



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

Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Blackwell• Stephen Crawford• S. Peder Cuneo• Glenda Davis• David Fernandez• Maximiliano Fernandez• John Fischer• Wayne Freese• Daniel Grooms• Annette B. Jones• Mary Ann Kniebel• John MacMillan• John Mahoney• Judith McGearry• Willie Reed• G. Donald Ritter• Charles Rogers (called in on Sept. 8th)• David Smith• Belinda Thompson• Elizabeth Wagstrom
Date and Time	September 7-8, 2016
Location	<i>United States Department of Agriculture</i> Jamie L. Whitten Building Williamsburg Room 104-A 1400 Jefferson Drive SW Washington, DC 20250 Public access and listen-only conference line
Purpose	Consider, deliberate, and propose recommendations on various animal health matters. Topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Infections with Salmonella Associated with Contact with Live Poultry• Emerging Diseases• Comprehensive Integrated Animal Health Surveillance• VS Stakeholder Engagement with Traditional and Non-Traditional Stakeholders• National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Update and Request for Input on Process for Stakeholder Priorities• Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine bank update• Maximizing the value of SACAH to Veterinary Services - how to engage the committee to solve problems• Recommendations for how to maximize effectiveness of the committee and potential agenda items for the 2016 -2018 committee term
USDA Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Jack Shere, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services (VS)• Dr. Steve Kappes, Associate Administrator Agricultural Research Service (ARS)• Dr. Thomas J. Myers, Associate Deputy Administrator Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Service (SPRS), VS

USDA Personnel Cont.

- Dr. Elizabeth Lautner, Associate Deputy Administrator Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS), VS
- Dr. Brian McCluskey, Associate Deputy Administrator, VS
- Dr. John Clifford, Chief Trade Advisor, VS
- Dr. LeeAnn Thomas, Director Avian, Swine, and Aquatic Health, SPRS
- Dr. Dana Cole, Director Risk Identification and Risk Assessment, STAS (remote)
- Dr. Jonathan Zack, Director National Preparedness and Incident Command, SPRS (remote)
- Dr. Allen Huddleston, Associate Sheep and Goat Health Team Lead, SPRS
- Dr. Diane Sutton, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- Dr. Patricia Fox, Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)
- Ms. Rosalyn Floyd, Committee Staff

Day 1 Meeting Summary (September 7)

Dr. Sutton, DFO for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (Committee) called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 AM and gave introductory remarks. Introductions of those in attendance followed. Three members of the public attended in person on this day.

Dr. Shere, gave welcome remarks and discussed:

- The transition of Dr. Clifford from Deputy Administrator to the Chief Trade Advisor
- Shift in leadership; 55 percent of VS workforce is eligible to retire
- Critical need for succession planning at this juncture
- Saul T. Wilson Scholarship Program expansion and increase in scholarship amount to recruit top applicants
- Veterinary Medical Officer Career Program (VMOCP) to recruit and develop new leaders from inside and outside VS
- Mentorship program to find and develop leaders throughout VS
- Leveraging and engaging the SACAH members
 - Changes in Charter to move committee management to SPRS
 - DFO changed to subject matter expert to facilitate dialog with the committee.
 - Importance of providing new committee members with training on Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and VS mission areas and role of the committee
 - Desire of VS to partner more with the Committee to find solutions to problems

Dr. Wagstrom, SACAH Chairperson, gave remarks and introduced Dr. Thomas and Dr. Cole who joined the committee via teleconference and presented:

- Human infections with Salmonella associated with live poultry
 - APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State departments of public health and animal health to investigate outbreaks of human salmonella infections linked to contact with live poultry, especially chicks and ducklings. These outbreaks include eight ongoing multistate

outbreaks, in which (as of July 19, 2016) a total of 611 people from 45 states were reported to be infected between January 4 and June 25, 2016. To date the involvement of VS in these outbreaks has been the following:

- Epidemiologic, traceback, and laboratory support
- Local communication and coordination
 - Since Federal, State and local agriculture officials have established relationships with some of the implicated retail outlets and hatcheries, CDC requested help from VS with communication and coordination during their outbreak investigations.
 - VS also assisted CDC by educating retail outlets on salmonella transmission and programs available within the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).
- VS and National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) published “Best Management Practices Handbook – A Guide to the Mitigation of *Salmonella* Contamination at Poultry Hatcheries” in March of 2014. This guide was developed to assist this segment of the industry in developing and maintaining practices to decrease *Salmonella* contamination of products at the hatchery level.
- The NPIP has a voluntary *Salmonella* Monitored program. The U.S. *Salmonella* Monitored Program is a voluntary program intended to be the basis from which the hatching industry (those who own hatcheries) may conduct a program for the prevention and control of salmonellosis. Its aim is to reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* organisms in day-old poultry through an effective and practical sanitation program in the hatchery. This will afford other segments of the poultry industry an opportunity to reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* in their products.
- VS proposed to create a subcommittee under the SACAH to include NPIP office staff; NPIP State Official State Agency representatives and State Agriculture Representatives from affected States; salmonella researchers from VS, the Agricultural Research Service or other sources; CDC and other public health partners; and Industry partners including retail outlets, hatcheries and commercial production experts. This subcommittee would be tasked with helping VS answer the following questions:
 - What additional live poultry-associated salmonellosis prevention efforts should be taken by:
 - VS
 - CDC
 - State public health officials
 - State animal health officials
 - Poultry producers
 - Retail outlets
 - Are there additional opportunities for education and outreach that we have not utilized to date?
 - Are there any updates or additions needed to the current Best Management Practices Handbook?
 - How can we get more participation in the NPIP Salmonella Monitored Program, especially for mail-order hatcheries?
- Committee discussion followed:
 - Need for effective communication and education for backyard poultry producers and the public who purchase live poultry.
 - Representation by stakeholders is needed on the subcommittee to make it effective.

- Committee agreed unanimously that a SACAH subcommittee should be formed to make recommendations for reducing human infections of Salmonella associated with live poultry.
 - Members of the committee willing to serve on the subcommittee were identified.
- Emergency Response Plan and National List of Reportable Animal Diseases
 - Provided clarity on the emerging disease definition
 - Three different categories of agents can be considered emerging:
 - An unknown agent
 - A newly identified agent
 - A previously identified or known pathogen that has a change in epidemiology
 - Implementation Plan was summarized:
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Provide global awareness and assessment
 - Identify diseases of potential concern early
 - Characterize each potential emerging animal health issue by risk level
 - Domestic diseases
 - Potential emerging disease identified in the U.S. would be assigned to one of four risk levels:
 - Nominal
 - Potential
 - Pending
 - Current risk
 - Structure for developing emerging disease teams within VS to conduct a risk analysis and determine additional steps following collection of information from industry, researchers, States, Tribes, international partners and other stakeholders.
- Committee deliberated and offered recommendations. See committee report for final recommendations.

The committee broke for lunch.

Dr. McCluskey joined the Committee for the discussion on comprehensive and integrated animal health surveillance (CIS) to answer questions regarding VS plans for CIS. The Committee discussed:

- Resources needed to maintain the network of animal health laboratories and to continue to develop the capability of these laboratories to electronically message and share data.
- Data collection and sharing for animal diseases
- That all reporting systems especially those involved in emergency management need to report across all systems and communicate with State, Federal, and Tribal systems and that the VS Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory at Plum Island be able to transmit results to the system.
- Monitoring swine at slaughterhouses
- Initiation of a nationwide look at cattle movements
 - Implementation of electronic monitoring
 - Testing versus other types of surveillance
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) becoming part of comprehensive integrated surveillance
- Technical barriers for field operations including digital technology availability

Committee deliberated on recommendations for CIS. See committee report for final recommendations.

Dr. Huddleston discussed VS Stakeholder Engagement with Traditional and Non-Traditional Stakeholders with the committee focusing on which outreach tools were most effective in reaching stakeholders and solicited recommendations for changes. The committee deliberated on this topic.

The DFO adjourned the meeting approximately 5:00 PM and requested all members reconvene at 9:00 AM, September 8.

Day 2 Meeting Summary (September 8)

DFO Sutton began Day 2 at approximately 9:00 AM by introducing of ADFO Dr. Fox, National Epidemiology Officer for Avian Health Programs and taking the roll. All committee members were present except Charles Rogers who joined by phone.

The Day 2 discussions lead off with a continuation of Emerging Diseases Response Plan conversation with Drs. Thomas and Cole. The Committee discussed the definition of emerging disease and adding contagiousness between animals and transmissibility between herds to the plan criteria.

During the discussion, Dr. Myers shared information about Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding:

- At the start of an outbreak VS uses existing APHIS funding for the initial response. If it appears that there are insufficient resources in APHIS funding is requested from CCC.
- CCC funds are held by the Department of Treasury any agency that has congressional authority to tap CCC funds may request them. Such request must go through the Secretary and be approved by the office of Management and Budget so it takes some time.
- VS will create a presentation to help educate the committee on the funding process for a later conference call.

Dr. Lautner and Dr. Kappes (remote) presented National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Update and Requested Input on Process for Stakeholder Priorities.

Overview

- The NBAF will be a key national asset to protect our animal agriculture industry in the United States. It will replace the aging Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), and provide capabilities critical to conduct research, develop vaccines, perform diagnostic testing, and train veterinarians in preparation for, and response against, foreign animal diseases (FAD), zoonotic diseases, and emerging diseases.
- For nearly 50 years, the USDA owned and operated the PIADC for ARS and APHIS programs on FADs. PIADC is the only large animal bio-containment facility in the U.S. allowed to work with FMD live virus.
- The Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred the ownership and operations of PIADC to DHS, and USDA has continued to conduct its programs at PIADC. In 2009, DHS with input from USDA, selected Manhattan, Kansas as the NBAF site to replace the aging PIADC. The PIADC is located on Plum Island in New York.

Transition Planning

- Timeline: DHS plans for the NBAF facility to be fully operational in 2023 with the select agent registration obtained by December 2022. Plans are under way to provide a seamless transition from PIADC to the NBAF that includes an overlap of operations to ensure no interruption of the critical science mission and capabilities.
- Executive Steering Committee (ESC): The purpose of the ESC is to develop and implement a framework that will support strategic partnership initiatives, operational planning activities, and ongoing NBAF construction until the NBAF becomes fully operational in 2023. The ESC members are Jamie Johnson, Chair, DHS, Beth Lautner, APHIS, and Steven Kappes, ARS. The ESC meets at least monthly and quarterly with the chairs of the working groups that report to the ESC.
- Working Groups: There are five working groups reporting to the ESC to address transition planning:
 - operational stand-up;
 - partnership development;
 - facility advisory;
 - advanced research and training;
 - workforce development; and
 - budget
- Partnership Summit: For the past two years, Kansas State University convened a “Pioneering Partnerships with NBAF” meeting. Attendees included Federal, State and local governmental personnel, academics, representatives from various livestock producer and animal health organizations, and other regional and local stakeholders. The event is a forum for conversation about how NBAF will serve America's bio/agro security needs, and allow stakeholders to share their ideas, recommendations, needs and collaboration possibilities.

NBAF Collaborations

The NBAF will be at the center of a strong partnership between USDA, DHS, academia, and industry. USDA has participated in the design of the NBAF and on working groups planning for the transition from PIADC. DHS is developing a partnership, termed BASIS (Bio/Agro Security Innovation System), to help foster innovation in and around NBAF through engagement, partnerships, and enhanced public and private-sector investments.

APHIS Information

- APHIS’ Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) protects the U.S. agricultural system through early detection and diagnosis of FADs, develops and produces diagnostic reagents and proficiency test panels for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), conducts vaccine testing and acts as custodian of the North American FMD Vaccine Bank, trains veterinarians in the recognition of FADs, performs safety testing and safety treatment of biological materials including animal products being imported into the U.S., and develops and validates diagnostic assays for detection and recovery from a FAD. FADDL serves as a reference laboratory for NAHLN, an FMD reference laboratory for the World Organization for Animal Health, and a reference center for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

- The NBAF will provide added capability to FADDL through:
 - Access to BSL-4 laboratories and animal rooms to address high consequence zoonotic diseases such as Ebola, Nipah, and Hendra.
 - Additional BSL-2 laboratory space to meet the increasing needs of the NAHLN.
 - Improved training/necropsy facilities for training veterinarians in the detection of FADs.
 - The ability to produce reagents in the NBAF BDM.

ARS Information

- ARS' Foreign Animal Disease Research Unit (FADRU) conducts research to deliver scientific information and veterinary medical countermeasures to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate animal diseases that pose the highest threats to the United States. The FADRU conducts research on FMD, Classical Swine Fever (CSF), African Swine Fever (ASF), and Vesicular Stomatitis (VS).
- The NBAF will provide added capacity to FADRU through:
 - Access to BSL-4 laboratories and animal rooms to address high consequence zoonotic diseases such as Ebola, Nipah, and Hendra.
 - Expanding the research program to seven different types of pathogens.
 - Increasing research on vector borne diseases.
 - Better integration of basic and applied research.
 - Enhanced capability to collaborate with commercial partners to transfer technology and countermeasures.

The committee discussed way to engage stakeholders in the development of the NBAF research priorities. See the committee report for the final recommendations.

Dr. Zack and Dr. Clifford provided an update on the FMD vaccine bank:

- Dr. Clifford is working with a team determine the best way fund the needed FMD vaccine bank. The exact cost is hard to estimate. The minimum requirements the team is working from include:
 - top 10 strains of the FMD virus
 - 25 million doses of each strain
 - build to this level over five years
- Industry feedback, was to work through the Farm Bill to get an appropriation, not just authorizing language to support the larger vaccine bank. The size of the bank will be dependent on the industry's ability to gain support for the initiative.
- The vaccine bank will be ongoing
- Vaccine will be stored with the manufacture
- Storage costs are estimated to be \$0.50 to the \$1.00 per dose
- Shelf life of FMD vaccine can be longer than five years, but to assure a potent supply the manufacture will rotate them out when they reach five years and give a partial credit toward purchase of fresh vaccine of about 50 percent.

The committee broke for lunch.

An opportunity was provided for public comments. Megin Nichols DVM, MPH, DACVPM Enteric Zoonoses Team Lead, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention commented that she and CDC supported the development of a subcommittee to work on recommendations for reducing human infections of Salmonella associated with live poultry and that CDC would like to participate with the committee.

Dr. Myers, discussed maximizing the value of SACAH to Veterinary Services and how to engage the committee to solve problems. The discussion also included recommendations for how to maximize effectiveness of the committee and potential agenda items for the 2016 - 2018 committee term.

- Hold SACH meeting in locations that facilitate participation by VS leadership and staff.
- Leverage the Committee by forming a partnership to address shared concerns.
- Need a One Health approach that includes humans, animals (domestic and wild) and the environment.
- One challenge going forward is on the environmental side is the wildlife and domestic animal interface. For example TB in white tailed deer, avian influenza in wild birds, and diseases in feral hogs. This is not a set of problems that veterinary services can solve on our own or resolve by developing a resolution that says veterinary services you ought to do X, Y or Z. It's something that requires all of us and others that aren't around this table, folks that represent the natural resources community to work together on.
- Another challenge is fulfilling our role in the Global Health Security Agenda part of which is addressing antimicrobial resistance.
- Human capital preparedness is something that all of us need to grapple with in the private sector and at the State, Tribe and federal levels. Due to budget cuts, USDA lost about 20 percent of the workforce and 25 percent of the VS workforce is eligible to retire. The preparedness budget proposal, which was included in the President's 2017 budget, asked for an additional \$20 million to \$25 million to try and help rebuild the workforce in order to be able to respond effectively to emergencies. The States and private sector also have fewer large animal health resources.
- There is a growing expectation that there be a link between preventative measures on the part of industry, states and the federal government before future expenditures of tax payer dollars are made. The Secretary asked VS, given the billion dollar expenditure for HPAI, to make a link between the receipt of indemnity payments with an assurance that people that receive indemnity have done everything they could to prevent that infection and prevent that outbreak. NPIP adopted a 14 point program on bio-security and point number 14 provides for the official state agencies to audit those plans.
- Committee discussed:
 - Involvement of the Committee in the after action and lessons learned process following disease outbreaks was discussed.
 - Use of subcommittees to identify potential solutions to problems. The committee would apply a broader perspective to what the experts on the subcommittee produce and determine does it make sense in the real world and either recommend the product forward or send it back to the sub-committee to consider additional input or options.
 - How the Committee could work more as a partner not just identifying what VS should do but what contribution industry, the States/Tribes and others should make toward a solution and how can we manage within available resources.
 - How these changes would require a higher level of effort by committee members
 - Need to address all sectors within a commodity, the large commercial industry, smaller free range and personal use producers, and the show community. The show community goes to fairs, often cross state lines, in swine we have regularly have influenza that is

- documented in show pigs that ended up causing human illness among young people and visitors to the fairs.
- Need for earlier provision of materials to the committee to allow more thought and consultation with stakeholders.
 - Potential topics for the committee going forward.

The Committee deliberated and drafted recommendations on the topics discussed during the meeting. See the committee report for final recommendations.

USDA wants to obtain diverse and engaged members for the next 2 year term from 2017-2019. The committee was asked to solicit nominations for the next term of the committee and to reapply for membership if eligible and interested.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM on September 8, 2016.

Respectfully submitted:

DIANE SUTTON

Digitally signed by DIANE SUTTON
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of Agriculture, cn=DIANE SUTTON, 0 9 2342 19200300 100 1 1=1 2001000001514
Date: 2016.11.02 06:44:01 -0400

Diane L. Sutton
Designated Federal Officer

I certify these summary minutes of the September 7-8, 2016, 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).