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The Committee met virtually on October 15, 2020, 2:30-4:30 p.m. EST via Zoom. Housekeeping items were reviewed including member eligibility, resolution discussion and points of order.

Presentations and Reports

COVID-19: Lessons Learned to Apply to Improve FAD Preparedness • What were the challenges? • What were the successes? • What do we need to improve upon? • How do we move forward?

Producer/Veterinarian Perspective

Matthew Turner, JBS

Dr. Turner reviewed lessons learned from Covid 19:

- Be aware of unintended consequences. The supply chain is not flexible and infrastructure to move animals is near capacity. Value of animals was impacted with Covid.
- There is a need for clear communications. Speed and quality matters. Frequency and clarity are important. Regions with different rules can undermine an effective response.
- We must have better euthanasia options. Industry needs to be on the same page and these discussions and best practices need to be discussed ahead of time. Euthanasia is hard on people, and they need support as well.
- Testing and results must be timely. Covid testing capacity was overwhelmed. Delays were experienced in sample collection, laboratory capacity, and communication of results.
- People say and do different things. Procedural and biosecurity compliance was variable. Enhancing biosecurity during an outbreak is not as effective as increasing the standard normally.

Packer Perspective

Shane Horsley, Smithfield

Mr. Horsley gave an overview of Covid's impact on the pork industry. Hog plant closures in mid-April had a major effect on the industry. The executive order on April 28th was helpful in turning things around. The supply and demand negatively impacted the cash hog and positively impacted the pork cutout markets. Priorities during Covid were the health and safety of employees, feeding the American consumer, and operating plants in the best manner possible to minimize the supply chain disruptions for hog suppliers. The major impacts of Covid for Smithfield:

- Significant labor shortfall- this backed up the live hog supply, led to reduced availability of pork products in retail markets, and shifted export production back to the domestic market.
- Drastic in-line and in-plant environmental changes for employees were forced. Increased personal protective equipment (PPE), social distancing and physical barriers were utilized. Other wellness measures were also necessary and implemented.
- Reduce complexity in the plants. Simplification was necessary.
- Flexibility on the both the live production and sales side of the business were needed. Product distribution and shipping were affected.
- Increased communication was essential.

Key lessons:

- U.S. Pork industry is a just in time supply model. U.S. operates in regions on market hog movements due to freight capacity and cost constraints on transportation.
- Wean and feeder pig shipments move inter-regionally.
- Space in nursery, finishing, and wean to finish barns quickly become depleted over the course of two weeks.
- Producers were successful in adjusting feed rations to slow hog growth rates, but this does not solve space issues.
- Industry received exposure to euthanasia possibilities.
- Biosecurity measures need to be kept top priority.
- Impact from a foreign animal disease (FAD) needs to be looked at in an integrated fashion with plant capacities and alternative movements included.
- Regionalization is a must.

State Animal Health Official Perspective

Beth Thompson, Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Dr. Thompson reviewed Covid from a regulatory perspective. Challenges included state authority limitations, timeliness, funding, equipment, trained personnel availability, and human aspect. Producers were needing assistance with depopulation and looking for guidance to deal with the situation. Successes included being able to create and utilize communication pathways including a hotline, mobilizing personnel, implementing collaborative efforts and utilizing diverse solutions. Improvements moving forward include having funding available ahead of time. Improving education and communication resources especially in the area of depopulations and disposal. Improving funding for increased laboratory capabilities, equipment and testing. We should consider if we are ready, if not, why not and what we need.

Discussion:

There was discussion surrounding the changes made within the packing plants. The feeling is that some of these changes will become the normal and although there may be slight disruptions or inefficiencies these will not be significant. Participants discussed changes that they could implement to reduce the impact of future issues like an FAD. Communication improvements were highlighted as essential. Also understanding who clearly is in charge and who is making decisions is important. Understanding who the experts are and consulting them is important as well. There was also discussion around indemnity/compensation for producers that are forced out of business due to market consequences of diseases. It is a consideration that needs to be undertaken, but in this instance this may have occurred on a state by state basis but not on a federal level. Discussion about the just-in-time approach for the pork supply chain being modified occurred. From an industry perspective, modifying this would be a big challenge and isn't likely to change. The industry may change if it becomes completely vertically integrated but at this point that is not the reality. There was discussion about SAHO's needing to work with public health departments and other entities creating some unique challenges. A question to producers about where equipment for depopulation etc. should be held was asked. The topic of keeping

and hiring new employees at the packing plants and in live production throughout the outbreak was addressed.

Committee Business:

Old Business

2019 Resolutions - The responses provided for all of the 2019 resolutions were sent to committee members for review. The committee members were asked to reply with any comments by Monday October 19th.

2019 Recommendation - No action for 2020. Cobb made the motion to look at the 2019 Recommendation for 2020-2021. Sundberg seconded. The recommendation passed. The final motion was passed with majority voice vote.

New Business

Recommendation – Moved and seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

Resolutions:

National Veterinary Stockpile Resources for Mass Depopulation of Animals. Moved and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Resources for Disposal of Animal Carcasses During a Mass Mortality Event. Moved and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Feed import restrictions to protect against ASF importation in feed. The motion was amended. Moved and seconded. Passed by poll vote.

Assessment of trade implications for viral feed mitigation practices. Moved and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Sustainable diagnostic supply chains and lessons learned from the COVID19 pandemic. Moved and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. CST.