

USAHA/AAVLD Committee on Animal Emergency Management

Saturday, October 14, 2006, 8:00am – 5:00 pm

Marquette/Lasalle at the Minneapolis Hilton, Minneapolis, MN

Co-Chairs: Keith Roehr and Pat Blanchard

Committee Members: Mr. John B. Adams, VA, Dr. Bruce L. Akey, NY, Dr. Gary Anderson, KS, Dr. Tammy Beckham, NY, Dr. Shane Brookshire, MO, Dr. Beverly Byrum, OH, Dr. David Chico, NY, Dr. Leslie Cole, OK, Dr. Mark Davidson, CO, Dr. Kevin Dennison, CO, Ms. Shelley Doak, ME, Mr. Orlo R. Ehart, DC, Dr. Dee Ellis, TX, Dr. Francois Elvinger, VA, Dr. Cyril Gay, MD, Dr. Levle Gayle, TX, Dr. Larry M. Granger, MD, Dr. Jeffrey Hamer, NJ, Dr. Robert A. Heckert, MD, Dr. Donald Hoenig, ME, Dr. Gregory Jillson, NM, Dr. Patrice Klein, MD, Dr. Elizabeth A. Lautner, IA, Dr. Randall Levings, IA, Dr. Martha Littlefield-Chabaud, LA, Ms. Amy W. Mann, DC, Ms. Barbara Martin, IA, Dr. Thomas J. McGinn, III, DC, Dr. Lee Myers, GA, Dr. Brian V. Noland, CO, Dr. Kristy Pabilonia, CO, Dr. Deidre Qual, ND, Dr. Jeanne Rankin, MT, Mr. Paul E. Rodgers, CO, Dr. Mo D. Salman, CO, Dr. Dave Scarfe, IL, Dr. Marilyn Simunich, ID, Dr. Harry Snelson, NC, Dr. Gary Sherman, DC, Mr. George Teagarden, KS, Mr. Dave Tomkins, TX, Dr. Alfonso Torres, NY, Dr. Lyle P. Vogel, IL, Dr. Patrick Webb, IA, Dr. Dennis Wilson, CA, Dr. Ronald B. Wilson, TN, Dr. Pam Zaabel, IA. Liaisons: Dr. Joe Anelli*, MD, Dr. Jose Diez*, MD, Dr. Tim Frana*, IA, Dr. Bethany O'Brien (Grohs)*, DC, Dr. Sebastian Heath*, MD, Dr. Cindy Lovern*, VA, Dr. Dale Moore*, CA, Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski, GA*, Dr. Samia Metwally*, NY, Dr. Carol Tuszynski*, CO, Dr. William Wagner, VA*, Dr. Sherrilyn Wainwright*, CO, Dr. David Warner*, NC, Dr. Paul Williams*, GA

*Agency liaison representatives (not USAHA/AAVLD members) are not voting members of the committee.

There were ~145 people in attendance including 29 members.

Pat Blanchard reviewed the committee accomplishments for the past year. The committee met 11 times by monthly conference call and once face-to-face in Louisville, Ky. Activities included:

- All-hazards subcommittee was created and they produced a resolution on the handling of all species and all hazards emergencies which will be voted on later in the meeting.
- Reviewed USDA contracted Lesson Learned developed by CNACorp from past animal events and exercises and identified 12 of the 36 recommendations as the highest priorities. These were forwarded to USDA Assoc Dep Director for EMD, Jose Diez, to address USDA's progress and plans at the meeting.
- Drafted letters to USDA, DHS, EPA and ARS to accompany the committee's October 2005 recommendation on Disinfectants. All except DHS responded. EPA has taken the lead on an interagency working group which is addressing the recommendation as part of HPAI activities. A July 2006 letter from EPA was received updating the committee on progress.
- Monthly meetings and email distribution have served as a venue to share information on upcoming meetings, events and activities related to emergency management such as Government coordinating council minutes, credentialing workgroup progress, national carcass disposal concerns, types of personal protective equipment and PPE training issues, etc.
- Discussed and supported the National Livestock Continuity of Business Plan demonstration project.
- Identified key initiatives at NIAA April meeting including:
 - need for a stronger and consistent funding stream to states to fully integrate and implement emergency preparedness with industry, local, state and federal partners.
 - Rapidly deployable funding to agriculture during emergencies to re-establish productivity and business operation.

Dr. Lee Myers, Georgia State Veterinarian, gave an overview of Government coordinating council role and membership and Food and Ag Sector council (presentation on web). She explained the need to engage and respond to the request from DHS to review and update the Food and Ag sector specific plan which is part of NIPP. They were asked to take part in August with a December deadline. Currently they are requesting for extension so that states can provide meaningful input. Denise Spencer is a USDA contact on effort. Drs. Brigid Echols and Marilyn Simunich are working with Lee Myers on the response but would like a subcommittee of CAEM to assist.

Mr. John Monson, Director of Minnesota Farm Services Agency presented information on the criteria to qualify for assistance, mechanism, time line and process by which funding in the form of low interest loans is made available to agriculture. The process, requirements and time lines vary based on the type of request. The three types of emergency

designation request and approval processes are a Presidential Emergency/Major disaster declaration; a Secretarial designation request; and the Administrator's (FSA administrator) Physical loss Notification request. Presentation on web.

Dr. Jose Diez, Associate Deputy Administrator for Emergency Management and Diagnostics (EM&D) presented the progress and plans related to the 12 priority recommendations identified by the committee from the CNACorp Lessons Learned report were grouped into 4 categories: a. Roles, authorities, resources and processes; b. Disposal issues; c. Movement and quarantine issues; and d. Responsibilities of States and local authorities. USDA has leveraged HPAI funding to not only meet needs of the development of that response plan to but wherever applicable use it as a model to support broader infectious disease response planning and address CNAC recommendations. .

Status of USDA Roles, authorities, resources and processes issues: The NAHEMS guidelines are available via EMRS, CD or via the web after registering for access. The draft National Avian Influenza Response Plan is available to the public and on USDA website. EM&D produced and distributed a CD to states describing prescribed USDA roles and authorities. Deployment policies are in place in VS. DHS has a credentialing project to identify animal response personnel needs. VS has developed a resource typing project for Incident Command System positions in animal diseases. EMRS/ROSS combine to create personnel credentialing tracking and request system. USDA signed an agreement with CNAC to conduct ~60 AI exercises with states. National and State Reserve Corps cooperative agreement funds for FAD training with technical experts provided. USDA completed two National Veterinary Stockpile exercises (NC and GA). Feedlot exercise planned for Jan 2007 in Texas.

Status of Disposal issues: NAHEMS guidelines exist on disposal. Further carcass disposal plans and information is currently being reviewed and updated. APHIS encourages states to develop plans also. APHIS created an AI disposal working group which is co-hosting the December 4-7th National Carcass Disposal Symposium 2006 in Beltsville, MD (<http://www.composting.org/NCDSHomepg2.htm>). Draft National Avian Influenza Response Plan includes specific AI disposal information.

Status of Movement and quarantine issues: NAHEMS guidelines exist which are World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidance compatible and to which industry provided input regarding AI and FMD examples. Roles and authorities CD distributed to states including this topic.

Status of Responsibilities of States and local authorities: National Surveillance Unit web site provides detailed case definitions. APHIS provides cooperative agreements for state-based FAD surveillance activities. APHIS provided information to states on how to access DHS Office of Grants and Training (former ODP) grants and has a liaison at DHS to facilitate process (S Heath). Facility Manuals are under development. For potential zoonotic outbreaks – work with public health: Procedures have been developed as part of National Strategic Stockpile for Pandemic Influenza. VS management team held discussion with CDC leadership. EM&D has a representative at CDC. MOU with CDC and NIH including laboratory response is in process.

Dr. Diez briefly discussed the roles and responsibilities of the current 19 area emergency coordinators (AEC) and encouraged state and industry people to contact the person for their state if they have not heard from them. The AEC were heavily engaged in the HPAI efforts this year. He will continue to support hiring more AEC to ensure adequate coverage for every state. He briefly discussed challenges of juggling increasing new mandates for USDA such as PETS act with status quo staffing. Finally, he explained his management style and plans to continue to be engaged outside the beltway with constituencies. Presentation on web.

Dr. Glen Garris, Director National Veterinary Stockpile, presented the mission, progress, stock pile materials, deployment methods and authorization, and intended use of materials in the National Veterinary Stockpile. Presentation on web.

Dr. Sebastian Heath has been detailed for one year to the Homeland Security Office of USDA and is a liaison with DHS. One of his roles is to identify agencies and groups with common goals that are working on the same product and encourage them to work together. He reviewed accomplishments in HSO of USDA which is responsible for USDA department-wide coordination of efforts related to Homeland Security. Other agency activities that were briefly discussed: FSIS – development of prescribed mission assignments with FEMA; NRCS and EPA on carcass management; DOT; and Rural Development office of business continuity awards competitive grants which might be resource for funds for the National Livestock COBP demo project. The committee and others might consider seeking input on the language in the Farm Bill that defines selection criteria for these grants. He reviewed activities of Food and Ag sector and government coordinating councils; DHS Infrastructure Protection Directorate (national

performance goals, NIPP and criticality. DHS set the deadline for the sector specific plans of the NIPP so they are the only one who can change the deadline so letters from various associations (USAHA, NASDA, etc) should be sent to them. Homeland Security Institute has been contracted to develop methodology by which states can assess their critical infrastructure. DHS Office of Grants and Training has completed 4 H.S. Exercise Evaluation Program manuals and are almost done with a 5th. If your exercise design and after action report is compliant with their guidelines funding is more likely to be available. H. S Grants program this year had an increase in funding to state agriculture. 35 states received some funds that included agriculture. ~9M funded to 18 states for primary agriculture investments and 24 states funded for integrated investments which included agriculture for items like broad based training, interoperable communications, etc. The HS grants for 2007 guidelines will go out late November and are due back late January 2007 with funding released in April 2007. There will be more emphasis on filling target capability gaps. Credentialing is moving forward through a workgroup under the oversight of the NIM Integration Center. Items to watch: Exercises – make them doable not overwhelming, build confidence and capability in steps. DHS and DHHS have formed a grants coordinating committee to reach agreement on cooperative agreements and competitive grants language. May form a committee with USDA in future. FEMA reorganization. Presentation on web.

Dr. Tom McGinn, Director Veterinary and Agricultural Security, Department of Homeland Security, Chief Medical Office, gave an update on DHS activities related to animal emergency management. He recommended members review the Congressional Research Report on Agroterrorism Threats and Preparedness, RL32521, updated August 25, 2006 (<http://www.cnie.org/NLE/CRS/abstract.cfm?NLEid=1472>). This provides good material to support the value of why states need more funding to effectively prepare and what has been done so far. He also discussed Plum Island and open positions under recruitment; DHS Centers for Excellence; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, National Biosurveillance Information System which Dr. Kimothy Smith now directs; Vulnerability assessments; developing a search engine for OGT to be able to track funding by critical infrastructure; Aftermath of Hurricanes and Food and Ag GCC and SCC new hires funded by DHS at state and industry level.

Dr. Tom Kasari, Analytical Epidemiologist, USDA/APHIS/VS/CEAH/CADIA gave a presentation on Pathways Analysis, Risk Analysis, Regionalization, and Compartmentalization: Tools to Keep Interstate Commerce Flowing. Presentation on web.

John Adams, NMPF, gave a brief overview on the reasons behind the committee resolution in support of the National Livestock Continuity of Business Plan Demo Project. The draft project with 11 goals was sent to committee members in September.

Lt Colonel Chuck Tilton, TN and Major Mike Simpson (IA) presented the Civil Support Team overview of their role, responsibility, deployment process, analytical capabilities and their interest and willingness to collaborate and assist during an agricultural emergency.

Dr. Sandra Amass, Purdue University, reviewed the functionality, access and use of their on-line community resource tracking and management tool which is county or district based with only 1-2 emergency managers in each county with approved access. She also reviewed the Purdue Distance learning Graduate program in Veterinary Homeland Security which is applicable to anyone in animal emergency response not just veterinarians. The certificate course requires 9 credit hours (4.5 required and 4.5 elective), is provided on line or by CD and must register with Purdue Graduate Division. Currently 2 courses are offered with 4 courses to start this spring. Cost is 255.00 per credit hour (15 lectures). Format is video with audio and ppt slides, audio with ppt slides or transcript only. 47 registered currently from 21 states. For more information on any of these programs go to their website National Biosecurity Resource Center at www.BiosecurityCenter.org. Site also includes a disinfectant resource search tool. Presentation on web.

Dr. Leslie Cole, Asst Veterinarian Oklahoma State, presented information on the development and conduct of a USDA certified Command and General Staff course provided in Oklahoma this past year. She suggested this efforts and material should not be lost and that the course should be put on by others. Dr Dave Warner, USDA, stated USDA plans to sponsor two sessions per year. Participants viewed this as very realistic and a rigorous training course for

both team and individual effort to certify people in their functional position as a type II incident management team member. The course requires more trainers, evaluators, coaches and players than actual students. Presentation on web.

Jane Colavecchi, Kirkwood Community College, presented information on their DHS funded AgTerror Emergency Responder course and Master Trainer Course. Both are intended for animal foreign animal disease emergencies. One is geared more towards first responders who also become qualified at training officers and is intended to orient them to how agriculture emergencies are handled in a state. The Kirkwood trainers will come to the state and teach the course incorporating the state's specific agriculture emergency response plans and statutes and authorities. The Master Trainer course will be held Feb 7-9 in San Antonio, there is travel funds available for two people per state from state dept of agriculture or animal health and/or emergency management agency. Website for more information is www.agterror.org. The course is endorsed by USDA, WIFFS, Center for Food Security and Public Health, ISU; National Center for Foreign and Zoonotic Disease Defense. Presentation on web.

Elizabeth Pyke, with the Iowa Governor Office Washington DC legislative group provided information on how to develop a strategy and the challenges associated with soliciting federal funds from Congress for state agricultural emergency preparedness. What is the problem that needs fixing? Why is federal assistance needed? What is benefit to all congressional districts? Form coalitions; make sure Congress is able to do it (authority, etc). Repeat it often. Challenges are Congress jurisdiction for agriculture vs homeland security within committees; agriculture is seen as local issue, low priority, not affecting many, coalitions are not formed, Congress is focused elsewhere, states are not seen as integral to animal emergency response, Congress does not understand how ag works nationally (movement, etc). Need to show national impact, link to preparedness goals, educate, include zoonotic potential and public panic which are potentially preventable outcomes. DHS has bulk of new monies but USDA has authorities in emergency. She provided an overview of a comprehensive package which the multi-state Midwest consortium are working on and will share with the CAEM when they have completed the partners review. Presentation on web.

Business Meeting:

Dr. Bob Ehart gave an update on the work of the All Hazards subcommittee and the evolution of the current resolution as well as the outreach efforts to engage other groups including non-government organizations into review and input. He particularly noted the tremendous efforts of Dr. Kevin Dennison and noteworthy consistent and invaluable review and input by Dr. Cindy Lovern, AVMA. The subcommittee will sunset after the resolution is passed. The resolution was discussed and a few revisions and additions were made.

The National Livestock COBP resolution and National Carcass and Specified Risk Material Disposal Resolutions were discussed with very minor edits.

All three resolutions passed unanimously with a quorum of the committee voting in person or by proxy. No members volunteered for the subcommittee on SSP of the NIPP. Marilyn will forward material to the full committee for input.

Future conference calls will continue to be the last Thursday of the month at 11 Eastern time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.