

CATTLE HEALTH REPORT

Readership Survey 2004

1. Which of the following best describes your professional affiliation?

- Producer
- Producer/Farm/Commodity Association Executive
- State Employee
- Federal Employee
- Practicing Veterinarian or Veterinary Association Executive
- Academician/Extension/Researcher/Diagnostician
- Allied Industry Stakeholder
- Media/Communications
- Other (please list) _____

2. In which Time Zone are you located?

- Eastern
- Central
- Mountain
- Pacific

3. What is your primary source of agriculture information? (choose one)

- Trade Publication (Newspaper, Magazine)
- Industry Newsletters
- Email/Internet
- Television/Radio
- Personal Contact
- Other (please list) _____

4. Rate the usefulness of this quarterly publication to you.

- 1 poor
- 2 fair
- 3 average
- 4 good
- 5 excellent

5. How much of Cattle Health Report do you typically read?

- None
- Very little
- Some
- Most
- All

6. The timeliness of information is:

- New and timely
- Outdated
- Not new, but still informative

7. The depth of information in Cattle Health Report is:

- too basic
- about right
- too technical

8. In the Cattle Health Report, I would like:

- More news items
- More in-depth analysis of key issues
- Better balance of news and in-depth information
- No changes at all

9. I find the layout/design to be:

- Attractive, easy to read
- Attractive, but hard to read
- Plain, but easy to read
- Plain, hard to read

10. Layout suggestions, (choose all that apply):

- More pictures/graphics
- More text/information
- Change Color/improve general appearance
- Other (please list) _____

11. How would you prefer to receive Cattle Health Report?

- Through mail, as I currently do
- Through email in an electronic format

12. Please rank the following areas, based upon your interests, to be covered in Cattle Health Report:

- ___ News, information and progress updates on federal disease eradication and emerging disease activity
- ___ State and national activities addressing the increasing prevalence of economically significant diseases
- ___ Highlights on health/biosecurity strategies and other industry initiatives
- ___ News and information on topics pertaining to animal health emergency management and international trade
- ___ Findings from NAHMS and other research/scientific studies
- ___ Features on advancements in animal ID and other emerging topics
- ___ Other (please list) _____

13. The length of articles is:

- too long
- about right
- too short

14. Would you prefer a magazine-style publication that would include information from multiple species, rather than species specific?

- Yes
- No

15. Other comments that would make Cattle Health Report more useful to you:

Cattle — HEALTH REPORT

A National Institute for Animal Agriculture Publication

Fall 2004

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TB Program Setting ID Standard in Michigan

When the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) received a grant for \$1.3 million for livestock identification to assist with bovine tuberculosis (TB) after it resurfaced in the state's deer population in 2001, officials might not have known what kind of results to expect. Perhaps they didn't expect their program to evolve into a highly effective animal identification and tracking program. Perhaps they didn't expect the program to greatly enhance the MDA's ability to control TB.

Well, results have been promising. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services worked in concert with MDA on the program, which has demonstrated how an ID tracking system can work. The project began in November 2001 and ran through July of 2004. Michigan received an additional \$200,000 for a program extension in 2003. The system continues to operate today as well, evolving into the framework for the state's identification program, which will fit into the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The initial goals of the project included utilization of the National Farm Animal Identification and Records (FAIR) program in TB high-risk areas in Michigan and also for accredited herds. Through this, MDA would identify all bovines and track/record movement.

"In the beginning, we were

faced with a major challenge of controlling TB," said Kevin Kirk of the MDA's Animal Industry Division. "TB was spreading across counties, and it was difficult to identify the sources of the spread, being wildlife or cattle. We needed to know where the cattle were today and more importantly where they would be tomorrow."

Kirk notes that Michigan sought the funding with the big picture in mind. "Building from the ground up, we wanted to put a system together for the long haul," he said. He also noted that there were aspirations for the system working for disease traceability beyond TB.

The program utilized four phases for implementation. These phases bear resemblance to the plans for NAIS, which USDA is currently implementing. The phases include:

- Obtain and load Premises ID information into National FAIR program
- Develop electronic data recording system
- Record animal movement from markets and processing plants
- Implement movement permit system

"We've been fortunate to have excellent producer participation," said Kirk. "We know that change isn't always easy, but it's also important that producers had a good understanding of the importance for ID."

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Survey Says...

NIAA Member Survey Notes Funding, Producer Participation as Top Concerns

Who's going to pay? How much is it going to cost me? Common questions frequently pondered by producers and other stakeholders when contemplating the new National Animal Identification System (NAIS) being implemented by USDA and state animal health agencies.

According to a recent survey by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) among NIAA members, 20.5 percent of respondents indicated 'funding' as the

their biggest concern for implementation of NAIS. 'Producer participation' followed, chosen the biggest concern by 16.7 percent of respondents, trailed by 'data confidentiality' with 15.2 percent, and 'data collection and housing' with 10.6 percent.

Another aspect of the program that has been a contentious issue for many is whether the program will be voluntary or mandatory. However, only 4.6 percent of respondents listed this as their biggest concern.

"The implementation of NAIS is clearly an important issue for multiple sectors of animal agriculture," said NIAA Chairman of the Board Dr. Rick Sibbel. "NIAA continues to provide an important role regarding industry input. This survey gives us a better pulse on our membership's sentiments, ultimately allowing NIAA to address ID issues across the country and continue building consensus for NAIS."

The 25-question opinion survey was mailed electronically to 502 individuals nationally with NIAA members comprising the pool. One hundred thirty-two (132) responses were received for a 26.3 percent response rate. The survey was conducted Oct. 14-19.

When asked specifically about support for a voluntary or a mandatory program, only 10 percent of respondents (9.9%) said they support a voluntary program. In contrast, 79 percent of respondents feel the program should either be mandatory now or upon a set date in the future (Twenty-five percent (25%) said they support a mandatory program. The most popular choice, made by 53.8 percent of respondents, was "voluntary during developmental stages, but with a decided date for making the program mandatory.")

Complete survey results can be viewed at www.animalagriculture.org/survey/NAIS.htm. ●



Cattle Health Report

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1910 Lyda Avenue

Bowling Green, KY 42104-5809
ph.: 270-782-9798 fax: 270-782-0188
e-mail: NIAA@animalagriculture.org
Web site: www.animalagriculture.org

USDA Amends List of Confirmatory Brucellosis Tests

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has amended its brucellosis regulations by adding the fluorescence polarization assay (FPA) to the lists of confirmatory and official tests for determining brucellosis disease status of test-eligible cattle, bison and swine. This action is warranted because the FPA has been shown to provide an efficient, accurate, automated and cost-effective means of determining brucellosis status of test-eligible cattle, bison and swine. Adding the FPA to the lists of confirmatory and official tests for brucel-

losis will help prevent the spread of brucellosis by making an additional tool for its diagnosis in those animals.

The addition of the FPA to the list of serology tests used in diagnosing brucellosis was effective Dec. 6.

According to the FPA validation paper, considerable interest has existed in the development of a brucellosis test that is fast and easy to perform, economical and is more accurate. The test has been used for years in human medicine and now has been adapted for use in the field and laboratory for detection of brucellosis in cattle, bison and swine. ●

Take the Readership Survey: Your thoughts on Cattle Health Report

Cattle Health Report is an important means of communication to key stakeholders throughout the cattle industry.

In order to ensure that Cattle Health Report best serves your needs, we are providing you with an opportunity to give us your input. The Readership Survey, which can be found on page 8 of

this issue, is a brief 15-question survey that will allow us to better understand what you look for in this type of publication.

The survey is located on the last page of this publication. Simply fill it out and detach this portion, fold the page in thirds and place a stamp as indicated.

We hope that you'll take a few

minutes to complete the survey and return it. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Take the Survey Online!

Or, if you prefer, the survey can be completed online. Simply go to www.animalagriculture.org/survey/cattlehealth.htm to submit your thoughts electronically.

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USAHA Provides Momentum for Johne's Program

The National Johne's Disease Control Program gained momentum earlier this fall, as the Committee on Johne's Disease for the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed a resolution to recommend use of the Strategic Plan as a guide for the program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The committee met during USAHA's Annual Meeting, October 21-28, in Greensboro, N.C.

The plan, which was updated in July by USAHA's strategic planning subcommittee for Johne's disease, is designed to provide a directive to reduce the prevalence of Johne's in the U.S. over the next five years.

The plan's objectives are to: increase producer participation; improve educational efforts; close gaps in knowledge about Johne's disease; improve reporting; and develop an eradication plan.

Work on controlling Johne's disease dates back to 1995, when the USAHA appointed the National Johne's Working Group to assist the USAHA's Johne's Committee to develop a nationally coordinated effort to reduce prevalence of Johne's in U.S. cattle. In 1998, a voluntary program was established for states to identify Johne's herd status risks. In 2002, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS') Veterinary Services (VS) began to incorporate parts of the initial plan into national program standards. This has helped to provide testing, risk assessments and development of herd management plans dealing with Johne's disease.

In addition to the recommendation for the strategic plan, the Committee on Johne's Disease has also requested that USDA, APHIS, VS conduct a prevalence study of Johne's Disease in 2006, to provide

a guide for the National Johne's Disease Control Program. The committee noted that the current prevalence of the disease is unknown in the U.S., specifically in the dairy industry. A National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Dairy Study in 1996 indicated a herd infection rate of 22 percent for Johne's disease. However, with increased knowledge of the ELISA test, which was used in the study, prevalence could be much higher. Thus, the committee has requested the test to benchmark Johne's disease and provide a gauge for success of the control program.

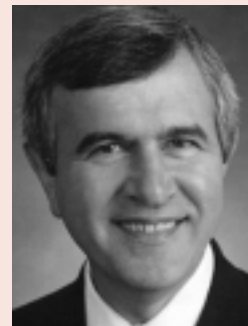
Committee on Tuberculosis Recommends Strategic Plan

The USAHA's Committee on Tuberculosis "strongly urges" USDA, APHIS, VS to adopt the 2004 Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and incorporate into the National Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Plan. The resolution includes a request for funding in 2007, as well as support from other industry organizations.

The Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis – May 2004 contains six categories of action steps. These include: eradication strategies, wildlife management, laboratory and diagnostic support, surveillance, information and education, and risk mitigation. The latter two action steps were added to the four action steps previously identified in the October 2000 Strategic Plan. Each step contains a number of action items. The Strategic Plan, as well as other USAHA resolutions and committee reports, can be found on the Internet at www.usaha.org. ●

Mike Johanns Tapped for Ag Secretary

President Bush has announced the nomination of Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns to serve as the next Secretary of Agriculture. Johanns will succeed Ann



Gov. Mike Johanns

Veneman in the position for the President's second term.

"He's been a leader on drought relief in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest," said President Bush. "He's a strong proponent of alternative energy sources, such as ethanol and biodiesel. He's traveled the world to promote American farm exports."

Johanns is a native Iowan, growing up on a dairy farm. He graduated from Osage (Iowa) Community High School, St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, and earned his law degree from Creighton University in Omaha. Johanns served as mayor of Lincoln, Neb., prior to being elected governor of the state in 1999.

"I congratulate Governor Johanns on being named today by the President to serve as the 28th U.S. Secretary of Agriculture," said outgoing Secretary Veneman. "He is a good friend whom I've worked with closely over the years to advance agriculture policy and trade opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers."

Johanns' appointment is pending Senate approval.

TB | Michigan TB Program Establishes ID System (continued from page 1)

The initial phase allowed for identification of cattle farms, or premises, of which the data were managed through the National FAIR program. With this basis, MDA could begin to implement a system to know where TB risks could occur and ultimately begin tracking cattle movement.

Phase 2 brought the transformation of the current paper record system into an electronic one. The key components of the program included use of the Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), along with handheld computers and laptops for data transfer. Each animal in the program has a unique identification number.

"The program has greatly increased efficiencies in our TB program," added Kirk. "Our TB re-testing time has been reduced by 50 percent through the program."

The ability to collect information at markets and processing plants is an issue that remains contentious at a national level regarding the ID system. Michigan took the initiative to install stationary readers at these facilities to ensure data collection as Phase 3 of the project. Data collection is a very important part of a successful traceability program and Michigan has taken some large strides to get this done.

"From day one, we wanted to develop the system right from the start, knowing it would have long-term usability for ID in Michigan," said Kirk.

Phase 4 became a true test for the system. The ability to record animal movement, both from farm-to-farm and farm-to-market was something that the TB program would rely on. MDA implemented an online movement permit system.

"Producers have been able to regain market opportunities in the modified accredited areas," says Kirk. "Cattle buyers can have a higher sense of accountability regarding TB, knowing where cattle originate and that they've been tested."

Michigan originally sought the funding from USDA to take a unique approach for ID relating to the TB issues in the state. The move has paid dividends for Michigan, both in streamlining their TB eradication process, as well as establishing a valid ID system. The program's current goal is to have all cattle identified through the program in the Upper Peninsula by July 2005.

"Ultimately, this is a great example of a working ID system," said Kirk. "We hope that other states can look at our system and utilize the things we learned as they go forward with implementation of the National Animal Identification System." ●

How BSE Testing Works

USDA announced its third inconclusive bovine spongiform encephalopathy test at the end of November, ultimately resulting in the sample being negative. Industry organizations still voice concern with the reporting process, however USDA remains adherent to protocol.

The actual testing process for BSE, however, is one that involves multiple steps. The ELISA test is used at one of the 12 USDA-designated diagnostic labs across the country. Dr. Barbara Powers, director of the veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Colorado State University, explains the process of BSE testing.

A sample is received from a high-risk animal. The sample is the obex portion of the brain. "We take a sample of the obex for the ELISA

test, which is ground and prepared for two steps," says Powers. "The first step is purification, which is a process that removes the normal prions (PrPr) in the tissue sample, which are present in all animals."

"The second step is detection, in which two antibodies are combined with the sample," she says. The antibodies are designed to bind with abnormal prions, which causes a color reaction. The reaction is then analyzed by a computer to determine if a sample is reactive.

The process takes 4-5 hours total. Positive controls are also included with each run.

"Each sample is run in a single well, and if a reactive sample comes back, then the process is repeated in duplicate," says Powers. "If the second run comes back reactive, then it

is sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames." This sample is labeled as inconclusive.

The Immunohistochemistry test (IHC), considered the gold standard, is the confirmatory test and is only performed at NVSL. Powers says that sample is also from the obex portion of the brain.

"The tissue is fixed in formalin for at least 24 hours," says Powers. "A slice is then taken and prepared into a histology slide. The slide is then stained with an antibody then analyzed. The total process takes 3-5 days."

To date, USDA has tested 142,647 samples for BSE. "USDA has developed an effective system," adds Powers. "We've had very good cooperation with the submitters, and I feel confident that this system would find a BSE case if it is present in the U.S."

ID Implementation Continues; Progress Visible

The U.S. Department of Agriculture continues progress with the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Recent months have brought forth progress for the program.

Additional \$1.5 Million Allocated to States for NAIS

USDA has announced that an additional \$1.5 million is available for NAIS cooperative agreements with states.

"These funds have been set aside to support premises registration activities," said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. "A national animal identification system will help locate premises where animals are born, managed, marketed or exhibited. States that applied for funding in July and were not selected at that time are now eligible for a portion of the \$1.5 million if they meet specified requirements."

The \$11.64 million set aside earlier this year for cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments was dispersed among 29 agreements. A total of 43 applications were received by USDA for that funding. Now, the additional \$1.5 million provides another 13 applicants with an opportunity to resubmit plans for a minimum of \$100,000. The revised applications are due by Dec. 1 and must address any feedback received during the evaluation of their first-round application.

USDA states that the NAIS continues to be a priority. The President's fiscal year 2005 budget requests \$33 million to continue supporting NAIS implementation and a portion of these funds would be used for additional cooperative

agreements with states and tribes. They will continue to register premises and also phase in animal identification systems at a state or regional level.

States identified in this second funding effort include:

Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington state.

USAHA ID Committee Offers Two Resolutions

The U.S. Animal Health Association has long played an important part in the development of animal identification, and this year proved no different. USAHA's Committee on Livestock Identification sent forth two resolutions out of the late-October meeting in Greensboro, N.C. The first resolution urges for industry, state and federal cooperation on the development of an appropriate animal traceability database. The second resolution recommends that all states begin use of electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. The full resolutions are as follows:

USAHA Resolution #2

"In order to expedite the development of a data management system to meet all stakeholders' needs and expectations, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Subcommittee of the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases to request the United States Department of Agriculture to facilitate the cooperative development of an appropri-

ate animal traceability database system through the joint leadership of the species and segment working groups, issue-based working groups, and state animal health officials."

USAHA Resolution #28

"The United States Animal Health Association recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services should commit to bring all 50 states onto electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) and provides the necessary support within the next 18-24 months. In addition, ICVI should be referenced through the *Code of Federal Regulations*."

Interim Rule Announced for Alternatives in ID Numbering System

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) says it is going to recognize additional numbering systems for the identification of animals. The systems will apply to interstate commerce and cooperative disease control and eradication programs for animals. Additionally, APHIS will authorize the use of a national numbering system to identify premises where animals are managed or held. The new numbering systems come as another step in the establishment NAIS, which is being implemented on a voluntary basis.

The move points NAIS in a direction that would create a standardized numbering system, which is widely supported by industry and government. Currently, many producers use separate identifica-

ID Roundup | Progress Continues

(continued from page 4)

tion numbers or methods for official animal health programs, interstate commerce purposes and industry programs such as breed registries. An animal or group of animals would be identified with the same official number under multiple programs, instead of being identified with a different number under each program. The data associated with each program could still be maintained separately, however.

Accordingly, APHIS is amending the regulations to recognize for official use the 15-character animal identification number, 13-character group/lot identification number and 7-character premises identification number. The new official animal numbering system will allow producers to transition into the use of a one-number, one-animal system if they wish to do so.

This interim rule does not

change the requirements defining which animals must be officially identified, nor does it require that producers use the new numbering systems. The rule merely ensures that the new numbering systems are recognized as official, allowing those who want to use such systems to do so.

The rule also provides an amendment to prohibit the removal of official identification devices, including those recognized as official on livestock imported from other countries.

This interim rule was published in the Nov. 8 Federal Register and became effective upon publication. APHIS documents published in the Federal Register and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/we>

brepor.html. Consideration will be given to comments received on or before Jan. 7, 2005.

Legislation Proposed for Data Confidentiality

In a presentation to the U.S. Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Livestock Identification Committee in October, Dr. John Clifford announced that USDA has sent draft legislation to Capitol Hill addressing confidentiality of data involved with the NAIS. The legislation would provide an amendment to the Animal Health Protection Act to fit the needs of NAIS. Disclosure of information will be highly limited, yet still allow for animal health officials to trace back disease in 48 hours, the goal of NAIS. Further details on the draft legislation have not been released ●

Subcommittee Provides Path for NAIS Industry Input

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) subcommittee under the Secretary's Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (SACFAPD) to provide stakeholder review and input.

The subcommittee has been charged with providing recommendations to the SACFAPD for consideration on the following matters related to NAIS:

- The scope, thoroughness and appropriateness of NAIS development and implementation;
- Specific input on how the system should be implemented within various segments of the industry; and
- The development of Uniform

Methods and Rules (UM&R) for NAIS, which will provide guidance for stakeholders and will ensure common standards that will enable effective state, federal and industry cooperation.

The subcommittee has 13 members and is led by three "tri-chairs", including John Adams of the National Milk Producers Federation and Jim Neiwold, a swine producer from Illinois, both members of the SACFAPD. The other tri-chair is Dr. Robert Fourdraine, CEO of the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium and vice-chair of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee. Most of the

members of the subcommittee served on the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) Steering Committee, from which NAIS is largely based.

The subcommittee will obtain input from different segments of industry and may establish working groups as needed. The USAIP Species/Segments Working Groups and three issued-based working groups on communications, information technology and standards will now provide input to the subcommittee. In addition, the subcommittee will draw on expertise from NIAA and the U.S. Animal Health Association, two organizations that have helped pioneer the establishment of a national system for animal identification.