

Swine Committee Report

2013 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 16, 2013



The Swine Committee met on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2013 NIAA Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky with about 36 people present. Dr. Harry Snelson and Dr. Butch Baker served as Co-Chairs.

The committee session focused on Swine influenza, PRRS Virus, and the integration of the PRV and Brucellosis Programs. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to these subjects:

Dr. Jennifer Koeman, Director, Producer & Public Health, *National Pork Board*, presented “Swine Industry Efforts to Address Influenza.”

The swine industry collaborated with USDA and CDC to implement an anonymous influenza surveillance system in 2010. The objective of the program is: 1) monitoring influenza strains circulating in the U.S. swine herd, 2) provide isolates for research activities, and 3) provide isolates for reagent, assay and vaccine development. The Industry worked with CDC, USDA and State Animal Health Officials to investigate an outbreak of H3N2v virus circulating in exhibitors at state and county fairs in 2012. This experience illustrated the differences between the show pig population and commercial production and resulted in the development of suggestions for how fairs and exhibitions might minimize the risk of influenza transmission between pigs and humans and vice versa.

Dr. Bret D. Marsh, State Veterinarian, *Indiana State Board of Animal Health*, presented “Measures to Minimize Influenza Transmission at Swine Exhibitions.”

Dr. Marsh described the outbreak of H3N2v influenza virus in swine exhibitors in the state of Indiana in 2012 and the state’s response. This experience culminated with a collaborative effort to develop recommendations to minimize disease transmission. The key points in this document include: enhance communication with the exhibitors before and during the exhibition, the use of vaccination, shortening the time the animals remain onsite at the exhibition, emphasize hygiene, and monitoring the pigs and people for signs of disease.

Dr. Lisa Becton, Director of Swine Health Information & Research, *National Pork Board*, presented “PRRS Working Group Update.”

Dr. Becton discussed the continued significance of PRRS on the U.S. swine herd and the need for continued research and additional funding. The National Pork Board’s Swine Health Committee recently outlined the short and long-term objectives for PRRS:

“The short-term objective (to accomplish in less than 3 years) is to reduce the impact PRRS has on producers, with a long-term objective to assess the feasibility and financial acceptability of PRRS elimination for producers.”

The Pork Board sponsored a collaborative effort involving producers, veterinarians, and allied industries to examine the issue of PRRS and identify research gaps to better target the increasingly limited funding. The group recommended targeting 2013 research funding into projects addressing: immunology/virology, epidemiology/surveillance, and economic impact/cost: benefit analysis. The pork Board also recently published a summary of PRRS research funded by the Pork Board's Swine health Committee from 2004 – 2011.

Dr. Paul J. McGraw, Assistant State Veterinarian, WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, presented "PRRS Management in Wisconsin."

Dr. McGraw described the recent implementation of a requirement to report PRRS status, if known, on the CVI when obtaining an import permit to move pigs into Wisconsin. This requirement was enacted at the request of the Wisconsin swine producers in an attempt to better understand the risk associated with the interstate movement of pigs into the state. Currently, the regulation does not prohibit the movement of pigs into Wisconsin based on the stated status. Thirteen counties in southwestern Wisconsin are designated as a "PRRS Control Area". The state estimates that 75,000 – 80,000 pigs are imported into the state annually with 90% coming from Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. This could possibly lead to a regulatory program to eradicate PRRS in Wisconsin swine.

Dr. Troy Bigelow, USDA/VS, presented "A New Approach to PRV and SB: A Concept."

Dr. Bigelow outlined USDA's latest thinking about suggested changes to the current swine brucellosis and pseudorabies surveillance programs. The concept is that the proposed changes will: be performance-based and outcome focused, combine disease regulations when appropriate, provide details through "guidance documents", improved efficiency and stakeholder involvement prior to rulemaking. This program would combine the brucellosis and pseudorabies programs, create performance-based regulations, classify states based on disease mitigation and prevention of disease spread, and streamline and create a national science-based surveillance plan. Each state would be responsible for developing and implementing their own state plan that would be assessed by USDA and deemed acceptable following a publication in the federal register and a public comment period. USDA would assign states a status of consistent, provisionally consistent, or inconsistent. USDA could rescind a state's plan for a variety of reasons. States with provisionally consistent or inconsistent plans would be subject to movement restrictions.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- There were no new resolutions brought forward.
- Resolution SW6, The Comprehensive National Surveillance Plan for Swine Diseases, was re-affirmed.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) Continue influenza surveillance program
 - 2) PRRS continues to be the major disease of concern in the swine industry and warrants continued research funding. Consideration should be given to how the industry addresses PRRS in the short and long-term (control, elimination, eradication).
 - 3) The swine industry needs to consider whether or not changes are necessary to the current PRV and Brucellosis surveillance programs and work with USDA and State Animal Health Officials to initiate any necessary changes.

General Discussion: None

Committee Session adjourned at 12:15pm.