

# Livestock Health Committee:

Chair: Dr. Tom Dunn, Albany Co.

Reporter: Dr. Steve Paisley

9:30 – 11:30 AM, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

Cam-Plex Energy Bldg, Gillette, WY

**ANIMAL WELFARE:** Walt Cook (WY State Vet), Jim Schwartz (Director of WY State Livestock Board), and Steve Kopperud  
Jim Schwartz – WY is under-equipped to handle animal cruelty issues in the state, with only 4 individuals qualified (within the state) to act on animal cruelty cases. Be prepared to contribute to draft legislation that will be addressing animal welfare and animal cruelty in WY. Jim is working closely with Representative Sue Wallis in drafting legislation dealing with horses.

**Steve Kopperud** commented that in 35 states, HSUS has coordinated organizations working on animal welfare issues. They are working to remove the “normal livestock production practices” exemptions from existing legislation. They are also interested in creating additional terminology such as animal “hoarding.”

Other states have added particular clauses to “Deputize particular organizations” to assist with animal welfare issues in the state. This can become an issue if aggressive animal welfare personnel and organizations become involved with enforcement.

**Chairman Dunn** suggested that the Livestock Board and WSGA should look to other national guidelines (such as BQA guidelines for animal care and handling) to assist with WY policies concerning animal husbandry.

**Lex Madden** mentioned the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) has developed materials and videos outlining proper handling of livestock.

**Nels Smith**, Sundance suggested that there are 3 main issues: a) laws concerning animal cruelty, b) Industry standards and guidelines, and c) statutes or regulations that establish the standards. He recommended minimizing the amount of legislation and regulation written.

**ANIMAL HEALTH:** Update from Walt Cook, WSVL Intern Ashley Carr, Dr. Donald Montgomery

Brucellosis Chapter 2 changes: No longer required state-wide brucellosis testing at sale barns. Cattle coming from the designated surveillance area still must be tested. There are concerns about what will happen to producers and operations within the surveillance area –what will the ultimate impact be from the additional testing required?

Discussion on Trich testing, with comments from Lex Madden. There is now an additional PCR test that requires only 1 test (\$30) vs. the original 3 tests (\$3/test) required by the old testing system.

Tuberculosis – there was a rodeo bull found to be positive at slaughter for TB, which had recently been in WY. WSLB instituted an order setting up additional testing for TB surveillance and control.

Swine flu and H1N1 update – H1N1 is a combination of Avian, Human and Swine Flu strains. There are concerns that the human population may infect the livestock population. Need to consider good biosecurity practices for swine and poultry operations.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Pete Obermueller – Cynthia Lummis’ congressional office

Maggie Beal – Sen John Barrasso’s senate office

**Horse slaughter** – isn’t technically banned, they removed funding for slaughter inspection, and have banned state-to-state transportation of horses bound for slaughter. Neither congresswoman Lummis or Sen. Barrasso is on their respective Ag Committees, but both are up-to-date on the issue. Both offices suggest that there will be very little movement on the issue in the near future, but it should eventually make it to committee.

**Animal I.D. (NAIS)** – Entire house Ag Committee is concerned about NAIS, who is going to pay for it’s implementation, how costs are going to be handled, etc. Lex Madden suggests that the program needs to remain voluntary.

## WSVL UPDATE:

**Don Montgomery** – Current brucellosis research update on finding candidates that could be used for new vaccines. Also some interesting research in utilizing new *Brucella abortus* proteins that could be used for diagnostic tools. Vaccine and diagnostic test development is a long, intensive process that requires constant funding.

- a) Just finishing 13 year project of susceptibility of cattle to CWD. Donal O'Toole and others are saying that cattle are not susceptible to CWD by natural route of exposure
- b) Secondary study has also been conducted with sheep, so far, showing that there is no transmission of CWD from wildlife to sheep.

## EXISTING RESOLUTIONS:

#10 – Support efforts to work with the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee, the Wyoming Livestock Board, and the Governor's Brucellosis Task Force. (Amended June 2004, expired June 2009)  
Hendry – moved and seconded to continue policy 10. **Motion carried to continue policy**

#25 – Encourage continued funding of the Wyoming Emergency Insect Control Act (Adopted 6/04).  
Hendry – moved and seconded to continue support of WEIC act. **Motion carried to renew policy for continued support of Wyoming Emergency Insect Control Act.**

#27 – Support efforts to obtain funding from the WY Legislature for the WSVL to become a BSL 3 facility (addition). Since building has been approved and funded, and ground breaking has been set for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. **It is the committee's decision to remove resolution #27 as the funding has been fulfilled. Motion carried.**

## PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

- A) WSGA opposed a (mandatory) national animal identification program and urges that the legitimate need for animal traceback for disease purposes be met through state programs that make data available to federal animal health and national security agencies on a "need to know" basis; that are cost effective and confidential; that do not infringe on the movement and handling of livestock at the speed of commerce; and that utilize to the fullest extent practicable existing state brand programs.

Motion carried as written.

- B) WSGA supports legislative and administrative efforts to strengthen the role and responsibilities of the WY Livestock Board in assuring the humane care and handling of livestock while protecting generally accepted livestock practices and further supports efforts to remove from the WLB responsibility for animals other than livestock and those used in the care and handling of livestock.

Discussion: change the wording:

Propose to replace "Strengthen" in line 1, and replace it with "Support".

Motion carried to amend the proposal.

First re-write:

WSGA supports legislative and administrative efforts to **support** the role and responsibilities of the WY Livestock Board in assuring the humane care and handling of livestock while protecting generally accepted livestock practices and further supports efforts to remove from the WLB responsibility for animals other than livestock and those used in the care and handling of livestock.

Discussion: Suggestion to change the wording (again):

Remove the entire 5<sup>th</sup> line, all wording after "livestock" be removed. (Withdrawn)

Proposed amendment to remove the "and" and replacing it with "except".

WSGA supports legislative and administrative efforts to **support** the role and responsibilities of the WY Livestock Board in assuring the humane care and handling of livestock while protecting generally accepted livestock practices and further supports efforts to remove from the WLB responsibility for animals other than livestock **except** those used in the care and handling of livestock.

Motion carried to approve the second amendment to the proposal.

**Amended motion (above) carried.**

Suggested Policy from Fremont County:

- C) The WSGA support the required testing (for trichomoniasis) and tracking of non-virgin bulls sold for breeding purposes.

Discussion: Lex Madden suggests that it is required by law to trich test non-virgin bulls going through the sale barn. Further discussion suggests that maybe not all bulls are being tested. Chairman Dunn suggested that this is an enforcement or regulatory issue, not a policy or legislative issue, since the correct rules are already in place.

Voted to change the resolution to a directive:

**Motion for Fremont County DIRECTIVE carried.**

David Kane: re-worded Directive 1

Proposed Directive:

- D) Participate in a task force to examine animal welfare issues, especially those issues that pertain to range livestock.

**Motion carried for including directive D. (Shortened version of previous Directive 1).**