

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Animal Health

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in St. Paul. The following people were present:

Board Members

Steve Brake, Producer

Holly Neaton, Veterinarian

Paul Hanowski, Producer

Dean Compart, Producer

Matt Anderson, Veterinarian

Consultants to the Board

Jim Collins, Director, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Trevor Ames, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

Guests

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services

Julia Lee, Veterinarian

Kurt Rossow, University of Minnesota

Carol Cardona, University of Minnesota

Anibal Armien, University of Minnesota

Julia Wilson, Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine

Staff Members

William Hartmann, Executive Director

Paul Anderson, Assistant Director

Dale Lauer, Assistant Director

Beth Thompson, Assistant Director

Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian

Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian

Kris Petrini, Assistant Director

Susan McClanahan, District Veterinarian

Erica Gunderson, Communications Specialist

Bethany Hahn, Communications Director

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Animal Health held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014

A motion was made by Dean Compart and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, December 3, 2014 meeting.

Welcome to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Jim Collins welcomed everyone to the University of Minnesota (U of M) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and thanked the board members for their continued support. It is important that the VDL replaces the animal isolation buildings on the St. Paul campus. By replacing outdated facilities, the university could do important research on pathogens.

Legislative Update

Bill Hartmann provided an update on the current legislative session and how it has impacted the Board thus far. The legislative session convened on January 6 and the governor announced his recommendations for the next biennium's budget. The budget will fund fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Recommendations for the Board were very positive and included a 1.8 percent increase over the current budget. The increase will help cover raises and some other projects; however, we won't know specifically how the money is to be spent until statutory language is completed.

In previous legislative sessions the Board had asked for a bill to require mandatory rabies vaccination for dogs. Agriculture industry support for the bill was relatively low. Dr. Hartmann asked the board members for their opinion on making rabies vaccination mandatory, which will be discussed further at future quarterly meetings.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Trevor Ames spoke about the U of M's College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) recent news and activities. The college is currently seeking funding for the construction of a veterinary isolation laboratory which will augment the work of the U of M's VDL. The new isolation building would replace two buildings that are obsolete and also add a biocontainment facility in St. Paul that could house both large and small animals. The college expects this facility to attract renowned faculty, help in research grants, and help in the creation of new diagnostic tools and surveillance systems for protecting the health of Minnesota livestock and poultry.

The board members were all in favor of supporting the new isolation building and agreed to write a letter of support. The letter will be drafted and sent to Minnesota legislators prior to the next board meeting.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mike Stine provided information on what the United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services (USDA-VS) would be doing if we had a highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) event in Minnesota. The response would be a collaborative effort involving multiple state and federal agencies. Because HPAI is considered a foreign animal disease (FAD), samples would have to be sent to a laboratory that is part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) before it can be confirmed as positive. Actions that would need to take place during a disease response include: quarantine of the affected site, establishment of a response zone, and conducting testing and surveillance within the established zones. Depopulation of affected birds and cleaning and disinfecting would also have to take place.

Currently, USDA has indemnity funds to pay for flocks infected with HPAI. There are a number of terms and conditions that need to be met in order to secure the funds for indemnity payouts. The USDA will work with affected flock producers to make sure those conditions are met.

Electron Microscopy

Anibal Arrien gave a presentation on the electron microscope and how it is used at the U of M to support Minnesota's veterinary community. The microscope has many uses including: diagnostic pathology, pathogen screening, research of disease mechanisms, validation of new diagnostic tests and anatomic pathology. Electron microscopy provides rapid diagnosis which is critical during investigations of new and unusual cases of suspected infectious origin. The electron microscope is not expensive or difficult to perform when operated in a diagnostic network.

Since 2010, the electron microscope at the VDL has been instrumental in the diagnosis of several disease outbreaks in Minnesota and U.S., including rabbit hemorrhagic disease, spring viremia of carp and *Nosema Ceranae* of honey bees. In 2014 the electron microscope laboratory identified 15 new pathogens affecting domestic and wild animals in our state.

This year the VDL is preparing to update the lab by acquiring a new electron microscope to replace the current equipment which is 35 years old. The electron microscope is a vital piece of equipment for the VDL and it will help to maintain a high quality of service and protection of our country's animal industries.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States

Carol Cardona gave an overview of the current situation of highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the United States. At this time there are three HPAI strains circulating in the Pacific flyway, all of which have been identified as H5. What makes these viruses highly-pathogenic is determined by how they affect domestic chickens. The strains of virus circulating on the west coast are unique because we have never had them in this country before. They are Eurasian strains which have moved across Asia, Europe and British Columbia, then into the state of Washington. During all of this movement, the virus mutated and became well-suited for wild birds, which carry the disease without becoming ill.

HPAI events will have high trade consequences both nationally and internationally. Because of this, we have been preparing for a HPAI event in Minnesota for a long time. Most recently we have been communicating amongst the different state and federal government agencies, stakeholder groups, University experts, and local industry leaders to establish protocols from a communications standpoint.

Bethany Hahn updated the Board on the dark website for communications in the event of a HPAI case in Minnesota. The site will be created and contain information related to HPAI, but it will not be public-facing unless an event actually occurs. The site will focus on the collaboration that takes place during an HPAI response. It will focus on biosecurity, boots on the ground response, tools for the media and disease information. All of this upfront work will help us to control the messages the public sees and would also serve as the primary source of information for all agencies and industry to use in an HPAI situation.

Avian Metapneumovirus

Dale Lauer spoke about the current situation with avian metapneumovirus (AMPV) in Minnesota. A meeting with the AMPV task force took place on January 22 to discuss the disease and how it has been affecting other parts of the country. It has been identified in a number of other states, causing significant death loss in turkeys. As a result of the task force meeting, a pilot project was started in Minnesota in which 293 breeder flocks and 118 commercial turkey flocks were tested for AMPV. Of those tested, four breeder flocks and six commercial flocks had positive results.

The Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) has been testing nearly three times the number of AMPV samples that they were prior to the disease resurfacing. Testing for AMPV can be done using ELISA, PCR, and environmental testing. At this time there are still many questions as to how the disease is transmitted and how to best eradicate it. Researchers do know that waterfowl are carriers of the disease and expect it to be more prevalent in the summer months. Because

of this, the MPTL will continue to conduct surveillance in Minnesota flocks and will be working closely with veterinarians at the U of M VDL to distribute test results.

Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease

Beth Thompson reported that there are currently 34 states with at least one positive case of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and swine delta coronavirus (SDCv). Of the new cases each week, the majority of diagnosis are PEDv. A total of 4,400 accessions have been logged with 400 having positive results. This amounts to 120 positive premises. Since January 1, 2015 there have been 25 positive tests for SECD.

Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders

Paul Anderson gave an update on progress with the commercial dog and cat breeder program. An advisory committee was formed and has met twice to help develop a veterinary protocol for the program. The veterinary protocol is one of the requirements in the new law. The advisory committee has also given the Board input on inspection protocols and the veterinary health certificate which are other requirements of the breeder program.

Dr. Anderson and two other Board staff members took a trip to Missouri to learn about the breeder program in that state, which has been in place for 20 years. They were able to observe how the inspection process works in Missouri and gained some valuable knowledge that will be useful for implementing Minnesota's commercial breeder program. In April, Board field staff members will attend a two-day training in which Dr. Schmidt from Missouri will be present to provide information and answer any questions that may arise about how to navigate the commercial breeder program.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold its next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at the Board of Animal Health office in the Orville Freeman Building in St. Paul. Paul Hanowski motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dean Compart with all present voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director