

Emerging Diseases Committee Report

2006 Mid-Year Report

August 24, 2006



Chair: Dr. David Zeman

Vice Chair: Dr. Lanny Pace

Committee Leaders are requested to provide a committee report approximately one page or less. Any/all of the following might be included in a typical NIAA Committee report:

- Issues:
 - Avian Influenza - Many labs are involved with the Avian Influenza Surveillance program launched by the USDA in cooperation with NAHLN labs. This is a great effort and will give the US some hard data on prevalence of Avian Influenza virus in domestic and wild birds. Some test cost issues need to be resolved in the program, but other than that things are proceeding well.
 - Porcine Circovirus - This disease continues to get more attention and perhaps is becoming a more serious threat to the swine industry. The upside is in this is that more research dollars will likely be directed to the problem.
 - NAHLN Funding - pressure needs to be continually placed on congress to improve NAHLN program funding so that all states can fully benefit and all of animal agriculture is represented.
 - NABF - 18 sites out of 29 have made the first cut for the NABF. Many fingers are being pointed with claims of political favoritism. Bottom line, agriculture high containment research needs must be taken care of adequately when it is all done.
 - National Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act - Political pressure to ensure this act is passed and then ultimately funded must continue. Emerging Disease Committee sees great potential to enhance animal agriculture disease research at veterinary colleges and veterinary science departments via this act.
- Activities of the committee since annual meeting - Dr. Lanny Pace was appointed the Vice Chair of the Emerging Disease Committee. No other specific meetings or discussions since the annual meeting.
- Follow-up/Action on any resolutions since annual meeting - Committee members continue to lobby for the sake of animal agriculture (as members of official committees or as individual stakeholders) for all of the national issues listed above.
- Any plan/proposed revisions to committee mission, objectives, action plan: No.
- Plans of the committee in the coming months and/or for an Annual meeting seminar topics/speakers - The Emerging Disease Committee will meet for preliminary discussions regarding annual meeting topics while at the USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting at Minneapolis during October.
- Any requests or recommendations for the board: Nothing specific, thanks for your service to animal agriculture.