

**Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases  
Council Report**

**2018 NIAA Annual Conference**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2018**



The Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases Council met on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. during the 2018 NIAA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, with approximately 60 people present. Drs. Julie Smith and Carla Huston served as Co-Chairs.

The Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases Council session focused on the surveillance and traceability of emerging animal diseases. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the diseases of feral swine, and how traceability should work if an emerging disease incursion occurred in the United States:

**Key Take-Aways from the Council Presentations**

Thomas Gidlewski, VMD, MS – Program Manager, Surveillance/Biological Labs, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, NWRC, presented “Update on Feral Swine Diseases and Surveillance”

- National Wildlife Research Center disease program began moving in the direction of One Health 15 years ago after the introduction of West Nile virus and other disease incursions through exotic species. Disease biologists were hired and there are now about one per state.
- The program is very active in feral swine disease surveillance. Each year they collect about 3000 samples across 36 states. They maintain a sample archive of serum and genetic material.
- A number of diseases eradicated from commercial production are found in feral swine and pose a particular risk for swine raised on pasture. For example, *Brucella suis*, pseudorabies, *Lepto interrogans*, trich and toxo are present in feral swine.
- Discussion raised concern over gaining support of all agencies/authorities with jurisdiction when planning population control campaigns.

Jack Shere, PhD – Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services (VS), Chief Veterinary Officer, USDA, presented “Step by Step Protocol of Disease Traceability”

- Surveillance via diagnostics triggered by accredited veterinarian call or FSIS inspector observation are critical to identifying disease. Foreign animal disease investigations rose from traditional 300-400 per year during the past five years due to outbreaks of PEDv, HPAI, Seneca Valley, and PEDv/Seneca. Important not to get complacent. Must always rule out foreign animal diseases.
- Once identify disease, want to find out how it got there and where else it might have gone. “Need true and accurate records or are at mercy of the disease.” This information is needed to make good decisions about permitting movements.

- Need portal to take data from existing systems (producer and movement databases) and make it useful to the other systems (diagnostic side).

Mo Salman, DVM, MPVM, PhD – Professor, Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biosciences presented “Global Perspectives on Animal Health Surveillance”

- Linkage of traceability with animal id? Surveillance will not work without traceability. Traceability requires some form of identification of animals or lots moved.
- is traceability part of surveillance system or in addition? Need better animal movement data. Need all premises uniquely identified. Need system that can link data from variety of existing systems/databases.
- What are the drivers of implementation of traceability in the United States? Money is the biggest driver. What can the rest of the industry learn from those who have added value through traceability?

**Old Business:**

- No old business was brought forth from 2017.

**New Business:**

- A brief review of the NIAA committee and council changes was presented. A new mission statement was proposed for the Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases (GAHED) Council and accepted by members present:  
GAHED mission: Bring awareness of emerging foreign and domestic animal diseases to the attention of the NIAA membership, and explore and seek solutions to the global consequences of these diseases for those directly and indirectly involved in protecting U.S. food animal health.
- No new resolutions were brought forward. One resolution from the formerly named ED Council was amended (ED4).
- Eleven resolutions were reassigned to the GAHED Council in 2018. Of those, 1 was amended, 6 were reaffirmed, and 4 were sunset/removed.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
  - Surveillance of domestic and wildlife populations is important to identify emerging and other diseases of concern to animal and human health.
  - Animal (or lot) and premises identification are essential to being able to trace where diseases have come from or possibly been moved.
  - All directly or indirectly involved in protecting the U.S. food supply must come together to develop workable traceability solutions.

**General Discussion:**

**Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases Council Session adjourned at 5:23 pm.**