

Swine Committee Report

2016 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 5, 2016



The Swine 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 25 people present. Dr. Harry Snelson served as Co-Chair.

The Swine Committee session focused on current swine issues. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to emerging disease preparedness, the economic impact of PEDV on swine producers, and USDA swine health programs update:

Paul Sundberg, DVM, MS – Executive Director, Swine Health Information Center, presented “Swine Health Center Update.” Dr. Sundberg briefly described the mission of the SHIC and provided an update on the activities of the center regarding research funding and enhancing the availability and direction of resources to address emerging disease issues in the U.S. swine industry.

Dr. Glynn Tonsor – Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, presented “Assessment of the Economic Impacts of PED.” Dr. Tonsor presented the results of an economic analysis conducted by himself and Dr. Lee Schulz. The study assessed the impact of the 2013 PEDV outbreak on the U.S. pork producer. Their findings indicated that, due to a variety of factors, the per head return to swine producers during the outbreak was actually better than expected overall and exceptionally good for those producers unaffected by the disease. This set of factors (i.e. low corn prices, no drop in consumer demand, increased hog prices and the opportunity to hold animals to a heavier weight) was unique and unlikely to be repeated in future disease events. While the per head returns were better than expected, significant mortality on individual farms may have resulted in an economic loss at the farm level.

Dr. Troy Bigelow – USDA APHIS VS, presented “Swine Health Programs Update.” Dr. Bigelow discussed USDA surveillance activities related to swine health including: comprehensive surveillance, garbage feeding inspections, PEDV, IAV-S, ASF/FMD pilot surveillance programs. In addition, he discussed the pending finalization of the Seneca Valley A Virus guidance document and the upcoming release of the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases for public comment.

Old Business: We reviewed the existing resolutions. All were current and no revisions were offered.

New Business:

- There were no new resolutions brought before the committee and no revisions to the existing resolutions.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) The Swine Health Information Center is focusing producer funds to provide additional focus and resources to address the challenges associated with emerging and endemic swine diseases.

- 2) Additional funding must be secured to support on-going USDA surveillance programs that benefit animal agriculture and public health. Current funding for emerging issues surveillance including IAV-S and PEDV will be ending this year and on-going funding sources have not been identified.

General Discussion: The attendees engaged in significant discussion largely associated with the distribution and focus of limited funds to support disease surveillance and preparedness planning. They also discussed the importance of maintaining exports and domestic consumer demand during an animal health emergency to the economic survival of producers.

Swine Committee Session adjourned at 12:30 p.m.