REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
Chair: Donald Hoenig, ME
Vice Chairs: Richard Willer, HI; William Hartmann, MN

Ian Alexander, ONT; Joan Arnoldi, WI; Debbie Barr, ONT; Bob Bokma, MD; Corrie Brown, GA; Stan Brunzt, CO; Jeein Chung, MN; John Clifford, DC; Eric Coleman, MD; Karen Conyngham, TX; Michael David, MD; Ron DeHaven, IL; Linda Detwiler, NJ; Peter Fernandez, AA; John Fischer, GA; Betsy Flores, VA; Mallory Gaines, DC; Cyril Gay, MD; Paul Gibbs, FL; Gail Golab, IL; David Harlan, MN; Annette Jones, CA; Karen Jordan, NC; Bruce King, UT; Elizabeth Laутner, IA; Randall Levings, IA; Linda Logan, TX; Kevin Maher, IA; Bret Marsh, IN; Todd McAlloon, MN; Shirley McKenzie, NC; Elizabeth Parker, ITA; James Roth, IA; Mo Salman, CO; A. David Scarfe, IL; Kathryn Simmons, DC; Jonathan Sleeman, WI; Matthew Stone, NZ; Manoel Tamassia, NJ; Susan Tellez, TX; Peter Timoney, KY; Alfonso Torres, NY; Arnaldo Vaquer, VA; Jesse Vollmer, ND; Sherrilyn Wainwright, ITA; Steve Weber, CO; John Williams, MD; Norman Willis, ONT; Nora Wineland, MO.

The Committee met on October 21, 2013 at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. There were 12 members and 17 guests present. The committee’s agenda had to be revised a number of times in the weeks leading up to the meeting and the failure to resolve the U.S. government shutdown in a timely manner resulted in the absence of three speakers.

Presentations & Reports

USDA Report on the OIE’s 81st General Session
John Clifford, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, VS

Dr. Clifford reported that there were 178 member nations represented in Paris at the meeting in May with over 800 in attendance. Each year a technical item is presented to the membership and this year’s topic was “Modern approaches and the use of new technologies for the control and eradication of aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases that fully consider animal welfare and minimize the impact of food security”. The World Animal Health Organization (OIE) Scientific Commission recognized that Italy, Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, Slovenia and the United States were upgraded from controlled to negligible risk for BSE and Bulgaria and Costa Rica were granted controlled risk. Fifty-nine countries including the U.S. were granted historical freedom from African Horse Sickness (AHS). The Scientific Commission also announced two new diseases for country recognition in 2013—Peste de Petits Ruminants and Classical Swine Fever (CSF). In the future they will be considering Newcastle Disease and Glanders.

The issue of transparency was discussed and Dr. Clifford related that availability of country dossiers once a desired classification has been granted was recommended. The Terrestrial Animal Health Commission (Code Commission) announced the delisting of vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease and also announced changes in avian influenza terminology. This year, an animal welfare chapter on broilers was adopted and a chapter on housing and production of dairy cattle is due for publication in 2014.

Dr. Clifford reported on the Laboratory Commission activities as Bev Schmit was unable to attend due to the government shutdown. The U.S. has eight OIE collaborating centers including National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and a unit within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Laboratory Commission approved a reference laboratory for equine piroplasmosis and will be reviewing Manual chapters 15-20 in the future. The next Regional Commission of the Americas conference will be held in Mexico in 2014.

Dr. Clifford noted that while the U.S. is actively involved with the OIE at many levels, when it comes time to sending in the U.S. position on the various Code chapters to the OIE, we engage and seek the input from our stakeholders to formulate that position. Not only do our own technical staffs provide that input, but we also seek it from other federal and state agencies, associations such as the USAHA and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), academia, and the many industry groups you see listed here. Your input is critical for ensuring that well-grounded, scientifically valid and economically feasible health standards are developed and presented to the OIE. Through our OIE coordinator, the U.S. continues to actively engage all pertinent stakeholders. Ensuring we receive appropriate input on any OIE issue so that the United States can present a unified and sound position is critical. Thus, having stakeholder input is important to our work.
Dr. Clifford reported further that Our Centers for Veterinary Biologics, also an OIE Collaborating center, provided a number of supportive functions to OIE Member countries:

- In collaboration with IICAB (the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics), co-sponsored the veterinary biologics training program – which was attended this year by representatives (both industry and government) from several countries;
- IICAB updated the edition of its Emerging and Exotic Diseases textbook, has offered several training modules on the subject, has translated these into Spanish and has now provided the Spanish versions of the accreditation supplemental training modules for veterinary accreditation;
- Participated in international harmonization initiatives aimed at improving standards and testing procedures for veterinary biologics, such as the annual Committee of the Americas for the Harmonization of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines (CAMAVET) meeting in the Americas and the Veterinary International Committee on Harmonisation (VICH) meeting (with Japan and the E.U.). The VICH has added outreach for to encourage and enhance the use of guidance documents it has developed by countries not part of the VICH.

In closing, Dr. Clifford noted that the OIE will host the 3rd Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 6th-8th, 2013. This follows two OIE global conferences on this topic (2004, Paris and 2008 Cairo, Egypt). The theme ‘Implementing the OIE standards - addressing regional expectations’ demonstrates the OIE’s understanding of the challenges faced by members when implementing the adopted animal welfare standards and the willingness of the OIE, working in collaboration with governments and donors, to provide support within the framework of its global capacity building initiatives.

**Update on the North American Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAAHLN)**
Beth Lautner, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL)

Dr. Lautner provided an update on the harmonization efforts for diagnostic tests of the NAAHLN. Avian influenza diagnostic tests are considered harmonized for all three countries - the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Diagnostic tests under harmonization efforts for Newcastle Disease include: virus isolation and identification; hemagglutination test; hemagglutination inhibition test; rRT-PCR; intracerebral pathogenicity index; and nucleotide sequencing and molecular pathotyping. For vesicular diseases, diagnostic tests considered harmonized for the national laboratories in three countries: rRT-PCR – FMD, Virus Neutralization – FMD; and Virus Isolation - FMD. For Classical Swine Fever, diagnostic tests still under harmonization effort in the three countries include:

- Fluorescent antibody virus neutralization (FAVN), neutralizing peroxidase-linked assay (NPLA), or immuno-peroxidase Virus Neutralization test (IPVN), Virus isolation, rRT-PCR.

For bovine tuberculosis, diagnostic tests considered harmonized for the national laboratories in all three countries include:

- Histopathology
- Tuberculin skin test

Diagnostic tests still under harmonization effort:

- Bacterial Culture and Identification
- Formalin fixed tissue PCR
- Bovine Gamma Interferon Assay

Special projects include: pigeon paramyxovirus pathotyping in poultry and development and distribution of a NDV rRT-PCR panel by the Mexico’s CPA.

**European Union Animal Health Law**
Francisco Reviriego-Gordejo, European Commission, Health and Consumers Directorate General

Dr. Reviriego-Gordejo reported that the 28 member countries of the European Union (E.U.) are beginning consideration of an animal health law for all the member nations. The European Commission needs to first make a proposal to the the European Parliament and Council of Ministers which, if approved, is implemented by national and local authorities. The animal health strategy for the E.U., 2007-2013, is based on the premise that prevention is better than cure. The E.U. animal health law aims to have a more risk-based approach and will provide for a single, robust framework to simplify existing rules. The animal health proposal will apply to transmissible animal diseases in kept and wild animals and their
products, including terrestrial, aquatic and other categories of animals. What is not in the scope of the
proposal is animal welfare, feed or medicated feed, veterinary checks and controls, or veterinary
education. New elements include biosecurity at farms, enhanced surveillance and requirements for
export. Rules for listed diseases include four categories: 1) diseases for immediate eradication such as
FMD; 2) diseases for eradication and disease freedom with measures in trade and movements such as
brucellosis; 3) diseases with voluntary control and eradication and additional guarantees for trade such as
 pseudorabies; and 4) diseases with general monitoring control measure such as BVD. Interestingly,
antimicrobial resistant pathogens will be considered as “disease agents”.

General health requirements will apply to all movements of kept animals with disease-specific
requirements applying to movements between member states. Requirements for entry into the E.U. will
be as stringent as those within the E.U. or recognized as equivalent.

With respect to timing, the animal health law proposal was adopted by the Commission on May 6,
2013. Discussions in the Council and the European Parliament are on-going. The expected time of
implementation is 36 months from the date of approval by the Councils and Parliament.

ISO and Animal Welfare Standards
Paul Sundberg, National Pork Board

Dr. Sundberg reported on the status of the International Standards Organization (ISO) foray into the
animal welfare arena. In addition to ISO, the players include the Safe Supply of Affordable Food
Everywhere coalition, a group of partners such as Coca Cola, Pfizer, McDonald’s and Cargill; the OIE;
and the American Oil Chemists’ Society (AOCS). Dr. Sundberg noted that the OIE and ISO have a
cooperative agreement in which the OIE provides science based international standards and the ISO
develops tools to help organizations implement the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Resolution 64/2012 of
the ISO TC34 created a working group on animal welfare whose outcome would be a technical standard
rather than a full standard. ISO TC34 (food products) is overseen by the AOCS. Seventeen countries
including the U.S. are participating in this work group known as WG (working group) 16. A first draft
proposal has been considered by WG 16 but was rejected in 2012. A subsequent substitute draft was
also rejected in 2013. A new draft will have to be developed and accepted for this process to move
forward. ISO has been asked to postpone the project until all OIE animal welfare standards are done
which include laying hens, dairy and swine. The outcome may be ISO certification available for animal
welfare based on OIE standards. Its impact will certainly be affected by pork chain customer adoption.

Foreign Animal Disease Research and the Global Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Regional
Alliance
Luis Rodriguez, USDA-ARS, Plum Island

Dr. Rodriguez provided the committee with an overview of “leaderless” FMD vaccine trials. The FMD
leaderless vaccine (FMD LL3B3D) may provide a platform for domestic FMD vaccine with DIVA markers.
Leaderless FMD virus does not cause clinical disease in cattle. Inactivated vaccines prepared with FMD
LL3D and FMD LL3D3B induced complete protection against challenge. The vaccine is fully attenuated
and non-transmissible in cattle and pigs and has been granted a provisional patent. Dr. Rodriguez
reported further on the assessment for the potential for recombination between this vaccine strain and a
bovine rhinovirus. No recombination was detected in either virus. This may represent a new paradigm for
FMDv in the U.S. by allowing domestic production of FMD vaccine and increasing national security.

Dr. Rodriguez and Bryan Chapman then discussed GFRA and a meeting which was held in Tanzania
Oct. 8-10, 2013. One rather significant piece of news is that the Gates Foundation has started to express
an interest in FMD control and eradication.

Committee Business

There was no formal business acted upon by the Committee.