

**Poultry Health
Committee Report**

2007 NIAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2007



The Poultry Health Committee met on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM PDT, during the NIAA 2007 Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California with 10 people present and 3 participated by phone conference. Dr. Andrea Miles served as the Chair, the committee has no Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on poultry health, avian influenza, biosecurity and educational materials. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to poultry health.

JOINT PRESENTATIONS POUTRY HEALTH AND EMERGING DISEASES:

Andrea Miles, Protecting America from Avian Influenza:

H5N1 Avian Influenza has become a zoonotic disease, affecting both animals and people in 58 countries on 3 continents since 2002. The disease has become endemic in several countries including Indonesia, Egypt and Nigeria. This is the first avian influenza virus to affect such a wide range of birds (50 species) and result in large numbers of human deaths (170 deaths/288 people infected). Due the unusual aspects of this virus and the long period of time since the last human flu pandemic, there are great concerns about the chance for this virus to begin passing easily from human to human. Our country has taken many measures prepare for response to the virus both at home and in less developed countries. Government and industry partners have worked together to develop National and State Preparedness Plans, surveillance programs in wild and domesticated birds. New technology has been developed for rapid detection of flu virus on site (Synbiotics FluDetect Kit) and safer methods of depopulation using foam. While the ultimate goal of these programs is to protect human health, it is also important to remember that poultry is an important source of protein in less developed countries and an important industry in the US. Thus the focus of pandemic flu prevention programs should be to prevent the spread of virus in poultry.

Tim Johnson, Avian Pathogenic *Escherichia coli*: An Emergent Pathogen?:

Reviewed the recent studies from his research in Lisa Nolan's laboratory at Iowa State comparing E. coli isolates from poultry to other E. coli isolates to determine if there were differences in the genes present in bacterial chromosomes and bacterial plasmids of 1) pathogenic versus non-pathogen cases isolates from poultry, and 2) differences in pathogenic isolates from poultry and different types of human isolates. They found some gene clusters, especially within plasmids of pathogenic E. coli.

POUTRY HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Presentations: Review of Educational Materials

Pat Wakenell, Educational Materials Available from the American Association of Avian Pathologists: AAAP has a broad range of materials. The three most popular texts are the Diseases of Poultry, a large but expensive book now also available on CD (with images); the Avian Disease Manual, used by many colleges of veterinary medicine (new edition is available); and Isolation and Identification of Avian Pathogens. They also have slide sets/CDs with electronic images on different diseases of poultry and a few other topics, which are used by poultry and veterinary educators in many countries. AAAP also releases information and position statements on topics such as bird flu, welfare of poultry and use of pharmaceuticals in poultry, which can be found on the AAAP website (AAAP.org). The AAAP education committee would be a good partner to develop educational materials with NIAA or other organizations. Pat also suggested the website "Fluwiki" as a good source of worldwide information on what the average

citizen is asking about human and bird flu. [Editorial note: other good websites for information can be reached thru OFFLU, which is a joint venture of FAO and OIE.]

Dave Bunn, (Replacement for Carol Cardona), UC Davis Flu School, An Overview:

Experts from UC Davis the College of Veterinary Medicine (Dr. Carol Cardona), Wildlife Health Center (Dave Bunn) and Public Health combined resources to create an educational program for developing countries, using Global Livestock CRES funding. The material is designed for presentation in three tiers; Tier I: Existing professionals, and national officials among public health and animal health ministries; Tier II: Zonal and district veterinarians, agricultural extension staff, wildlife managers and public health workers; and Tier III: Village or community level. The 3.5 day course consists of classroom modules and one day of practical skills training. The course has been conducted 4 times, with a total of 68 participants of 10 different nationalities. Two trainings were conducted in the US and two in Africa. Materials have been translated into French and Swahili. Key to success of the program is interaction among participants, who share their experiences for local solutions. For more information visit their website: www//vetmed.avianfluschool.org

Madelaine Fletcher, USDA, was unable to participate, but did send an update on pertinent USDA materials. USDA is again partnering with Future Farmers of America for distribution of Biosecurity for the Birds materials at State and County Fairs and Poultry Shows. Materials are currently available in English and Spanish, they are translating materials into Vietnamese, Tagalog and Chinese. New publications this year included "Biosecurity Guide for Poultry and Bird Owners" which includes information on biosecurity, avian influenza and Newcastle disease; and "Guide to Birds Common to the Live Bird Market System" a wire bound flip-book with photos a key points to help identify different breeds of chickens and ducks. In addition Madelaine's printed update included details on currently available materials and many of these materials were sent to the meeting for distribution to participants.

Zandra Andre, USAID, (participating by conference call) discussed the two new USAID programs. AI.COM is the program responsible for communication materials while STOP AI is the implementation project for training and other assistance to developing countries. All materials and information will be harmonized with information provided by FAO and OIE. Some of the materials already developed can be found at the AED website >>>>>>.

Andrea Miles, shared materials prepared by USAID and other partners in Georgia, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan. For Georgia a brochure was developed for "entrepreneur" poultry growers, who grow about 500 birds per flock. USDA Biosecurity for the Birds Campaign logos, AAAP images and FAO messages were combined for the brochure; a template and text in English is available. The CDFA DVD "Biosecurity for Commercial Poultry Farm Workers" was transcribed into English and then dubbed over into Georgian. A group in Bulgaria has created a wonderful manual for veterinarians, with detailed information on avian influenza, photographic images and drawings, this has been translated and the template is available. For Azerbaijan brochures and a great cartoon on biosecurity during avian influenza were developed. Andrea has copies of all these materials.

Sarah Mize, Educational Materials Available from the Avian Health Group, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch and the USDA. In the past CDFA used a PowerPoint presentation and a quiz at meetings, but working with USDA they have developed a whole series of different formats and different types of information to address the varied needs in their state. A variety of different materials were presented. These include:

DVDs:

Biosecurity Training for Commercial Poultry Farm Workers
(Lesson I, Lesson II, and Scenarios)

Egg Processing

Animal Control Officer

Commercial Bird Market "Producer/Driver Biosecurity"

Brochures and Handouts

Disease Prevention Guide for Pet Stores
Disease Prevention Guide for Pet Bird Owners
Signs of Disease in Poultry for Backyard Bird Owners
Signs of Disease in Pet Birds

Protecting Birds: suggestions for diet, housing and disease prevention

California also has a calendar and coloring book. Sarah suggested that the coloring book provides a good ice breaker for talking with parents at swap meets and auctions; start out with a gift to the children and then talk with the family about biosecurity or about testing their birds. Sarah said that feed stores are the best site for distribution of information to poultry owners; CDFA distributes the calendars through feed stores. Packets of materials were available for each participant and will be sent to phone participants. Information is also available at www.cdffa.gov/ahfss/ah/avian_health_program.htm. List of materials available can be found at: www.cdffa.gov/ahfss/ah/avian_health3.htm.

Claire Andreassen and Jim Roth, Center for Food Security and Public Safety Iowa State University; Claire submitted a written report; Claire and Jim participated by phone conference. Information is available on the Center's website www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Feature/aiInDepth.htm. Images of diagnostic differentials for poultry is available at www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/ImageDB/imagesAI.htm. They filmed the USDA AI Diagnostic Workshops for laboratory testing and are converting this training into DVDs. SOPs for USDA laboratory approved protocols will be included and will be translated into various languages. This should be ready in 2-3 weeks. In cooperation with USDA and OIE they are preparing DVD with various experts giving their opinions on use of vaccination for control of avian influenza; this should be available in a few months.

Andrea Miles shared a brochure from North Carolina Department of Agriculture "Biosecurity Practices to Keep Your Livestock Healthy" which can be used for all species but uses the same general principals as the biosecurity for the birds campaign; and a Z-card NCDA produced on Reportable Diseases, as a good mechanism to provide information in a small space.

In Attendance:

Andrea Miles, Chair, AAAP	dr.andrea.miles@gmail.com
Bruce Charlton, UC Davis	bcharlton@ucdavis.edu
Pat Wakenell, UC Davis	pswakenell@ucdavis.edu
Jim Pearson, OIE	jpearson34@aol.com
Tim Johnson, Iowa State	timjohns@iastate.edu
Suzanne Burd, UC Davis (student)	
Teres Lambert, NIAA	
Andrea Mikolon, CDFA	amikolon@cdffa.ca.gov
Sarah Mize, CDFA	smize@cdffa.ca.gov
David Bunn, UC Davis	dabunn@ucdavis.edu
Zandra Andre, USAID	zandre@usaid.gov
Claire Andreason, Iowa State	candreass@iastate.edu
Jim Roth, Iowa State	

Official Committee Members

Breitmeyer, Richard	California Dept of Food & Ag
Hartmann, William L.	Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Huntley, John P.	New York Dept of Ag & Markets
Lein, Donald H.	Cornell University
Miles, Andrea M.	American Assn of Avian Pathologists
Mullaney, Thomas P.	Michigan State University
Slemons, Richard	The Ohio State University
Taxter, John J.	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.
Tencleve, Bruce	Arkansas Farm Bureau
Thacker, H. Leon	Purdue University

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The committee reviewed the NIAA mission statement and a proposed mission statement for the NIAA Poultry Health Committee. The following mission statement was adopted by those present. It was proposed that the mission statement be reviewed by the American Association of Avian Pathologists before presentation to the NIAA Board, however any comment by the NIAA Board, prior to the AAAP Board Meeting in July where this will be presented, would certainly be welcome.

Proposed New Mission Statement for the NIAA Poultry Health Committee: To work in cooperation with and build consensus among poultry organizations, to share educational materials and advance solutions for healthy, safe and secure poultry production.

One new resolution introduced: Need for Funding for Rapid Development of Additional Methods for Depopulation of Poultry

One Position Statement changed to an Action Resolution: Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Program

One Resolution deleted (USDA was commended for addressing this issue in a prompt manner): Use of foam for Mass Depopulation of Poultry

No action on one Resolution: Quarantine (Section 18) Exemption to Use Bleach, Citric Acid, Soaps, and Detergents Against Avian Influenza (research on use of these agents in currently underway)

Request for action on Action Resolution: Amendment to the National Organic Poultry Program to Provide for Confinement During Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

Committee Session adjourned at 5:30.**In Attendance:**

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