

Swine Committee Report

2012 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 27, 2012



The Swine 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 32 people present. Dr. Harry Snelson & Dr. Butch Baker served as Co-Chairs.

The committee session focused on Swine industry challenges. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to: USDA activities, PRRS Regional Elimination projects, influenza virus surveillance and ASF in Russia.

Dr. Troy Bigelow, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented "Swine Health Program Update." Dr Bigelow discussed USDA activities associated with a soon-to-be released concept paper describing how USDA APHIS proposes to interact with the swine industry regarding program diseases and surveillance efforts. He provided an annual report outlining surveillance of PRV, Brucellosis, SIV and garbage feeding operations.

Dr. Bob Morrison, Professor, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, presented "Update on Regional PRRS Elimination Efforts." Dr. Morrison described efforts to create a database in analyze the prevalence/distribution of PRRS virus outbreaks. This could be valuable as part of a broad disease surveillance program. It is currently in the formative stages but already shows promise. He also discussed regional PRRS virus elimination projects underway.

Dr. Susan Trock, CDC, NCIRD, Influenza Division, presented "Variant Influenza Viruses in the U.S." Dr. Trock described the impact of influenza variants in the human population and the interaction between public health and animal health. She described some recent variant emergence in the human population and the value of understanding which variants are circulating in the U.S. swine population.

Dr. Jennifer Koeman, Director of Producer & Public Health, National Pork Board, presented "Influenza Surveillance Program: Animal and Public Health Partnership." Dr. Koeman discussed the influenza surveillance program in the swine industry and how this enhances the interaction with the public health community. She described the on-going collaborative effort between swine producers and veterinarians.

Dr. Lisa Becton, Director of Swine Health Information & Research, National Pork Board, presented "African Swine Fever Situation in Russia." Dr. Becton described her recent visit to Russia to discuss outbreaks of African Swine Fever and how the government has responded. She led a team from the U.S. including researchers, swine producer representatives and lab experts who interacted with the Russian government officials and producer organizations.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- There were no new resolutions brought before the committee. Committee members recommended no changes to existing resolutions and none were due to be reaffirmed or sunset at this time.

- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) Influenza surveillance efforts are important and have led to improved interaction with public health (specifically CDC) and have enhanced access to influenza viruses for further study and vaccine development.
 - 2) African Swine Fever poses increasing threat to global swine populations and warrants increased research into diagnostics and vaccine development as well as interactions with those unfortunate enough to have been exposed to this devastating disease. The U.S. swine industry currently exports more than 25% of our production. Obviously the introduction of a foreign animal disease would severely damage our ability to maintain those export markets.
 - 3) PRRS virus is by far the most expensive disease to impact the global swine industry. The U.S. industry is now fairly successful at eliminating this virus from individual swine farms. This effort is now expanding to promote projects targeting the regional elimination of the PRRS virus. These projects are supported by research funded by the National Pork Board and the USDA's PRRS CAP program. Efforts should be continued to provide ongoing funding to directly support these projects.

General Discussion: None

Committee Session adjourned at 12:05pm MDT.