

## **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Animal Health Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at the Worthington Event Center in Worthington, Minnesota. The following people were present:

### **Board Members:**

John Whitten, Veterinarian  
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian  
Paul Hanowski, Producer  
Dean Compart, Producer  
Steve Brake, Producer

### **Consultants to the Board:**

Jim Collins, Director, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
Trevor Ames, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

### **Guests:**

Steve Just, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services  
Mike Fier, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services  
Dave Preisler, Minnesota Pork Board  
Kern Schwartz, Veterinarian

### **Staff Members:**

William Hartmann, Executive Director  
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director  
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director  
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director  
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian  
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian  
Shauna Voss, Senior Veterinarian  
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian  
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian  
Erica Gunderson, Communications Specialist  
Bethany Hahn, Communications Director  
Arnie Jostock, District Veterinarian  
Mike Curley, District Veterinarian

## **Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Animal Health held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013**

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Paul Hanowski, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, April 3, 2013 meeting.

## **Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Dean Compart and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

## **Board of Animal Health Legislative Initiatives**

Dr. Bill Hartmann spoke about four legislative initiatives that the Board will work towards during the 2014 legislative session. The first initiative will look to delete current statutes regarding garbage feeding and carcass disposal, and instead address and clarify these programs with the new rules.

The second initiative involves changing language in statutes regarding indemnity funding. The Board would like to change current statutes to include indemnity for all species and extend and fund the indemnity money on a yearly basis. An alternative to indemnity provided in statute is insurance money provided by private companies. The Board could explore insurance as an option as well.

The third initiative is to make rabies vaccination mandatory for all dogs in Minnesota. While this initiative has been brought forward in the past without success, the Board will try again during the upcoming session. The last initiative deals with brand statutes. Currently there is conflicting language that requires the Board to publish a brand book and provide it to the public; however, another statute prohibits the Board from sharing producer information. The Board would like to amend the statutes so that the conflict is eliminated.

## **Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**

Dr. Jim Collins reported on activities at the University of Minnesota (U of M) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). Every five years the VDL goes through a site visit to maintain full accreditation with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. The VDL completed the routine site visit in August. The final report will not be complete until February 2014, but based on the exit interview it looks promising that the VDL will remain fully accredited. The site visit also revealed some areas that could be modified to make the laboratory better. The lack of secure funding was an important issue highlighted by the accrediting body during the last site visit.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) was found for the first time in the U.S. in May. The VDL has been heavily involved in responding to the disease. There is a lack of information about the disease but the VDL is working with pork producers to find answers to the unknowns. The response has been extremely collaborative. The Minnesota Pork Producers helped to provide funding so that the VDL could develop an approved PEDv test and did so within two months.

This situation will serve as a model to respond to other diseases in the future. The American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) is seeking information on the locations of PEDv-positive farms for research purposes. The Minnesota Pork Producers gave approval to participate in the study as long as the data is protected.

### **College of Veterinary Medicine**

Dr. Trevor Ames gave an update on current and future happenings at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). There were 102 new students welcomed this fall. Although the University's budget remains relatively flat, some additional funding has been announced in four areas including food. With the food funding, the CVM will attempt to stimulate some agricultural growth.

The CVM is up for reaccreditation coming up in April 2014. The college has been preparing for quite some time. The CVM is undergoing a number of renovations to improve teaching spaces, including adding an active learning laboratory and refurbishing the student surgery laboratory. There are also proposals of new buildings on the St. Paul campus, and the CVM is hoping to get a new microbial sciences building in the near future. A new curriculum with less lecture time and more active learning time is also being implemented this year. Although the school year has just begun, the CVM foresees all of the changes as positive for students and faculty.

### **Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus**

Dr. Beth Thompson provided a summary on PEDv that was confirmed in the U.S. for the first time during the third week of May. A vet in Iowa contacted the Board to report that he had been sending in samples to test for transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE) and they kept coming back negative. He soon found out the samples were positive for PEDv. This disease causes extreme vomiting and diarrhea and can result in up to 100 percent mortality in baby pigs due to dehydration. In finishing barns the virus goes through but doesn't cause high death loss.

The Board has been participating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on a weekly phone call to discuss PEDv activity in the country. The seventeen states that have had positive cases are included in the call. As part of a study, 669 livestock trailers were swabbed at seven packing plants across the country. Of those, 17 percent of trailers were contaminated upon arrival and 11 percent of others were contaminated when they left the plant.

When PEDv was first detected in the U.S., the goal was to eliminate it. As time passes with additional positive herds across the country, it may no longer be feasible to eradicate the disease. It is possible that the focus will become minimizing further spread of PEDv. There has already been great collaboration between industry groups and government agencies. The National Pork Board and the AASV have been involved in educational seminars. The Minnesota Pork Board has expressed appreciation for the U of M using provided funds to develop a test for PEDv so quickly. Additionally, there are a couple of companies working on vaccines. There are some available vaccines overseas but the efficacy is not known.

## **Field Trials**

Dr. Beth Thompson followed up on a discussion regarding field research trials. At the last board meeting, Dr. Scott Dee came in and described the steps that the Pipestone System takes before, during and after conducting field research trials. There is a concern, especially amongst hog producers, that some of the trials that use live virus vaccines could pose a threat to animal health. The Board contacted the attorney general to determine what authority the agency has in overseeing the research trials. According to the AG, the Board has general authority to prevent the trials if it threatens the health of the domestic animals of the state. However, the Board does not have specific authority to permit the trials.

A biologics group, including Drs. Stacey Schwabenlander, Trevor Ames and Jim Collins, has been created to review some of the research trials before they take place. Stacey Schwabenlander reported that the group is very cautious when responding to requests for the trials so as not to give the impression that the Board is permitting or approving them.

Dr. John Whitten requested that the Board inform board member of the trials ahead of time, especially if a live agent is involved. Beth Thompson suggested a disclaimer absolving the Board of any responsibility in the outcome of the trials. At this time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspects certain companies that want to obtain certain live agents, and there are restrictions in place for how close certain species are to those agents. It is unclear if these trials would be covered by USDA's authority, but the Board and USDA personnel will look into the matter further.

## **Traceability**

Dr. Stacey Schwabenlander explained how the Board is continually working to increase the ability to trace livestock. The Board is trying to find a more efficient way to go through the thousands of health certificates received each year. A new scanning machine will soon be used to scan in certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) so that tracing can be done electronically instead of going through paper files. The Minnesota electronic certificate of veterinary inspection (eCVI) has also been introduced. Eleven clinics and 44 veterinarians are using the MN eCVI, which is submitted electronically via email. This eliminates the need for paper copies. In the future, the Board will work to develop an interface between eCVIs and its livestock database so that identification numbers are automatically entered.

The Board is in the third year of requiring import permits for breeding cattle. There has been an increase in the number of permits and a decrease in the number of cattle without a permit.

The Traceability Web Forum is an online resource for state animal health officials to share information, request help and share ideas regarding traceability. The main purpose of the forum is that states can work towards having more uniform methods of handling traceability.

## **Ear Tag Distribution**

Dr. Susan McClanahan gave a presentation on the Board's ear tag distribution program. The Board has several varieties of tags including Bangs tags, USDA metal tags, large and small Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags, and small plastic National Uniform Eartag System (NUES) tags. Minnesota is currently the only state that distributes the small plastic NUES tag. The Board has received great feedback on the tag from producers because of its size and ability to function as not only official ID but a management tag as well. Since January 1 of 2013, approximately 175,000 tags have gone out to producers, veterinarians and exhibitors. Because the Board's new rules require breeding cattle that leave the farm of origin to have official ID, it is expected that the tag distribution program will continue to grow.

## **Pipestone Livestock Auction Market**

Mike Fier spoke about the Pipestone Livestock Auction Market. Pipestone is one of the largest markets in Minnesota. Pipestone has three sales a week including slaughter pigs, hay and straw, cattle, sheep and goats. A large part of Pipestone's clientele is from out of state, resulting in lots of interstate movement once animals leave the market. During one sale 27 states were represented. All heifers that are old enough to be bred are bled for brucellosis automatically so there are no problems moving interstate. Heifers are usually sold to dealers. The cattle are shipped all over the U.S.

Dr. Jay Bobb is the official market veterinarian and is supportive of our new rules to increase traceability. All official ID on the animals is read and recorded when they come in. When slaughter pen animals are purchased to go back out for feeding, Dr. Bobb fills out a slaughter tag removal record to show that the animal was not sent to slaughter. All market records are computerized and pertinent information is uploaded to the Board.

Dr. Beth Thompson explained how the Board is working with dealers to gain higher compliance with the rules. A dealer in Minnesota was suspected of removing official ID from cattle. The Board scheduled a meeting with the individual to further discuss the situation and issued a notice of violation. The face-to-face communication proved to be beneficial to both parties.

## **Reportable Disease List**

Dr. Dale Lauer spoke about the Board's reportable disease list and how it could be handled considering increased technological capabilities. As the official animal health agency in Minnesota, the Board needs to have clearly defined actions that are taken after positive results are reported. Essentially, reportable diseases are all about the World Health Organization and things related to global commerce and trade, the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS), and different types of surveillance systems at the national level.

Dale Lauer is part of the Poultry Health Advisory Committee. During a meeting with that group, the reporting of influenza came up and whether it should be a reportable disease. Veterinarians at the meeting suggested that influenza should be reportable for all species because it is a virus that can spread across species. Influenza is currently reportable only in poultry and dogs.

According to Dr. Marie Culhane with the U of M, the benefit to having all influenza reportable would be to gather information on the isolates for vaccine creation.

Paul Hanowski led a discussion on the reporting of influenza in poultry. H5 and H7 are reportable strains to the World Health Organization, but all types of influenza are currently reportable to the Board. No other species requires all strains of influenza to be reported. Dr. Lauer explained that some influenza strains, including H8 and H11, have caused widespread clinical disease.

While the Board doesn't always take action when notified about diseases on the list, the information is used as a mechanism for filtering information to the appropriate people that need to know about the disease. One of the criteria for being on the list is that the Board use the information for something, even if there is no authority to act.

Dr. Whitten thanked the group for the input and asked that the Board review the reportable disease list and make updates to it where needed. The issue of adding influenza to the reportable disease list for all species will continue to be explored.

### **Water Testing for Influenza**

Dr. Dale Lauer gave an update on testing water for influenza. During the February 2013 board meeting, Minnesota Turkey Growers Executive Director Steve Olson talked to the Board about a proposed research project to test water from poultry barns for influenza virus. The purpose of this project was to take a proactive approach to better understand disease transmission. The Turkey Growers asked that test results from this study not be considered as reportable to the Board. This study would also not interfere with or change any of the testing requirements already in place. All commercial flocks are tested before going to market and all breeder flocks are tested before vaccination.

Results of this 2013 study showed that 10 of the premises with water tested for influenza were identified with AI. Five were breeder flocks and five were commercial flocks located in Kandiyohi and Swift Counties. None were identified with H5/H7 this year. In summary, influenza is identifiable in the environment. Testing water for influenza is another tool for disease control and an opportunity for cooperation between industry, the U of M and the Board.

### **Tuberculosis Tracing**

Dr. Linda Glaser presented information on recent tuberculosis (TB) tracing conducted in Minnesota. A 2,700-head dairy herd in California was found to be infected with the same strain of TB as another infected herd in 2002 in the same county. The Board and USDA were able to find seven of eight total exposed animals in Minnesota.

A 350-head dairy herd located in Michigan's TB Free area was found to be positive with the Michigan strain of TB. Twenty-nine sites in Minnesota with 27,400 steers were quarantined. All

quarantined lots will be slaughtered by August 2014. Two producers own 65 percent of those animals.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services**

Dr. Steve Just spoke about the restructuring of USDA and redistricting of Board/USDA field personnel. Five disease management districts were created in Minnesota to divide up work throughout the state. All of these districts are comprised of both USDA and Board staff members. The new districts seem to be working well.

Within Veterinary Services, restructuring on a geographical and functional level has taken place. Groups have been divided from east to west across the U.S. to cover tasks involving surveillance, import/export, science technology and analysis, and information technology program support. While it is still unclear what all of the restructuring will mean for USDA personnel in Minnesota, the changes seem to be positive and should not interfere with the level of service that USDA provides to its customers.

### **Upcoming State/Federal Work Conference**

Dr. Beth Thompson invited board members to attend the next Board/USDA work conference. On Wednesday, September 25, 2013, the conference will include a panel discussion including the state veterinarians from North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The states hope to gain better understanding on the challenges within each state and learn from others' experiences.

### **Date and Place of Next Board Meeting**

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on the U of M St. Paul campus. A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann  
Executive Director