REPORT OF THE USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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The Committee met on 20 October 2013 at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:31 p.m. There were 40 members and 12 guests present. The Committee proceeded with the following items as listed on the agenda.

National List of Reportable Animal Disease
Stanley Bruntz, USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH

The information was presented via telephone. An update of NAHRS status was given. The 2012 annual report of NLRAD will be reported soon. New re: NAHRS, there is a process of implementing e-authentification to logging information. They are continuing to work on on-line training modules and case definitions. The next focus is to work on all 50 states to ensure participation. A potential action is the UM&R will need to be updated as it is currently outdated and that will require input from CAHSIS. NLRAD is moving forward.

State Animal Laboratory Messaging Service (SALMS)
Bruce Akey, Cornell University

SALMS hopes to improve communication across laboratories. Cornell has built the system. They have 10 active accounts – SC lab (which uses USA LIMS). Router does not care what type of info system used. Just uses HL7 message format (the one that was established for the NAHLN) for messaging back and forth. Labs have to register with the SALMS to get access to the Router. Building messaging with practice management software is on the horizon. This is just a router. It doesn't keep data. It just moves messages through it and keeps a log of the message but not the content. SAHO databases use USA HERDS data management system and this SALMS works with that. This is a free service. Contact Bruce Akey to become a participant. The participant's LIMS just has to be able to send a receive messages. The hope is that SALMS provides a messaging hub to all the different spokes out there.

Subcommittee on Information Standards Update
Sara Ahola and Michael McGrath, co-chairs

Attempting to control all these different Electronic health certificates (eCVIs) that were rapidly appearing on the marketplace. So, there was a need for standardization and smooth communication. State, Federal, Private-sector and academia were involved.

For the eCVIs – the common language was XML for data conversion. The subcommittee set up a website for input by the subcommittee members and so progress was made. Now the focus is on the details such as reporting of test data, enumeration of sex-type of the animal (castrated vs. intact for example). Next steps for this subcommittee is to come to agreement on the known issues, test the schema between systems, launch the schema to interested parties. NOTE these are VOLUNTARY

guidelines, the free market will decide which guidelines are followed.   The subcommittee will seek input (in two weeks or so) from the committee as a whole and will reach out via email or other.

STARS (Sample Tracking and Reporting System) an automated exchange of case data between Laboratory Information Systems in Australian government veterinary laboratories.
James Watson, Veterinary Investigation Leader, Australian Animal Health Laboratory

     Australia has seven independent state animal health systems. The states run their own laboratories. There was a need for a unified LIMS system across the country and increase communication away from manual modes of communication between the state labs and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. STARS (Sample Tracking and Reporting System) was developed as an automated exchange of case data between Laboratory Information Systems in Australian government veterinary laboratories. The goal was better tracking of data and test results while keeping client confidentiality. Also the states were reluctant to share the data with other states and the national government. In Phase 1 of the STARS project, they engaged stakeholders and the concept of STARS was developed. A Web portal was developed for submitting tests, tracking results and even proficiency testing. In Phase 2 of the STARS project, funding from the Australian Biosecurity Intelligence Network funded the further development and proof of concept testing of STARS. In addition to the web portal for specimen and test logging and tracking, a web service was develop to receive and send messages from the system to the different labs. Now in STARS Phase 3, they are continuing to develop the system and hope to include non-state labs or systems, such as international labs, quarantine stations, researchers, international agencies (such as WHO or OIE) and emergency/incident management. So, in Australian surveillance there is the national Animal Health Information System which is manual submissions and a restricted data set. There is also MOULD – Making Optimum Use of Laboratory Data – which will upload data via STARS. Eventually the goal is to integrate data systems present a single view. 2 FTE were used during the active part of the system (Phase 2)

Update on National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS)
Bruce Wagner, USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH

     Dr. Wagner's presentation was delivered by telephone. NAHMS update (by fiscal year) FY2013 now a statistical "unit" under the Confidential Information Protection Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) and so the information can now only be used for statistical purposes and they have pledged confidentiality for all contributors. None of the information gathered by NAHMS can be used for regulatory issues by VS. Activities in FY2013 – updating NASS, data collected so far includes the Poultry Layer Study on Salmonella Enteritidis, the PEDv study with AASV and U of MN, and the Dairy Herd Improvement Association Data and they get monthly information from them to do ongoing monitoring of dairy cow health. The established a Economic and Epidemiologic Modeling Unit that is now fully functional that supports disease outbreak preparedness, apply animal disease model, enhances animal disease modeling tools, and training and outreach to international partners.   There are available on the NAHMS website the National Studies on Sheep and Cattle Feedlot 2011, Swine and Layers data collection was done in 2012, and starting 2014 studies on Dairy captive cervids, and captive bison. Also completed the Dairy Heifer Raiser study, the Urban Chick Ownership in Four US Cities Study, the Poultry Botulism Study, and the PEDV study with the AASV. In Development are additional studies on PEDV, Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), and Antimicrobial Use and Resistance. Ongoing monitoring is being done on Somatic Cell Count, information from 2.5 mil cows (about 30% of US cows). Epidemiologic and Economic Modeling group has starting working on models for FMD. Also looked at a model from New Zealand (Interspread Plus ®) that looks at FMD and how it could be further spread by feral swine. In FY 2014 – they will report on the swine and layer data, they will start the bison and cervid data collection, they'll look at doing something for equine, drug use, and epidemiological studies on PEDV and EHM will continue.

Committee Business
     In old business, the response from APHIS on the SALMS resolution from 2012 (combined 6-11) was presented to the group.
     In new business, the specific data standards needed on the eCVI and CVI are still debatable. How detailed do they need to be to meet the CVI. No new resolutions will be generated from the Committee.

    The Committee will await the subcommittee report on the eCVI strandards and then the parent committee will respond.

    And additional update was provided, notifying members that swine industry will be a part of an Enhanced Passive Surveillance pilot project just like other breed groups have done with the Foreign Animal Zoonotic Diseases Center (FAZD).