

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Chair: Charlie Hatcher, TN

Linda Logan, Ben Richey, Alan Young, Steve Rommereim, Keith Bailey, Boyd Parr, Marty Zaluski, Deep Tewari, David Zeman, Michael Costin, Steve Hooser, John Adaska, Lanny Pace, Jerry Saliki, Melissa Yates, Charlie Broaddus, Kristy Pabalonia, Jamie Henningson, Pat Halbur, Barb Determan, Kristin Haas, Elizabeth Parker, Dusty Oedekoven, Shuping Zhang, Francois Elvinger, Joe Fisch, Boyd Parr.

The USAHA Committee on Government Relations met on March 19-20, 2019 in Washington, DC. The Committee meeting included several USAHA committee and district representatives, as well as leadership of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD).

The Committee met at the American Veterinary Medical Association Government Relations Division on Tuesday March 19. A summary of the discussion is as follows.

AVMA

Drs. Kent McClure, Alex Sands, Lauren Stump, Ashley Morgan, Mark Lutschaunig

Kent McClure welcomed the group and appreciation for the partnerships of our organizations. He made not of some highlights currently with AVMA.

1. Membership numbers at all time high (93,000), most vets in US are members
2. Looking at returning to offering health insurance for members, starting in July 2019
3. About to launch online digital continuing education platform – called Axon
4. AVMA Convention will be in DC this summer, with many scheduled visits. There is a focus on Advocacy and expanding their presence.

Alex Sands next reviewed the following areas:

1. Budgets – there is no normality to the process anymore, other than disfunction.
 - a. Late start, just completed FY 2019 in late February, now working on FY 2020 (35 day government shutdown delayed budget)
 - b. USDA budget down 15% in just released president's proposed budget (1300 pages)
 - c. Statutory budget caps an issue – \$50 billion below where spending would need to be
2. VMLRP got slightly reduced, some programs axed/cut
 - a. AVMA is seeking increase in VMLRP funding from \$8 to \$9 million
 - b. USDA announced veterinary 190 shortage areas in 44 states
 - c. In previous years, have made approx. 50 awards per year (75 awards made in 2018)
 - d. Working to introduce bill to eliminate tax burden on awards (end withholding tax to increase money available for the program)
 - e. September 30th end of fiscal year, Oct. 1st next fiscal year
 - f. Application period now open for VMLRP
3. NBAF
 - a. Bright spot in president's budget, has been getting funding in appropriations and for workforce, approx. \$50 million in 2019 (\$5 million for animal research)
 - b. Cuts to ARS budget to get money for NBAF
 - c. Solidifies plan to transition to USDA management of NBAF
4. Higher Education Bill
 - a. Has been supportive of Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, but that is still struggling
 - b. 127 national and state agencies signed on to letter
 - c. \$30K-40K is added on to graduate student loans in interest by removing interest free loan
 - d. Suggestion to invite DC staffers to tour agricultural facilities and farms

Lauren Stump highlighted some recent accomplishments in DC:

1. Re-authorization of animal drug user fees, which comes up every 5 years. These funds are from drug companies, and go towards supporting FDA CVM approval process. FDA has looked for expansion of conditional approval process, which can now be used for major species as well as minor species. The hope is that this results in expansion of research in novel drugs.
2. Completion of legislative aspect of Farm Bill. USDA is now working on implementation, with listening sessions going on now. Cooperative agreements/block grants. There is a permanent baseline funding for animal disease. \$150 million over 5 years for foreign animal disease preparedness. Doubled appropriations for NAHLN from \$15 to \$30 million.
3. Legalization of Hemp – less than 0.3% THC content. FDA will regulate as they see fit, focus will be on product quality assurance.
4. Other conversations: opioids, animal biotech (genetically engineered salmon, etc), Virulent Newcastle Disease

Ashley Morgan next described AVMA's Role with State advocacy.

1. Serves as a resource and partner for state veterinary medical associations for state legislation
 - a. Track 1400 bills and 600 regulations across the country
 - b. One of the most significant bills – antimicrobial (AMR) legislation in MD and IL: requires veterinarians to report VFDs to state

Mark Lutschaunig covered some other areas of interest for the group, including animal welfare, environmental aspects of veterinary medicine.

1. He anticipates a busy year for welfare legislation
 - a. Also focused on research – seeing bills that would prohibit various types of research in the name of animal welfare
 - b. Addressed horse euthanasia, mass depopulation guidelines
 - i. Mass depopulation guidelines are currently in editorial revisions. These likely will be published soon

FDA – CVM:

Steve Solomon, Bill Flynn

Steve Solomon, FDA CVM Director, reviewed some changes within FDA.

1. Commissioner Scott Gottlieb resigning. Dr. Neal Sharpless is replacement. Both are strong public health advocates. FDA regulates 20% of US economy. Dr. Solomon will be educating new Commissioner on One Health issues.
2. Within CVM, some changes – Dr. Matt Luscha, Dr. Tim Schell are new leaders, in process of hiring others now at their office of research.
3. In past year, had 3 government shut-downs, which has proven very challenging.
 - a. Drug user fee programs were able to continue
 - b. Animal health related to human health activities could be continued
 - i. Anti-Deficiency Act
 1. Protection of human health
 2. Protection of government property
 - ii. Other animal-related work cannot legally continue in shutdown
 - c. CVM Created a list of everything that got delayed; it includes more than 300 items just in their division.
4. Budget
 - a. Operated in FY 19 under continuing resolutions until resolution finally passed.
 - i. Received a positive budget. CVM got an increase of \$1.5 million – mostly going into antimicrobial resistance programs and Vet LRN.
 - b. 2020 budget
 - i. Back log in feed additive reviews

1. Animal feed industry would like to get budget for more review of feed ingredients => want to invest in states for preventive controls for animal feeds
2. Food Modernization Act: About 80% of animal feed inspections occur at state level – would like to get cooperative agreements to better support animal feed oversight infrastructure
 - a. Looking to increase comprehensiveness of animal feed inspections
 - b. Too much mortality associated with feed issues
 - c. Proposing \$20 million to states to help improve inspections
 - d. Want to expand response activities
- ii. Continue to work on recalls.
5. AMR (Antimicrobial resistance) Activities
 - a. Published 5 year plan fall 2018
 - b. Reductions (43% between 2015 – 2018) in antibiotic sales data
 - c. Things to focus on over next 5 years:
 - i. Products – How to improve antibiotic products
 - ii. Expanding scope to all vet sectors (companion and food animals) => Antibiotic stewardship
 - iii. Data collection – Antibiotic use and resistance data
 - d. Effective January 1st 2019: Shifted all in feed and water medically important antibiotics to the VFD
 - i. Will be moving OTC products to require prescription by end of 2019/2020
 - ii. Need to update medically important list (originally published in 2003- guidance document)
6. Participating in work group led by APHIS to determine risk of introduction of diseases through feed ingredients (i.e. ASF)
7. Vet-LIRN
 - a. Great progress
 - i. 40 state labs participating, total investment of \$2.8 million since 2016, average lab structure has been getting \$46,000/year
 - ii. Indirect costs (overhead) have increased from 10% to 56%
 - iii. Increase of \$1.4 million in 2019 Vet-LIRN funding
 1. Welcome letters of support from laboratories, stipulating the impact of FDA funding (i.e. indicating the value of Vet-LIRN and other funding), are very valuable in ensuring continued funding.
 - a. Send letters to Renata (FDA)
 - b. Helps when approaching congress for additional funding
 - b. AMR projects - \$800K
 - c. Residues - \$400K
8. Hemp:
 - a. FDA is planning a public meeting for human and animal health for use of hemp products
 - i. No consistency in products being sold and claims on packaging
 - ii. Will only pursue manufacturers who have gregarious products, but not enough resources to pursue them all

Bill Flynn, Deputy Director, reviewed progress in the antimicrobial resistance programs.

1. Antimicrobial resistance – total quantity of antimicrobial sales is significantly down over past few years – 30-40% decrease over 4 years. They look at more than just sales, but that is a good indicator of progress. They do not continue to expect similar reduction in sales.
2. 5 year plan – 3 main goals – product updates; stewardship- expand scope beyond just food animals to companion animals as well; enhancements to data collection.

3. Shifted oversight of feed and water products to veterinary oversight as of Jan 1. There are a limited number of over the counter products still available. Less than 5% of all antibiotics are non-food and water. By end of this FY, hope to have plan available for when remaining antibiotics will transition to veterinary oversight instead of OTC.
4. Plan to update list (guidance document) of medically important vs. non-medically important antibiotics in next year or two.

Department of Homeland Security, including Office of Health Affairs, and Customs and Border Patrol.

Tom McGinn (OHA), Romel Lapitan (CBP), John Sagle (CBP)

Romel Lapitan , Director of biological protection at CBP)

1. Agroterrorism and Bioterrorism:
 - a. Provide guidance for handling issues
 - b. Outreach programs
 - c. "Intentional" harm
2. Mission is to prevent terrorism, specifically agro bioterrorism, provides subject matter expertise, oversees 2400 agriculture CBP agents

John Sagle, Director of agriculture safeguarding, CBP

1. Focus more on unintentional introductions – safeguarding and prevention/ mitigation of the "unintentional"
 - a. Trade: Movement of people and products
2. DHS formed in 2003 post 9-11
 - a. Recent work in streamlining mission and information sharing
 - i. Combining people protecting our borders
 1. There are 2 groups – regular CBP agents (about 20,000), and agriculture/pest specialists (2400).
 2. 23, 400 workforce currently
3. Daily statistics
 - a. Processed over 1.1 million passengers/ day
 - b. 7.7 million products inspected/ day
 - c. 1100 people apprehended/ day
 - d. Seized 4600 lbs. drugs/ day
 - e. Seized \$300,000 undeclared currency/ day
4. All 2430 CBP agriculture specialists undergo extensive training
5. Over 1400 canine teams => 114 agri-specific teams (beagle brigade) – effective at interdicting fruits and vegetables, at 84 large international airports and at borders
6. 364 horse patrols
7. Internationally, in 52 countries
8. Assist 49 other government regulatory agencies with compliance of their requirements
9. Border portion of authority was transferred to CBP from USDA
10. Work with homeland security and FBI (intelligence community)
11. All quarantine regulations must be addressed at " Arrival" at US port
 - a. Products cannot enter commerce until all entry/ quarantine requirements are met
 - b. Animal and plant quarantines are handled first at arrival
 - i. Documentation, testing, quarantine
 - ii. APHIS- VS handles live animal imports
 - iii. Do NOT test for animal diseases at border
 1. Just assume everything is infected and is destroyed
12. Targeting:
 - a. Advanced information – cargo and aircraft manifest received 1-2 days in advance

- b. Have algorithms to ID risk anomalies (i.e. country of origin, etc.)
 - c. Reviewed at local level and national office
 - d. Vessel tracking
 - e. Agriculture quarantine (staff of 6) => work nationally
 - i. ID shipments of cargo
 - ii. Send data to local ports to hold identified shipments
13. Pork Seizure:
- a. Still ongoing
 - b. 50 container shipment (Newark).
 - i. Inspected 24 containers so far. Of those 24, have found 4 with deeply (intentionally) concealed pork products from countries with ASF. Products such as pork flavored noodles, shelf stable sausages, etc. Likely result of country with banned exports due to ASF, trying to sell product where they can
 - ii. Seized everything with shipment (about 14, 000 kgs of swine products)
14. Also, 1400 lb. seizure of pork products at LAX
15. Presume will be seizing a large amount of illegal pork products in near future
- a. Countries and manufacturers desperate with trade restrictions will be attempting to dump product illegally
16. Concerns with international passengers entering US who may have or have been on farms positive for ASF

Tom McGinn - HSPD 9 says they are supposed to protect against agricultural catastrophic losses

1. NBAF:
 - a. DHS owns construction and development of facility
 - b. Will turn it over to USDA in 2021, APHIS and ARS involved in planning process now.
 - c. USDA and ARS: FY 2018 budget is \$14 million, FY 2019 budget is \$42 million
 - d. Several working groups set-up within USDA-ARS.
2. Select agents program will be USDA program in 2021
3. DHS will continue to operate at Plum Island until target of 2023; will move through process to decommission and sell Plum Island at that time.
4. DHS is/has moved away from agriculture/animal/veterinary expertise and support
5. Focus should be on reduction of risk
 - a. Better evaluation of where risk exists, where are vulnerabilities
 - b. Use scientific evidence driven methods to determine effective risk reduction strategies
 - c. Where are areas of failure
6. Food and Agriculture Annex to national response plan will be coming out soon
 - a. Delegation of authority to industry and county emergency management from state/federal
7. Plan to add 60 beagle brigade teams to CBP
 - a. 12 additional teams/ year over 5 years
 - b. Only current CBP officers can apply to be handlers
 - c. USDA procures rescue dogs, performs medical evaluation and DHS handles training

NIFA: 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Adele Turzillo, Michelle Colby, Matt Holland, Director Scott Angle

1. Proposal by Secretary of Agriculture to move NIFA headquarters out of DC and into the "heartland."
 - a. Location proposals have been received, and it is likely that they will be based somewhere else in the future.
 - b. Goal to maintain a small office of approximately 20 people in DC
2. Objectives:
 - a. Profitability for rural communities to lead to improvement of livability

3. VMLRP update: Application period open now, ends April 12th, 2019.
 - a. Last year had 154 applicants, made 75 award offers – expect it to be about the same this year.
4. Veterinary Services Grant Program – broad types of activities could be supported, including education, support of agriculture supportive residencies, etc.
5. NAHLN – NIFA stable funding

ARS: 2:00 – 3:00PM

Cyril Gay

1. Bacterial zoonotic disease department
 - a. Brucellosis and TB research
 - i. Loss of staff, but plan to rebuild research programs, as budget allows
 - ii. Small number (about 1 scientist for each) of staff focus on Brucellosis and Tuberculosis
2. Biodefense
 - a. All budget increases are due to NBAF funding (operational funding)
 - i. Will be separate budget
 - b. \$1.2 billion facility
 - c. ARS to take charge by 2020, be operational by 2023, plan is to go from 9 (at Plum Island) to 20 scientists.
 - d. GAP alliance analysis report => Google “ASF Report”
 - i. Large volume of research on ASF
 - e. Plan to partner with CDC to build BSL-4 program
 - f. US currently has no capabilities to develop vaccines to FADs
 - g. NBAF should be positioned to work on any emerging disease, especially zoonotic
 - h. NBAF will NOT be a development/ production facility
3. Select agent list – it is maintained by cooperation between APHIS and CDC. Support for delisting Brucellosis is noted, and ARS has done their best, but CDC appears to be resistant.
4. Currently biggest diseases they focus on are FMD and ASF. Four possible ASF vaccines in pipeline. Hopefully will involve coordination with private sector as vaccine is refined.
5. CWD
 - a. Received appropriation to work on CWD
 - b. Asked where should research be performed and what additional things should be studied:
 - i. Diagnostics – ante and post- mortem
 - ii. Transmission of CWD – environmental contamination

Blue Ribbon Study Panel: 3:00- 4:00 PM

Ellen Carlin, Eco Health Alliance.

1. Works on zoonotic diseases
2. Currently detailed to the Smithsonian Global Health Program
3. Associated with a panel made up of people with experience in legislation and policy
4. Produced publications called “A National Blueprint for Biodefense,” and “Defense of Animal Agriculture.” (Available on Eco-health Alliance website)

Animal Agriculture Coalition: 4:00- 5:00 PM

Lauren Stump (co-chair); Chelsea Good, Scott Bennet

1. Farm bill focus last year
2. Genome to phenome project
 - a. Understanding gene function and how it translates to effective production

3. Shift towards focus on USDA implementation of Farm Bill over the next 5 years
4. Concern about 15% decrease to president's USDA budget, but will wait to see what Congress does
5. See one-pager entitled "Avian Disease Prevention and Management."

Wednesday, March 20th, 2019

Hosted at the National Cattleman's Beef Association Office

FSIS: 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Drs. Hany Sidrak, Kis Robertson

1. Swine modernization procedures to address ASF concerns, but inclusive of all FAD.
2. State Programs (CIS program) – there has been conversation about state programs. As a reminder, there is a cooperative interstate shipment program, which was introduced in 2008.
 - a. 45-46 large establishments interested in converting to CIS (VS MOU). Currently 4 using it.
 - b. Sen. Rounds to introduce legislation on state inspection programs. If slaughterhouse is comfortable with state inspection, don't need to convert to federal inspection program (CIS).
 - c.
3. FSIS has been partnering in Foreign Animal Disease scenarios/ tabletop exercises (i.e. FMD)
 - a. Have really tried to do more with APHIS, have done exercises with APHIS, and will continue
 - b. APHIS WG responsible for creating FAD exercises, FSIS increasingly involved
4. Animal ID: required by regulation that slaughter establishments collect ID, and have Directive to work with APHIS on program.
 - a. Establishments also approach collection of ID as part of their HACCP plan – tags are considered physical contaminants.
 - b. Traceability – APHIS continues to work with FSIS through MOU to improve traceability
 - c. APHIS interface used in field
5. Cell-based protein regulations:
 - a. Working on the issue, including labeling- FSIS has a more rigorous approach to labeling than FDA (will be regulated by FSIS)
6. Companies are often placing their own standards above FSIS requirements.
 - a. Religious exempted methods of slaughter do not require labeling of product with that method (i.e. kosher)
 - b. CO2 has been replacing electrocution as stunning method in swine and poultry (and maybe eventually cattle)
 - c. Welfare concerns are central to this area
7. Issues with slaughter plant veterinarians not being allowed to collect appropriate samples for neurological animals to submit samples for testing (may be state specific issues)
8. FSIS continues to offer internships for vet students, offer sign-on bonuses and have loan repayment programs
9. Animal welfare – continues to be a focus, FSIS wants to be practical while being focused on welfare

CDC – One Health: 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Drs. Casey Barton-Bahravesh, Megin Nichols, Diane Onone, Shelby Rhee,Carolynn Greene, James Kyle, Ben Beard, Maria Negron, Nadia Oussayef

Casey Barton-Bahravesh – One Health Office

1. Worked with many partners on new guidance document – “Tripartite Zoonoses Guide” for short
 - a. Being translated into 6 languages; Global reach
2. CDC Has created a One Health Coordination Network – to share information on One Health activities across US Federal Government – calls every other month.
3. Influence and Zoonotic education among youth in agriculture project:
 - a. Educational materials targeting youth to prevent zoonoses
 - b. Youth in Agriculture handout is available
4. CDC’s “Zohu” call – 12,000 people now subscribing to this call, 2pm on Wednesdays, always welcome speakers/ideas.
 - a. Have CE for variety of health professionals
5. CDC “Healthy People, Healthy Pets” website and handout developed.
6. Established top 8 zoonotic diseases to focus on - Zoonotic influenzas, salmonella, rabies, Lyme, Plague, West Nile Virus, emerging coronaviruses, brucellosis
7. OIE has scientific and technical review: focus on One Health (coming out in April 2019)

Vector-borne disease issues and updates (handout)

Ben Beard (by phone)

1. Over 700,000 cases of vector borne disease reported to the CDC since 2017
 - a. Most tick-borne (Lyme disease)
 - b. Large number presumed unreported
 - c. WNV (see outbreak/ increase in cases every 5-7 years)
 - d. Zika (2016)
 - e. Causes => Suburban sprawl and climate change
2. Arboviral diseases continues to be a focus
3. Asian long horned tick:
 - a. 2017: 1st recognized in NJ
 - b. Now been documented in 49 counties in multiple states, on 14 animal species and humans
 - c. No ticks have yet been found to be positive for a pathogen, but it can carry pathogens in many other countries
 - d. Important vector overseas for livestock, wildlife and human diseases
 - i. Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia virus, similar to Heartland virus
 - ii. Theileria
 - iii. Babesia
 - iv. Bourbon virus and Ehrlichia
4. Currently developing pathogen-free colonies => will be able to test disease transmissibility and will perform studies on pesticide effectiveness
5. Call to action for a national strategy to address control of emerging vector-borne diseases
 - a. Working with multiple federal partners currently, will eventually be sent to state partners

Maria Negron – Brucellosis

1. RB51 – PA outbreak:
 - a. Most recently in November/December 2018, infected child in NY, drank raw milk from dairy farm in PA.
 - b. Traced strains from NY and NJ infections back to the same cow (co-infected with both strains – different quarters infected)
 - i. Cow had two different strains of RB51 bacteria – in one quarter, matched NY case, another quarter matched PA case
 1. Both are vaccination strains, thought to have mutated on own in the cow
 2. CDC purchased the cow and are studying it at the CDC
 3. Collaborating with NVSL on diagnostic testing and genetics
 - c. All 3 RB51 outbreaks/cases have been traced to Jersey cows.
2. Want to have outreach to vets regarding vaccination of dairy heifers, will that cow be used for raw milk production

3. MMWR published last month about these RB51 cases. Contains recommendations: people should not drink raw milk, possibly do not vaccinate cows producing raw milk, post warning on label
4. Issue with classification of Brucellosis as select agent in conducting research
 - a. Classified as select agent:
 - i. 6 month incubation period
 - ii. Clinical signs relatively mild
 - iii. Low infective dose

Megin Nichols – food borne pathogens

1. AZ dept. of agriculture: Romaine lettuce 0157
 - a. Proximity of cattle fields to leafy green fields
2. Salmonellosis:
 - a. Turkeys – multi-drug resistant outbreak of Salmonella Redding
 - b. Raw- meat chicken products => multi-drug resistant Salmonella
 - c. Ground beef => Salmonella Newport outbreak
3. Campylobacter outbreak strain associated with pet store puppies
 - a. Continuing to see cases in humans
 - b. Multi-drug resistance
4. Funded initiatives – Iowa state prevalence of Campylobacter in breeding dogs , Ohio State with antimicrobial use, University of Minnesota on education on antimicrobial stewardship (animal and human medical professions), others
5. Shift to focus on pre-harvest sampling surveillance and pre-harvest interventions
6. CDC no longer has sharing of diagnostic data from animals with NVSL

Kendra Stafford – Canine Rabies

1. Definition of “Rabies Free” clarified => canine rabies virus free
2. Performed risk analysis for importation of live dogs
3. Changed risk status (Canada and Mexico)
4. Rescue dog from Egypt => positive for canine rabies
 - a. Entered US through Canada
 - b. Fraudulent shipping documents
 - c. Only 7/25 dogs in shipment had effective titers (samples tested at K State)
5. There is a requirement for USDA APHIS Animal Care to report to Congress on importation of live dogs into country. CDC will support USDA Animal Care on report
6. Updating materials/ website to make more user friendly (coordinated with APHIS and CBP)

Carolyn Greene – see handout on Influenza updates at the animal-human interface

NVSL/NAHLN: 11:00 – 12:00 PM

Drs. Beth Lautner, Kristy Loicano, Sabrina Swenson, Lisa Murphy, Kim Dodd, Beth Harris, Byron Ripke (CVB)

1. Currently do not have an NVSL Director (there is an acting Director) – will be advertising
 - a. Currently 50 positions vacant at NVSL, 10 at CVB.
2. Byron Ripke - Autogenous vaccines (inactivated products):
 - a. Isolate from herd of origin, grow-up and re-inoculate same herd
 - b. New Platform Vaccines
 - i. Different from other inactivated products, based on recombinant vaccine platform technology
 - ii. Only replicate gene sequence of interest
 - iii. These must meet all requirements for a fully approved vaccine
 - iv. Once it is established and approved, new inserts can be easily used, all based on full approval of vaccine. This cuts down on production expenses
 - v. Inserting genes into well-established platform

- vi. Technology could potentially be used for foreign animal disease vaccine production
- 3. Recently turned in list of 50 positions that need to be filled at NVSL (key vacancies – bovine, aquaculture and serology)
- 4. 83% of NVSL worked during federal shutdown – will be quicker in notifying stakeholders about service capabilities if another shutdown
- 5. EIA, CEM and Johnes WG => Fall 2019 proposed regulation on quality inspection meeting specific standards
 - a. Will not cover scrapie, CWD => under NAHLN
 - b. Not addressing NAHLN or NPIP disease testing
 - c. Minimum quality assurance standards will be developed
 - d. Over 400 EIA labs in US
 - e. Minimum number of tests to remain proficient
 - f. Will not address unaccredited labs performing FAD testing
 - g. Will include reporting requirements
- 6. NBAF – hoping to hire/have 200 operational staff
 - a. Will set up dual testing program, so there will not be a suspension of testing abilities for FADs
- 7. Hope to offer university FAD diagnostician courses in 2020 (Plum)
- 8. Working to standardize quality expectations for NAHLN labs
- 9. Now have 40 NAHLN labs certified to run ASF PCR test, 42 certified to run CSF PCR
 - a. NAHLN is participating in ASF exercises this year (April 2019 tabletop)
 - b. 38K PCR tests/ day (8 hr. period)
 - c. Added LNs to validated samples (in addition to whole blood, tonsils and spleen)
 - d. For FAD investigations => test for both CSF and ASF
- 10. Currently have 44 of 59 labs able to message results on at least one disease – encouraging labs to be able to message on all NAHLN certified diseases
 - a. Quarterly messaging competency proficiency tests
- 11. VND outbreak CA
 - a. Deploying people from other NAHLN labs to CA for support in labs
 - b. Opportunity for lab staff to be deployed to CA to help with VND response.
- 12. AMR pilot
 - a. Completed in Dec. 2018
 - b. Received over 200 isolates
 - c. Monitoring Salmonella only in large animals
- 13. Oral fluid (rope test) for ASF, CSF and FMD):
 - a. Negative cohort study completed in 2018, currently working on positive cohort study
 - b. NVSL researcher just returned from Canada, where he did positive tests using banked positive oral fluid samples, and report is expected by end of April
 - c. Meeting with swine industry reps (endemic countries) next week to discuss which countries could best provide positive oral fluid samples
 - d. NAHLN/NVSL would be able to validate quickly in the face of an outbreak
 - i. There are processes to quickly validate sample types
 - ii. How to validate new sample type with pre-existing assay
- 14. Matrix- funding determination for NAHLN labs
 - a. 2016 – Researching NAHLN analysis risk
 - b. Where State labs are located (geographically) in relation to commodities in state
 - c. Distribution of NAHLN labs is good, but certain high density livestock areas have gaps
 - d. Focusing on validating pooled samples to help with surge capacity
 - e. Labs ranked based on whether in top 5 for a specific commodity
 - i. Affects funding levels
 - f. Priority to re-evaluate lab determinations to update census

- g. Drawing geographic circles (regional vs. state border approach) to better determine number of samples coming through labs
 - h. It was noted that geographic distribution may not be accurate for determining distribution of testing => overnight shipping/ couriers
15. NAHLN Funding
- a. Vet diagnostics: \$49.2 million 202
 - i. Reduction of NAHLN activities by \$5 million
 - ii. Current president's proposal, can change
16. Brucellosis:
- a. Inhaled vaccine for Elk (CSU)
 - i. 1st round completed
 - ii. Undergoing 2nd round of testing
 - b. No longer conducting research on Brucella directly
 - c. Still providing isolates to other labs or researchers

USDA APHIS –VS

Drs. Jack Shere, Rosemary Sifford, Sara Tomlinson, Alecia Naugle, Alan Huddleston, Burke Healey

1. ASF/CSF Surveillance Updates (Resolutions 4- 5- 6)
 - o Working on validation on testing on oral fluids as Dr. Lautner described earlier
 - o Working on expanding ASF surge testing capacity – can do 38,000 samples per 8 hour shift
 - o 40 labs certified for ASF tests, 42 for CSF.
 - o Talking frequently with Mexico and Canada regarding VND and ASF
 - o Met multiple times with swine industry – do NOT want to perform ASF/ CSF active surveillance on feral hogs. Only sick hog testing
 - o Oral fluids test will be clearance test in event of an outbreak prior to movement
 - o Trade with EU complicated due to differences in member states definition of “free status” and differences in how product moves
 - Ex. One country was slaughtering both clean and infected herds in the same slaughterhouse
 - o There has been some feral hog surveillance for CSF
 - o Will be having joint conference between Canada, Mexico and US to strategize keeping North America free of ASF
 - Good relationships
 - o Mexico is performing vND testing a reporting to the US (New)
 - Mexico wants to have similar lab system to the US and wants US to train lab techs
2. Plans for exercises going forward – funding, contracts, part of Farm Bill
 - o VS envisions funding from Farm Bill as cooperative agreements rather than grants (competitive funding program)
 - o Want to provide guidance and have universities, states and different state agencies apply for funding
 - o Low level of funding is mandatory, rest is more flexible, want to roll out money slower so that states can make better use of it
 - o Will probably include guidance documents with farm bill (instead of create regulations). In order to move forward more quickly, APHIS wants to avoid rulemaking
 - o Goal of vaccine bank is to help us get over 1st 14 weeks of an outbreak
 - Looking at different types and production of vaccines
 - Important for preparedness
 - o Exercises – ARMAR cost over \$1 million and took 3 years to plan. Conducting mini-exercises for ASF now with swine states and Mexico.
 - Expensive and take time to plan, demand a lot of resources
 - Outbreak comes down to individual company/ complex and state response plans

- VS just hired an executive director for field ops – Adis Dijab
- 3. Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) Update
 - Outbreak very similar to what happened in 02-03 and 1970's.
 - vND response - ensuring resources and funding, better communication with industry and state regulatory partners
 - Focus in on preventing birds from moving – “easily” controlled if don't move birds
 - Educational and cultural challenge (more so than a traditional eradication effort)
 - USDA has spent \$19 million so far, the effort is ongoing – have used all allocated LPAI money for 2019, as well as rollover HPAI money
 - Got re-apportioned money left over from 2014-2015 AI budget approx. \$45 million
 - Ramping up response, budgeting for response to continue at least through August (would need to go back to congress for additional funding)
 - Will hire 50 terms that will stay in CA, with 100 additional staff (3-4 week ramp up period)
 - USDA has not pushed vaccination – worried about hiding. Masking vND symptoms
 - Biggest effort in backyard birds. Risk is small owners in highly infected areas
 - Performing surveillance around layer facilities
 - Confirmation from NVSL only for new areas/ neighborhoods and any commercial complexes
 - Even more people have chickens than 15 years ago
 - People have forgotten about biosecurity
 - Some people working in layer facilities own backyard chickens
 - Indemnity based on market value – cap around \$40
 - Asking CA to enforce local regulations, some limit number and species of animals that can have on property
 - Difficulties with differences between state and county regulations
 - Focus on education and outreach
- 4. ADT/Traceability Progress –
 - Resolution 34 – “Two-Pronged approach”
 - Encouraged USDA to support 14 points, and recognize importance of voluntary value-added programs
 - Progressing toward adoption of regulatory requirements as outlined in 14 point statement
 - Resolution 32 – UHF back tag Projects
 - Will be working to get out funding for this - \$1 million – anticipate 3-4 projects – KS, TX, FL, KY programs mentioned
 - Develop request for proposal for comparing UHF back tag to other technologies
 - NCBA in support of RFID, want consensus on technology
 - Proposed timeline on phase-out of NUES
 - NA Working group headed by Dr. Frazier, discussing how to cost share tags
 - Under-Secretary wants to pursue cost share program for tags
 - Proposed Timeline:
 - Dec. 31st 2019 – USDA will no longer provide free metal NUES ear tags
 - Jan. 1st – Dec. 31st 2020 – official NUES metal tags can be purchased
 - Jan 1st. 2021 – NUES metal tags (with US shield) can no longer be purchased or applied
 - 2021-2023 – transition period to all RFID by Jan. 1st 2023
 - Cost share vision – third \$ each from USDA, state, producers
 - USDA can negotiate a reduced price, but producer will need to use voucher with code to get reimbursed for discount (complicated process)
 - Will NOT require a rule change to require use of RFID tags
 - Will only apply to cattle
 - Dairy industry very interested in LF (UHF is faster)
 - USDA can write standards for tags and readers
 - Some states don't want to be in tag distribution business (if states negotiated tag prices)

- Difficult for states to plan implementation without decision on technology
 - Dual readers would be the best option
 - Encouraging continued industry engagement => webinar based on traceability (FMD and TB)
 - Developing for states to educate value of traceability with industry
 - Hoping to debut at NIAA
 - Website development to provide solution for how for producers to get a PIN
- 5. Current traceability gaps in international imports of livestock and resolutions
 - International import permit is still legal for interstate shipment as long as destination is accurate
 - Contact EIS for any found violations
 - Typically, problems are identified via complaint-driven mechanism; followed up by EIS
 - Producers are usually innocent victims
 - If states implemented interstate permit requirement, would help enforcement of violations and the deficit in language in 9-CFR
 - Would require a rule change to strengthen language in 9-CFR
 - Could consider a federal order, but those are typically not supported by OMB
 - Need to know where we are going with the rule, usually need to be in process of writing rule when issued
- 6. Resolution 11 – VSPS improvements
 - Currently have a contract to fix long standing bugs, and appreciates the nicely organized desired improvements
 - eCVI improvements
 - USDA agrees with resolution
- 7. Resolution 31 – Brucella research – details on course of action
 - General request from USAHA for ARS, APHIS, and NIFA to work together on Brucella research, including potential vaccines for wildlife species
 - Prioritization for USDA to fund Brucellosis research
 - VS is not a research institution, but can partner with other organizations
 - Hopefully can use farm bill money to fund projects
 - No vaccine/ delivery method effective for vaccinating Elk in GYA
 - Can meet with/ partner with ARS
 - Clarified that resolution was not aimed at USDA
 - Delisting of Brucella as select agent
 - DHS does not want it delisted
 - Didn't have CDC support
 - USDA is supportive of this resolution
- 8. APHIS VS revision of Brucellosis and TB UMRs and CFRs rulemaking process
 - National Assembly working groups (one for TB and one for Brucellosis) – meeting regularly since USAHA
 - VS proposed a joint rule in 2015. Withdrawing domestic components of proposed rules, keeping international components
 - Moving forward with separate TB (expect sometime after Brucellosis rule) and Brucellosis rules (expect spring of 2020)
 - TB rule
 - Transmission less well understood, Epidemiology different
 - Evaluation on different methods of determining status
 - Monthly call with cattle and cervid industry (discussing conversations from NA working group)
 - 2010 Federal Order: suspended current regulation that would require downgrading a state if they meet specified criteria, in lieu of testing a epidemiology work
 - Don't want states penalized for conducting epidemiology and finding additional positive herds
 - Viability of TB indemnification fund
 - Not enough money to depopulate current positive herds
 - Rules will NOT address indemnity for TB and Brucellosis

- Continue to detect cases in larger and larger dairy herds/ calf-raising facilities
 - Limited funds, when \$19 million exhausted, will only get \$1 million per year after
 - Currently spend more than \$1 million/ year on test and remove work
 - Brucellosis rule revision moving faster than TB but will not be out for comment by fall 2019 due to federal shutdown; rule has been pushed to a spring 2020 agenda
 - TB rule promulgation process will take longer; different disease and less uniformity regarding viewpoints on the issue.
 - VS intends to withdraw related Federal Order once they are close to having revised the rule structure for TB/Brucellosis
 - Each herd test costs \$100K's
 - Hurts producers to have traces to their herd
9. Marketing of primary breeder compartmentalization program and regionalization during outbreaks to international trading partners
- Support from USDA
 - USDA is updating regulations for compartmentalization (just like regionalization)
 - Draft of work plan in progress
 - Will be jumping off point for marketing to other countries/ trading partners
 - Will provide internal auditing/ evaluating mechanism
 - Swine are interested in compartmentalization and regionalization
 - Canada accepts zones (regionalization) in US
 - No current standard
10. Maintaining viability and risk analysis of controlled marketing process in Turkeys. (Viability in chickens).
- Strong support for this from USDA as a potential solution – will always be a viable process for Turkeys
 - Controlled marketing was a very good option for turkey farms in 2015 HPAI
 - Layers want option for controlled marketing
 - Appendix D – Indemnity
 - Includes discussion/ input regarding markets that are available for the product
 - Had meeting with renderers – currently don't want negative public image of "sick birds", USDA will need to help industry with perception
11. Increased consistency and communication from APHIS on LPAI and indemnity issues
- LPAI meeting that was cancelled due to shutdown will be rescheduled
12. Ensuring continued funding of Cooperative Agreements with states and NAHLN system
- Looking for 5% possible increase in ADT agreements
 - Will be re-evaluating
 - Will look to apply increase for infrastructure needs => tag readers
13. InterstateLivestock.com
- VS will work with payment as states want, but clear that the funding will come out of cooperative agreement allocation. Ideal to have allocation identified prior to April 1.
14. Other Questions
- Waiting for UHF to get ISO standards (not as many high frequency companies)
 - NVSL has agreement with FBI for testing for suspected FADs
 - For agro-terrorism events. APHIS is lead agency, FBI is co-operative agency
 - Outreach to Swine Industry
 - Ask industry how USDA can better reach out to individual pork producers, will work with states