

Animal Health Emergency Management Council Report

2012 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 27, 2012



The Animal Health Emergency Management Council met on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm during the 2012 NIAA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado with about 35 people present. Dr. Matt Cochran & Dr. Lindsey Holmstrom served as Co-Chairs.

The committee session focused on U.S. FAD preparedness, markets, and how to move preparedness and response capacity forward. The 2012 Animal Health Emergency Management Council was well attended, and the topics stimulated interest and questions from the audience. The room was consistently filled with more than 30 people. This session centered around business continuity relating to foreign animal disease, international implications of disease occurrence, with the addition of a briefing from USDA on its vision for future collaboration in emergency management and IT systems. The following speakers presented:

Dr. Burke Healey, Associate Director of the Western Region, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented “USDA Update on Emergency Response Capabilities and Outlook on How Preparedness Will Advance with Partnership Between State, Federal, Academic & Industry.” Dr. Healey, Associate Region Director of USDA-VS Western Region, led off with comments on budget cuts and reduced federal staffing and resultant reductions in face-to-face training offered to FADDs. However, this was contrasted with exciting progress from partnerships leveraged with academic and state partnerships. Additionally, Dr. Healey highlighted some of the violence-related challenges faced by personnel working in cattle export along the Mexico Border.

Dr. Pam Hullinger, University of California, Davis Department of Veterinary Medicine & Epidemiology, presented “Foot and Mouth Disease Continuity of Business Planning: Current Focus and Progress to Date.” Dr. Hullinger from the UC Davis Department of Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology followed Dr. Healey with two presentations, the first giving an overview of a year’s progress in the development and delivery of the Secure Milk Supply continuity of operations plan and guidelines. There has been a large increase in the number of individual states/regions engaged in response planning for secure milk. Four working groups have been established (premises biosecurity, milk transport biosecurity, milk processing biosecurity, milk movement decision support) together with proactive risk assessment. Tools are being developed for pre-outbreak decision making so that as many decisions ahead of time as possible can be made. There is a need for a scalable, robust permitting system to allow milk movements on/off premises. National guidelines that have been developed as part of this project are being adapted to states/regions.

Dr. Hullinger’s second presentation highlighted additional FMD work being brought forward across the country. FMD vaccination contingency planning is being actively discussed at the national level. Vaccination will be considered early and a FAD Prep vaccination guide and Common Operating Picture have been developed by USDA and are available online. There have been numerous DMI crises drills organized in different states. A dairy export literature review

for FMD inactivation of processed dairy products is currently being conducted, which will identify low/non-risk products that could be traded during an outbreak situation.

Mr. John Picanso, Chief Information Officer, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented “Emergency Management and IT: EMRS of Tomorrow and More.” Mr. Picanso spoke on the build-out of EMRS 2.0, in replacement of the current, cumbersome Emergency Management Response System. He spoke to the new direction that APHIS/VS IT is taking in development of web-based systems that hold data in the ‘cloud’ and are centrally administered. This direction was also cast in the light of necessity of federal budget cuts and cost cutting efforts. The ‘cloud’ model also was credited with better redundancy, scalability, and availability before, after, and during emergencies. The EMRS 2.0 system will be Microsoft-based, and will have a look and function similar to MS Outlook. John foresees a small learning curve for EMRS 2.0, with delivery of the first part of the system in late summer, 2012.

Mr. Jim Herlihy, U.S. Meat Export Federation, presented “A Global Perspective on Market Reactions to and Mitigation of Foreign Animal Disease Occurrence.” Mr. Herlihy rounded out the scheduled presentations with an overview of the international market intricacies of disease and beef/pork market maintenance. He gave highlights from each of the USMEF offices around the world, highlighting a country’s or region’s position on U.S. meat products and a rough forecast of how a particular market would respond to a high impact disease in the U.S. With a background in public relations, Mr. Herlihy gave insight into the types of questions that media might pose in the event of an outbreak; specifically regarding the potential disposition of meat for human consumption. The market relationships in meat production were made with reference to the value added per head that international markets generate for U.S. livestock.

Old Business: No old business discussed

New Business:

- One resolution was removed completely, three resolutions were amended and re-adopted, and two new resolutions were adopted.
- Action Item: Work through NIAA and stakeholders to bring disparate, yet related FAD preparedness efforts together, so that they are easily linked, intelligible, and lend synergized direction to multiple efforts to stakeholders (i.e. federal, state, academia, industry).
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) In the face of reduced funding and resource availability, collaboration between academic, federal, state, and industry partners is increasingly critical in efforts to advance disease preparedness and response capacity.
 - 2) Continue education for understanding of FMD vaccine development, distribution, and use implications is needed by all entities involved in animal agriculture.
 - 3) International markets are a critical source of value in U.S. livestock, and market conditions vary widely from country to country and region to region. This introduces volatility and necessitates increasingly advanced disease preparedness.

General Discussion: None

Committee Session adjourned at 5:30pm.