

**Sheep & Goat Health  
Committee Report**

**2006 NIAA Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2006**



The Sheep and Goat Health Committee met on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM EST, during the NIAA 2006 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 22 people present. Dr. Cindy Wolf served as the Chair and Dr. LaRue Johnson served as the Vice-Chair.

The committee session focused on sheep and goats. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to current disease threats and control measures as they apply to the overall meeting theme of "Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning".

**Michael Gilsdorf, DVM - Director, National Center for Animal Health Programs, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture; "Update on National Scrapie Eradication Program activities."**

107,495 Sheep and Goat premises have been assigned Scrapie Flock ID numbers. Most states are considered consistent states relative to the intrastate movement requirement. One goat herd in Colorado was found to be infected with Scrapie within this fiscal year.

**William R. White, BVSc, MPH USDA, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Plum Island, NY; "The business and disease threat that a potential introduction of Rift Valley Fever would pose to the US sheep and goat industries."**

A very thorough description and summary of Rift Valley Fever infection and diagnosis were presented. Disease threat potential was clearly explained.

**Dr. Dianne Hellwig, Associate Professor at Berea College, Berea KY; "Parasite resistance – significance for US sheep and goat producers"**

Practices leading to anthelmintic resistance and recommended approaches to control of common sheep and goat nematodes were presented.

**Linda Campbell, owner/operator Khimaira Farms -Virginia Goat Producer "How the identification of a foreign animal disease (FAD), closing down trade of livestock in your region, would effect your operation"**

Was unable to attend but provided a PowerPoint presentation that will be posted on the NIAA website.

**Panel: Above speakers. Moderator – LaRue Johnson, DVM, PhD, Professor Emeritus, College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University**

Due to Dr. Johnson's advance planning an engaging, informative discussion ensued.

**Eileen Kuhlmann, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota; "Goat RFID Project Report."**

Data from a controlled trial evaluating three different sheep RFID ear tags was presented. Forty meat goats were tagged and the tags have been evaluated three times over 150 days with one last evaluation planned in another 50 days. The level of infection, retention and readability of the RFID tags was measured in a climate of 0.79 inches rainfall in 150 days of a 200-day trial. There has been 100 % retention and readability of all tags throughout the study period. The infection level has been steadily declining throughout the study period.

**Old Business:**

**Scrapie Stakeholder Summit**

It was requested by the USDA that the funding for the Scrapie Stakeholder Summit be used to host a Sheep Identification Working Group meeting. This meeting took place September 26-27, 2005 prior to the NIAA ID INFO EXPO. The agenda was:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Update on USDA activities – Neil Hammerschmidt, Dave Morris, Diane Sutton & Gary Ross
3. Discussion Animal Tracking Database – Fran Boyd
4. Discussion & Approval of Sheep Working Group Report (group)
5. Research Project Reports: Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming
6. Report from Group/Lot ID Subgroup
7. Research priorities for 10/1/05-9/30/06.

The major issue in front of the committee in the timeframe between the annual meeting and now has been sheep and goat ID. The working groups' attempted to develop industry-supported reports regarding some of the details of a national livestock ID system. Committee members have been closely engaged in listening and assimilating comments forthcoming from industry, veterinarians and regulators.

One of our committee objectives was to include goat issues. Ben Ritchey and Gale Johnson attempted to write a Sheep and Goat Health report specific to goat topics. The program for the 2006 annual meeting highlighted goats and also included sheep.

Staff and committee members have been updating the following brochures and they also have been translated into Spanish

- 1) Going to the Show Brochure,
- 2) ABCs,
- 3) What Producers Need To Know - the USDA edits were received

**New Business:**

- Send a letter to USDA-APHIS thanking them for funding the Sheep and Goat Health Reports
- Two new resolutions – ID and Goat Quality Assurance
- Reaffirmed two resolutions – FARAD and Johnes
- Amended Drug availability and SSQA resolutions
- Consolidated 2 existing Scrapie resolutions into one resolution

**General discussion:**

The committee unanimously recommends Lyndon Irwin and Cleon Kimberling as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

**Committee Session adjourned at 11:55 am.**