

## **USAHA Committee on Global Animal Health and Trade**

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The Committee met on October 29, 2019 at the Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island 800-1150. There were 38 members and 37 non-committee members along with Dr. Mo Salman of Colorado State University as the chair of the committee with Dr. Elizabeth Parker of Texas A&M University as vice chair. Appendix A depicts the agenda for the meeting. Dr. Salman presented the mission of the Global Animal Health and Trade (GAHT) with the outline of the agenda for the entire morning. He emphasized to the audience the importance of participating in the business section of the agenda particularly when resolutions are presented.

Presentations and reports are summarized below:

### **I. Summary of 2019 OIE General Session:**

Dr. Michael David of USDA: APHIS:VS presented a short scenario to demonstrate the importance of recognition of various strategies for prevention of diseases to enter premises or a country. He then presented a short background and the role of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in global animal health and the engagement of USDA: APHIS:VS in the various functions of OIE. He also presented a brief outcome from the 87th General Session of the OIE which was held May 20-24, 2019 in Paris, France. Using various maps, he also showed the current global animal health status for diseases with OIE classification. Current chapters that are under review as well as those planned for review in the next two years was also presented. The role of the USAHA committee members in reviewing modifications was emphasized when new chapters are shared through the various commissions of OIE with the USA. Dr. Salman asked Dr. David to share with the committee the current drafts that are required comments. Dr. David has already taken the action of sharing these drafts with the committee members which will be distributed to all committee members.

## **II. Experiences with hands-on FMD training**

Drs. Dustin Oedekoven, State Veterinarian & Executive Secretary, South Dakota Animal Industry Board and Justin Smith, Animal Health Commissioner, Kansas Department of Agriculture shared their field experience in observing FMD cases and outbreaks in Uganda as part of hands-on training sponsored by EU-FMD in conjunction with Texas A&M University (TAMU). The presentation was mainly demonstrations of the extensive experience through this unique opportunity for state veterinarians to observe actual field cases of FMD, gain experience working an FMD response, performing a risk assessment for a free farm in an endemic setting, identifying/aging lesions, learning sample collection, preparation and shipping procedures, etc. Dr. Smith expressed his appreciation to learn on the EU-FMD tool in estimating the exposure to the virus and infection. Dr. Oedekoven indicated the valuable experiences he gained even though the travel cost was relatively high. Both presenters expressed their appreciation to the sponsored agencies (EU-FMD and TAMU for giving them this opportunity.

## **III. Panel: “Rapid Risk Assessment for animal health topics – Applying global lessons learned to better inform US prevention and response”**

Dr. Elizabeth Parker moderated a panel with the above title and Appendix A. Dr. Salman gave a short description of the meaning of the tool of the Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) with historical background in its use in animal health and nation building programs. He is also showed the similarities and contrasts of the conventional risk assessment process and RRA. All presenters included lessons learned in their presentations.

Dr. Francisco Reviriego, Adviser - to the Director for crisis management in food, animals and plants European Commission – Directorate General for Health and Food Safety Brussels, Belgium gave a short history of Europe’s experience in determining the risk of Lumpy Skin Disease spread to inform an implemented plan of action. He focused on the rapid process to get the approval of change in the mitigation among the European members (countries) to allow vaccination instead of stumping out. Dr. Reviriego shared with the audience the lessons learned from this task particularly in working with other agencies, broad communications, good planning with supportive evidence, and listening to scientists in their assessment.

Dr. Renate Reimschuessel, Director, Vet-LIRN, FDA presented the FDA’s insight of the US 2007/2008 Melamine Risk Assessment. This effort was a One Health and multi-agency/Department effort. She described the physiological and pathological principles of melamine’s effect in mammals. She also gave a historical background of the melamine contamination event in the USA in 2007-2008 in pet food and subsequently in swine and poultry feeding system. Dr. Reimschuessel emphasized that through the RRA a conclusion was derived that there was less risk of pathological effect of melamine in consumption of pork or poultry meat due to the dilution factor. Significant numbers of cattle, swine and poultry who had been fed contaminated feed/pet food, had been held in quarantine pending the RRA results. She discussed the lessons gained through this adverse event specifically in improving the diagnostic criteria and changes in the feed monitoring system. Later, Dr. Reimschuessel participated in supporting the Chinese health authorities in investigating and applying mitigation strategies when China suffered from a subsequent serious melamine contamination of baby formula for children.

Dr. Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations showed the application of RRA using three events –H7N9 in China (2013), ASF in China (2018), and Reston Ebola in the Philippines (2009). Dr. Lubroth emphasized the role of this tool and its important steps to support the final decision for mitigation and strategies in each of these disease outbreaks and lessons learned.

Dr. Paul Sundberg, Executive Director, Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) addressed the importance of RRA as a tool in the decision-making process and why this is important for the swine industry. Decisions must be made every day in industry at the speed of commerce, using the best information available. He addressed the need for such a tool when there is incomplete information - based on science utilizing the available data. The SHIC has maintained health hazard identification as an important role in their operation to determine priority and preparedness of adverse health events occurring globally. Dr. Salman commented on the need for synthesis between SHIC and USDA:APHIS: VS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health in the process of hazard identification through data mining and monitoring digital flow of information.

Dr. Rosemary Sifford, USDA APHIS VS, Associate Deputy Administrator presented the APHIS activities to determine risk pathways for priority foreign animal diseases. She emphasized the steps in conducting risk assessment process particularly related to hazard identification. Dr. Sifford also included a discussion of capacity and other needs, such as access to continuous, near real time data, data quality/data purpose and a need for additional subject matter expertise. VS relies on industry and academic experts for technical input. Dr. Salman suggested to initiate a daily communication pathway similar to the existing daily USAHA news alerts with the potential to add some commentaries to verify the reliability of the daily presented information.

Dr. Fabrizio Rosso, Deputy Executive Secretary, European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EuFMD) presented the PRAGMATIST tool for vaccine bank managers' use in determining the optimal vaccines for their risk situation. The tool uses risk profiles of the existing vaccines using genome data in conjunction with epidemiologic factors. He demonstrated the added value of this tool in supporting the decision in choosing the appropriate vaccine for specific regions or countries. He also discussed the limitations of this software and the future directions to improve this tool. Dr. Rosso also discusses EUFMD's risk information gathering efforts and capacity building for their Member countries.

#### IV. **Business discussion:**

Dr. Salman explained that the previously shared proposed resolution with the committee members does not need to be presented as a resolution since the addressed issue was solved. Dr. Alberto Torres-Rodriguez, Export Manager, Cobb Exports and the writer of this resolution elaborated to the committee that his concern explained in the potential resolution was resolved after a discussion with APHIS involved officers (Drs. Joyce Bowling-Heyward and Michael David) who are also committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1150.

**Appendix A**  
**Committee on Global Animal Health and Trade (GAHT)**  
**AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, October 29, 2019**  
**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**Room 557 Convention Center**  
**Chair: Dr. Mo Salman**  
**Vice Chair: Dr. Elizabeth J. Parker**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic/Title</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
8:00 – 8:05	Welcome	Mo Salman
8:05 – 8:20 (15 minutes)	Summary and key outcomes of the 2019 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) General Session 87	<b>Michael David</b> - Director, Office of International Affairs, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
8:20 - 8:35 (15 minutes)	Experiences with hands-on FMD training	<b>Dustin Oedekoven</b> , State Veterinarian & Executive Secretary, South Dakota Animal Industry Board and  <b>Justin Smith</b> , Animal Health Commissioner, Kansas Department of Agriculture
8:35 – 11:30	<p>Panel: <b>“Rapid Risk Assessment for animal health topics – Applying global lessons learned to better inform US prevention and response”</b></p> <p>Moderator: Elizabeth Parker</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mo Salman</b>, Professor of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and Infectious Animal Diseases, Colorado State University - <i>What is a rapid risk assessment, what are its uses, the differences from the conventional risk assessment process and limitations</i></li> <li>2. <b>Francisco Reviriego</b>, Adviser - to the Director for crisis management in food, animals and plants European Commission – Directorate General for Health and Food Safety Brussels - <i>Europe’s experience in determining the risk of Lumpy Skin Disease spread to inform an implemented plan of action</i></li> <li>3. <b>Renate Reimschuessel</b>, Director, Vet-LIRN, FDA - <i>The US 2007/2008 Melamine Risk Assessment: FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine insight</i></li> <li>4. <b>Juan Lubroth</b>, Chief Veterinary Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – <i>Rapid risk assessments for H7N9 in China (2013), ASF in China (2018), and Ebola in the Philippines (2009)</i></li> <li>5. <b>Paul Sundberg</b>, Executive Director, Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) – <i>Why assessing risk is important and priority information needs</i></li> <li>6. <b>Rosemary Sifford</b>, USDA APHIS VS, Associate Deputy Administrator - <i>APHIS activities to determine risk pathways for priority FADs. Any current risk assessments underway – rapid and otherwise? What skill sets and capacity needs are required?</i></li> <li>7. <b>Fabrizio Rosso</b>, Deputy Executive Secretary, European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EuFMD) – <i>PRAGMATIST tool and other risk assessment and analysis activities</i></li> </ol>	

11:30 -11:40	Emerging Challenges in International Transshipment of live animals	<b>Alberto Torres-Rodriguez</b> , Export Manager, Cobb Exports
11:40 -12:00	Business and discussion of proposed resolutions	<b>Mo Salman</b>
12:00	Adjourn	