

Equine Committee Report

2012 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 27, 2012



The Equine Committee met on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm during the 2012 NIAA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado with about 25-30 people present. Mr. Dudley Hoskins & Dr. Carl Heckendorf served as Co-Chairs.

The committee session focused:

- (1) 2011 EHV-1 outbreak from Ogden, UT industry and regulatory response and mitigation efforts;
- (2) California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) "Event Biosecurity Toolkit" as template for horse venues to incorporate as proactive response to prevention of future equine disease outbreaks; and
- (3) USDA-APHIS-VS presentation on framework of possible EIA proposed rule.

The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to :

- Industry and regulatory emergency response, control, and mitigation strategies relating to the 2011 EHV-1 outbreak from Ogden, UT.
- The CDFA "Event Biosecurity Toolkit" focusing on sound biosecurity practices for equine events, which was born out of the EHV-1 outbreak and response efforts.
- USDA's framework for a proposed EIA rule, codifying the current EIA UM&R into the CFR.

Dr. Jerry Black, Director, Colorado State University Equine Sciences Program, presented "EHV-1 Outbreak: 2011 National Cutting Event – Lessons Learned."

- Dr. Black reported on his involvement from an industry perspective during the initial confirmation of EHV-1 horses following the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) event in Ogden, UT along with immediate trace back efforts and subsequent show cancellations.
- Dr. Black's main take away message focused on the critical need for verified information to be immediately communicated to all industry, state, and federal partners.

Dr. Angela Pelzel, Regional Poultry & Equine Epidemiologist, USDA/APHIS/Vs Western Region & Dr. Josie Traub-Dargatz, Colorado State University Department of Clinical Sciences & College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, presented "Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) Outbreak Associated with an Equine Event in Ogden, Utah, 2011 with Q&A."

- Dr. Traub-Dargatz provided an overview on the different strains of the equine herpesvirus and a summary of the epidemiological investigations resulting from the NCHA event in Ogden, UT.
- Dr. Pelzel summarized the timeline of events and efforts by the USDA EHV-1 Incident Response Team in drafting case definitions and protocols for this incursion.

Dr. Katie Flynn, Equine Staff Veterinarian, California Department of Food & Agriculture Animal Health Branch, presented "Biosecurity Toolkit for Equine Events."

- Dr. Flynn reported on CDFA's "Biosecurity Toolkit" which was created in response to the EHV-1 outbreak. As a result of this EHV-1 outbreak, California equine event organizers

encouraged CDFA to create this Event Biosecurity Toolkit. The Toolkit is a user-friendly compilation of biosecurity principles that can be adopted by event organizers and modified for their specific events.

Dr. Troy Bigelow, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented “USDA Proposed Rule on Equine Infectious Anemia.”

- Dr. Bigelow presented on USDA’s framework for a proposed Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) rule, which will codify the current EIA UM&R in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Because the proposed rule is currently in draft form, Dr. Bigelow was unable to provide specifics of the rule. He did state the EIA framework is designed to achieve optimum flexibility under the rule.

Old Business: None to report

New Business:

- No New Resolutions
- No Resolutions Removed
- The following Resolutions were Reaffirmed:
 - Resolution 42: “Formal Implementation of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) Guidelines
 - Resolution 43: “The Expanded European Union (EU) – Movement Requirements
 - Resolution 46: “Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Requirements for Imported Horses
- Existing Resolutions Amended or Revised:
 - Three Resolutions Amended:
 - Resolution 40: “Animal Health Emergencies”
 - Removed “2001” (line 6).
 - Resolution 45: “National Forum on Selected Equine Infectious Diseases with Federal/State Regulatory Implications”
 - Reworded language (line 1-4) to reflect the following: “NIAA understands the current economic limitations and budgetary constraints of industry, state, and federal entities; however, the NIAA Equine Committee strongly supports a national equine meeting to be held when considered appropriate...”
 - Resolution 48: “Equine Piroplasmiasis Testing for Importation into Canada”
 - Reworded language (line 2-3) to reflect the following: “...enter into discussions with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)...The Committee urges CFIA to adopt both (1) the complement fixation (CF) test and (2) the cELISA as the official importation tests for EP.
 - **Proposed Action Item: (Solutions)**

The Equine Committee would like to submit a letter to the Secretary’s Office (USDA) underscoring the critical need to fill the Equine Specialist position within USDA/APHIS/VS immediately. This vacancy has resulted in a lack of coordination for multi-state disease outbreaks and imparted additional strains on State Veterinarians’ staff and resources in responding to and mitigating the economic and welfare implications of infectious disease outbreaks.

- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development

- 1) Collaboration between industry, state, and federal personnel to implement a sound communication infrastructure for future equine infectious disease outbreaks.
- 2) Document the direct and indirect economic impact of the 2011 EHV-1 outbreak from Ogden, UT validating the magnitude of the economic importance of the equine industry.

General Discussion:

The Honorable, Learned, and Cultured Co-Chairs of the Equine Committee humbly request an extended meeting time beyond the two hours currently allocated. Other Committee members in attendance during the Business Meeting strongly concurred.

Committee Session adjourned at 1:15 PM.