

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Gavin Meerdink, Mahomet, IL
Vice Chair: Randall A. Lovell, Martinsburg, WV

Frank D. Galey, WY; L. Wayne Godwin, FL; John P. Honstead, CO; Gary D. Osweiler, IA; Jane F. Robens, MD; Paul F. Ross, IA; Manuel A. Thomas, Jr., TX; Larry J. Thompson, GA; Gary M. Weber, DC.

The Committee met on Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Saturday during the 110th Annual Meeting, Minneapolis Hilton Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), Veterinary Analytical Toxicology and Mycotoxins Committee meet with the Committee. Twenty nine individuals participated in the Committee meeting.

Aflatoxin concentrations were commonly high in Southwestern corn from the 2005 crop and the situation has been worse in the 2006 corn crop because of drought conditions. The 2005 drought areas throughout the Midwest also experienced higher than normal aflatoxin concentrations in corn. Fumonisin was also detected in these areas. For the Southeast peanut crop, aflatoxin was less of a problem than usual.

Deoxynivalenol (DON or "vomitoxin") and zearalenone have been found in the northern reaches of the continent. The number of findings were not considered unusual.

General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration of laboratories according to the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025 were discussed relative to standard operation procedures in veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Some aspects of the verification and validation procedures vary with the need of the procedure, e.g., screening, diagnostic, forensic, etc. Documentation is crucial. This task will not see completion, rather this is a continual process as methods are improved, new agents discovered and novel approaches to old problems evolve.