



**Summary Minutes of the  
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health**

- Committee**
- Michael Blackwell
  - Steve Crawford
  - Peter Cuneo
  - Glenda Davis
  - David Fernandez
  - Maximiliano Fernandez
  - John Fischer
  - Wayne Freese (remote)
  - Mary Ann Kniebel
  - Daniel Grooms
  - Annette B. Jones (remote)
  - Mary Ann Kniebel
  - John Mahoney
  - Randy MacMillan (absent)
  - Judith McGeary
  - Willie Reed (absent)
  - G. Donald Ritter
  - David Smith (absent)
  - Belinda Thompson
  - Elizabeth Wagstrom

**Date and Time**      February 23 – 25, 2016

**Location**            *Marriott Dallas/Addison Quorum*  
14901 Dallas Parkway, Dallas, TX 75254  
Public access and listen-only conference line

**Purpose**                Consider, deliberate, and propose recommendations on various animal health matters. Topics included:

1. One Health
2. Chronic Wasting Disease
3. Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine
4. Comprehensive Integrated Animal Health Surveillance
5. Scrapie Program
6. Emerging Disease Response

**USDA**                 Veterinary Services Executive Team (remote)

- Dr. Jack Shere, Acting Deputy Administrator
- Dr. Thomas J. Myers, Associate Deputy Administrator  
Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Service (SPRS)
- Dr. Mark L. Davidson, Associate Deputy Administrator  
National Import Export Services (NIES)
- Dr. Elizabeth A. Lautner, Associate Deputy Administrator  
Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS)

Dr. Joseph Anelli, Director One Health Coordination (remote)  
Dr. Alecia Naugle, Director Sheep, Goat, Cervid, Eqine (remote)

**USDA (continued)**

Dr. Jonathan Zack, Director National Preparedness and IC (remote)  
 Dr. Brian McCluskey, (then) Executive Director (STAS)  
 Dr. Diane Sutton, Sheep and Goat Health Commodity Team Lead  
 Dr. LeeAnn Thomas, Director Avian, Swine, and Aquatic (remote)  
 Dr. Dana Cole, Director Risk Identification and Risk Assessment (remote)

**Day 1 Meeting Summary (February 23)**

RJ Cabrera, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (Committee) called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Member introductions were followed by remarks from Elizabeth Wagstrom, SACAH Chairperson. Dr. Jack Shere, Veterinary Services (VS) Acting Deputy Administrator, gave welcome remarks and introduced the other members of the Veterinary Services Executive Team who each delivered brief updates on their respective program units. Public attendance was adequate (between 20 – 30 telephonically on Day 1; only 2 visitors).

Dr. Joseph Anelli, Director of One Health Coordination Center and Senior Advisor for Agriculture and Health Systems, delivered the first of three One Health presentations: *Working with Traditional and Non-Traditional Stakeholders*. In line with VS' strategic plan for building new collaborations and partnerships and sustaining existing ones, USDA asked the Committee to describe the preferred methods of outreach to traditional industry and non-traditional stakeholders for identifying and addressing One Health issues of concern. Dr. Anelli followed with a presentation on *Identifying Zoonotic Diseases of Concern*, during which the USDA asked SACAH to:

1. Identify zoonotic diseases of concern to each animal industry group for integration into the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD), surveillance, preparedness, and response planning.
2. Provide a list of zoonotic diseases recommended for inclusion in the NLRAD, surveillance, preparedness and response planning and a justification for including each.
3. Recommend a process for receiving input from various stakeholders, both traditional (such as animal industry groups) and nontraditional, to revise the NLRAD.

Dr. Alecia Naugle, Director of Sheep, Goat, Cervid, and Equine Health Center, ended Day 1 with a presentation on Chronic Wasting Disease, seeking the Committee's input on how suitable the program's objectives were for addressing the needs of the cervid industry. Dr. Naugle also sought input on whether and how the herd certification program could be changed, if at all.

**Day 2 Meeting Summary (February 24)**

Jonathan T. Zack, also with SPRS, began Day 2 with a follow-on presentation for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Vaccine. USDA APHIS is still looking to modernize the North American FMD Vaccine Bank and expand it with sufficient vaccine to prepare the United States animal agriculture industry for an outbreak. This objective is valued at billions of dollars and

vaccine is not sufficient alone. To that end, the USDA posed additional follow-on questions to the Committee in this ongoing dialogue around FMD Vaccine:

- What animal or animal product movements should be subject to “stop movement” orders by State Officials or Federal Order at time zero of an outbreak?
- What animal or animal products should be allowed to move at time zero of an outbreak? What Secure Food Supply Plan is priority to implement?
- If vaccine is to be used, what priority for vaccine use? Suppressive vaccination strategy (control the outbreak in focal region) or protective vaccination strategy (protect breeding animals, or milking cows, etc., for vaccinate to live strategy)?
- Does SACAH have any specific recommendations regarding the initial movement and control activities for an FMD outbreak?
- Does SACAH have any specific recommendations regarding the “USDA APHIS Classification of Phases and Types of a FMD Outbreak and Response”?

The Committee opted to postpone its review of the APHIS’ responses to its recommendations tendered in June 2015. This will be discussed during a future public meeting or teleconference.

Dr. Brian McCluskey, then Executive Director of Science, Technology and Analysis Services, gave a presentation on Comprehensive Integrated Animal Health Surveillance, describing how consistent application and integration using uniform processes and methods have not yet been achieved. USDA APHIS sought the following from SACAH:

1. Recommendations on how best to help all stakeholders understand the importance of robust data collection, integration and reporting to the ultimate realization of comprehensive integrated animal health surveillance.
2. Input on various data management assessments to find both short term and long term solutions to management of animal health data.
3. Suggestions on the needs of external customers and stakeholders for animal health information (e.g., how best to access the information; the frequency of availability; format(s) for reporting).

Dr. Joseph Anelli ended Day 2 with the third of three One Health presentations on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) which is recognized as one of the most serious threats to the health of animals and humans worldwide. Controlling AMR is a top national security and public health priority. Funding remains a significant obstacle to achieving USDA objectives to accelerate capacity building for AMR surveillance and monitoring. USDA sought Committee ideas on:

1. The sufficiency of USDA’s involvement with the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and its targeted objectives for AMR?
2. The adequacy of resources for implementing the USDA AMR Action Plan and GHSA Action Packages?
3. Nationwide monitoring for AMR?

**Day 3 Meeting Summary (February 25)**

Dr. Diane Sutton began Day 3 with a Scrapie presentation centered primarily on surveillance. The Committee was asked to: (1) develop novel strategies for increasing producer and veterinarian submission of mature sheep/goats that die on-farm and mature sheep/goats that are slaughter on-farm, and (1) develop strategies for increasing producer and veterinarian reporting of mature sheep/goats that have scrapie signs.

Drs. LeeAnn Thomas and Dana Cole, delivered the last presentation of the Day 3 on *Emerging Disease Response*, and asked the Committee to consider the following questions:

1. Based on the definition of an emerging disease, are there thresholds that should be established before a disease is considered to be an emerging disease? If so, what should these thresholds be?
2. What additional criteria for response should be considered?
3. What criteria (or combinations of criteria) should VS focus on when determining response activities typically used in control or eradication programs (movement restrictions, vaccination activities, depopulation)
4. What evidence should VS consider to determine when (or if) an emerging disease is endemic?

The Committee ended the meeting with plans for two follow-on public advisory teleconferences scheduled for May 2 and June 16. A final face-to-face for the FY 2016 is planned for the first week in September 2016 to be determined and planned (as needed) by the Agency. During these teleconferences, the Committee will build on the framework developed during this meeting. There was one substantial public comment delivered from W. Steve Parker, Merial, Director Veterinary Health, on the Day 3 record regarding FMD vaccine readiness.

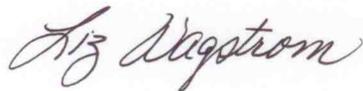
The meeting was adjourned by approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



R. Jeanese Cabrera  
Designated Federal Officer

I certify these summary minutes of the April 28 – 29, 2015, Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health meeting are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Elizabeth Wagstrom  
SACAH Chair

**Note and Disclaimer:** The minutes of this public meeting are a summary only. A full transcript and audio recording of this meeting have been uploaded to the SACAH Web site. The reader is cautioned to not rely on the minutes to represent the final, approved, consensus-derived recommendations offered to the Department. Such advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisories, letters, or reports prepared and transmitted to the USDA from the Committee Chair(s).