

**Animal Care
Committee Report**

2006 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2006



The Animal Care Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 from 8 AM to 12:00 PM EST, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 25 people present. Dr. Jer Geiger served as the Chair and Dr. Chris Ashworth served as the Vice-Chair.

The committee session focused on Developing Welfare Issues in Animal Agriculture. The following speakers presented relevant information.

Dr. Nathaniel Tablante, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, A National Training Programs on Mass Euthanasia and Disposal Options for Catastrophic Poultry Disease Events.

This was particularly well attended and well received and generated a lot of comments and discussion from various locations across the US. Most people were not aware of some of these euthanasia and disposal options.

Dr. Debra Beasley, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, OIE Code Chapters/Guidelines

Dr. Beasley gave clear direction for industrial comments on OIE guideline/standards.

Dr. Paul Kuber, The Ohio State University, Youth Food Animals Quality Assurance and Welfare

Dr. Kuber shared insights into Ohio's Quality Assurance program for youth, which is required by state law.

Old Business:

Last year's discussion of euthanasia guidelines should expand to include euthanasia of animal populations as a control mechanism in catastrophic disease situations. This ongoing activity should include the development and/or confirmation of guidelines for mass euthanasia.

New Business:

- Number of new resolutions accepted. Zero, none
- Number of existing resolutions amended or revised. One
- Number that were removed. Zero, none

General discussion:

Committee members discussed the potential for merging the Youth Committee and Animal Care Committee. The Animal Care Committee is opposed to this idea, based on:

- Issues of time constraint
- Dilution of content
- Potential for fewer members joining NIAA to participate

The focus of the Youth Committee is education, whereas the focus of the Animal Care Committee is a scientific, technical endeavor. We encourage the development of the Youth Committee by increasing committee members through recruitment of individuals with youth-group and education experience.

The committee agreed in principle to support a resolution from the Poultry Committee, encouraging AVMA to review potential use of foam euthanasia techniques in catastrophic poultry disease outbreaks. The Animal Care Committee encourages the use of this technique in such situations.

Committee Session adjourned at 12:00 noon.