

COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

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The Committee met on October 4, 2011 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York, from 8am-noon. There were 9 members and 6 guests present.

Veterinary Feed Directive Update

Dr. Tom Burkgren, AASV

The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) became available as a part of the Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996. Regulations were developed for the VFD and the first VFD drug, Pulmotil® was approved for use in swine in 2001. The second VFD drug to be approved was also for swine, Nuflor® in 2006. In 2010, the FDA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for VFDs regarding the following topic areas: Conditions met by veterinarian; Disposition of original VFD & copies; Records; Notification requirements; Additional recordkeeping (distributors); Cautionary statements; and Others. Some concerns with the VFD process if there are more VFD products (for example OTC feed products becoming VFD) include concerns with inexperience with the VFD considering that there are currently only 2 products approved as VFD; a lack of infrastructure; logistical challenges if too much is implemented too quickly. Furthermore, there may be marketplace disruptions considering the source of some current medicated antimicrobials feed sources – distributors, on-farm mixers, and existing supplies of feeds. Other items under discussion include the specifics of VFD forms: not Part 11 compliant; a desire of acceptance of faxed forms, dose & duration (not quantity of feed) on the form (e.g. 10mg/kg daily for 5 days), time limitation (≤ 12 mos.), paperwork retention for 1 year (including electronic or non-paper versions), removing VCPR requirement, Category I & II medicated feeds. Another proposed rule on the VFDs is likely pending in October.

Bovine Practitioners Situation Overview

Dr. Gatz Riddell, AABP

In the early 2000s, rural practitioners were having trouble hiring new graduates. The Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition marketing study showed supply over demand shortfall of about 4%. Following that, significant efforts by veterinary community to encourage students to consider rural practice was highly successful. Yet beginning in about 2008-2009, there began to be reports that graduating veterinarians interested in rural practices could not find jobs. The question began to be asked, why the reversal? AABP considered what the issues were. What are the issues? Rural economies are struggling. There is an economic downturn. Milk prices have dropped precipitously. There is a high student debt to salary ratio. Business models are outdated and there are gender/generational/lifestyle issues. There is also a consolidation of animal agriculture as well as impacts of challenges to state practice acts where non-veterinarians are performing procedures traditionally performed by veterinarians. Is there a shortage of veterinarians? Yes and no depending on the definition. It's not strictly food animal. It's likely rural practice which does some food animal.

In Fall 2010, American Association of Bovine Practitioners - Ad Hoc Committee on Rural Veterinary Practice was formed and a summary opinion issued in May 2011 directed at enlarging veterinary school class sizes and new veterinary schools in planning stages. It is not inconsistent with the VMLRP and VSIA. The conclusion: There is no supply shortage. We have enough veterinarians interested in food animal and rural practices. But, there are still underserved areas! The implications of that conclusion is that there still needs to be protection of the national cattle herds in terms of FADs and Emerging/re-emerging diseases. The public wants veterinarians involved in food safety and animal welfare, especially with antimicrobial use and veterinary oversight as well as animal welfare oversight. The FDA is in the process of mandating more veterinary oversight of drugs with perhaps all antimicrobials being RX/VFD and no OTC. It could affect availability of veterinarians at a time when they may be wanted or required

more. Future steps for AABP include the Veterinary Practice Sustainability Project. The AABP recognizes that the veterinary profession has issues to solve, including the salary to debt ratio, the sustainable business models. The days of

James Herriot is gone and it may be necessary to incorporate veterinary technicians in extending veterinary services. The profession and the industries need to understand this is a joint problem.

Communities may have to get involved in securing health care services.

Management of boar taint: Immunological alternative to physical castration

Dr. John Crane, Pfizer Animal Health

An overview of Anti-GnRF technology consisting of its history and uses was given as an introduction to the topic. Additional information on the background of boar taint, followed by the detailed specifics of immunological mode of action, efficacy (chemical and sensory studies), human food safety, USDA classification, and QA process was also provided as part of the scientific presentation.

Committee Business

No official Committee business was conducted due to lack of a quorum.