

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

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The Committee met on November 8, 2005 from 12:30pm – 5:30pm at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Approximately 6 committee members and 15 visitors were present.

Committee members and guests were welcomed. The Committee was updated on the mission statement, membership, procedures for participation in discussion and voting.

Dr. David Pyburn gave an update on the Swine Health Protection Act. Over 9,600 inspections of licensed garbage feeders took place in 2005. During these inspections there were 929 temperature checks done on cookers. There were 138 premises alleged to be in violation. Self-correction is allowed or further enforcement action can be taken. There were 29,000 searches for unlicensed garbage feeders with 101 premises found to be feeding garbage without licenses. Currently there are 2,500 licensed garbage feeders, producing approximately 160,000 market swine per year. Twenty-seven states permit garbage feeding. One area of increased concern is that proper temperatures are attained during cooking.

Dr. Pyburn also updated the Committee on a new program for Classical Swine Fever surveillance that will begin in 2006. Sampling will concentrate on high risk areas and on high risk animals. Both serology and tissue sampling will be used in the program. Nasal swabs and tonsils are the preferred samples. Samples from Iowa and Minnesota will be taken from pigs with evidence of septicemia. Efforts will concentrate on ill pigs, both at slaughter and submitted to veterinary diagnostic laboratories. It is expected that 17,000 samples will be taken in 2006. Sample testing will be done by PCR at one of twelve approved laboratories. Any positive or inconclusive test will be considered a suspect and reported to appropriate federal and state authorities. Trace-back will commence immediately. Confirmatory testing will be done at the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL). There is ongoing concern over raw sausage coming from Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico via illegal immigration. The USDA has entered into a cooperative agreement with the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), National Pork Board (NPB), and Iowa State University (ISU) to develop education and communication tools on CSF.

Dr. Eric Bush updated the Committee on activities within the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS). The NAHMS Swine 2006 study is being prepared through an input mechanism facilitated by the National Pork Board and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. The study objectives will be set by mid-January. Non-ambulatory swine will be a part of the study. The questionnaire will be finalized in April. The survey will be conducted starting in July with farm visits continuing through the fall. A separate study will focus on producers with less than 100 swine, with only a telephone interview and no farm visits. Dr. Bush also reported on activities at the National Surveillance Unit. The NSU assisted with the design of the new CSF surveillance program to be implemented in 2006. Currently, the NSU is designing the PRV surveillance program. It should be finalized by March 2006. The NSU is also developing general standard protocols for the design of surveillance programs.

Dr. Mark Engle briefed the Committee on issues surrounding Post-weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) in North America. There currently are four “camps” of thought on the cause of PMWS:

- 1) porcine Circovirus type 2 (PCV2) alone (perhaps mutated strain)
- 2) PCV2 plus a non-infectious co-factor
- 3) PCV2 plus an infectious co-factor

4) Novel pathogen (PCV2 is secondary)

Dr. Engle emphasized that the presence of PCV2 does not equal PMWS. He also highlighted that it appears that PMWS does not follow a normal infectious spread through a production system. There is still a large gap in the knowledge about this syndrome. Other pathogens have been proven to play a role in expression of the disease. Since late 2004 there has been an increase in severe cases of PMWS in Quebec, Canada. These cases are characterized by severe wasting, high morbidity and high mortality. It appears that there is also an increase in PMWS cases currently occurring in Ontario. While the disease does occur in the United States, the very severe form has not been commonly reported. A case definition is being developed but still needs to be validated on the farm. Research needs include diagnosis, control and biosecurity. There is a definite and immediate need for more research in the areas of diagnosis, control, and biosecurity.

Dr. Harry Snelson presented information to the Committee on the potential for trade issues related to an emerging disease such as PMWS. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures are commonly used for controlling international trade of meat and animals between OIE countries. While PMWS is not listed by the OIE, countries can place restrictions based on diseases that are not OIE listed. Recently an attempt was made in Australia to restrict pork imports from the US based on alleged risk of introduction of PMWS to Australia. Currently the case is under further review in the courts in Australia but US pork is still being imported under previously issued permits.

Dr. Michael David updated the Committee on the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE Terrestrial Commission sets standards for the safe trade of animals and animal product. The animal disease listing has now been consolidated into one list based on the epidemiologic importance of the disease. Factors for listing include international spread, emerging potential, zoonotic potential and significant spread in naïve populations. An emergency disease must still be reported immediately. Endemic diseases are reported in the semi-annual reports. Two swine diseases are being de-listed: Atrophic rhinitis and Teschen disease. An addition to the list is Nipah virus encephalitis.

The Chair reported on the two Resolutions 25 and 27 approved in 2004 and the agency responses.

The Committee approved a recommendation requesting USDA-ARS to immediately commit the resources for research on Post-weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) in the areas of diagnosis, control and biosecurity.