



**Summary Minutes of the  
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health  
Public Conference  
April 28 – 29, 2015**

- Committee**
- Stacey Evans
  - John R. Fischer
  - Wayne Freese
  - Adam Hater (absent)
  - Donald Hoenig
  - Annette Jones (telecom)
  - Karen Jordan
  - Mary Ann Kniebel
  - Judith McGeary (telcom)
  - David Meeker
  - Edmund Orok-Edem (absent)
  - Boyd H. Parr
  - Willie Reed (absent)
  - G. Donald Ritter (Day 2)
  - David Smith
  - Gilles Stockton
  - R. Scott Stuart (absent)
  - Brian Thomas (absent)
  - Elizabeth Wagstrom (Day 1)
  - Dr. Cindy Wolf

**Date and Time** April 28 – 29, 2015

**Location** Marriott Bethesda  
5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD (Boardroom)  
Public access and listen-only conference line

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

1. Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases
2. Foot and Mouth Disease Preparedness and Vaccine
3. Avian Influenza
4. Draft Framework for Emerging Diseases and Proposed National List of Reportable Animal Diseases
5. Bovine Tuberculosis Molecular Epidemiology and Mexico Strategy
6. Antimicrobial Resistance.

**USDA** Gary Woodward, Deputy Under Secretary  
Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
Mark L Davidson, Associate Deputy Administrator  
APHIS VS National Import Export Services (NIES)  
Elizabeth A. Lautner, Associate Deputy Administrator  
APHIS VS Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS)

**USDA (continued)** Dr. Brian McCluskey, APHIS VS Chief Epidemiologist  
Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services (SPRS)  
Dr. Jonathan T. Zack, APHIS VS (SPRS)  
Dr. LeeAnn Thomas, APHIS VS (SPRS)  
Dr. Langston Hull, APHIS VS (NIES)  
Dr. Suelee Robbe Austerman, APHIS VS (NIES)  
Dr. Larry Granger, APHIS VS Antimicrobial Resistance

### **Day 1 Meeting Summary (April 28, 2015)**

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. Ms. Anne Dunigan was introduced as facilitator for the meeting followed by committee member introductions. This also served as the official roll call (two members joined via teleconference; five members absent as noted above; two members attended 1 day each). Member introductions were followed by remarks from Donald Hoenig, the SACAH Chairperson. Mark Davidson followed with welcome remarks on behalf of John Clifford who would join the meeting on Day 2. The meeting would be followed both day on Twitter. Public attendance was robust on both days (approximately 20 – 25); those joining via public teleconference averaged about 35 people at any given time.

The first presentation was given remotely by Dr. Brian McCluskey, Chief Epidemiologist, SPRS, who talked about Swine Enteric Coronavirus Diseases (SECD)—the PEDv Federal Order and the global picture. In response to last year's outbreak and concerns from trade partners and other stakeholders, USDA issued a Federal Order (FO) on June 5, 2014 that mandated reporting of SECD cases. USDA posed the following questions to the Committee:

- Provide feedback on the value of the federal mandatory reporting requirements and the information that is shared with stakeholders from the data collected.
- Provide feedback on the value of USDA support of diagnostic testing for SECD.
- Provide guidance on the future of SECD control and the role of the USDA in those efforts.

Jonathan T. Zack, also with SPRS, followed with a follow-on presentation Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Vaccine. The Committee revisited certain aspects of the FMD vaccine subject. Dr. James Roth, of Iowa State University, who delivered a presentation during last year's public meeting, described a vaccine bank of 250 million doses across multiple strains, which would require an investment of \$150 million per year for 5 years. For context, the entirety of VS' budget is \$280 million to \$300 million per year. To ensure the success of further development of FMD vaccine capabilities, APHIS would need to take several steps beginning with modernizing the North American FMD Vaccine Bank. To that end, USDA asked the consider FMD and Vaccine in this context and posed the following questions:

- How should APHIS and its stakeholders modernize FMD vaccine capabilities?

- What should be the minimum quantities of vaccine available, and minimum time to delivery, to provide effective response?
- Can there be cost sharing or public private partnerships to modernize FMD vaccine capabilities?

Dr. LeeAnn Thomas, APHIS VS SPRS, delivered the last presentation of the Day 1 on Avian Influenza. There have been several ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 incidents along the Pacific, Central and Mississippi Flyways since December 2014. Cases in wild birds, captive wild birds, backyard poultry, and commercial poultry have been reported in multiple states. Dr. Thomas underscored the fact that the CDC considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections in wild birds, backyard flocks, and commercial poultry, to be low and that to date no human infections with these viruses have been detected. Dr. Thomas also assured all that the United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, one in which USDA actively looks for the disease as well as provides compensation to affected producers to encourage reporting. Surveillance for avian influenza will continue until further notice.

This presentation was primarily information only and there were no questions posed to the Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m. after invitation was extended for anyone to offer a comment or address the Committee.

### **Day 2 Meeting Summary (April 29, 2015)**

RJ Cabrera called the second day of the meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. Ms. Dunigan reviewed the prior day's meeting and the agenda for Day 2. Ms. Cabrera changed agenda order by beginning Day 2 with committee discussion of any administrative matters in order to preserve the afternoon for deliberations and honing the recommendations.

Dr. Lautner Elizabeth A. Lautner, APHIS VS STAS, delivered the first presentation of Day 2 with discussion on two related animal health concept papers published last year for comment: a national list of reportable animal diseases (NLRAD) and a national framework for emerging disease response. Rapid detection and response to emerging diseases are critical to animal agriculture to prevent or limit sudden and negative animal health, economic, food security, and public health consequences.

USDA posed the following questions for the Committee's consideration:

- Provide feedback on the strengths, weaknesses, value, and feasibility.
- Provide feedback on key issues such as diseases to include in the NLRAD (a list was provided with the concept paper); who should be required to report and to whom; what should be reported, timelines for reporting; triggers for reporting emerging

diseases; and, the process to determine the appropriate response to an emerging disease.

- Recommend actions USDA could take to promote acceptance and support among State and industry stakeholders.

Dr. Suelee Austerman, APHIS VS NIES, followed with a presentation on the science of bovine tuberculosis within the context of molecular epidemiology, seeking feedback on the implementation of whole genome sequencing (WGS) in the United States Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) Eradication Program. WGS has broad implications for not only bTB, but for other diseases of high consequence. This methodology has the potential to identify the source of an outbreak with greater precision than before. Communicating with resource challenged local public health laboratories and TB controllers have not been routine, particularly when *M. bovis* is diagnosed in humans working in the animal agricultural sector. Given that a well-developed database can add significant value to public health investigations, the USDA requested that the Committee:

- Provide feedback to USDA on the implementation of WGS for *M. bovis* for disease tracking and potential improvements that can be made.
- Recommend any additional steps USDA could do to improve database building and international collaborations.
- Identify how USDA could best communicate these results to the industry and other stakeholders, including public health.

Dr. Langston Hull, APHIS VS NIES, immediately followed with a related presentation on the progress made towards the collaborative framework of the joint strategic plan between the United States and Mexico regarding the cattle trade and bovine tuberculosis. The U.S. and Mexico continue to make excellent and notable progress toward the objectives and goals of the plan with cooperation and transparency. The ultimate goal is to maintain relevancy of the document up to and beyond the 2018 benchmark with an eye toward theoretical disease status equivalency for bovine health in trade. Within this context, the USDA requests that the Committee:

- Provide feedback on the reported progress and conceptual impact potential of the Plan.
- Identify how USDA might further fortify the Plan and thus ensure a greater probability of effectiveness and success
- Recommend any identified fortifications to the Plan.

And finally, Dr. Larry Granger, APHIS VS Antimicrobial Resistance, led a follow-on discussion with the Committee on the status of antimicrobial resistance to build on last year's recommendations submitted by the Committee. The USDA is developing a business plan to for monitoring use and resistance, the NVSL/NAHLN for surveillance and genomic evaluation of resistant organisms, the National Veterinary Accreditation program for education and outreach to veterinarians, and information technology infrastructure reinforcement. These activities together represent significant boost in funding for research and surveillance. The USDA has requested \$10 million for FY 2016 to support these activities. The USDA requests that the Committee:

- Provide feedback on the USDA activities that address AMR and on areas of Departmental investment in infrastructure.
- Identify how USDA could best collaborate with industry and other private sector interests to supplement and sustain these activities; and
- Recommend actions USDA could take to promote acceptance and support among State and other Federal agency stakeholders for USDA activities related to the AMR issue.

The Committee ended Day 2 with discussion revisiting each topic and rough-drafted recommendations (including Avian Influenza). Members were appointed to multiple workgroups who would work on finalizing the recommendations through the end of May 2015. These would ultimately be submitted to the USDA Secretary.

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.



Donald E. Hoenig  
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).