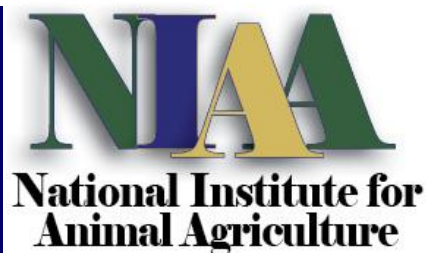


## Equine Committee Report

2016 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 5, 2016



The Equine Committee met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2016 NIAA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, with approximately 17 people present. Drs. Carl Heckendorf and Tom Lenz served as Co-Chairs.

The Equine Committee session focused on Biosecurity for Business Continuity for Equine Events. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to biosecurity practices for business continuity of equine events based on lessons learned from past disease outbreaks:

**Dr. Joe Fisch – Equine Programs Manager, Florida Department of Ag and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry**, presented “EHVI Outbreak Management from the Regulatory Perspective”

Dr. Fisch stated that EHM is a national problem. He presented several examples of different protocols adhered to by several states. There was a wide range of variability. As a result the four main topics he discussed were communication, release protocols for quarantines, challenges with facility management along with facility communication and finally biosecurity at the events. He discussed the issues that they dealt with in Florida with the Payson Park outbreak. One of the issues they had to deal with was their release protocol was not in place when the quarantine was implemented. He strongly suggested that the quarantine and release protocol occurs simultaneously.

**Dr. Katie Flynn – Equine Staff Veterinarian, California Department of Food & Agriculture**, presented “Biosecurity – Logical, Implementable BioSecurity Plans for Horseshows”

Dr. Flynn discussed “Common Sense Biosecurity”. Much of her talk focused on making sure only healthy horses are allowed into an event and then how do we keep those horses healthy while at the event even in the face of an outbreak of disease at the event. She suggested that you “follow the horse” to find the high risk areas for the animals and then address the situation. An example that she used was having the participants show the judge the bit that is being used as opposed to the judge touching the bit of every horse. Another example was the nose rags used for horses. You don’t have two people use the same Kleenex! We need to educate the participants as well as the event organizers. Dr. Flynn recommended stabling horses of like disciplines together ie cutting horses with cutting horses and jumpers with jumpers. Another point that she mentioned was that a number of the horses that develop EHM will initially show a small degree of stocking up in the hind quarters before developing neurological signs. She also stated that we need to promote the message that biosecurity does help in these disease outbreaks.

**Dr. Dave Fly – New Mexico Racing Commission**, presented “Business Continuity in the Event of a Disease Outbreak”

Dr. Fly gave a very interesting talk on the Sunland Park EHM outbreak. He felt that this was the most devastating outbreak from a financial standpoint that we have ever had. He shared some of the financial losses with us. Dr. Fly felt that above all we have to promote business continuity. If we don’t have

business continuity our regulations will kill the industry. He stated that one of the difficult issues with horses is that there is no indemnity for horses that have to be euthanized. Therefore, this is part of the business continuity equation. Dr. Fly stressed that we need to know what our statutory authority is for quarantines, how we remove a quarantine and how do we maintain business continuity. Preplanning was stressed where do we isolate horses, who will care for the horses so that new horses are not infected by the grooms, how will we communicate, and what are the biosecurity measures that need to be addressed. He felt that the young exhibitors were extremely important to our industry and if we don't take steps to protect their animals we will not have business continuity.

**Drs. Dave Fly, Joe Fisch, and Katie Flynn**, Panel Discussion moderated by Carl Heckendorf

There was a lively panel discussion. From my standpoint the take home message was that we have to have business continuity through biosecurity, preplanning and education and outreach for participant, event organizers as well as regulators. It was brought out that when a horse becomes neurological you are already behind if you haven't developed a plan previously.

**Old Business:** The Equine Disease Forum was discussed and support for a 2017 forum was discussed.

**New Business:**

- Resolutions EQ 4 and EQ6 were amended.
- NIAA is requested to co-host with USAHA a 2017 Equine Identification Forum
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
  - 1) First Business Continuity for equine events
  - 2) Second Biosecurity preplanning for events
  - 3) Third Education and outreach for participants, event managers, and regulators

**General Discussion:**

**Equine Committee Session adjourned at 12:30 PM**