

Poultry Committee Report

2015 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 24, 2015



The Poultry Committee met on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2015 NIAA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, with approximately 18 people present. Drs. Hector Cervantes and Terry Slaten served as Co-Chairs.

The Poultry Committee session focused on water and disease issues. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to challenges presented by backyard poultry, HPAI, and water issues:

Patricia Wakenell, DVM, PhD, Associate Professor of Avian Diagnostics at Purdue University, presented "Impact of Backyard Poultry on the Commercial Poultry Industry"

- Backyard poultry producer usually want to do it right but receive most of their information from the internet
- Increasing numbers of small animal veterinarians are being asked to provide veterinary care for backyard poultry
- Because of lack of knowledge and marginal veterinary care, backyard flocks carry many of the diseases that would be marginally to extremely detrimental to the commercial poultry industry, as well as many zoonotic diseases.

Patrick Moody, JD, Legal Counsel for the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, presented "Water Rights"

- As one of the top broiler-producing states, Alabama has a very high percentage of poultry farms that depend on public water systems.
- A four house poultry farm requires 1.8 to 2 million gallons of water annually.
- We will continue to see increasing regulatory restrictions on water use by agriculture

Joe Baker, DVM, Washington State Veterinarian, presented "HPAI in Washington State 2014-2015...and Beyond?"

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) does not spread or behave as would be expected. An example is that only one goose died on a farm that had large numbers of poultry on the premises.
- It is likely that, if a state has HPAI, there will be issues that will require emergency rule-making that have not previously been addressed such as the ability to quarantine areas versus individuals.
- Because of the distribution of HPAI in Asia and the Eastern Hemisphere, we will likely have to deal with HPAI for years to come.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

General Discussion: N/A

Poultry Committee Session adjourned at 12:30 PM EDT.