

Report Of The Committee On Infectious Diseases Of Cattle, Bison And Camelids

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The committee met on November 7, 2005 with an attendance of 25- 92. Committee members present numbered 7-12. The agenda consisted of four presentations and one panel discussion.

Ms. Karen Conyngham gave an update on the status of South American Camelids (SAC) in the United States (US) and the status of SAC research projects and programs. The report is presented in its entirety in these proceedings.

Dr. Paul Taylor presented a report on the development of a method to freeze hatched blastocysts of South American camelids. The paper is presented in its entirety in these proceedings. Mr. Taylor presented a resolution to allow the importation of frozen hatched blastocysts of SACs. The resolution failed by a vote of the Committee.

Dr. James England presented a report on research on etiology of bovine respiratory disease complex in normal nursing beef calves. The report is presented in its entirety in these proceedings.

Mark Wilson of National Animal Disease Lab (NADL) gave a status report on the activities of the National Leptospirosis Reference Center. The report is included in these proceedings.

A lively round-room discussion on Bovine Virus Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) control was lead by Drs. Julia Ridpath, USDA, Edward Dubovi, Cornell University Diagnostic Laboratory and Sharon Hietala, California Diagnostic Laboratory System. The recent identification of several BVDV Persistently Infected (PI) South American Camelids (SAC) highlighted the difficulty of confirming BVDV persistent infections in SAC. Reverse transcriptase or viral isolation techniques were suggested to be the most reliable methodology to identify such animals. It was also pointed out that the prevalence and impact of BVD in SAC is undefined. A resolution to urge United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support research on delineating the prevalence and impact of BVD in SAC was passed by the Committee. This resolution was forwarded to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions.

The discussion then centered on the current problem of removal of BVD PI cattle from the production system(s) after identification relative to developing a control or reduction program in the US. It was also identified that segments of the cattle industry may not consider the impact of BVD PI animals has of minimal impact on their production system(s) and may choose not to identify or remove these animals from the production cycle. Such situations will negate the adapting a broad based control program in the US. A resolution was made and passed by the

Committee to require the elimination of PI animals by direct slaughter or euthanasia and to urge purebred industry organizations to require that all breeding stock be BVD PI negative at sale. This Resolution was forwarded to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions.

Dr. Robert Kahrs, presented a report from the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) on the Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education (GIVE). The Initiative seeks to develop alliances between accredited veterinary colleges and veterinary colleges of underdeveloped countries for the purpose of unifying the educational process for future veterinarians. The Committee approved a resolution urging the USAHA to support, in concept, the GIVE. This resolution was forwarded to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions.

The Committee voted unanimously for establishing of a Subcommittee on the Reduction and Control of BVD in the US.