

Swine HEALTH REPORT

A National Institute for Animal Agriculture Publication

Summer 2005

Pork Industry Identification Working Group Submits Recommendations

The pork industry has compiled a proposal for the swine program standards portion of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The Pork Industry Identification Working Group (PIIWG), comprised of pork producers, veterinarians, academia, packers and other key stakeholders, has been charged by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate what swine-specific program standards will best fit the industry. The recommendations have been submitted to the NAIS subcommittee of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and

Poultry Diseases for review.

The proposed standards outline three key areas for identification: methods, movement recording and movement reporting. The standards address these specifically for market swine, breeding swine and exhibition swine.

• Swine Identification Methods

When there is no trace-back advantage to using unique animal identification and when animals move within a swine production system, group/lot identification may be used unless the animals are commingled outside the production system other than directly to slaughter.

Group identification is the preferred method of identification in market swine. Animals not eligible for group designation must be identified with official identification methods or devices bearing AIN (animal ID number) or PIN (premises ID number). If a tag is required, it will comply with AIN tag requirements and may constitute a unique color and/or unique symbol for ease of recognition. RFID, barcodes or other technologies are optional for swine.

• Swine Movement Recording Requirements

Movement data will be captured and maintained as production records by the individual owners, production systems and mar-



kets. Production and sales records must be made readily available to the USDA upon request and must conform to applicable regulations.

Documentation of inventory reconciliation

for each group using group/lot identification is required. Production records will be maintained for three years after the swine leave the premises.

• Swine Movement Reporting Requirements

All interstate movements of swine and semen must be reported either via a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) for individually identified animals or an interstate movement report (IMR) for group/lot identified animals and conform to applicable state and federal regulations. The PINs of the shipping and receiving premises must be recorded on the CVI or IMR.

Should USDA mandate the reporting of all inter-premises swine movements, adoption of the GIN (group ID number) system will be necessary to report groups/lot movement information to a central database.

"This was a great group effort, an incredible consensus reached by producers, packers, markets, genetic companies and showpig representatives," said Dr. Robyn Fleck, who chairs the working group. "These

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recommendations represent a very broad input, meeting the charge of NAIS to provide traceback for animal disease purposes."

For feeder swine, group/lot identification has been proposed as an option to individual animal identification for eligible animals. The group/lot ID has been separated into two groups, static groups and dynamic groups. Static groups are a definable number of animals that are assembled in one location and maintained together for a definable period of time with inventory going to zero at the end of that period. Static groups may move from premises to premises

within a production system, such as with all-in/all-out systems.

Dynamic groups are a premises-based system that exists for an indeterminate amount of time.

Continuous flow systems are an example of dynamic groups.

Market swine must be individually identified at initial points of concentration for harvest with slap tattoos bearing the lot number. Animals diverted from harvest channels back into live production must receive individual identification with AIN. Recording information associated with movement is a key recommendation, regardless of ID type. The working group also recommends that abattoirs and livestock markets will maintain records of animals received, in accordance with the current regulations from the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The PIIWG recommends that cull breeding stock be individually identified with a tag bearing either AIN or PIN before shipment to market. For semen, doses should be labeled with the PIN of the source herd. Recording information will again be crucial.

For swine participating in shows and/or sales, individual ID bearing AIN has been recommended, associating that animal with its premises of origin. If shows are not terminal, records must be maintained documenting movement history and tagging events. The working group recommends that the seller is responsible for transferring animal's records to the buyer. ●

Editor's Note: The standards outlined in this article are a working document provided by the Swine Industry Working Group.



Swine Health Report

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NAIS Database to go Private

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the Department of Agriculture's guiding principles for development of a public/private partnership that enables the private sector to maintain animal movement data as part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

"We are gratified by the growing support for an animal identification system, with over 100,000 premises now registered," Secretary Johanns said. "We are eager to work closely with industry as they develop and maintain databases that contain animal movement information. After hearing the confidentiality concerns of producers, we envision a system that allows these databases to feed a single, privately held animal-tracking repository that we can access."

USDA's four guiding principles for the NAIS are as follows:

- The system must be able to allow tracking of animals from point of origin to processing within 48 hours without unnecessary burden to producers and other stakeholders.
- The system's architecture must be developed without unduly increasing the size and role of government.
- The system must be flexible enough to utilize existing technologies and incorporate new identification technologies as they are developed.
- Animal movement data should be maintained in a private system that can be readily accessed when necessary by state and federal animal health authorities.

USDA officials will be scheduling a stakeholder meeting this fall to initiate discussions. ●

AVMA Revises Pregnant Sow Housing Policy

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has taken a new position on pregnant sow housing, according to the August 1 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The new position indicates that no housing system for pregnant sows is preferred, according to current animal welfare criteria, as current systems should be retained while making improvements to overcome identified problems.

Conclusions from the issue paper approved by the AVMA board, identifying AVMA's position, include:

1. Given the number of variables and large variation in performance within both group and stall systems for pregnant sows, no one system is clearly better than others under all conditions and according to all criteria of animal welfare.
2. Sow housing systems should:

- Minimize aggression and competition among sows;
- Protect sows from detrimental effects associated with environmental extremes, particularly temperature extremes;
- Reduce exposure to hazards that result in injuries, pain, or disease;
- Provide every animal with daily access to appropriate food and water;
- Facilitate observation of individual sow appetite, respiratory rate, urination and defecation, and reproductive status by caregivers;
- Allow sows to express most normal patterns of behavior.

3. All systems have advantages and disadvantages for welfare. Current group systems allow freedom of movement and social interaction. However, these same systems, when they fail to work well, lead to problems, especially in the areas of aggression, injury, and uneven body condition. When they lack manipu-

"The AASV is pleased with the result of the scientific literature review done by the AVMA Task Force on the Housing of Pregnant Sows," said Dr. Tom Burkgren, executive director of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. "The new position statement is consistent with our belief that the science does not promote one housing system as being superior to others. The Task Force findings support our position that proper stockmanship is the foundation to improving the welfare of swine, not the prohibition of the use of individual gestation stalls. Any such prohibition is shortsighted and not conducive to the improvement of welfare."

lable material, sows in group systems are also unable to forage. Current stall systems minimize aggression and injury, reduce competition, allow individual feeding, and assist in control of body condition. Stalls, however, also restrict movement, exercise, foraging behavior and social interaction. Because the advantages and disadvantages of housing systems are qualitatively different, there is no simple or objective way to rank systems for "overall" welfare.

4. To address animal welfare in the long term, advantages of current housing systems should be retained while making improvements to overcome problems identified. Improvements should be adopted as soon as:

- The technology is sound enough that producers can adopt it with confidence,
- The skills needed to operate the systems are understood and available, and
- Systems are economically viable.

More information is available on the Internet at www.avma.org. ●

PRRS Symposium Announced

The NC-229 PRRS Committee, an organization established in 1999 to focus, facilitate and coordinate research on the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), will host the 2005 International PRRS Symposium on Dec. 3 in St. Louis, Mo.

Researchers, students, swine health specialists and pork producers interested in PRRS virus research are invited to attend.

The meeting will bring together an international group involved in all aspects of PRRS research. A broad range of topics – from field studies to highly technical investigations – will be discussed. The committee is currently soliciting scientific abstracts for poster presentations and poster displays.

The deadline for these is August 26, 2005. There is no charge to attend the symposium, but registration is required. Register or submit abstracts on the Internet at www.prrs2005.org. Or contact Dr. Jeff Zimmerman at jjzimm@ias-tate.edu. A schedule is also available on the web site, which will focus on two areas: the virus and the host.

The host site for the symposium will be the Sheraton Westport Hotel & Lakeside Chalet. This symposium will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) Meeting.

PRRS is estimated to cost the U.S. \$560 million each year.

USDA, APHIS, VS Establishes New Division

As animal agriculture continues to evolve, so does the need for federal programs that properly address animal health issues in the U.S. Such is the case with USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services, as a recent restructuring has been implemented to maintain a level of efficiency among the nation's surveillance and animal health programs.

Dr. Adam Grow, who has been appointed director of Surveillance and Identification for VS, says the shift brings a higher level of integration amongst the various species' programs.

"We will be operating not as three separate staffs, but as one center," says Grow, referring to the three divisions: Ruminant Health Programs; Aquaculture, Swine, Equine & Poultry Health Programs; and the newly established Surveillance and Identification Programs. "The change will provide more consistency among surveillance for the national animal health and disease programs, and help to integrate animal identification needs into each of the programs."

The new division will also oversee veterinary accreditation, which is set to increase in scope in the coming years. In all, Grow indicated an increase of efficiency for the National Center for Animal Health Programs.

Brucellosis Detected in Iowa, Georgia

Cases of swine brucellosis have been detected in both Iowa and Georgia, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture officials. The two cases have been identified in transitional herds in those states, following exposure to infected feral swine to breeding stock.

In Georgia, a small breeder was diagnosed with brucellosis this spring. The herd, categorized as a transitional herd, was tested and depopulated. Although the producer had sold hogs from the farm, investigations have concluded that the disease had not spread through those animals, thus was contained.

The producer, after cleaning and disinfecting, has repopulated, but not before a perimeter fence has been established around the operation. Because of the risk of disease transmission, the Georgia Department of Agriculture has been trapping and testing feral swine in the area.

"We don't have a lot of hogs left in Georgia, but many of the small herds are considered transitional," said Dr. Carter Black, associate state veterinarian. Georgia is continuing to address the risks associated with feral swine.

In Iowa, a state not known for its feral swine population, the state has depopulated a small herd in the southeast portion of the state. Dr. John Schiltz, Iowa State Veterinarian, was notified by public

health officials of a man with *brucella suis*. Further investigations found the man was a pork producer, thus the state launched an epidemiological investigation on his herd. Test results came back positive for swine brucellosis, and the herd was indemnified and depopulated. An investigation of other area producers has not produced any other cases. State officials are continuing to trap feral swine in the area, though initial tests have returned negative. Iowa continues to work to address what seems to be an increase in feral swine in the southern portions of the state.

"It shows we can't let our guard down," said Schiltz, though most of the state's production is confinement operations. "There is a positive benefit, however, as we have increase communication with our Department of Natural Resources to address the feral swine in our state."

The cases in both Georgia and Iowa will not impact the brucellosis status for those states.

Brucellosis in pigs (contagious abortion of swine) is an infectious and contagious disease caused by the bacteria *brucella suis*. It is mainly a disease of pigs but it can also affect other domestic species and humans.

It is primarily a genital disease, causing abortions in sows but it also affects other organs, especially bones and joints. ●

Brucellosis UM&R Being Reviewed

A U.S. Animal Health Association committee is currently reviewing the existing Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) on swine brucellosis, to tighten separation requirements for transitional breeding stock from commercial production herds, bringing standards into alignment with the PRV program. Changes are expected to be proposed this fall at the U.S. Animal Health Association Meeting in Hershey, Pa. (www.usaha.org). USDA, Veterinary Services will then take recommendations into consideration for any changes to the UM&R.

Antibiotic Use in Animals Rises Following Period of Decline

The sales of antibiotics used to treat, prevent and control disease and maintain the health of animals rose 7.5 percent in 2004, according to data provided by the research-based companies that produce animal medicines.

In 2004, 21.7 million pounds of antibiotics were sold for use in farm and companion animals, an increase from 20.2 million pounds sold in 2002. Antibiotic production has trended down since 1999, when 24.4 million pounds were sold. The data were collected from a survey of members of the Animal Health Institute (AHI), consisting of companies that make medicines for pets and farm animals. As antibiotic use has declined, meat production has increased, indicating greater efficiencies being gained by animal producers.

The rigorous review process at the Food and Drug Administration



was strengthened in late 2003 when the agency added a risk assessment requirement for all antibiotics. New antibiotics as well as those already

approved are subject to this requirement. In addition to providing annual data regarding overall use of antibiotics in animals, the industry supports programs like USDA's Collaboration on Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology, which collects farm-level data and compares antibiotic use patterns to the incidence of antibiotic resistant bacteria at other steps in meat processing. To provide further public health protection, the industry supports the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System, which provides data on trends in antibiotic resistant bacteria in animals, humans and retail meats.

AHI survey respondents provide an assessment each year of the amount of veterinary antibiotics

sold for therapeutic use and health maintenance purposes. The percentage of veterinary antibiotics sales reported as therapeutic was 83 percent in 2001, and has risen each year since, to 91 percent in 2002, 92 percent in 2003 and 95 percent in 2004.

"These data stands in stark contrast to the 'estimates' some have offered regarding antibiotic use," said AHI president and CEO Alexander Mathews. The five percent of use attributed to health maintenance represents 1,175,226 pounds of use. Of that amount, 758,969 pounds are compounds with little or no use in human medicine, including ionophores and arsenicals. The remaining 416,257 pounds of use are comprised of four compounds, all of which have been or are being evaluated by risk assessments. ●

ID/INFO EXPO 2005 Fast Approaching

The latest developments in animal identification will be discussed at this year's ID/INFO EXPO 2005, to be held Sept. 27-29 in Chicago.



The National Institute for Animal Agriculture is hosting more than 60 speakers for the event, which will cover the latest issues in animal identification and information systems.

Look for full coverage of the event in the Fall issue of Swine Health Report. ●

SafePork 2005 Symposium Scheduled for September

The 6th International Symposium on the Epidemiology and Control of Foodborne Pathogens in Pork, or SafePork 2005, will take place on Sept. 6-9, 2005, at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park, Calif.

Over 70 oral presentations and 20 posters on topics related to pathogens of foodborne importance, antimicrobial resistance, chemical and physical hazards in pork will be offered during the symposium. Emphasis will be placed on epidemiology, economics, diagnostics, risk

analysis, interventions and control programs for pathogens and hazards.

The scientific program will encompass foodborne hazards that may be transmitted via pork. These topics include: Pathogens of foodborne importance; Antimicrobial resistance; Chemical hazards; and Physical hazards

More information on SafePork 2005 can be found on the Internet at www.safe-pork2005.org.

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Crawford Appointed FDA Commissioner

The Senate has confirmed Dr. Lester Crawford to serve as head of the Food and Drug Administration. He has previously served as acting commissioner.

Crawford was confirmed by the Senate to be FDA Commissioner on July 18, 2005, by a majority of 78 to 16.



Crawford, **Dr. Lester Crawford** who received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Georgia, filled the role of Department of Physiology-Pharmacology at the University of Georgia Chair prior to working for FDA. He has also served as Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA).

"The appointment of Dr. Crawford, a recognized authority in veterinary medicine, to the position of commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration underscores the important link between public health and animal health," said AVMA President Henry E. Childers. "The American Veterinary Medical Association is extremely proud of our colleague and commends President Bush and Congress for recognizing the invaluable contribution veterinary medicine makes, and will continue to make, to public health and safety."

Russell First American Elected WVA President

Dr. Leon H. Russell Jr. became the first American elected president of the World Veterinary Association during the American Veterinary

Medical Association's annual convention in July.

For the next three years, Dr. Russell, whose candidacy was endorsed by the AVMA, will head the world's oldest international professional organization comprising nearly a hundred member countries.

"I'm very honored and humbled by your vote," Dr. Russell told members of the WVA Presidents' Assembly who elected him. "I will be president to everyone, and I will hear you when you speak."

Dr. Johnson S. M. Chiang of Taiwan and Dr. Faouzi Kechrid of Tunisia were elected as the association's two vice presidents. The Presidents' Assembly was convened in Minneapolis for the 28th World Veterinary Congress, which last met in the United States in 1934.

The WVA works closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization, and similar organizations on matters of food safety, food security, antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare, and zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Russell of College Station, Texas, is a professor at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. He also has a PhD degree in veterinary microbiology, as well as a master's in public health.

The former AVMA president was elected one of two WVA vice presidents in 2002 at the WVC in Tunis, Tunisia. Dr. Russell had previously



Dr. Leon Russell

been a councilor for the North American continent representing the United States in the association.

From AVMA's Convention Daily News, July 20, 2005.

Snelson Joins AASV Staff

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) has named Dr. Harry Snelson as director of communications. In this newly created position, Snelson will manage the association's committees, liaison activities, and the AASV e-Letter, a weekly electronic newsletter for swine veterinarians.



Dr. Harry Snelson

Snelson joins the AASV from the National Pork Producers Council where he served as the director of science and technology since 2004.

"The AASV created the position to elevate our commitment to enhancing the value of AASV membership through our key areas of communications, advocacy, and member involvement through committees," said Tom Burkgren, DVM, MBA, executive director of the AASV. "Dr. Snelson's knowledge and experience will enable him to have an immediate impact on our association."

Prior to joining NPPC, Snelson was a swine technical services manager at Schering-Plough Animal Health. From 1991 to 2000, he was the swine veterinarian at Carroll's Foods, Inc., the second largest swine producer in the United States, marketing over three million pigs annually.

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Pork Board Seeking PRRS Proposals

The National Pork Board is seeking PRRSV research proposals. This is the final PRRS Initiative Request for Proposals this year, culminating the awarding of approximately \$2 million in PRRSV-related research grants in 2005. Proposals will be due on Wednesday, September 7; successful projects will be notified in late October.



National Pork Board is requesting proposals in the areas of PRRS Vaccination, Managing Persistent PRRSV Infections, and PRRSV Elimination Programs. The specific funding announcement with a detailed description of research priorities can be found at www.porkboard.org/prrs/rfps.asp or by contacting Bev Everitt at the National Pork Board (515-223-2600 or bev.everitt@porkboard.org). Proposal and budget templates as well as submission information (online) can also be found on the Internet at www.porkboard.org.

Pork Board Seeks Director of Swine Health

The National Pork Board is currently searching for qualified candidates for the position of Director, Swine Health Information and Research. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and dissemination of current information and educational materials on key swine health issues and the oversight and administration of the department's swine health research responsibili-

ties, including the Checkoff's PRRS Initiative.

A DVM with a minimum of three years experience in swine veterinary medicine is required. An advanced degree and/or Board certification is preferred.

For additional information, contact Dr. Paul Sundberg, Vice President, Science and Technology at the National Pork Board. Application can be made by sending a letter of interest and a curriculum vitae to Dr. Sundberg at P.O. Box 9114, Des Moines, Iowa 50306 or by email to paul.sundberg@porkboard.org. Those interested are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as the position will be filled as soon as the successful candidate is identified.

AASV Call for Abstracts Announced

The American Association of Swine Veterinarians announces the call for abstracts for the Industrial Partners session of the 37th AASV Annual Meeting, to be held March 4 to 7, 2006, in Kansas City, Missouri. This is an opportunity for commercial companies to make brief presentations of a technical, educational nature to members of the AASV. As in previous years, each presentation is limited to 15 minutes. The session will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 5, 2006.

Topic titles, a brief description/abstract of the presentation content, and presenter information (name, address, telephone and fax numbers, email address) must be received in the AASV office by October 1, 2005. Send to:



Commercial Sessions, AASV, 902 1st Avenue, Perry, Iowa, 50220; Fax: (515) 465-3832; E-mail: aasv@aasv.org.

There will be a review of the abstracts to assure technical merit of the presentations. Restricted program space necessitates a limit on the number of presentations per company. Authors will be notified of their selection by October 15, 2005, and must submit the complete paper for publication in the meeting proceedings by November 15, 2005.

Poll Shows NAIS Could Boost Consumer Confidence

A recent poll shows that consumers will become even more confident in the safety and security of the nation's meat and poultry supply if a mandatory National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is implemented. Under the NAIS, authorities would be able to quickly locate specific animals to prevent the spread of livestock diseases, such as mad cow disease. The consumer survey was sponsored by Global Animal Management Inc. (GAM), a wholly owned subsidiary of Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation.

According to the survey of 1,000 U.S. consumers, if NAIS were to be implemented, average consumer confidence in meat safety and security would jump to from 6.5 to 7.4 on a 10-point scale. Nearly 55 percent of those polled said their confidence would then be high (8-10), and those who said their confidence will remain low (1-3) declined from 10 percent to less than four percent. ●

Federal Agencies Establish Agroterrorism Partnership

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced a new collaboration with states and private industry to protect the nation's food supply from terrorist threats.

"Ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply is a top priority for President Bush and USDA," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. "This partnership demonstrates our commitment as government and the private sector work together to protect our agricultural commodities from terrorism. We look forward to working with our partners."

The Strategic Partnership Program Agroterrorism (SPPA)

Initiative supports President Bush's requirements directing the government to work closely with states and industry to secure the nation's food supply. Announced today at the Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council meeting, four pilot visits will be conducted in September and October. The purpose of these visits is to assess and identify vulnerabilities in the agriculture and food sectors.

"As one of the lead federal agencies charged with protecting our nation's food supply, the FDA fully supports this initiative encouraging a closer working relationship with our partners in federal and state government, as well as the private sector to make the nation's food even safer," said FDA Commissioner Dr. Lester Crawford. "This partnership brings together all of the organizations that have the best knowledge and abilities in safeguarding the food we eat starting from the farm all the way to our kitchen tables."

Over the next year, teams of federal and state officials will travel to all 50 states to meet with all sectors of the food chain. Together, the federal, state and private industry partners will discuss security issues from farm-to-table and consider ways to better protect our food supply.

"We are pleased to participate in this important initiative to enhance the overall security of our nation's food and agricultural infrastructure," said Robert Stephan, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "The health of our citizens and our economy depend on our ability to conduct assessments, validate field information and provide guidance

that can be shared with our federal, state and local, tribal as well as private sector partners."

These visits will help the federal partners better consider how states and industry can protect the food supply, gain more information about the food industry's protection needs and assist government and private industry in refining its efforts including research and development goals.

This effort is the second major joint initiative for the federal partners. In May 2005, FBI, with the support of DHS, USDA and FDA hosted the first ever International Symposium for Agrosecurity in Kansas City, Mo.

Additional information about agrosecurity can be found on the Internet at www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity. ●

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On the Calendar

ID/INFO EXPO 2005

Sept. 27-29, 2005

Chicago, Ill.

www.animalagriculture.org

109th Annual Meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association

Nov. 3-10, 2005

Hershey, Pa.

www.usaha.org

International PRRS Symposium

Dec. 3, 2005

St. Louis, Mo.

www.prrs2005.org