

Small Ruminant Committee Report

2014 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 1, 2014



The Small Ruminant Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. during the 2014 NIAA Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, with about 15 people present. Ms. Eileen Kuhlmann and Dr. Greg Lewis served as Co-Chairs.

The committee session focused on sheep and goat disease. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the U.S. Sheep and Goat Health:

Troy Bigelow, DVM – USDA, APHIS, VS, NCAHP, presented “APHIS Sheep and Goat Health Center Update” Scrapie Eradication Program Update - We are 90% there but the last 10% is the most difficult to eliminate. More flocks and herds were found in FY13 and one case in FY14. There are more goat cases of late. The USDA APHIS has revised the SFCP program to remove Complete Monitored status and only have 2 categories Select Monitored and Export Monitored. The regulations have become more stringent and the number of flocks participating has decreased. On the Docket for FY14 is the proposed rule to revise 9 CFR Parts 54 and 79. This would allow the Administrator to relieve requirements for non-transmissible forms of Scrapie (nor 98); increase flexibility in how investigations can be conducted; add genetic-based approach to the regulation; make goat ID requirements similar to sheep; require States to meet surveillance goals; tightens up definition of slaughter channels; expands individual ID to all sexually intact animals unless moving as a group-lot; limits tattoos and implants; and establishes recordkeeping requirements similar to current UM&R compliance guidance. APHIS is also drafting a proposal rule for import of sheep and goats, their embryos and other products to be more in-line with the OIE.

Beth Lautner, DVM MS – USDA, APHIS, VS, presented “VS FMD Strategy”

The USDA VS has many response strategies to FMD depending on how quickly it is discovered and the extent of the incident/outbreak. The vaccine is dependent on what topo/serotype is discovered. There are many different serotypes and topotypes within each serotype. The Milk Industry and the Swine Industry have Business Continuity plans in place in case of a FMD outbreak, other commodity groups should have one as well. The USDA APHIS traveled to UK and France to vaccine manufacturers that could store the North American (US, Mexico and Canada) VAC supply and have it readily available if vaccines are needed to be made. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/

Peter Merrill, DVM – USDA, APHIS, VS, Animal Permitting and Negotiation Services, presented “Schmallenberg Syndrome and the Precautionary Principle: A Case Study in Contrasting Approaches for an Emerging Disease”. Dr. Merrill described the precautionary principle and added another definition to Dr. Walton’s definition of it. In regards to the Schmallenberg Virus (SBV) the information provided by the EU to the US, Canada and other countries has not been as complete as these countries have wanted. The EU has thus far been reluctant to accept some of the U.S. proposed SBV mitigations for bovine, ovine and caprine semen and embryo. A comprehensive review of what is known about SBV is underway. When the review is complete, Dr. Merrill explained that is confident that APHIS can then reformulate draft SBV risk mitigation plans. The EU does not see SBV as a FAD and is not reportable. Whereas Canada, the US, Australia, NZ all do consider it a FAD.

Old Business: None.

New Business: SR6 Producing Wholesome and Safe Goat Products was reaffirmed (no changes). There was discussion on whether any educational programs have been implemented (or devised) by the NIAA or with the assistance of NIAA or if there have been any programs at all.

General Discussion: None

Committee session adjourned at 12:15PM.