

**Swine Health
Committee Report**

2008 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2008



The Swine Health Committee met on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM EDT, during the NIAA 2008 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana with 34 people present. Dr. David Nolan served as the Chair and Dr. Harry Snelson served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on Swine Health issues. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to swine health.

Dr. Troy Bigelow, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented an "Update on Swine Health Protection Act," in which he reported on regulatory issues involving swine.

CSF Surveillance: 8097 samples collected in 2007 (3995 from diagnostic labs, 2562 from Wildlife services, 1540 slaughter surveillance).

Swine Health Protection Act covers garbage feeding. 30 states (+ Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands) currently permit garbage feeding. 1951 licenses (1000 in PR), 9562 inspections conducted in 2007 resulted in 140 violations and found 87 non-licensed feeders.

PRV/BR: 14 herds PRV positive (AR – 2 herds, TX – 7 (indemnified 1 herd), CA – 1, SC – 1 herd (dually infected), WI – 2, & GA – 1 herd). 3 herds positive for swine brucellosis (AR – 1 herd, HI – 1 herd, SC – 1 herd). 49 herds are BR free (TX has applied for free status).

PRV Surveillance Plan: The plan is finalized. Implementation to start in 2009. 3 key aspects: rapid detection, demonstrates freedom, and monitor for international and domestic sources.

Dr. John Korslund, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented "Comprehensive Surveillance: Where are we as an Industry." Dr. Korslund informed that 3900 firms control 95% of market swine as well as:

Keys to comprehensive swine surveillance (CSS):

1. Time
2. Place
3. Status (results)
4. Data organized for action

CSS is defined as:

1. A collection of surveillance programs (i.e. PRV, CSF, BR, etc.)
2. System that incorporates regular analysis, planned collection of data, and a database to record/analyze data
3. Gain economies of sampling
4. Ability to launch new surveillance efforts based on the backbone of this plan.

Today's critical issues:

1. FAD detection
2. FAD response
3. FAD recovery
4. FAD proving freedom
5. PRV, BR, zoonotic influenza, emerging disease

Database requirements

1. Has to be pre-built
2. Tied to mass sampling
3. Near real time
4. USDA has to have access to the data
5. Industry support

Dr. Troy Bigelow, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented the "30-Day Health Rule Update" stressing the need for accredited veterinarians to sign a form that accurately reflects the animals inspected. Concerns are associated with the wording that requires the vet to have "inspected the individual animals" before issuing the form. USDA VS will issue a veterinary services notice to inform AVICs of the correct interpretation of the CFR regulation. The VSN is an internal document valid for one year and will not be shared with accredited vets. The AVIC is responsible for sharing the interpretation with the accredited vets in his/her area. Wording proposed in the USAHA resolution requested a change in the wording to address this interpretation. Discussion: Dr. Adam Grow was present to answer questions. Comments from vets in the audience reflected continued concern with the proposed solution offered by USDA. Dr. Grow indicated he would consider the wording proposed in the USAHA resolution.

Dr. Troy Bigelow, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented "HACCP", Dr. Bigelow proposed PRV Program Standards utilizing HACCP principles to evaluate state status and surveillance/monitoring strategies. State status would be withdrawn from states not in compliance with the HACCP standards. Work plan is in progress and explains the process. Once cleared, proposed regulatory changes will be drafted. Will likely be public input meetings prior to drafting regulations. Conceptually supported by VS management. A letter from support from the industry would be helpful for submission with the work plan as it moves through the system.

Dr. David Nolan, Cargill, presented "Swine Premises Tag Update." Dr. Nolan described the process the swine industry has undergone to develop and implement a premises ID tag program. The Swine Identification Implementation Task Force has defined the specs for a tag submitted for approval by USDA to become an official form of identification.

Dr. Matt Ritter, Elanco Animal Health, presented "Swine Transport Fatigue and Recovery." Dr. Ritter discussed transport losses include dead pigs and non-ambulatory pigs. Non-ambulatory pigs fall into 2 categories: fatigued or injured. Transport losses cost the industry ~\$53 million annually. Stress leads to increased production of lactic acid and body temperature. Research shows that fatigued pigs can recover if rested at least 2 hours after handling. Transport loss is impacted by:

1. Transport floor space (> 5 sq ft appears to be optimal (55 to 58 lbs/sq ft)).
2. Aggressive handling – more than 2 electric prod shots
3. Season – highest overall losses occur in the fall and early winter (unsure why).
4. Pre-sorting decreases incidence.

Solutions:

1. Prepare pigs for transport (walk pens, move pigs prior to loading, pre-sort, remove feed prior to loading)
2. Decrease stressors (minimize use of electric prods, move in groups of 4 to 6 at a slow pace, decrease distance moved, don't load stressed or fatigued pigs, use transport densities of 55 to 58 lbs/sq. ft).

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Number of new resolutions accepted - 1
- Number of existing resolutions amended or revised- 1 #84

Committee Session adjourned at 5:30pm EDT.