The Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases Council met on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. during the 2019 NIAA Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, with approximately 40 people present. Drs. Julie Smith and Carla Huston served as Co-Chairs.

The Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases Council session focused on the global aspects of emerging animal diseases, beginning with a relevant and timely emphasis on African Swine Fever. The following speakers presented information pertaining to efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of foreign and emerging animal diseases, and how effective communication could be implemented if a disease incursion occurred in the United States:

Key Take-Aways from the Council Presentations

Scott Dee, DVM – Pipestone Veterinary Services, presented “Update on African Swine Fever and Impact on US Swine Herd.”

- Despite high-level biosecurity measures, sow and finishing swine barns in China became infected with African Swine Fever (ASF), emphasizing that changes in behaviors and policies are needed.

- Feed and feed ingredients can harbor pathogens such as African Swine Fever, PEDV, and Seneca Valley Virus and may pose a risk for infection into the US swine herd. Mitigation strategies are being studied such as the use of feed additives to reduce viral loads in contaminated feeds.

- We need to change behavior by being aware of sources of ingredients, identifying company risks, and implementing responsible import practices.

Elizabeth Parker, DVM – International and Strategic Partnership Specialist, TAMU Agri-Life, presented “Global Efforts on Transboundary Animal Diseases.”

- The international term of “transboundary animal disease” is being incorporated more frequently in the US, for what we call “foreign animal diseases.” Terminology is important; Diseases such as PPR threaten 80% of small ruminants in the world, but not really considered for research funding in the US.

- Global considerations are important for many reasons, including food security, “rural” economic security and health

- There are many international organizations such as the OIE, FAO and WHO that work towards alleviating the impacts of transboundary animal diseases. There are also several regional economic bodies established to influence the development of control strategies such as ASEAN, and Au-IBAR. Tripartite (OIE, FAO, WHO) focuses on three main themes: One health, rabies, and antimicrobial resistance.
• If we understand risk pathways for preparedness a holistic approach incorporating a comprehensive approach will be more efficient than disease-specific approaches.
• Global or country level efforts will not succeed without farm-level biosecurity measures in place and practiced.

Timothy and Deanna Sellnow, PhDs – Professors of Strategic Communication, University of Central Florida “The Role of Risk Communication in Improving Biosecurity: PEDv as a Case Study”

• Presented a communication model to help create messages that help inspire behavioral change and improve biosecurity at the farm level
• The acronym for the model is IDEA – internalization (why should I care), distribution (what channels to use to reach your audience), explanation (what is happening and why), and action (what to do or not do next).
• Your audience will choose to accept your message or not based on if they trust you. The data does not matter. Information must be provided in an accurate and understandable way by a source trusted by the audience.

Approximately 20 persons stayed for the business meeting.

Old Business: No old business was brought forward.

New Business: No other new business was brought forward.

A brief overview of all 20 resolutions was presented given the large number of resolutions this committee is charged with.

• A motion was presented and passed to revise GAHED5 to replace the term “health certificates” with “official certificates of veterinary inspection.”
• Given the large number of resolutions, a motion was made to have a subcommittee look at the entirety and combine/condense as appropriate for discussion at the 2020 meeting. Specific resolutions of concern were GAHED 1 and 4 pertaining to veterinary education, and GAHED 2 and 3 pertaining to diagnostic laboratory support. An amended motion allowing the co-chairs to choose volunteers from membership was made and passed.
• Three resolutions were sunset in 2018 and should be removed: GAHED 12 (NAHRS), GAHED 14 (SSSAFE), and GAHED 19 (PEDv research).
• No new resolutions were brought forward.

General Discussion:

Global Animal Health and Emerging Diseases Council Session adjourned at 5:15 pm.