

Animal Health and International Trade Committee Report

2007 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2007



The Animal Health and International Trade met on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM, during the NIAA 2007 Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California with up to 49 people present. Dr. Valerie Ragan served as the Chair and David Harlan served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on a review of the mission, various presentations and related discussion. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the OIE, High Path H5N1 AI, FMD control in South America, an update on GIVE and an explanation on a new initiative called SSAFE.

Jim Pearson, OIE – What's New at the OIE?

Provided an overview of the history, structure and objectives of the OIE.

- Central reporting of reportable animal disease outbreaks.
- WTO designated the OIE as the standards setting agency for trade in animal and animal products in 1995.
- Animal Welfare
- Animal Production Food Safety

OIE provides an early warning of disease outbreaks. OIE actively searches media reports for outbreaks and follows up with countries when a suspected outbreak has not been reported – gives the country a chance to report and/or dispute the media report. This approach improves transparency.

Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) is a new joint collaboration with FAO/WHO/OIE.

OIE International Standards

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- Aquatic Animal Health Code
- Manual of diagnostic tests and vaccines for terrestrial animals
- Manual of diagnostic tests for aquatic animals

Transparency is critical at OIE. Adoption of additions and revisions to the code are made by consensus at the general session in May. Each member (country) has one vote. Website www.oie.int provides transparency.

OIE has 180 reference labs in 30 countries, mostly developed countries. Work currently underway to establish labs in developing countries that are "twinned" with an established lab. Harmonize lab procedures and provide standardized reagents.

Proposed changes to the Animal Health Code for the 2007 general session (late May).

- OIE is the lead organization for the evaluation of Vet Services, funded by the World Bank. PVS instrument.
- Compartmentalization is an option for AI, FMD and some others but not for vector borne disease.
- FMD containment zone in Cone area of SA.
- BSE
 - Relax gelatin restrictions
 - Categorization of countries for risk status
 - Negligible – Australia, Argentina, Singapore, NZ, Singapore, Uruguay

- Controlled – US, Canada, Brazil, Chile
 - Undetermined –
- Equine Influenza
- AI
 - Change in poultry definition to include backyard birds, breeding game birds.
 - Birds kept in captivity, but not for food, eggs, game breeding, are **NOT** poultry.
- ID and Traceability – general principles, guidelines
- Animal Welfare - Sea, land, slaughter, killing for disease control
- Some changes to Biological Standards
- Diagnostic test registry
 - Submit validation data to OIE for review
 - Many countries can't afford to approve tests

Summary

- Primary objectives – disease reporting
- OIE continues to take on additional responsibilities, growing in size/scope.
- OIE continues to be a lean/efficient organization.

Lee Ann Thomas, USDA - High Path H5N1 AI: Global Regulatory Activities Overview & the US Consideration for HPAI Regionalization

Review of quarantine restrictions on birds from HPAI areas:

- US origin birds returning to the US must be isolated for 30 days, not home quarantine, but at one of 3 facilities.
- Processed avian products that are certified as meeting heat treatments.
- No unprocessed product

EU countries – Germany and the UK – the US has allowed for regionalization due to past risk assessments in 15 member states (10 pending). Prohibitions are applied to the smallest Administrative Unit of a country.

USDA works closely with DHS on smuggling activities – animals and products.

Legally imported birds are tested for AI and Newcastle.

HPAI – not just regulated by APHIS... CDC has broad regulatory oversight on HPAI

Planned Rulemaking

- Specific to HPAI

US looking at compartmentalization – both for export and import. Details still need to be worked out.

Phil Bradshaw, Chairman GIEFA – Update on FMD control and eradication plans in South America

Concern about accidental and intentional introduction of FMD from South America. Look at UC-Davis FMD modeling study – huge economic impact if an outbreak were to occur in North America. GIEFA established to develop a hemispheric FMD eradication plan. GIEFA developed 5-year plan of action (2006 – 2010). Funding of approx US\$48 million over 5 years in addition to current funding – now down to US\$ 41 million. Estimated US\$600 million annual spending (half public/half private) on FMD control.

Outbreaks are at historically low numbers – a great time to eradicate! International funding is only being requested by the poorer countries – Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador.

Private sector meetings

- Lack of trust with govts and international agencies

- Prefer to choose international partners
- Bonus/awards to complement vet salaries if disease is kept out.
- Brazil donated 2 million FMD vaccine doses to Bolivia.
- Brazil government donated US\$1.8 million to PANAFTOSA
- Mercasur countries donated ~ 19 million to the effort.
- USDA funding for specific projects

USDA/CFIA has promoted the concept of having 1 international representative to oversee the GIEFA project. The representative would work with both the public and private sectors in all countries.

Vaccine distribution is an issue especially with small producers in remote areas – especially a problem in Bolivia. As long as the isolated foci of FMD exist, the Western Hemisphere is at risk!

GIEFA committed to ERADICATION of FMD from the Americas. Proper administration of funds and cross-border collaboration is the greatest challenge. US industry has to support eradication in South America, as the threat to North American agriculture is HUGE! Not only a threat to animal agriculture, but would also cause havoc with grain markets as most grain is used in animal feed.

Mike Chaddock, AAVMC – Update on Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education (GIVE)

Strengthens Vet colleges in developing countries. Provide materials, curriculum, faculty and student exchanges. Rational for GIVE: global tranquility, dietary protein, companion and draft needs.

UPDATE – programs in past 12 months:

- Auburn/Chile
- Kansas State/India
- Louisiana State/Brazil
- Michigan State/India
- Michigan State/Thailand
- Tufts/Nepal – library resources
- Florida/Yucatan, Mexico – backyard AI surveillance, food safety, export
- PEI Canada/Mexico – online programs
- PEI Canada/Thailand – Aquatic animal
- Tenn/China – Acupuncture, nutrition
- VA-MD/Chile – wetlands & wildlife

Cooperate with NIAA, AMVA, USAVC, USAHA, USDA-multiple agencies

Support needed – www.aavmc.org

Feel programs are beneficial both ways. US students learn about exotic diseases and cultural issues.

Dave Harlan, Cargill/SSAFE – What's SSAFE? Safe supply of affordable food everywhere

A new initiative on providing a safe supply of affordable food. Initiative of food producers and others. Global food supply chain has been challenged lately with multiple diseases. Caused chain disruptions.

Increasing emergence of zoonotic diseases. Public demand for transparency. Broader skills needed for animal and public health specialists.

Huge increase in projected global meat demand.

Few diseases can be eradicated globally. Diseases do not respect borders. Prevention and risk management more effective than crisis management.

Governments alone cannot effectively manage risk.

Traditional stakeholders were independent, competing.

Recognition of shared interests over last 2 years.

Disparity in capacity. Failure to implement science-based standards imperils risk management.

National self-interests often trump global needs.

Key stakeholders think globally, act locally. Global food systems, inter-gov organizations. Academia, cross-border NGOs

Trying to move from adversaries to partners. Linkage of public health, animal health and food safety.

Public-Private partnerships.

Support and uninterrupted, sustainable food supply chain to and from all countries.
Help improve infrastructure capacity.

Goals:

- Advise intergov org
- Provide a safe harbor for dialogue
- Align food system stakeholders
- Leverage resources
- Advocate harmonized policies

Not a lobbying group or watchdog. Consortium of stakeholders to advise, facilitate, think tank

Global approach to food supply

Prevention and surv vs. control and disposal

Sharing risk and responsibility

Safe food begins with healthy animals.

A Bold initiative: Global food stakeholders aligned with common goals.

2005-2006 put together an expert panel on AI. Developed SSAFE Imperative on AI. Foster awareness.
Implement bio-security.....

Significant effort to educate on bio-security. Leverage existing material and personnel. Close to 500,000 brochures distributed prior to lunar New Year. To be carried back to rural communities.

Short, Intermediate, Long term projects planned for 2007.

Short – Vet capacity building in Africa

Two phases. Phase 1 to raise awareness around the importance of veterinary public health infrastructure and public-private collaboration.

Phase 2 to facilitate public-private dialogue within Mozambique to establish a shared vision and strategy for the benefit of Mozambique citizens. Teach them to do a self-assessment of their veterinary services. Use PBS instrument.

Intermediate – South America project to demonstrate “compartmentalized” animal production. To establish and validate a model. “One World One Health” in Brazilia.

Compartmentalization – subpopulations of animals epidemiologically separate. Example – Self contained integrated poultry operation.

Long-term -Veterinary services capacity building, education, and public-private collaboration in Asia.
Develop model programs

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Number of new resolutions accepted = 1
- Number of existing resolutions amended or revised = 3
- Number that were removed = 0

General Discussion:

None

Committee Session adjourned at 5:27 PM.