

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FEED SAFETY

Chair: Mr. Kevin G. Custer, Cumming, GA
Vice Chair: Mr. Richard Sellers, Arlington, VA

Dr. Roy D. Brister, AR; Mr. Ed Corrigan, WI; Dr. Richard L. Dutton, NE; Dr. Don A. Franco, FL; Dr. G. Yan Ghazikhanian, CA; Dr. Eric C. Gonder, NC; Dr. Jay Hawley, IN; Dr. G. Thomas Holder, MD; Dr. Rex D. Holt, GA; Dr. John P. Honstead, CO; Dr. David C. Kradel, PA; Dr. Elizabeth A. Lautner, NY; Dr. David L. Meeker, VA; Dr. Kakambi V. Nagaraja, MN; Dr. Gary D. Osweiler, IA; Dr. Jane F. Robens, MD; Dr. John A. Schmitz, NE; Mr. James E. Stocker, NC; Dr. H. Wesley Towers, DE; Dr. Elizabeth K. Wagstrom, IA; Dr. W. Douglas Waltman, GA; Dr. Gary L. Waters, MT.

Vice Chair Richard Sellers chaired the meeting for Chair Kevin Custer in his absence. Vice Chair Sellers called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm on October 26, 2004. Twenty- four committee members, and guests, were present.

Dr. Dan McChesney Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave an update on CVM feed safety issues. The agency's developing Animal Feed Safety System was reviewed. The objective is to develop a comprehensive, risk-based system for feed manufacture and distribution to minimize risks to animal and human health due to animal feed. A public meeting will be held in 2005 to gather/review information.

Relative to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Dr. McChesney stated the circumstances and science had changed since 1997. He reported the infectious dose might be lower than previously thought. The Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking relative to strengthening the feed ban was reviewed and infrastructure challenges were outlined.

The agency's overall strategy relative to dioxin(s) is to limit exposure to dioxin(s) through food. Mineral survey results from FY 04 survey showed very few products above 5 ppt TEQ. FY 05 data collection will focus on fats and oils. Dr. McChesney stated that a partnership among industry, academia, and government could be beneficial.

Dr. Lisa Ferguson United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) gave an update on surveillance for BSE. Total worldwide cases of BSE were reviewed, showing that 99.97% have occurred in the United Kingdom. The BSE National Surveillance Plan goal is to obtain as many samples as possible from the targeted high-risk population in a 12-18 month period. This plan addresses animal health, not

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food safety. Total animals tested from June 1, 2004 through October 21, 2004 are 91,745. Current testing is exceeding 6,000 animals/week.

Dr. C. Ross Hamilton, Darling International, Inc., discussed animal disease issues relative to carcass disposal methods. Dr. Hamilton reviewed the integration of rendering and animal and meat production, illustrating that 52,000,000,000 pounds of animal co-products are processed each year by the rendering industry. Currently, specified risk material (SRM) that is rendered is regulated by various government agencies. Dr. Hamilton stated that banning SRM's, downers and dead stock from feed with out regulations controlling the disposition of these materials would diminish regulatory oversight by state and federal agencies and that a critical control point for conventional pathogens will be lost. Dr. Hamilton stated that as new feed restrictions are considered, so must disposition of affected raw materials.

Richard Sellers, American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), reviewed AFIA's Dioxin Feed Summit: Dialogue for the Future, which was held on October 22, 2004.

Dr. Elizabeth Wagstrom, National Pork Board, reviewed the new Swine Nutrition Advisory Group, which will address, nutrition, feed safety, alternative production enhancers and antibiotic use. A review of the Pork Quality and Safety Summit, held in Des Moines, IA was reviewed, highlighting pre-harvest interventions for Salmonella.

Dr. Alfred Montgomery, CVM-FDA, reviewed two terrorist organizations-Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front-which are a concern relative to feed/food security. The CARVER risk assessment model was reviewed. This model breaks the feed system into its smallest pieces (nodes) in the farm to table continuum, and identifies the most "critical nodes" that are most likely targets for a terrorist attack.

A brief discussion was held relative to the Committee's involvement with CVM-FDA Animal Feed Safety System. It was decided that further dialogue would be pursued via teleconference calls.