

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

Chair: Lisa Becton, IA

Vice Chair: Marie Culhane, MN

Sara Ahola, CO; Bruce Akey, TX; Debbie Barr, ON; Karen Beck, NC; Lisa Becton, IA; Charlie Broaddus, VA; Dwight Bruno, NY; Stan Bruntz, CO; Craig Carter, KY; Mal Cartwright, AB; Nancy Chapman, MD; Neville Clarke, TX; Marie Culhane, MN; Anita Edmondson, CA; François Elvinger, VA; Tam Garland, TX; Joseph Garvin, VA; Sue Goetz, WI; Xingnian Gu, NSW; Kristin Haas, VT; Pat Halbur, IA, Neil Hammerschmidt, MD; Charles Hatcher, TN; Kristi Henderson, IL; Ashley Hill, CA; John Huntley, WA; Zaheer Iqbal, AB; Brady James, TX; Annette Jones, CA; Jamie Jonker, VA; Ellen Kasari, CO; Diane Kitchen, FL; John Korslund, MD, Elizabeth Lautner, IA; Donald Lein, NY; Anne Lichtenwalner, ME; Francine Lord, ON; Janet Maass, CO; Rodger Main, IA; Stu Marsh, AZ; Michael Martin, SC; Patrick McDonough, NY; Shelley Mehlenbacher, VT; Kate Mueller, IA, Danielle Nelson, WA, Roger Parker, TX; John Picanso, MD; Tom Ray, NC; Craig Rowles, IA, Emi Saito, OR; Mo Salman, CO; A. David Scarfe, IL; Irene Schiller, CHE; Stacey Schwabenlander, MN; Dan Sheesley, DC; Marilyn Simunich, ID; David Smith, NY; Patricia Stonger, WI; Jessie Trujillo, IA; Victor Valez, CA; Steve Weber, CO; Nora Wineland, MO
(NOTE: For actual/accurate attendance, see the sign in roster (yellow form)).

The Committee met on October 19, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There were 21 members and 25 guests (non-members) present.

After introductions were made and housekeeping items were addressed, the following presentations were made:

1) Dr. Stanley Bruntz, USDA APHIS CEAH, presented on National List of Reportable Animal Diseases: An update on the cooperative implementation of the NLRAD; An update on the regulatory process to establish and maintain the NLRAD and associated reporting requirements; and items to consider for draft resolutions regarding NLRAD

Dr. Stan Bruntz, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-Veterinary Services (VS), gave an update on the proposal for a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) and on the NLRAD- National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS). A formal announcement through Gov Delivery has been sent out requesting review and input on the following documents: 'Proposal for a U.S. National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD)' concept paper (found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/nlrاد_concept_paper.pdf) and the USDA-APHIS 'VS Framework for Response to Emerging Animal Diseases in the United States'. A U.S. NLRAD will be a uniform, science- and policy-based, nationally supported standardized list of animal diseases. It will provide the basis for consistent reporting with uniform case findings and reporting criteria. The U.S. NLRAD will include both notifiable and monitored diseases. Notifiable diseases are high priority diseases that must be reported by anyone who identifies occurrence of the disease. Monitored diseases occurrence is routinely tracked and data reported to the federal government through State Animal Health Officials (SAHO's). Support for a U.S. NLRAD has been expressed through multiple animal health organizations, including through AAVLD/USAHA, and NASAHO resolutions. A U.S. NLRAD will be initially implemented through Federal-State cooperation and eventually formalized through Federal regulatory action.

The NLRAD-NAHRS functions under the auspice of the joint USAHA/AAVLD Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems Committee. The USAHA/AAVLD NLRAD-NAHRS Steering Committee includes representatives from the AAVLD, USAHA, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services (VS), SAHO's, and experts representing major commodity groups. The NLRAD-NAHRS Steering Committee provides input to NLRAD-NAHRS on the U.S. NLRAD; NLRAD-NAHRS general operation; and direction of the NLRAD-NAHRS to meet the needs of animal health personnel. Dr. Bruntz presented activities and issues related to the NLRAD-NAHRS including implementation of a U.S. NLRAD; updates to the NLRAD-NAHRS Web Reporting Tool; and adapting VS representation on the NLRAD-NAHRS Steering Committee due to VS's reorganization and other changes.

There was brief discussion on the inclusion of vectors and toxins being included in the NLRAD.

2) Dr. Sara Ahola, co-chair of the Subcommittee on Information Standards, Traceability Veterinarian Aquaculture Program Manager, State Veterinarian's Office, Colorado Department of Agriculture, presented on behalf of the Subcommittee on Information Standards with an Update on activities: What issues with eCVI were identified and What schemas were launched to interested parties.

Sara Ahola and Mike McGrath (Trace First) presented on eCVI developments. The process of the eCVI were created and posted earlier via some other USAHA/AAVLDCAHSIS communication. The XML Schema was presented. Questions posed were whether this communication needs to continue, how to report / do eCVI for reportable diseases (example VSV in horses) for different databases (EMRS vs. State). There was discussion on the proprietary information included in eCVI that could have legal implications also where to store the data (security of routers vs. clouds). There was discussion on the need for open standards and not pandering to any one vendors needs and also taking in consideration the different industry or species needs for eCVI. For example, the swine industry will be investing in better surveillance and emergency reporting systems.

3) Dr. Kate Mueller, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University presented on the topic, "Taking premise ids from the farm to the lab – lessons learned, nuts and bolts of PIN utility."

Information from diagnostic labs, particularly on emerging diseases or reportable diseases, needs to be easily recorded and shared for accurate disease epidemiology to be determined. Adoption of the PIN as a means to record animal location was done in an attempt to do this. PINs are sensitive and contain important information. Created barcodes with PINs on them that can be affixed to forms. The details of the barcodes was presented. The current use of PINs is approximately 50% on all swine submissions to the ISU VDL (as high as 70% when the submission is dealing with a reportable disease). There was brief discussion on LIDS (location IDs) and state issued numbers for other species. Traceability documents are available from USDA on the difference of LIDS vs PINs. The next step is not just a PIN on the submission, but add the sample ID/Barcode also needs to be standardized.

4) Dr. Bruce Wagner, USDA APHIS CEAH (now the Monitoring and Modeling Center) presented on the topic, "Update on National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) - Current and future activities.

Swine 2012 and Poultry 2013 NAHMS reports completed and under review, Equine 2015 NAHMS report in progress. The Confidential Information Act was in place during the collection of the Poultry 2013 report and allowed USDA to collect data yet, support the poultry industry, yet also meet the FDA requirements for data/reporting. In addition to the larger reports (previously listed) NAHMS also does ongoing monitoring using systems that already have herd data, for example DHIA enrollment for dairy herds and SCC from Federal Milk Orders. Both are value added activities that support animal agriculture. NAHMS also is capable of doing Epidemiologic Investigations and gets Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for emergency epidemiologic investigations. Recent examples include EHV in Utah, PEDV in swine in USA, and PDCoV in swine in USA. Data collected is confidential. Economic and epidemiological modeling for various diseases and antimicrobial resistance studies are also done by NAHMS (more specifically done by the Monitoring and Modeling Center (M&M Center)). Many new projects will be initiated in future years for equine, swine, layers, dairy, bison, cervids, catfish, cattle stocker, and modeling of vaccination and zoning.

There was brief discussion results of epidemiologic investigations of PEDV in MN and different disease spread models that incorporate the study of animal movements.

5. Dr. Lindsey Holmstrom, from the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases' (IIAD) enhanced passive surveillance (EPS) program at Texas A&M University, presented on the topic, "Enhanced passive surveillance pilot projects – an introduction and status update."

Ag Connect, developed by IAD, is a data capture system and includes a biosurveillance piece that incorporates specimen collection data, laboratory testing and results, and reporting for all species. Early disease detection is the goal. Early warning information would go out to all stakeholders more quickly. One of the two tools of EPS include a method to enter data from the field via mobile applications.

Committee Business:

Nominations for a USAHA vice chair were solicited. Sara Ahola, CO, was appointed and accepted the position as USAHA Chair.

There were no resolutions from 2013. The Subcommittee on Information Standards report is included as an addendum.

There was discussion, initiated by Victor Valez, CA, on the processing and submission of samples to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory in response to an animal disease emergency situation. This would be complimentary to the use of PINs or LIDs (aka primary identifiers) on laboratory submissions in that not only are the premises/locations from which the samples originated are correctly identified but now also the samples themselves submitted to the lab under said PINs/LIDs would be identified (by barcode or similar (aka secondary identifiers)). This would reduce turnaround of results. Does this need to be a task of the Subcommittee on Information Standards? Or is this a resolution? The Subcommittee of Information Standards re-activated and re-deployed and members will be asked to participate on this task of sample labeling and information standards for sample labels. This re-formation of the Subcommittee will be done post-meeting.

Sara Ahola moved to adjourn the meeting. Francois Elvinger seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:45.

Addendum:

Subcommittee Report from the Subcommittee on Information Standards.

OTHER NOTES:

None. No resolutions.