

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

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The Committee met on October 16, 2009 at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, Calif., from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There were 11 members and 8 guests present. It was reported that the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), a subject of last year's resolution had received \$1M in funding for continued operation.

### **Issues Impacting the Use of Antimicrobial Drugs in Food-producing Animals**

William Flynn

Senior Advisor for Science Policy, Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Flynn updated the committee on the issues surrounding the extra-label use of cephalosporins in food animals. The agency received many comments. The comments fell into two major areas, one questioning the agency's legal basis for the rule and the others challenging the need for such a broad based rule. Some presented science that had not been visible to the agency prior to the rule-making. The agency will issue a new rule. The second topic in this presentation presented the agency's current thinking on judicious use of medically important antibiotics. Public concerns are driving the agency to look at ways to assure judicious use and providing veterinary oversight is viewed as key to this process. The agency recognizes the industry need to have antimicrobials available for therapeutic uses including treatment, control and prevention. In feed and water administered antimicrobials are the most common targets of legislative action. The Veterinary Food Directive (VFD) is being used as a model for providing veterinary oversight and could be subject to alteration based on stakeholder input to make it less cumbersome.

Discussion ensued with the key points being made that some producers may be disenfranchised by lack of veterinary expertise and support for their species in their location. Also, risk tolerance was discussed with the point being made that zero, the risk suggested by legislation is not achievable, and the agency has not looked at a defined tolerance definition. It was also pointed out that this issue is more about public opinion than science. There was also discussion about an increase in ceftiofur residues in dairy cattle, likely due to extra-label use by producers. The concern is that even if veterinarians provide correct direction, the application by producers might result in residue violations.

### **Web-based Veterinary Prescription System**

Kevin Maher

GlobalVetLink, LC

A second presentation was made by Kevin Maher, Global VetLink (GVL), to demonstrate the capability of a web based veterinary prescription system. GVL just celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> state for Coggins testing and certificates of inspection for livestock movement. The Food and Drug Administration just approved the use of e-signatures for veterinary prescription and VFDs, so GVL is introducing a web based veterinary prescription system. Eventually the plan is to link diagnostics with product use and outcomes.

### **Testing and Implementation of KIS™ (Kidney Inhibition Swab) Test**

Terry Dutko

USDA-FSIS

A third presentation was made by Terry Dutko, Chemistry Branch Chief, Office of Public Health Science, Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA, Midwestern Laboratory explaining the testing and implementation of KIS™ (Kidney Inhibition Swab) test, replacing the FAST screening test for antibiotic

residues in cattle presented for slaughter. The KIS technology as a rule provided improved results (increased sensitivity) when compared to the FAST test. It has been implemented in 100 beef plants to date and the plan is to introduce it to the remaining beef plants before moving to swine processing plants.

**Committee Business:**

There was no Committee business brought forth.