

**Global Animal Health, Food Security and Trade
Council Report**

2014 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 1, 2014



The Global Animal Health, Food Security and Trade Council met on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. during the 2014 NIAA Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, with about 26 people present. Ms. Laurie Hueneke and James McKean served as Co-Chairs.

The council session focused on Precautionary Principles and Food security. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the assigned topics

Dermot Hayes, PhD – Iowa State University, presented “Chinese Animal Density and Effects on Production, Food Needs and World Food Security”

A discussion about the use of land for food production and the limitations of China’s land mass and possible purchases of corn and soybeans or meat products to meet their enlarging population and prosperity will generate. This discussion compared other Asian economies as they moved through economic progression and attempted to forecast China’s responses. The determination of whether the importation will be crops or meat products will be driven by the efficiency of production and China’s ability to obtain competitive animal production figures going forward. If yes – more productive animal sector will concentrate purchase crop resources. If no – meat products will be imported preferentially. Under either scenario, there will be more world-wide food insecurity, primarily in the developing nations because of higher food costs and lower product availability.

Marty D. Matlock, PhD PE BCEE – Executive Director, Office for Sustainability, Area Director, Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability, Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Arkansas, presented “Impacts of GMO Products on Food Security and Trade”

The discussion on sustainability and metrics involved in reduced water, land and other resources in production productivity lead this discussion. GMOs offer efficiencies which may be more sustainable than conventional products. Important take-home was the Key Production Indices (KPI) being developed to encourage and inform technology sustainability discussions. This looks to be the science-based answer to the decentralization of animal and local production with a factual base. Bears continued monitoring and possible stand-alone conference for further discussion.

Dermot Hayes, PhD – Iowa State University, presented “Impacts of the Precautionary Principle on Trade and Food Security”

Discussion of the TTIP and stake the precautionary principle has with EU acceptance and opposition from USA components. Discussion about how this decision will impact trade and food security was presented. If EU is successful there will be more world-wide food insecurity, primarily in the developing nations because of higher food costs and lower availability.

Lisa A. Ferguson, DVM – National Director, Policy Permitting and Regulatory Services, USDA, APHIS, VS, National Import/Export Services, presented “Regionalization and Risk Assessments: Tools for Decision-Making in a Global Market”

Dr. Lisa Ferguson laid out the process for regionalization of disease status that USDA-APHIS-VS follows. It involves consultation with the authorities wishing the exemption to delineate the safeguards for product movement, including the determination of appropriate surveillance and product mitigation steps to assure safety of imported product. Similarly, whatever template is developed can/will be used by other countries to dictate our import standards, so USA has reasons to be reasonable in application of regionalization methods. Well received discussion.

Old Business: No old business

New Business:

- No new resolutions presented. Good discussion
- Education example: A stand-alone workshop on the KPIs and sustainability would be useful as an educational tool.
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) First: China will influence the cost/availability of food for some time. Decisions on whether animal products or crops will predominate to be determined by internal animal production practices.
 - 2) Second: KPIs may be tools to be used for discussions relative to production systems and their relative efficiencies from a science-based perspective.
 - 3) Third: Precautionary principle is bad to poor countries related to food availability and costs.
 - 4) More

General Discussion: None

Council Session adjourned at 5:15 PM.