

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

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The Committee met on October 14, 2009 at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California, from 8am-12:00 p.m. There were 44 members and 30 guests present. Chair Tony Forshey welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting and provided opening remarks concerning committee format changes to a forum.

He also reviewed the 2008 committee resolution and APHIS response with members.

Dr. John Clifford, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, reported that APHIS filed funding input to The Secretary and awaits feedback. We have animal disease program continuation for scrapie, etc., and are confident we will get there. There was 5.3 million passed by congress; a \$9 million reduction. Cooperative agreements go thru March 2010 and we have \$5 million funds available, so there is confidence we can get through this FY10. We need to make sure that what we have today continues thru the current fiscal year.

John Picanso, USDA-APHIS-VS reported the information technology roadmap was made available at this meeting in hard copy, and was reviewed during several committee meetings this week. Mobile information management is to be reviewed for the future. He has been collecting further comments regarding Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) – and received requests to integrate lab data for resulting to bring value and gain efficiency with NALAM, including barcode, etc.

A 'RFI' is being posted for Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) to evaluate commercial systems for case and investigation management. Plans to modernize the ASM and generic database (GDB). APHIS plans to further evaluate systems management and information management offered by commercial companies. Some Fortune 15 companies have met with APHIS with interest in global systems applied to animal and food products.

The committee reviewed the National Assembly resolution and later addressed the resolution in the business meeting session.

- Several comments were made on the key agenda topic:

- “Development of a functional animal identification program for disease control using state based ID systems under APHIS, VS standards. What are states using now that is working?”
- Nancy Robinson- Members have done ID forever. We need to go back to a seamless system. There needs to be continuation of use of animal ID, as it dropped because of the end of the national brucellosis program. I think we should have continued. Location identifier is important, maintained in a state system, with focus on what is already in place.
- John Huntley - suggested it is important to change wording in the resolution regarding official individual or group ID - to support bullet #1.
- Taylor Woods – developed system within the MO markets and put into a system with 400,000+ cattle recorded at markets. Wants the best ID system for cows going thru the chute and must have an ID.
- Keith Roehr – suggests urging momentum to occur on ID in the new administration – and we should make clear our ideas on ID that could mitigate potential disease problems. He suggests significant steps can do meaningful things and thus would like to see a resolution come out of this committee.
- Dustin Oedekoven – In SD we have a healthy auction market and keep data in state database. If continued, it is well supported.
- John Clifford – if you have ideas or suggestions that would be helpful – we would like to hear from you.
- Dennis Hughes - orange OCV RFID tags are going over well and part of protocol and premium for calves. He suggests the word ‘shall’ rather than ‘will’ be held.
- Ernie Morales– without national premises ID participation it will not work.
- Nancy Robinson – get most of premises via market commerce, I think over few years a great number of premises will follow animal ID record recording
- Paul McGraw –secondary premises did not show up initially – but now are all able to map for each location.
- Patrick Webb – pork quality assurance has site assessment program and we encourage all sites to have individual premises for each production sites so no premises for traceback are missed.
- Carl Heckendorf – in CO people are universally in favor of writing down name and number if held by state official and storage. Suggests using RFID number and system as he searched health certificates via the GlobalVetLink system for a time frame 3 years and had every CVI within 5 minutes. Suggests a tie-in with ID number to keep track of all animals. Keep it simple will yield more buy-in. Suggests a big NAIS type system will meet strong resistance.
- Bob Hillman – Seven years ago, desire was to begin an ID program with breeding cattle.....and we learned feeding cattle became breeding cattle in some cases and thus caused TB traceability problems. We need to consider to not allow feeding cattle to be converted to breeding.
- Huntley - Calf ranches and dairy operations are important to trace and thus livestock are identified at time of leaving farms.
- Heckendorf – lessons learned are that people that use it will subscribe to it – but incremental stages of improvement are important.
- Mike Martin – key role for federal system is to route data to the right labs for capacity mgt. Use Federal funds very conservatively and not overkill at Federal level.
- Gary Wilson reviewed various forms of identify used within each state and stated there were 394 tags with 50 state databases.
- Patrick Webb reviewed the ID tags used by pork producers identifying premises.
- It was also suggested consider leveraging success of brucellosis program and that traceability hinges on major trading partner success.

Committee Business:

One resolution was presented and unanimously passed, titled “National Animal Identification System” and forwarded to the Committee on Nominations and Resolutions.