

Attending: Blanchard, D. Wilson, Scarfe, Byrum, N. Birnbaum, I. Stewart for Mark Davidson, Thompson for A Mann, Noland, Roehr, Ellis, Dennison, Lovern, Grohs, T. Richard Walker, MD (Branch chief/Medical officer, APHIS/USDA), Snelson, Heckert, Qual, Wagner, Simunich.

Update on Objectives:

1. Federal resources and their availability in an emergency:

- a. List of federal resources (personnel, equipment, supplies) and triggers for release was discussed at National Assembly conference call also. State vets need to know what gaps exist between federal resources, how much and when they will be available to state's so they can plan to fill the gaps at state level. The National Assembly will continue to pursue this topic and it will no longer be addressed at CAEM.
Action Item: Keith Roehr will send a letter/e-mail to Larry Granger, Sebastian Health, and Glen Garris (Director of National Veterinary Stockpile) requesting information on federal resource (personnel, equipment and supplies) availability during an emergency be provided to state vets through the AVIC's and AEC, so state's can better prepare.
- b. Personal Protective Equipment: NVS, Training, Q & A (Dr. R. Walker, et al):
 - USDA is stockpiling positive air pressure respirators (PAPRs) to be used by the initial 10 person strike teams. Push packs will follow for 100 people for 10 days and will include N95, N99, N100, and PAPR.
 - USDA has hired several industrial hygienists to provide training on all types of respirators to federal responders. If available at the time of federal training, state and local personnel are welcome to attend. **Action Item:** Keith Roehr will request that the federal training schedules and locations be provided to the state vets via AEC's and AVIC's so they can attend. Done 5/28 and response 5/30 from Dr. Richard Walker supporting the use of AEC to disseminate information on APHIS training schedule to state vets offices. Dr. Walker also stated OSHA might provide some training **Action Item:** Ian Stewart will provide Richard Walker list of AEC contacts so they can be notified of training times/locations and let state vets know.
 - Per USDA personnel (Walker, et al): neither USDA nor CDC has stated the N95's are insufficiently protective and will continue to utilize them as a HPAI respirator.
 - Harry Snelson asked if USDA training could be made available to the NAHERC veterinarians. **Action Item:** K Roehr to include in email/memo to Dr Granger, a request that NAHERC vets be invited to the federal PPE training and AEC's contact them states informing them of when and where training will take place in their state.
 - USDA is requiring physical exams before respirator fitting to ensure personnel are physically able to use respirators under strenuous and potentially hot conditions. The USDA requirement per Dr. Walker is in response to: [Under 29CFR1910, if employees are required to use respirators in the course of their duties, then there must be a written respiratory protection program. The CFR delineates what this program should contain. Within this program are regulations for medical clearance by a healthcare provider. That provider will determine what elements will exist within the program for granting medical clearance. The types of respirators used are determined by the type of exposure. In the case of HPAI, the minimum recommendation is an N95 respirator. Of course OSHA may not apply to some states, but there should be a state program that is to the same standard.](#)
 - B. Grohs suggested the EPA HAZWOPR training template check list for safety officers in emergency response. Richard Walker stated APHIS has 21 safety officers for incident command posts who have been trained to perform fit testing, illness recognition, disinfectant usage, etc. USDA has also developed their own check list.

- Kevin Denison stated Colorado and other states are working to develop brochures for practicing veterinarians encouraging them to work through their local community to be trained and fit tested for respirator use. They could potentially need them in their own practice infections like plague, tularemia and psittacosis. Fit testing can often be done by local public health or hospitals. C. Lovern, AVMA would be willing to include this information in their disaster preparedness materials that are being updated for veterinary practices. D. Scarfe also stated AVMA might put info in JAVMA and on their web page. **Action Item:** C. Lovern follow up with K Dennison.
- Dr. Richard Walker is keeping a database listing USDA personnel that have been medically cleared and fitted for respirators in the event of an emergency.

2. **Disinfectant update:**

- Jeff Kempter with EPA coordinated a meeting in Washington, D.C. last week ~May 16th. Nate Birnbaum reported that they addressed the issues in the CAEM letter, as well as other issues. The group will continue to meet to further address these issues. Bev Byrum will also represent CAEM and the hospital disinfectant testing program which Ohio collaborators on.
- Cooperative agreements with the University of Delaware are in progress to look at detergents, soaps, and bleach related to Avian Influenza. Corrosiveness evaluation of bleach and other disinfectants on equipment and transports has also been requested. A lot more research is needed.
- Sandia found some discrepancies between the surrogate (bovine enterovirus-2) and FMD virus in response to disinfectants. Study information sent to CAEM on 5/26/06 from Rob Heckert. Follow up studies in progress.
- Funding has been an issue which restricts the number of personnel available to perform disinfectant testing. **Action Item:** request CSREES via Peter Johnson or Gary Sherman to add to their national call for research grants some of the disinfectant issues raised by CAEM to encourage this activity at the university level.
- APHIS has one person and a technician hired to work in this area. Limiting factors include people, funding, protocols, etc.

3. **Congressional Funding for State Ag Emergency Preparedness Activities:**

Keith Roehr has drafted a white paper and the Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture has agreed take it to the next level to meet with the congressional and senatorial staffers in Colorado to get their feedback. **Action Item:** Keith will circulate the draft to the committee if other states want to pursue similar efforts.

4. **High Pathogenic AI meeting in Atlanta:**

- a. Dee Ellis and Dennis Wilson both commented it was a good meeting. Good mixture of stakeholders including private industry and state vets. Sebastian did an excellent job moderating it, ~250 attended. Follow up work groups were formed to further address: surveillance; response; and communication issues. Issues that need to be addressed in these areas and prevention were presented at the meeting. A follow-up meeting is expected, though, no date has been set.
- b. PPE for low path versus high path AI: Low path doesn't apply to humans and the human health issues have been overshadowing the development of 2 separate USDA programs. There has been a push to have a single poultry/avian program with full indemnification even for low path AI. There is some movement towards merging the two programs but to continue to emphasize and different communication strategies for each. Rob Heckert stated that the new term proposed is "notifiable AI".

5. Kevin Denison had not yet had a discussion with **Citizen Corps** contacts regarding supporting local animal team training and preparedness via Citizen Corps.
6. **USDA progress on implementation plan** for the CNA Corporation report on Lessons Learned. **Action Item:** Ian Stewart will follow-up to let CAEM know if any activities have taken place or are planned.
7. **Homeland Security: 34 New Target Capabilities.** There was some discussion of the 5 that Sebastian had proposed as representation on in earlier email. Committee members requested more information on the definition of all the new capabilities as others might apply. The sign-up date to volunteer for these is May 31st. **Action Item:** P Blanchard will send a copy of the new capabilities definitions to CAEM members. Done 5/28.
8. **Credentialing update** was provided via e-mail from Sebastian. The workgroup has had its initial meeting. Ron Wilson and Bob Linnabarry are co-chairs.
9. **AVMA Summit Report:** Cindy Lovern reviewed the summit which consisted of developing a list of road blocks on the first day from meetings of homogenous groups. On the 2nd day, 7 heterogeneous groups were assigned to develop suggestions and next steps for each of the 5 major categories (communication, logistics, lead agency/coalition, animal evacuation plans/tracking/reunification, volunteer management/credentialing/training) identified on day one. **Action Item:** Cindy Lovern to send bullets of day 1 and 2 outcomes to CAEM- Done May 25.
10. **Other meetings:** Dee Ellis reported he attended a week long Oklahoma City command and general staff exercise which included 2 of the 6 USDA command teams plus Oklahoma state teams. The exercise was lead by Forest Service and reviewed the roles of each person on the command team provided mentors to coach them and practice tests. At the end of the week they were evaluated on their performance in these roles. Dee indicated it was an excellent exercise and recommended others attend as participants or observers when an opportunity arises.
11. **The next meeting will be June 29th.** The committee needs to begin considering their agenda and resolutions for the October meeting at Minneapolis.