

Poultry Committee Report

2014 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 1, 2014



The Poultry Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2014 NIAA Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, with about 18 people present. Dr. Terry Slaten served as Chair.

The committee session focused on The Precautionary Principle as it relates to the commercial poultry industry, particularly the move toward antibiotic-free and organically-grown poultry. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to public perceptions concerning hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, quality and health of mainstream commercial poultry and the effects of the precautionary principle on modern poultry production.

Eric Gonder, DVM MS PhD – Butterball Turkey, presented “The Precautionary Principle: Balancing the Risk to Public Health with the Health Needs & Welfare of Turkeys”. His presentation detailed the loss of various antimicrobials without any scientific basis. It also highlighted the positive environments, quality, and sanitary issues associated with modern methods of turkey production

Wallace Berry, PhD – Auburn University Department of Poultry Sciences, presented “The Precautionary Principle: How Animal Agriculture Will Survive Myths and Misconceptions About Organic Or Backyard Poultry”. His presentation focused on facts surrounding misconceptions that organically grown poultry is healthier, safer, “greener”, more nutritious, or are treated more humanely that poultry grown using modern commercially accepted practices. The second part of his presentation dealt with the psychology involved in getting people to accept myths as well as considerations in debunking those myths.

Terry Slaten, DVM – Branch Diagnostic Laboratory Director –Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, presented “A Look at Vaccinal LT Outbreak – A Dress Rehearsal for Avian Influenza?” His presentation highlighted the similarities between an infectious laryngotracheitis outbreak and a possible avian influenza outbreak. The presentation included factors that contribute to the spread of a highly contagious virus as well as lessons learned from a vaccinal ILT outbreak that could be beneficial in the event of an avian influenza outbreak.

Old Business: The 2 resolutions, POU1 and POU3 were sun-setted due to no action being taken by the committee.

New Business: None

General Discussion:

The poultry industry will increasingly be guided by the Precautionary Principle, requiring little or no scientific support.

Committee session adjourned at 12:23PM.