

COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

Chair: Bret Marsh, IN

Vice Chair: Charly Seale, TX

Carissa Allen, MN; Bill Barton, ID; Kevin Brightbill, PA; Beth Carlson, ND; Tim Condict, TX; Walter Cook, TX; Donald Davis, TX; Bob Dittmar, TX; Mark Drew, ID; Roger Dudley, NE; Dee Ellis, TX; Jessica Emerson, FL; John Fischer, GA; Scott Follett, WI; Tony Forshey, OH; Karen Fox, CO; Tam Garland, TX; Robert Gerlach, AK; Colin Gillin, OR; Michael Greenlee, WA; Rod Hall, OK; Noel Harrington, ON; Terry Hensley, TX; David Hunter, MT; Anne Justice-Allen, AZ; Diane Kitchen, FL; Patrice Klein, DC; Terry Klick, OH; Todd Landt, IA; Rick Linscott, ME; Mitch Lockwood, TX; Linda Logan, TX; Lindsey Long, WI; Karen Lopez, DE; Travis Lowe, MN; Bret Marsh, IN; James Maxwell, WV; Mendel Miller, SD; Eric Mohlman, NE; Alecia Naugle, MD; Michael Neault, NC; Danielle Nelson, WA; Dustin Oedekoven, SD; Gary Olson, MN; Kathleen Orloski, CO; Mitchell Palmer, IA; Janet Payeur, IA; William Pittenger, MO; Mackenzie Reberg, MN; Justin Roach, OK; Suelee Robbe-Austerman, IA; Jonathan Roberts, LA; Keith Roehr, CO; Susan Rollo, TX; Mark Ruder, GA; Sherri Russell, MO; Shawn Schafer, OH; David Schmitt, IA; Krysten Schuler, NY; Brant Schumaker, WY; Andy Schwartz, TX; Charly Seale, TX; Laurie Seale, WI; Daryl Simon, MN; Staci Slager, IL; Kelly Straka, MI; Tahnee Szymanski, MT; Patrick Tarlton, TX; Tyler Thacker, IA; Beth Thompson, MN; Tracy Tomascik, TX; John Walther, LA; Scott Wells, MN; Skip West, OK; Kyle Wilson, TN; William Wilson, KS; Nora Wineland, MI; Richard Winters, Jr., TX; Peregrine Wolff, NV; Alan Young, SD; Glen Zebarth, MN.

Members Present:

Kevin Brightbill, PA; Beth Carlson, ND; Tim Condict, TX; Bob Dittmar, TX; Jessica Emerson, FL; Robert Gerlach, AK; Colin Gillin, OR; Terry Hensley, TX; David Hunter, MT; Anne Justice-Allen, AZ; Diane Kitchen, FL; Patrice Klein, DC; Mitch Lockwood, TX; Travis Lowe, MN; Bret Marsh, IN; Mendel Miller, SD; Alecia Naugle, MD; Danielle Nelson, WA; Dustin Oedekoven, SD; Justin Roach, OK; Susan Rollo, TX; Mark Ruder, GA; Sherri Russell, MO; Shawn Schafer, OH; Brant Schumaker, WY; Charly Seale, TX; Laurie Seale, WI; Daryl Simon, MN; Kelly Straka, MI; Patrick Tarlton, TX; Tyler Thacker, IA; John Walther, LA; Scott Wells, MN; Richard Winters, Jr., TX; Peregrine Wolff, NV.

The Committee met on October 29, 2019 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island, from 8:00AM-12:00PM. There were 33 members and 40 guests present. 30 of the guests requested to become members of the committee.

Subcommittee on Tuberculosis-Report

Dr. Michael Vanderklok, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development

Dr. Vanderklok stated the Subcommittee on Tuberculosis met on Sunday, October 27, 2019, and received several informative presentations. There were 68 members present and 22 guests. There were no cases on bovine TB in farmed cervids in FY 2019.

A motion to approve the subcommittee report was made by Dick Winters, second by Shawn Schafer. Motion carries.

Subcommittee on Brucellosis-Report

Dr. Eric Liska, Montana Department of Livestock

Dr. Liska stated the Subcommittee on Brucellosis met on Monday, October 28, 2019, and received several informative presentations. There were 55 members and 20 guests present. The subcommittee received a presentation on Brucellosis testing for farmed cervidae in response to a 2017 USAHA resolution that urged state animal health officials to eliminate Brucellosis testing for farmed cervids. Since 2017, the cervid industry associations have worked with state animal health officials to amend their administrative rules and regulations to eliminate the testing requirement. As of October 2019, Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas have dropped the import testing requirement with several other states in the process of amending the rule.

A motion to approve the subcommittee report was made by Dick Winters, second by Shawn Schafer. Motion carries.

Update on EHD Vaccine Research Update

Dr. Samantha Wisely, University of Florida

Dr. Wisely discussed the latest research on EHDV. The University of Florida program has created an EHD hotline to collect diagnostics to understand which virus killed EHD suspect animals. They have had reported 75 cases since June 2019 but 35 were actually found to be EHDV. The University's goal is to make an available effective vaccine for EHDV. 14 deer ranches in Florida with 700 animals enrolled in the EDHV-2 vaccine efficacy study. Dr. Wisely hopes there is at least one vaccine for deer farmers available in 2020.

Cervid Health Update- Status of Updated CWD Standards, TB/Brucellosis Rule, Overview of CWD Nationwide

Dr. Tracy Nichols, USDA-APHIS VS

Dr. Nichols provided an overview of the voluntary Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program. The revised CWD Standards was published in May 2019 and now in effect. There are 28 states participating in the Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program, which includes 2,100 enrolled cervid herds with over 1,700 currently certified. 17 new cervid herds were identified with CWD in FY 2019. Dr. Nichols illustrated the distribution of CWD that has been discovered in farmed and wild cervid populations. Dr. Nichols said APHIS is working with Dr. Chris Seabury of Texas A&M University in genome research as it relates to CWD susceptibility and genetics. She noted they have been able to acquire more funding to take this research to the next level.

Dr. Nichols provided an update on DPP and SCT TB testing data by cervid species for FY 2019.

Novel Prion Strain in Chronic Wasting Disease-Affected Elk With LL132 Prion Protein

Dr. Justin Greenlee, USDA-ARS

Dr. Greenlee discussed genotype differences in elk. He said research suggests there are at least two CWD strains. MM and LM elk have similar disease phenotype. LL elk have a different phenotype to MM and LM elk. Research is still attempting to answer the question is this because of the animal genotype or because of the prion agent.

Assessment of CWD Biosecurity on Minnesota Deer Farms

Dr. Scott Wells, University of Minnesota

Dr. Wells provided a detailed description assessing CWD risk levels to Minnesota deer ranches. Dr. Wells listed several factors in categories of three different risk levels: higher risk, lower or unknown and negligible. He cited 56% of CWD-positive farms experienced one or more known higher risk CWD exposures, 44% of CWD-positive farms did not have known higher-risk CWD exposures. The University sent a survey to Minnesota's cervid producers. 40% of the owners responded and Dr. Well shared the results.

Update on Genetic Research

Dr. Nicholas Haley, Midwestern University Department of Basic Sciences

Dr. Haley provided an overview on CWD susceptibility and disease progression in whitetail deer, a USDA/CFIA study involving 2,200 farmed deer and the distribution of *PRNP* genotypes in farmed deer. His presentation includes attempts in predicting susceptibility in the lab using RT-QuIC. Several projects are planned to obtain more information on impacts and resistance.

Committee Business:

The Committee reviewed previous resolutions passed at the 2018 USAHA meeting in Kansas City, Missouri:

2018 Resolution 24: Chronic Wasting Disease strain evaluation.

2018 Resolution 25: Investigation of the role of the prion protein gene in Chronic Wasting Disease resistance and transmission of disease.

2018 Resolution 26: Investigate the Dual Path Platform as an individual test for interstate commerce of farmed cervidae.

2018 Resolution 24, 25 and 26 have not had an official response from USDA APHIS and/or ARS at the time of this meeting. Due to the lack of response, a motion was made by Dick Winters, second by Shawn Schafer, to make a recommendation for the committee chairman to reemphasize the request for agencies to act on 2018 Resolution 24, 25 and 26. Discussion. Motion carries.

There were no resolutions presented by the membership for consideration.