

Animal Care Council Report

2019 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 9, 2019



The Animal Care Council met on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the 2019 NIAA Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, with approximately 30 people present. Drs. Jim Logan and Peter Mundschenk served as Co-Chairs.

The Animal Care Council session focused on the use of electronic logging devices on animal care and the use of animal ID during an emergency response. The following speakers presented:

Dave Sjeklocha, DVM –Technical Services Veterinarian, Merck Animal Health presented “Mass Euthanasia: The Unvarnished Truth”

The presentation focused on three main disasters (FAD outbreak; Wildfires and Blizzards) for which mass depopulation might be necessary. He specified that “depopulation” and “euthanasia” are NOT synonymous. Depopulation would be reserved for situations where a more humane euthanasia may not be feasible due to animal numbers and manpower and facility deficiencies. He enumerated some of the many challenges the livestock industry could face in the event of occurrence of a disaster. These would include land to bury or compost as well as equipment needed to depopulate a large operation.

In summary Dr. Sjeklocha stated that different types of disasters would require different objectives based on severity and type.

Cia Johnson, DVM, MS, MSc –Director Animal Welfare Division, AVMA “AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals”

AVMA maintains 3 documents on “Humane Endings Guidance” directed primarily toward veterinarians what are considered the “gold standard” nationally and internationally.

The Depopulation Guidelines also differentiates between “Euthanasia” and “Depopulation” with depopulation referring to “the rapid destruction of a population of animals in response to urgent circumstances with as much consideration given to the welfare of animals as practicable”.

Depopulation techniques are not to be deployed under ordinary circumstances, yet only under emergency situations adjusted for situational consideration.

Mr. Russell Wilie –Director, Wildflower International “Aerial Technology for the Cattle Industry”

Drone technology has been developed with the ability to “tally, enumerate and compare” and can be used to assist in management of cattle on open range providing time savings and efficiencies. Drones have been used to monitor animal health, range conditions, water and fence lines. It can also be used to help with pesticide and herbicide applications as well as being used in starting controlled burns in remote areas. The technology is reported to be cost effective for agriculture when compared to other

methods ranchers have used from flying over to using an ATV to get to remote area. Drones for commercial work do require the pilot to have a full pilot's license by FAA.

Old Business:

- The three resolutions due for their five-year reviews were discussed. These were ACC2, ACC3 and ACC5
- Resolution ACC2 was amended and recommended to be reaffirmed as amended.
- Resolution ACC3 was recommended to be reaffirmed as written
- Resolution ACC5 was amended with the recommendation to reaffirm as amended.
- The council's other resolutions were reviewed with no action taken.

New Business: No new business was presented.

General Discussion:

Animal Care Council Session adjourned at 3:18PM.