

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FEED SAFETY

Chair: Kevin Custer, Gainesville, GA  
Vice Chair: Richard Sellers, Arlington, VA

Dr. Roy Brister, AR; Dr. Richard Dutton, NE; Dr. Don Franco, FL; Dr. Eric Gonder, NC; Dr. C. Ross Hamilton; Dr. Jay Hawley, IN; Dr. G. Thomas Holder, MD; Dr. Rex Holt, GA; Dr. David Kradel, PA; Dr. Elizabeth Lautner, NY; Mr. Gerald May; Dr. David Meeker, VA; Dr. Kakambi Nagaraja, MN; Dr. Gary Osweiler, IA; Dr. Jane Robens, MD; Mr. James Stocker, NC; Dr. Wesley Towers, DE; Dr. Elizabeth Wagstrom, IA; Dr. W. Douglas Waltman, GA; Dr. Gary Walters, MT

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 PM. Twenty-one committee members and guests were present. The Committee approved the 2004 report.

Dr. Burt Pritchett, Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), gave an update on FDA activities related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), the Animal Feed Safety System (AFSS), and *Salmonella*.

- BSE – the proposed rule enhancing the “feed ban” was published on October 6, 2005, and comments are to be accepted through December 20, 2005. The existing rule (589.2000) would remain in effect. The proposed rule would ban “Cattle Material Prohibited in Animal Feed” (CMPAF) from all feeds, including pet food. The proposed rule addresses potential wholes in the existing regulation (cross contamination, on-farm misfeeding, poultry litter and salvage). The rulemaking process ran concurrently with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Enhanced BSE Surveillance Program. There are two challenges associated with the proposed rule that must be addressed: 1) Disposal of Specified Risk Materials and dead stock; and 2) Enforcement. Dr. Pritchett was not able to answer questions relative to the proposed rule because they were in the middle of the comment period.
- AFSS – AFSS is a comprehensive, risk-based system for feed manufacture and distribution to minimize risks to animal and human health. It is intended to tie together regulation, policy and guidance.
- Salmonella – 21 CFR 500.35 states that Salmonella contaminated animal feeds are adulterated. FDA’s regulatory approach to Salmonella in feeds contains three components: 1) Education; 2) Approval of feed additives that prevent contamination; and 3) Enforcement actions.

Dr. Lisa Ferguson, USDA-APHIS-VS gave an VS update on BSE activities. She reported that more than 189,000 cases of BSE had been diagnosed world wide, with greater than 96% occurring in the United Kingdom. More than 89% of all cases have occurred prior to 1997. The U.S. Enhanced Surveillance Program has tested 523,063 samples from June 1, 2004 through November 3, 2005. Samples were collected from targeted, high-risk populations (non-ambulatory animals, dead stock, field central nervous system cases and ante-mortem condemned animals at slaughter). One positive sample was reported in June 2005. The program will continue until further notice. VS is currently sampling 20,000 healthy cattle.

Dr. Jim Pearson gave an update on feed safety issues for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). He reported that the OIE is an Intergovernmental Agency with 167 Member Countries and each country is usually represented by its Chief Veterinary Officer. The following portions of the OIE Mission impact Feed Safety: “To promote the safety of world trade in animals and animal products” and “To strengthen international coordination and cooperation in the control of animal diseases”. The OIE has been designated by the World Trade Organization to set animal health standards for trade. The OIE Animal Health Code (Code) contains these standards and several apply to feed safety. The BSE chapter of the Code has had the most impact in this area. It serves as the basis for the U.S. standards that have been reported by the speakers from the FDA and USDA. The OIE has attempted to provide standards that prevent the spread of disease but allow trade in animals and animal products.

A new initiative of the OIE that may impact feed safety was the formation of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group in 2001. The mandate of the Working Group is to provide advice to the OIE Director-General on policy and strategic issues related to OIE’s work on animal production food safety, which has the goal of reducing food-borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products. The Working Group has met four times and collaborates closely with the World Health Organization and the CODEX of the United Nations, Food and Agricultural Organization. The Working Group has addressed the following issues:

- Antimicrobial resistance;
- Good farming practices;
- Functionality of Veterinary Services to include effective links between animal health and public health work;
- Food safety certification;
- Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection;
- Food safety aspects of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis;
- Support inclusion of human pathogens associated with food borne diseases in the list of OIE diseases; and
- Support and assist the OIE animal identification activities.

Mr. Richard Sellers, American Feed Ingredient Association, gave an update on dioxin. The 2005 International Meeting on Dioxin was held August 21-26, 2005 in Toronto, Canada. Interest in dioxin and dioxin-like compounds appears to be waning, as other compounds are being discussed. New methodology is available for test levels to  $10^{18}$ . A report from the Finland Public Health Service was presented, in which this agency noted the substantial increase in coronary heart disease in Finnish diets without fish. This was in contrast to the possible 3.7 estimated hypothetical cancer deaths from dioxins. It was noted that the European Union's new food/feed hygiene regulations are effective January 1, 2006 and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) have been added to the dioxin TEQ tolerances. This will increase the tolerance for compound feed to 1.5 parts per trillion (ppt). It is 0.75 ppt without PCB included. Dioxins in food and feed continue to decline worldwide at the rate of about 10% annually. This is generally attributed to controls on dioxin air effluents by developed countries.

Dr. Steve Traylor, University of Kentucky-Feed Safety Division, discussed the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). He reported that the goal of AAFCO is to provide a mechanism for developing and implementing uniform and equitable laws, regulations, standards and enforcement policies for regulating the manufacture, distribution and sale of animal feeds resulting in safe, effective and useful feeds. The Model Feed Safety Program is intended to enhance the safety of food products of animal origin, protect human and animal health, and retain consumer confidence. The scope of the Model Feed Safety Program will include reviewing other feed safety initiatives, such as the FDA Animal Feed Safety System.