

## Poultry Committee Report

2016 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 5, 2016



The Poultry Committee met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. during the 2016 NIAA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, with approximately 28 people present. Drs. Tony Frazier (for Dr. Hector Cervantes) and Terry Slaten served as Co-Chairs.

The Poultry Committee session focused on highly pathogenic avian influenza. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the response to a HPAI event Indiana, the role of wildlife in the spread of HPAI, and biosecurity trends in agriculture, particularly in the poultry industry:

**Mr. Paul Brennan, Executive Director, Indiana State Poultry Federation**, presented “Crystal Clear – Indiana’s Response to HPAI”

- Rapid recognition and response to HPAI are critical to containing the spread of the disease
- Much of the necessary data collection, such as premises identification, had taken place prior to the HPAI event.
- Success in responding to HPAI requires open communications and involvement between government agencies and industry, as well as the non-agricultural community.

**Dr. Thomas J. DeLiberto, NWRC Assistant Director, USDA APHIS WS**, presented “Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: The Role of Wild Birds”

- Wild water fowl are likely responsible for the intercontinental spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.
- Current surveillance is conducted on wild waterfowl constantly to detect the presence of the HPAI virus and its distribution in new flyways.
- While it is thought that the exposure of commercial poultry to wild water fowl to commercial poultry pose a great threat, it is more likely that humans will carelessly spread the virus between wild water fowl and commercial poultry.
- Wild geese are quite sensitive to the HPAI viruses and are considered to be good sentinels on farm ponds.

**Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, DVM, M.Sc, Ph.D, University of Montreal, Quebec**, presented “Can You Keep High Path Avian Influenza from Entering Your Operation?”

- While biosecurity is an issue that is addressed by the poultry industry, vast improvements are needed to reduce the spread of HPAI in an area where poultry farms are moderately to heavily concentrated.
- Even when people know they are being monitored, they become complacent with biosecurity measures over a period of time. These include such practices as hand washing, ignoring zones, and not wearing over-boots or boot covers.
- A region cannot be biosecure by only making each farm in the region biosecure. We must think regional biosecurity. Communication between neighboring farms becomes extremely vital in securing a region.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

- POU1 required no action. It was read and no action was taken.
- POU2 was last amended in 2011. The Resolution was read. Lanny Pace made a motion to re-affirm POU2. The motion was seconded. Discussion was asked for and no one offered discussion. The vote was taken and the motion to re-affirm carried.

**Poultry Committee Session adjourned at 12:50 PM.**