Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, Office of Food Safety, was to present “FDA Rule.” Due to federal budget situation, Dr. Ramirez had to cancel. In his absence, committee members and participants discussed their respective recent experience of “FDA on the Farm.” All concurred that FDA inspectors were very respectful and cognizant of biosecurity. They were polite, but the inspections are taking a long time, and clearly most of the inspectors have no prior poultry farm experience, making it difficult to characterize observations that “do not follow the manual.”

Dr. Annette Whiteford, State Veterinarian, California Department of Food & Agriculture, presented “Avian Influenza: Continuing to challenge food production around the world.” Dr. Whiteford reviewed where the world population is expected to grow most rapidly, what that means related to demand for animal based food demand, and the basic ecology and impact of AI, emphasizing that most information available captures issues associated with highly pathogenic AI, but low pathogenic AI does have significant cumulative negative production impacts. Dr. Whiteford shared insight gathered by Dr. Castellán and Pitesky related to the importance and challenges posed by various production systems that are integral to the most severely AI affected countries. She touched on the role of vaccination as well as the challenges.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- One new resolution was moved to the Animal Health Emergency Management Council for refinement.
- One resolution was amended.
 - Amendment to the National Organic Poultry Program to Provide for Confinement During Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Potential Discussion Points to be Considered for Future Meetings:

- Are there other poultry health diseases that are significantly affecting production that should be further discussed and may warrant a coordinated approach?
- Antibiotic use
- How does/can this committee reach out to backyard and small producers?
- Animal well-being

Themes / Potential Consensus Points:

- World demand: must consider food and production needs on a situation basis — village poultry and integrated systems both play significant roles.
- Poultry health funding — should be risk based rather than public perception based — need consensus on criteria and focus for efforts.
- Need a place to develop a cross-commodity “vision” for a strategic approach to anti-animal agriculture activities. Potentially this vision can be captured via a white paper that that reflects broad-based support and points of consensus. There are MANY meetings sponsored by various animal agriculture organizations, but no “vision” seems to be evolving. Questions remain unanswered: What is that “something” we need to do? Who leads it?

Committee Session adjourned 12:15 pm.