

Attending: Blanchard, Cole, Dennison, Krugler, Qual, Roehr, Ross, Simunich, Thompson, White

1. **Appropriations Bill for Ag, rural development, FDA and Related Agencies Sec 738** – Kerry Thompson, AHC, briefly discussed the impact that this section will have on the horse industry as it prohibits use of funds within USDA or raising of outside funds for any functions related to health certification, quarantine, etc. in horses. The original intent by humane society and others was to prevent USDA or contractors from inspecting horses for slaughter. The way it's worded however has much broader impact in areas critical to import/export, disease control, and quarantine by USDA. Kerry sent an email with a sample letter from AHC on July 27th which was forwarded it to the committee to complete and submit to their congressman. The bill is expected to be voted on by the full House the week of July 30th.
2. **October Meeting Agenda:**
 - Keith Roehr will follow-up with Greg Christy to see if he can speak.
 - Kevin Denison will give a 15 minute talk on Jefferson County success in integrating all hazardous/all species response.
 - Rather than 3-4 county/state level talks this year, we will plan to have additional talks at North Carolina meeting in 2008, since North Carolina and Georgia have been particularly effective in this area and 2008 meeting is in Greensboro, North Carolina.
 - The remaining time 30 minutes under county speakers and possibly an additional 15 minutes will be allocated for possible legislative person to talk about how to get funding through legislative action to the states for emergency prep.
 - The remainder of the agenda was accepted.
3. **Resolution Discussion:**
 - a. Keith will draft a resolution regarding funding to state ag agencies through USDA co-operative agreements.

It was suggested that the committee members read the Ag and Food Defense Bill introduced by Burr and Collins and sent to committee members (link in media announcement sent around). This includes some funding at the state level for a pilot program to place personnel in the State Department of Ag office as liaisons with federal. Also states federal will provide guidance, technical assistance and support to states. Funding for NAHLN and several other areas which already exist are included to codify activities initiated under HSPD-9 into legislation.

Both S Heath and B O'Brien were unable to attend but sent responses regarding funding sources for capacity building and preparation are generally through DHS through the HSGP and EMGP grants to the state emergency agency and allocated within the state based on state priority and strategic plans. Participants felt this often left agriculture low on priorities list and the 80 local: 20% state split was not conducive to effective use of funds based on how regulatory animal ag is handled in most states.

Post meeting – Dr. Barb Powers, AAVLD, contacted Senator Burr's office and was told: The bill has been assigned to the Homeland Security committee and the earliest it will be considered is October. They have already talked to and received preliminary support from AVMA and have talked to AAVMC, who are also preliminarily supportive.

- b. The second resolution was regarding requesting USDA to write a cooperative agreement that would allow immediate flow of emergency funds to states during an emergency. Comments from B O'Brien on behalf of USDA NCAHEM indicated cooperative agreements exist for disease specific program such as TB and LPAI. However, emergency funding flow is based on declaration of an emergency and allocation of funds from CCC. States can request funds from the AVIC but are expected to reimburse these at a later time. Pat will follow-up with how

this worked with END since it was not a declared federal emergency until Jan 2003 but started in Sep 2002 in California and a response including some USDA folks was active pre-Jan. S Heath suggested the resolution might focus on a cooperative agreement between states and federal clearly stating the roles and responsibilities of state, local, and federal and who will fund each of these activities.

4. Updates:

- a. Sector specific plans – Marilyn Simunich reported they are reviewing Chapter 3 which is the 3rd of 4 chapters. It deals with post-harvest Ag, primarily food processing, it is cohesively written as it was done by FSIS originally and is specifically related to meat, poultry, and eggs. They have pointed out a few unclear areas. Chapter 4, the final chapter, will be reviewed next month.
- b. Credentialing- job titles are posted on the DHS website under National Integration Center and comments are due by August 4th. A list of Animal emergency responder job titles can be found in NIMS Alert 21-07: New Animal Emergency Response Job Titles at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/ac_nims_alert_21_07.pdf . These recommendations have been submitted to the Incident Management Systems Division and details on each title are available on the NIMS Web page at: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/rm/job_titles.shtml. Forward all comments and feedback by August 4, 2007 to: NIMS-credentialing@L-3com.com.
- c. AVMA Committee on Disaster and Emergency Issues – L White update. They will meet August 20-21st. They will have some guests taking part in person or by conference call including Mark Tinsman, FEMA, Keith Roehr for USAHA, and Allan Hogue, APHIS Animal Care to provide their views on what a coalition with AVMA as an umbrella should look like and what role AVMA and the coalition should play. They will also review the National Animal Disaster Summit Outcomes Document to determine if further actions will be taken.
- d. Discussion on: Who is responsible for the PETS Act implementation?
Federally they feel that states are responsible. Within states it may fall under mass care or animal health ESF. There was a comment that the national response plan revision seems to have stalled out. In rewrite of ESF-11 one plan was to include sheltering of pets in ESF-11. FEMA still seems to be leaning towards this under mass care with people and animal sheltering.

5. New business:

The University of Tennessee Ag and Food Vulnerability Assessment Training Course notification of availability – Marilyn Simunich indicated it is a 2 ½ day course. It reviews Carver shock, biosecurity, mitigation strategies, etc. It is offered free of charge but they would like the courses to be done before the end of September. Idaho has requested a training course and is probably going to set up for October. Other states should contact the University of Tennessee on the information provided in the earlier email to the committee members.

6. Next meeting August 30, 11 am EDT.