

Animal Production Food Safety & Security Committee Report

2006 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2006



The Animal Production Food Safety and Security committee met on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM EDT, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 20 people present. Dr. Jerry Gillespie served as the Chair and Dr. Harry Snelson served as the Vice-Chair.

The committee session focused on an animal agroterrorism event exercise and the issues associated with response and recovery.

Dr. Jerry Gillespie, University of California, School of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Agroterrorism Event Exercise

Dr. Gillespie has been conducting disaster response scenarios around the country to educate stakeholders of the issues that need to be considered. He presented a scenario describing an intentional terrorist event introducing FMD into California dairies. The participants discussed options associated with the diagnosis and response to the finding of FMD and its effects on the stakeholders involved. Numerous aspects of disaster response were discussed including control of the information stream (i.e. who's talking to the media), authority of various states to control people or animal movements, working with law enforcement, biosecurity concerns (e.g. truck washing), etc. The audience also considered the additional aspects of response if the disaster involved a human pathogen and how that might alter the response and recovery.

Mr. Gordon Meriwether, The Uriah Group, Business issues associated with an agriculture disaster.

Mr. Meriwether discussed the importance of bringing all the players together ahead of an emergency and working through potential disaster scenarios. New, unexpected issues arise each time the scenario is exercised. One important aspect that is often overlooked is planning for recovery. It is critical for the industries involved to understand what resources are going to be available to aid producers during the recovery phase. An important aspect of recovery is the way in which the disaster is handled from a public perception standpoint and the ability of those involved to control the information stream (e.g. DeHaven's successful handling of the initial BSE finding, and the response to the Tylenol tampering case).

(NOTE: No powerpoint presentations were used).

Old Business:

No old business was brought forward.

New Business:

- Action Items based on the following Information, Education and Solutions.
 - No new business was brought forward.
- Number of new resolutions accepted
 - No new resolutions were brought forward.
- Number of existing resolutions amended or revised
 - Reviewed all existing resolutions and there were no suggested amendments or revisions
- Number that were removed
 - No resolutions or position statements were removed

Committee Session adjourned at 3:35pm.