

**Poultry
Committee Report**

2009 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2009



The Poultry Committee met on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm EDT, during the 2009 NIAA Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 32 people present at the joint session with the Emerging Diseases Committee and 18 people present for the remainder of the meeting. Dr. Andrea M. Miles served as the Chair, and Dr. Pat Wakenell, the Vice Chair, was unable to attend.

The committee session focused on the Changing Face of Animal Agriculture. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to poultry:

Dr. Andrea Miles, International Avian Influenza Consultant, presented “Avian Influenza: Current Challenges with H5N1 and H9N2.” The next human influenza pandemic could be the result of mutation or reassortment of either H5N1 or H9N2 avian influenza. H5N1 has become endemic in 5 countries, but there were no outbreaks in new countries in 2008. H9N2, a low pathogenicity avian influenza virus, is immunosuppressive in poultry. H9N2 has become the most prevalent avian influenza virus and is endemic in several countries in Asia and the Middle East. Both H9N2 and H5N1 are present in Pakistan, Egypt and Indonesia. Reassortment between these two viruses could result in a virus with the predicted structure of a pandemic virus.

Dr. Lee Myers, USDA/APHIS/VS/Emergency Management and Diagnostics, and Dr. Morgan Hennessey, University of Minnesota, presented “Proactive Risk Assessment for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.” USDA/APHIS has lead an effort to design risk assessment tools to perform risk assessments in advance of a disease outbreak, so that during an outbreak reasonable measures can be used to move specific animal products. Working with stakeholder groups these tools have been used to determine measures appropriate in certain circumstances for the movement of pasteurized liquid eggs and non-pasteurized liquid eggs.

Dr. Gail Golab, American Veterinary Medical Association, Dave Harlan, Cargill, Inc. Kay Johnson-Smith, Animal Agriculture Alliance, and Andrea Miles, International Avian Influenza Consultant, participated in a “Round Table Discussion on California Proposition 2 and the Far-Reaching Effects on the Poultry Industry.” California Proposition 2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, was passed by a 2/3 majority in the fall of 2008. This proposition asked “Shall certain farm animals be allowed, for the majority of every day, to fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up and turn around?” Participants at the discussion thought that the success of Proposition 2 in a large agricultural state such as California had emboldened animal activists. Participants, particularly Ohio and Michigan, are concerned that the Humane Society of the United States will now introduce similar legislation in their states. It is important that animal health officials be proactive in informing consumers about farm animal care. The American Humane Association has offered to help develop model legislation which would prevent passage of local referendums that determine a state’s best management practices for farm animal care.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- No new resolutions were accepted.
- Three existing resolutions were amended or revised.

- No resolutions were removed.

General discussion:

This was the best attended meeting of the Poultry Committee in 5 years!

Committee Session adjourned at 5:30 pm EDT.