

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FEED SAFETY

Chair: Kevin G. Custer, Des Moines, IA  
Vice Chair: Richard Sellers, Arlington, VA

David C. Ailor, DC; Roy D. Brister, AR; Eric C. Gonder, NC; C. Ross Hamilton, TX; Jay Hawley, IN; Larry E. Hendricks, IL; Tom Holder, MD; Rex D. Holt, GA; David C. Kradel, PA; Elizabeth A. Lautner, IA; Gerald G. May, OH; David L. Meeker, VA; Gary D. Osweiler, IA; Jane F. Robens, MD; James E. Stocker, NC; H. Wesley Towers, DE; Elizabeth K. Wagstrom, IA; W. Douglas Waltman, GA; Gary L. Waters, MT.

The Committee met at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Monday, October 16, 2006, 1:00-6:00 p.m., LaSalle Room. Twenty-three members and guest were present.

Dr. Burt Pritchett, Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), gave an update on agency activities relative to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the Animal Feed Safety System (AFSS) and contaminant limits.

- BSE – The proposed rule (589.2001) to enhance the “feed rule” was published on October 6, 2005. CVM remains committed to publishing a final rule, but it is unlikely that publication will take place this year. FDA agrees that the economic impact was under estimated and is conducting a new economic evaluation. Carcass disposal is a major issue and revisions are needed relative to the environmental assessment.
- 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. The goal is to complete the AFSS by the end of 2007.
- Contaminant Limits – There is a lack of process for distinguishing feed hazards based upon their relative risks ( $\text{Risk} = \text{Hazard} \times \text{Exposure}$ ). The Feed Contaminants Program is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Dr. Aaron Scott, Veterinary Services (VS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) gave an update on BSE surveillance activities. To date, 189,000+ cases of BSE have been diagnosed. Of those, 89 percent occurred prior to 1997, and more than 96 percent have occurred in the United Kingdom (UK). USDA has conducted active surveillance since 1990. Surveillance is to monitor the presence of the disease in cattle, not to identify every case. The enhanced surveillance program began in June 2004 and ended in August 2006. More than 785,000 samples were analyzed. Two positive samples were identified. The conclusion of the enhanced surveillance program is that BSE prevalence is less than one infected animal per one million adult cattle. Dr. Scott emphasized the importance of clinical history accompanying samples, as those samples will carry more relative weight in the analysis of the data.

Dr. Eric Nelson, President, American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), gave an update on association activities. AAFCO's Model Feed Safety Program is designed to elevate the scope and effectiveness of current laws and regulations, and

emerging systems and practices. The program will fill in the gaps of regulations and increase stakeholder participation.

Richard Sellers, Vice President, American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), gave an update on the association's Safe Feed/Safe Food program. The association is also monitoring European Union (EU) 183, which could put Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) requirements on feed ingredients imported into the EU.

Dr. David Meeker, Vice President, National Renderers Association (NRA), gave an update on the association's Code of Practice Certification for rendering facilities, and rendered animal product blending facilities.

Mr. Richard Sellers, AFIA introduced a new business item questioning the relevancy of the Committee on Feed Safety? Chair Custer responded that the relevance of a Committee is based upon issues addressed and resolutions generated. Only six of the twenty-two committee members attended the meeting. Discussions included the importance and need for a standing Committee on Feed Safety or could the Committee issues be distributed to another Committee. The Chair will be working with USAHA's Executive Committee in reviewing how best to address the feed safety issues at USAHA.