

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

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The Committee met on October 20, 2013 at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. There were 21 members and 28 guests present. Introductions, housekeeping issues and timetables were presented. The following presenters and presentations were given.

Lisa Becton, National Pork Board (NPB) delivered a presentation on African Swine Fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe and its possible implications for the U.S. The take-home messages were as follows: 1) The disease is creeping closer to Western Europe; 2) The U.S. has reduced funding for surveillance and diagnostic capabilities over the last decade; 3) Practices such as swill feeding and illegal food products ingested by people/swine put the E.U. and the U.S. pork industry at risk. The full presentation is available on the Committee page at www.usaha.org.

Laurie Hueneke of National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) spoke in regards to the importance of the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Federal Trade Agreements in future export matters. The TPP is Asian focused and initially started with four Asian countries. It now has 12 Asian countries which have "signed on" to what was previously negotiated by the initial countries. The recent addition of Japan to the TPP is huge. Japan has been the number one export market for pork by value, and number two by volume. By becoming part of the TPP, they will most likely become an even larger destination for American pork.

In regards to the TTIP, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the European Union is a challenge due to the differences among member countries. The list of European concerns will make consensus amongst the 28 member countries of the E.U. difficult. Ractopamine, beef hormones, and GMO issues are just a sliver of the concerns that will need to be addressed. Sound science and transparency are guidelines U.S. negotiators bring to the table that other cultures may not hold so dear. Full presentation will be submitted to USAHA for member access.

Rick Hill presented two talks pertaining to the reorganization of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) organization. The goal is to lessen the regulatory burden, yet meet the regulatory responsibilities they have been entrusted with. Veterinary Services is going from two Eastern/Western Regional directors to six District directors, with a change away from disease emphasis to a species emphasis.

In his second talk, Dr. Hill went through the contact changes and the working parameters the changes hopefully will develop. Several APHIS staffers answered questions in regards to what the new structure will look like, and who will be the "boots on the ground".

Committee Business:

- 1) Larry Samples was introduced, expressing a concern he shared with the group there is the possibility that a vial may be billed out at \$200, thereby increasing testing costs. The issue has

been presented to proper authorities, who may be able to address this concern. Larry shared for information purposes only, and did not see the need of this organization to formally address.

- 2) The Committee reviewed USDA final comments on two resolutions from 2012:
 - a) TB culture testing of suspect animals is not considered an undue risk (no gross lesions and negative histopathology) in allowing the remaining negative animals to ship. USDA was supportive of the committee's 2012 resolution which addressed the concern with the timeline associated with culture and the dysfunction it creates on exports of cleared cohorts waiting for culture negative results.
 - b) Scrapie control programs in the U.S. are based in the National Scrapie Program, which some potential trade partners are not comfortable with. As such, they rely on the OIE standards as their default measure in disallowing sheep imports from the U.S. USDA responded that basically they will not be able to change those National Scrapie Program shortcomings in the short term. USDA will negotiate with OIE and may effect change by 2015.
- 3) Larry Samples presented a Resolution in support of the establishment of a Federal Advisory Committee on Livestock Export. Motion was made by Dr. Samples, seconded by Don Walters for this resolution. Discussion before the vote clarified what the poultry industry had in regards to an advisory committee as there was a misconception of such. Other discussion centered on the better approach of working with existing APHIS staffers as opposed to setting up another committee which is likely not to be funded and will be made a low priority by USDA. Vote was taken with three Ayes and nine Nays. Motion fails. Discussion followed on the openness, by the APHIS officials in attendance, to discuss concerns Dr. Samples and others may have.
- 4) Import/Export Resolution 2007-65 was brought up for review. There has been concern that proper attention had not been provided by USDA. A final response to the resolution was to be determined by second quarter of 2008. That final response was never received. The Import/Export Committee requests the USAHA Executive Committee review Resolution 65 and asks them to take appropriate action to bring this resolution to a conclusion.
- 5) No further business, motion was made by Bobby Accord, seconded by Susan Tellez to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.