

Poultry Health Committee Report

2006 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2006



The Poultry Health Committee met on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM CST, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 38 people present during the first hour, which was shared with the Emerging Diseases Committee for an Avian Influenza virus presentation, and up to 9 people during the latter part of the afternoon. Dr. Andrea Miles served as the Chair and Dr. David Hermes served as the Unofficial Vice-Chair.

The committee session focused on potential benefits to the poultry industry from participation in NIAA and industry needs in the face of impending spread of H5N1 avian influenza into the United States. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to avian influenza.

Dr. Y. M. Saif, Current Information on H5N1 Influenza Virus Infection

There have been 26 outbreaks of HPAI, H5 or H7 in poultry throughout the world since 1959

Disease has a short incubation period: 3 days

In Egypt, there has been 70% mortality within 2 days in H5N1 affected flocks

H5N1 virus currently in Southeast Asia is a different clade than other recent isolates

Not much scientific data to show virus has spread via wild birds

Except for one large die-off in a lake in China

Expect that wild birds would spread virus to backyard and organic or range reared birds

Old Business:

- How may the poultry industry benefit by participation in NIAA?
 - Assistance with production of educational materials (see REVISED 20005 Position Statement #1). Greatest need is for biosecurity information for upland game bird and organic poultry farmers.
 - Further support of poultry industry recommendations to USDA/APHIS/VS, as through USAHA.

New Business:

- Action Items based on the following Solutions.
 - Poultry Health wants to provide a forum for States and the USDA/APHIS/VS to discuss high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) response plans. We propose that NIAA sponsor a "HPAI Response Plan Refinement Workshop" this summer. Discussions and/or exercises will be used to test plans for completeness and then come to general consensus for a unified nationwide response to HPAI.
- Number of new resolutions accepted: 3
- Number of existing resolutions amended or revised: 1
- Number that were removed: 0

General discussion:

Committee discussed the need for a consistent message on highly pathogenic avian influenza from different government officials (State and Federal) in different sectors; including domestic animal health, public health and wildlife.

Note added by Dr. Miles: This is consistent with the new "one medicine" paradigm, recognizing that 70% of emerging diseases are zoonotic, 80% of agents of bio- or agri- terrorism are zoonotic and 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic

Committee also said that it was important that member reconfirm with other state agencies that the Department of Agriculture is the lead agency in responding to panzootic H5N1 avian influenza.

Committee Session adjourned at 4:45 pm.