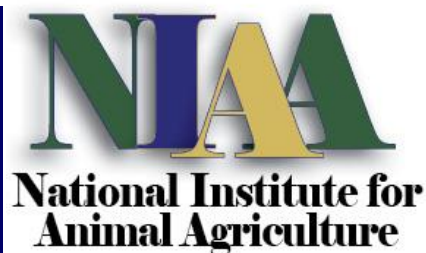


## Small Ruminant Committee Report

2016 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 5, 2016



The Small Ruminant 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 20 people present. Paul Rodgers and Jim Logan served as Co-Chairs.

The Small Ruminant Committee session focused on Risk assessment, emergency preparedness and response, and economics of risk. The following speakers presented relevant information. Mark Thurmond presented on quantitative risk assessment modeling; Jim Logan presented on emergency management and preparedness; and Glynn Tonsor presented on the economics of risk.

**Mark Thurmond, DVM, PhD – Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine & Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis**, presented “Integrity of Risk Assessment Science Underlying USDA Policy.” Appropriate quantitative risk modeling accounts for all measurable variables resulting from the assessment of peer reviewed literature and/or research including primary data collection. Models do not create or ‘prove fact’ and should not be interpreted as fact or new information. Government agencies should be required to implement a process to validate and measure the accuracy of models used to inform policy decision.

**Dr. Jim Logan – Wyoming Livestock Board**, presented “Emergency Response Preparedness: Considerations for the Small Ruminant Industry.” The small ruminant sector should assess its emergency response and biosecurity readiness and exercise any plan implemented on a disease by disease basis. The sheep industry has an overall emergency response and readiness plan already in place.

**Dr. Glynn Tonsor – Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University**, presented “The Economics of Biosecurity.” Biosecurity and livestock industry economics are closely linked. Biosecurity measures will be determined by affordability, feasibility, awareness, and net value to private and public interests. Trade barriers can drive international price differences. Large price differences can encourage illicit trade and therefore, risk.

**Old Business:** None.

### **New Business:**

- 1) One new resolution was passed.
- 2) Three existing resolutions were reaffirmed.
- 3) Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
  - 1) The small ruminant sector should assess its emergency response and biosecurity readiness and exercise any plan implemented on a disease by disease basis.
  - 2) Biosecurity and livestock industry economics are closely linked. Biosecurity measures will be determined by affordability, feasibility, awareness, and net value to private and public interests.

- 3) Government agencies should be required to implement a process to validate and measure the accuracy of models used to inform policy decision.

**General Discussion:**

**Small Ruminant Committee Session adjourned at 12:30 PM**