

Swine HEALTH REPORT

A National Institute for Animal Agriculture Publication

Spring 2005

NIAA Symposium Challenges Animal Agriculture's Role for the Future

Attendees to the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) symposium, *Protecting the Global Food Supply: Growing Concerns for Emerging Zoonotic Diseases*, were left with a very key message: we must strengthen animal and human health together.

The symposium, held on April 7 in conjunction with the 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting, focused on the importance of animal agriculture's role in safeguarding international health, for domestic animals, wildlife and humans.

"There is a need for linkages to



Dr. Michael Osterholm

veterinarians, medical doctors—all health sectors," said Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy and associate director for the Department of Homeland Security's National Center for Food

Protection and Defense at the University of Minnesota. "[Animal agriculture is] the traffic controller, at the interface for the future."

Osterholm's message has been reinforced by recent appointments, including Dr. Lonnie King, dean of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, as

the director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Strategy and Innovation. Osterholm provided insight into key diseases that have high zoonotic, or transmissible to humans, implications such as influenza. Additionally, he challenged leaders to take a more aggressive role in diseases that have great social and economic implications.

"[Animal agriculture] still has to fight the uphill battle, providing a road for the future," said Osterholm.

Other presentations throughout the day addressed key issues, such as the importance for international coordination, the increasing impor-

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USDA Unveils NAIS "Thinking Paper"; Invites Public Comment

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced on May 5 the unveiling of a "thinking paper" and timeline on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Johanns is calling on agriculture producers, leaders, and industry partners to provide feedback. Both documents are available on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NAIS Web site at www.usda.gov/nais and will be published in the Federal Register.

"The documents we're releasing today offer a draft plan to move the public discussion forward on this important initiative," said Johanns.

"We created these documents with guidance from the NAIS advisory committee and with a great deal of input from producers. We're proposing answers to some of the key questions about how we envision this system moving forward. Now, I'm eager to hear from farmers and ranchers so we can develop a final plan."

A comprehensive description of system standards will be determined over time through field trials, user experience and the federal rulemaking process. These documents lay out in more detail pro-

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jected timelines and potential avenues to achieve system milestones. For example, these documents propose requiring stakeholders to identify premises and animals according to NAIS standards by January 2008. Requiring full recording of defined animal movements is proposed by January 2009.

USDA is seeking input on key questions such as funding for the system, confidentiality of data in the system and flexibility of the system, among other things.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before

June 6, 2005.

Once USDA receives feedback on the documents, it will follow the normal rulemaking process before any aspects of the NAIS become mandatory. The public will have the opportunity to submit additional comments on any proposed regulations.

Comments are posted on the EDOCKET Web site and may also be viewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. To facilitate entry into the comment reading room, please call 202-690-2817. ●

To comment...

Via Mail:

Send an original and three copies of postal or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. 050-15-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Via the Internet:

An easy link to the NAIS docket and comment form will be available on the NAIS home page at www.usda.gov/nais.



Swine Health Report

Spring 2005

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Challenge | NIAA Symposium Looks at Industry's Future Role

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tance of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the need for more science-based standards worldwide, use of technologies for prevention and control of disease and the importance of communication throughout the world from technicians to the general public.

"Unless we build walls around our border, we rely on the national services of other countries," said Dr. Kevin Walker, director of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Directorate at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. "It's in our best interest that we be strong."

The symposium, moderated by Dr. Will Hueston of the University of Minnesota, hosted a variety of speakers, including: Dr. Michael Perdue, CDC Animal Influenza Liaison to the World Health Organization; Dr. John Smith, chairman of the U.S. Animal Health

Association Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species; Dave Schmidt, International Food Information Council; Dr. Pratuang Sudsakorn, Animal Health and Technical Services for the CPF Group in Thailand; Dr. Jimmy Tickel, North Carolina Department of Agriculture; Dr. Alfonso Torres, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Brian Evans, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Mike Robach, Cargill, Inc.; Dr. Susan Harlander, BT Safety, LLC; and a panel of key leaders in Minnesota involved with a collaborative effort to protect the global food supply. These presentations, along with other proceedings from the NIAA Annual Meeting can be accessed on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org/Proceedings/2005AMPProceedings.asp. ●

NPPC Offers Interactive Premises Registration Web Site

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) has developed an interactive Premises Registration Map, a tool which enables producers to directly access their state's Animal Identification and Premises Registration web site.

Dr. Harry Snelson, NPPC's director of science and technology, said this map was designed to aide producers as they begin the voluntary process of registering their premises as part of the National Animal Identification System. "Premises registration is still voluntary, but NPPC encourages all producers to take action now as this is the first step toward implementing the tracking system necessary for insuring the health and safety of U.S. livestock," he said.

"NPPC supports the establishment of a national premises registration system for all relevant animal species by 2007," said Malcolm DeKryger, a pork producer from DeMotte, IN. "We encourage U.S. pork producers to register their premises as soon as possible." DeKryger chairs NPPC's Animal Health and Food Security Policy Committee and said that national premises registration is an essential step in establishing an effective National Animal Identification System which NPPC urges USDA to have fully operational and mandatory for all relevant animal species by 2008.

Producers can link to the Interactive Premises Registration Map at www.nppc.org/hot_topics/premidstatesites2.html. ●

ID/INFO EXPO 2005 Slated for September in Chicago

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) will host ID/INFO EXPO 2005, September 27-29. The event will be held at the Crown Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel.

A conference and trade show devoted to the subject of animal identification and information systems, ID/INFO EXPO 2005 will focus largely on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), a industry/state/federal collaborative effort, under development by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The one-of-a-kind trade show will showcase a variety of animal identification manufacturers and information systems service providers.

"With the success of the 2004 meeting, NIAA considered the need for an ID/INFO EXPO in



2005," said Dr. Robert Fourdraine, NIAA Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee chair. "Based upon overwhelming interest and support to host another meeting, we see it as a valuable forum to advance implementation of a national system."

Preliminary program and registration information is forthcoming. Individuals wanting to be sure they are included on the mailing list are encouraged to go to www.animalagriculture.org, click on the ID/INFO EXPO logo and fill out an online information request form. ●

Mandatory ID Goal Set for 2009

In giving a progress report on development of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Bill Hawks, reassured the industry that mandatory participation would not be put in place until all confidentiality issues had been resolved, though the administration hopes to make this a reality by 2009.

Hawks addressed the members of the Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee for the National Institute for



Bill Hawks

Animal Agriculture (NIAA) at their annual meeting in early April.

Regarding the confidentiality issue, which has been a concern for some in the industry, the Bush Administration has sent a bill to Congress that would exempt the data collected for NAIS from the Freedom of Information Act.

Hawks urged the industry to actively support this legislation. ●

Premises by the Numbers

47 states now have premises registration capability;

69,600+ premises have been registered in the U.S. as of the beginning of May.

Scenes from NIAA Annual Meeting



Jim Leafstedt, South Dakota pork producer, was presented with the NIAA Meritorious Service Award, noting his advocacy of PRV eradication.



Dr. Mark Engle, PIC Inc., was honored with the NIAA President's Award recognizing the outstanding committee leader of the year.



Dr. Paul Anderson (right), Minnesota Board of Animal Health, receives a plaque for his service as vice chair of the PRV Eradication Task Force, which was dissolved in 2004.

NIAA Supports Three-Level Swine Premises Designation for States

At the recent meeting of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, the Swine Health Committee discussed the eradication of pseudorabies and brucellosis from the commercial herd in the U.S. The committee highlighted a need for a new program to prevent these diseases from being re-introduced into the commercial population, putting forth a resolution urging USDA, APHIS to move towards a three-level herd designation, administered at the state level. The resolution is as follows:

"The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS) to request that each state immediately designate every known swine premises as commercial, transitional or feral.

There is an urgency for implementation of this program in order to protect the U.S. commercial swine population from exposure to pseudorabies or swine brucellosis. NIAA asks USDA, APHIS to report summary data at the next meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in November, 2005."

In a second resolution, the committee calls on USDA, APHIS to take action in paralleling the pseudorabies and brucellosis programs. The resolution states:

"The National Institute for Animal Agriculture requests the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, APHIS) immediately take the following actions concerning surveillance for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis:

1. Evaluate and redesign surveillance programs for pseudorabies and swine

brucellosis, including current slaughter surveillance programs.

2. Assign a staff position to be responsible for program analysis and implementation.

3. Coordinate work between the National Surveillance Unit and Animal Health programs staff.

4. Consider randomized on-farm testing in high-risk areas.

5. Provide funding to implement these ongoing surveillance efforts."

Other key topics discussed during the NIAA Swine Health Committee meeting included:

1. Diagnostic capability for foreign animal and emerging diseases, and a need for more

resources to further pursue diagnosis of such diseases found on swine operations.

2. National Swine Disease Surveillance System, comparing the pseudorabies surveillance model as a simple statistical surveillance system, and how that should be transitioned to a risk-assessment system for emerging diseases.

Dr. David Nolan, Cargill Meat Solutions, chairs NIAA's Swine Health Committee. ●



Drs. John Korslund, David Pyburn both with USDA, and Howard Hill of Iowa Select Farms, take time to converse at the recent NIAA Annual Meeting. Presentations are available at www.animalagriculture.org.

USDA Proposes to Amend Import Regulations on Swine and Swine Products from EU

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is proposing to amend its regulations for importing swine and swine products into the United States by applying uniform requirements to the European Union (EU-15). This proposed regulation applies to the 15 member states comprising the European Union prior to its expansion on May 1, 2004.

The EU-15 is made up of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

APHIS is proposing to place import prohibitions on all swine and swine products into the United States from any region in any member state of the EU-15

that has been quarantined by the EU due to an outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF). Quarantined areas would be referred to as restricted zones and will not be defined in an interim rule. This proposal will change the means by which restrictions are applied. In addition, under the proposal, restrictions due to a CSF outbreak in the EU-15 would be implemented and released by an administrative process rather than a regulatory process.

In the case of an outbreak of CSF in domestic swine, the importation prohibitions would remain in effect for six months following the depopulation of swine and the cleaning and disinfection of the last infected premise in the restricted zone even if a veterinary authority of the EU-15 member state lifts its designation of the area as a restricted zone before the six

months have elapsed. Restrictions in place because of infected wild boar will mimic EU restrictions.

Following the six-month import prohibition, breeding swine and swine products may enter the United States if a veterinary official from the EU-15 member state certifies that all import prohibitions have been met.

These changes are necessary to help prevent the introduction of CSF into the United States while increasing our responsiveness to changes in the CSF situation in the EU.

CSF, or hog cholera, is a highly contagious and fatal disease of swine. It was eradicated from the United States in 1976 after a 16-year effort, at a cost of about \$140 million to the USDA and individual states. If CSF were reintroduced into the United States, it would cause major production losses and hamper U.S. pork exports.

This proposed rule is published in the April 8 Federal Register. APHIS documents published in the Federal Register are available on the internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before June 7. Send an original and three copies of postal or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. 02-046-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet, go to EDOCKET at www.epa.gov/feddocket, click on "View Open APHIS Dockets," and locate agency Docket No. 02-046-1. ●

USDA Releases NAHMS Part IV

USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) shipped the Swine 2000 Part IV: Changes in the U.S. Pork Industry, 1990-2000 report in late April.

The Swine 2000 study addressed issues important to the U.S. swine industry, including information on nearly 94 percent of the U.S. swine herd on sites with 100 or more pigs. Data were collected from 2,499 swine production sites from 2,328 operations, in the top 17 pork-producing states.

Part IV of the study presents



demographic changes of the United States and world swine industry from a historical perspective using data provided

by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, and Foreign Agriculture Service. Results of three NAHMS national studies provide an overview of change in U.S. swine management and health from 1990 through 2000. The report is available on the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs/nahms/swine/index.htm.

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Senate Introduces Bill to Establish Food and Ag Division in NSF

The Senate has introduced a bill (S. 767) to establish a Division of Food and Agricultural Science within the National Science Foundation and to authorize funding for the support of fundamental agricultural research of the highest quality, and for other purposes. Sponsored by Senator Christopher Bond, Mo., it has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. A similar bill, HR 1563, has also be introduced in the House of Representatives.

The Board of Directors for the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture (C-FAR) unanimously voted to support the legislation.

"Consideration of S. 767 will elevate the debate about the critical need for enhancing public investment in food and agricultural research, extension and education," said Joseph H. Layton Jr., president of C-FAR in a letter to Senator Bond. "Enactment of legislation this congress would help address the critical need to fund and carry out fundamental research through the establishment of a Division of Food and Agricultural Science within the National Science Foundation."

Crawford Nominated for FDA Commissioner

President George W. Bush announced on Feb. 14 his intention to nominate Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs at the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Crawford currently serves as Acting

Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. He previously served as Chair of the Department of Physiology-Pharmacology at the University of Georgia, Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service and Deputy Commissioner of FDA. He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University and his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Georgia. Crawford's appointment is pending approval from the Senate. His confirmation has been postponed, pending results of an investigation.

Pork Quality Assurance to be Revised

The National Pork Board has announced it will be revising the Pork Quality Assurance program, Level III. Led by Dr. Gary Bowman of The Ohio State University, a group of producers, veterinarians, extension specialists and Checkoff staff have been appointed to the task. The three-level certification program began in 1989.

Pork Board Hires New Director of Swine Health

The National Pork Board's Science and Technology Department has hired Dr. Robyn Fleck as the director of swine health programs. Fleck has experience as a practicing veterinarian and her most recent position was with Schering-Plough. She has a long history with the Pork Checkoff as a member of the Swine Health Committee. Fleck began on Feb. 14, with her primary duties involving animal identification and swine disease surveillance programs.

NIAA Keeps Executive Board Intact

Dr. Rick Sibbel and Scott Stuart began their second year as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture board of directors following the organization's Annual Meeting in April.

Sibbel, a veterinarian, is director of global technical services for Schering-Plough Animal Health and resides in Ankeny, Iowa. Stuart is CEO of the National Livestock Producers Association and resides in Colorado Springs, Colo. NIAA members elected the pair to their posts in April 2004 for a two-year term.

Additionally, the NIAA board of directors elected a familiar set of faces to comprise its executive committee.

NIAA CEO Glenn Slack was re-elected as president of the organization. Jim Fraley, livestock program director at Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington, Ill., was re-elected as secretary and Jon Caspers, a pork producer from Swaledale, Iowa and past president of the National Pork Producers Council was re-elected as treasurer. Richard Breitmeyer, state veterinarian and director of animal health and food safety services at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, Calif., was re-elected as the executive committee's member at-large. ●



Iowa pork producer Jon Caspers was re-elected as treasurer by the NIAA Board of Directors during the organization's recent annual meeting in St. Paul, Minn.

Life After PRV Eradication

One state's approach to classifying feral and captive swine

The eradication of pseudorabies from the commercial herd was undoubtedly a major event for the swine industry, exemplifying how eradication programs driven by industry and supported by government can be successful. Eradication isn't the end of PRV control efforts, however, surveillance is still important as is maintaining a close eye on feral and transitional swine populations.

The U.S. Animal Health Association made recommendations to the pseudorabies program standards in 2004 to prevent movement of transitional swine as commercial swine. In other words, any pigs that may have been in contact with feral pigs don't have a "PRV free status," and will require separate testing and certification before movement can occur.

Florida is a state that has dealt with major challenges in the feral swine population. Because the feral population is diffused across the state, many of the pigs reared in Florida do have risk of exposure to the feral population, therefore presenting a risk for PRV. Dr. Dix Harrell, assistant Area Veterinarian in Charge for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has worked with the Florida swine population, not only helping to achieve Stage V status, but also help to ensure that pseudorabies remains out of the commercial herd.

"In Florida, almost all herds are considered exposed," says Harrell. "The key for us is defining commercial production, treating herds as exposed until proven otherwise."

Harrell says that Florida uses a three-prong approach to identifying

herds, using classifications of feral, captive swine and commercial. These are used as codes in the generic database, and therefore are able to be monitored over time.

"Each state is going to be different. Being able to identify commercial herds versus transitional herds is the main objective, particularly across state lines."

– DR. DIX HARRELL,
USDA ASSISTANT AVIC

Risk assessment is the cornerstone for pseudorabies and brucellosis control in Florida. Harrell notes that if producers want to have the commercial status, they will need to have a risk assessment, and pass it, before the state will move forward with testing.

"If producers want to be considered commercial, they are going to need to raise hogs in a way that fits the standards," says Harrell. "The concept is borne around management practices, and preventing hogs from being exposed."

Harrell says that Florida is in the process of updating the state standards to align with the national standards, and feels strongly that all states need to be working on updating PRV and brucellosis rules to coincide with the national standards.

"Each state is going to be different," says Harrell. "Being able to identify commercial herds versus transitional herds is the main objective, particularly across state lines."

Allowing movement is the basis for this objective, as Harrell adds

that states should be ready to identify which herds can send hogs to their state. This implies the need for state regulations that define those parameters. Because some states have different risks in terms of PRV (and brucellosis), and diverse production types, states will need to have cross-checking capabilities for herd status. ●

Turning to Brucellosis

With the eradication of pseudorabies virus from the commercial herd, industry health officials can now place more emphasis on finalizing another eradication program: swine brucellosis.

Swine brucellosis eradication has been a quiet success in the swine industry, most notably as Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas have recently been granted a free status. This leaves Texas as the only Stage 2 state left in the country, according to USDA's Dr. John Korslund, clarifying that swine brucellosis is not known to be in any commercial herd in the country. He notes that Texas is likely to achieve free status, following an update of the brucellosis standards to reflect pseudorabies standards. The swine brucellosis program currently operates on a three-tier status level. However, the program standards do not currently recognize transitional herds. A new Uniform Methods and Rules is in the works to address transitional swine, and limit official swine brucellosis program status to commercial production swine herds. ●

PRV Eradication Celebrated by Stakeholders

"Mission Accomplished" was the theme on Monday, April 4 as the National Institute for Animal Agriculture took time to recognize industry leaders involved with the eradication of pseudorabies from commercial swine in the U.S. The celebration, sponsored by the National Pork Board, included some of the pork industry's most outspoken and influential individuals. Glenn Slack, president and CEO of NIAA, served as master of ceremonies for the event, which brought together 150 past and present participants in the highly successful program.

Speakers included Neal Black, former editor of National Hog Farmer Magazine; Dr. Tom Hagerty former State Veterinarian with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health; Jon Caspers with the Iowa Pork Producers Association; Dr. Howard Hill from Iowa Select

Farms; Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, USDA, Veterinary Services; Dr. Richard Hull, retired Illinois State Veterinarian; and Jim Leafstedt, South Dakota pork producer. Phil Bradshaw, a pork producer from Illinois, also shared comments through video. The evening took a look back at the various aspects that made the program successful, such as the first PRV meeting, formation of Program Standards and the PRV Control Board, Accelerated Program funding, technical accomplishments, and the various roles within the federal-state-industry cooperative effort.

"The PRV eradica-

tion program can be viewed as an excellent example of cooperative efforts in disease eradication," said Slack. "It was an honor to bring together the swine industry to recognize these efforts." ●



Glenn Slack (top), Dr. Paul Sundberg (left), Neal Black (center) and Dr. Tom Hagerty were among those on the celebration's program. The event was sponsored by the National Pork Board.

AASV Elects New Leadership

Dr. Tom Gillespie, Rensselaer, Ind., was installed as the president of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) at the annual meeting in Toronto, Canada in March. He succeeds Dr. John Waddell, Sutton, Neb., who is now immediate past president. Joining Drs. Gillespie and Waddell as AASV officers are: Dr. Scott Dee, St. Paul, Minn., president-elect; and Dr. Daryl Olsen, Audubon, Iowa, newly elected vice president.

Dr. Tom Gillespie is the owner of a swine specialty practice in Rensselaer, Ind. He is a past member of the AASV Board of Directors and past secretary for the AASV Foundation. Dr. Gillespie is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Swine Health Management Specialty.

Dr. Scott Dee is an associate professor in the Swine Disease Eradication Center at the University of Minnesota. Previously a private practitioner in a swine-specific practice in Morris, Minn., for 12 years, Dee is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. In 1996, he was named AASV Swine Practitioner of the Year.

Dr. Daryl Olsen has been a swine practitioner at the Audubon-Manning Veterinary Clinic in Audubon, Iowa for 14 years. Dr. Olsen is a member of the association's Pharmaceutical Issues Committee. He was recently appointed one of the AASV's representatives on the board of directors of the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc. ●

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