

Emerging Diseases Council Report

2016 NIAA Annual Conference

Wednesday, April 6, 2016



The Emerging Diseases Council met on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. during the 2016 NIAA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, with approximately 40 people present. Dr. Carla Huston served as Co-Chair.

The Emerging Diseases Council session focused on economically important diseases in four major species: bovine, porcine, avian, and equine. Updates were provided on recent (2015-2016) incursions of HPAI, Seneca Valley and other production disease of swine, and EHM. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to biosecurity to prevent and control outbreaks of such emerging diseases:

Nevil Speer, PhD, MBA – Vice President, U.S. Operations, Agriclear, Inc., presented “Update on FMD and its implications.” Dr. Speer gave a brief overview of agricultural vulnerabilities to agroterrorism, focusing on biosecurity measures (or lack of). He updated the group on current economical consideration of an FMD outbreak, including recent research on the implementation and control of an outbreak in a major packing area of the US.

Dr. Travis Schaal – Internal Technical Services Manager, Hy-Line International, presented “The Emergence of HPAI in the US.” Dr. Schaal provided a historical perspective on the emergence of avian influenza viruses, and provided insight on practical aspects of disease control focusing on biosecurity. Using the current (2015-2016) HPAI outbreaks, he presented both current and future considerations for disease prevention and control in poultry flocks.

Dr. Paul Sundberg, DVM, MS – Executive Director, Swine Health Information Center, presented “Update on Seneca Valley Virus and Other Emerging Production Diseases of Swine.” Dr. Sundberg gave an update on Seneca Valley virus in the US swine herd, and reviewed other emerging swine production diseases such as PEDV. He focused his presentation on the non-regulatory aspect of transboundary animal disease control, ranging from the passive (do nothing) to the active response of a potential outbreak, which could also expand into a regulatory (federal) response in large outbreak situations. He also reviewed current and future research into swine disease surveillance (detection), control, and prevention.

Dr. Robert Stout - State Veterinarian, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, presented “Governmental Response for EHM Control.” Dr. Stout outlined the "mitigation template" used in the Kentucky Risk Mitigation Strategy, a concept designed to be applicable to all economically important diseases that could be encountered in livestock. He provided an overview of EHM, including recent information on EHV-1 and EHV-4 prevention and control in US equine populations. He also outlined the current response strategies used in EHM outbreaks utilizing an Incident Action Plan which addresses vaccination and quarantine recommendations, fiscal responsibility, communication plans, exit strategies, and other strategies.

Old Business:

- No old business discussed

New Business:

- Dr. Julie Smith gave a brief update on the NIFA project entitled "A Human Behavioral Approach to Reducing the Impact of Livestock Pest or Disease Incursions of Socio-Economic Importance." She encouraged Council members to meet with project leaders and students to discuss approaches to disease control decision-making.
- No new resolutions were brought forward.
- Four existing resolutions were scheduled for review in 2016.
 - i. No action was taken on ED2 (Sunset - to be removed).
 - ii. ED4 was amended to include additional background information pertaining to the restructuring of the NAHLN laboratory system.
 - iii. ED7 was reaffirmed.
 - iv. ED9 was amended to extend the recommendation to include public and private veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and not just state veterinary diagnostic labs.
- One additional resolution was amended (ED5) to include university veterinary diagnostic laboratories in addition to state veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the recommendation for funding.
- One Action Item was requested following discussion of resolution ED9 pertaining to the National Reportable Disease Database.
 - ED9 states that "*The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) requests that the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials work with USDA to establish and maintain in real-time a national database containing "reportable disease requirements" for each state.*" It was unclear whether such request to NASAHO has been addressed.
 - The Emerging Diseases Committee wants the Board to contact the National Assembly to confirm that a National Reportable Disease Database has been suggested and whether or not such a data base is under consideration. If so, Committee would like to suggest that such a database could be added to interstate health requirement platforms currently under development.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) There is an expanding role of private veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the monitoring and detection of current and emerging diseases.
 - 2) The importance of non-regulatory response to disease control and prevention should be emphasized in production systems.
 - 3) Monitoring and surveillance for new and emerging "transboundary animal diseases" needs to be emphasized in disease prevention and control programs, not just for listed foreign animal diseases and regulatory diseases

General Discussion: Council members in attendance felt that the four sessions presented in the meetings were well-integrated into the overall NIAA biosecurity theme as well as the emerging diseases concept.

Emerging Diseases Council Session adjourned at 11:45am.