

The WSGA livestock health and production and the WWGA animal health joint committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 in Casper Wyoming. The committee chairs were introduced by Scott Sims.

Dr. Jim Logan gave a report on the Brucellosis Concept Paper. He gave a general discussion on how the paper was developed by APHIS. He also talked a great deal about the public comment period and the types of comments that Wyoming provided. APHIS intends to designate the United States as brucellosis free except for an area within the Greater Yellowstone Area, where "additional" surveillance will occur. Now when brucellosis is found, APHIS quarantines and tests the herd and depopulation must occur within 60 days or the state loses its brucellosis free status. If the paper goes through the rules will change slightly. The state will not be penalized if more than 1 brucellosis cases is found in the Designated Surveillance area. The herd will be quarantined and tested, and depopulations may not be necessary. Wyoming wants to be sure it will be able to designate the boundary areas for the designated surveillance area and that APHIS will just oversee this. APHIS will also provide funding for research and depopulation if necessary. Jim Magagna passed out the comments that the WSGA sent to APHIS during the public comment period and these were briefly discussed. Frank Galey informed members of the comments made by the Wyoming Brucellosis Committee.

Dr. Jim Logan then gave a report on the increased Trichomoniasis problems being found in Wyoming. Currently there are 3 herds quarantined and there were as many as 30 at one point this fall. The Chapter 15 rules have not been enforced as strongly as they should. The Livestock Board is working on revising the rules and a public comment period is coming soon. Discussion and questions from the floor were taken and addressed.

Dr. Galey talked about the Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS). The consortium's mission will identify the gaps in research, locate funding, put the funding in a pot, provide competitive grants, conduct research, and provide education. This group is made up of a science based group who will be doing the research and an industry group which will be reviewing the scientific work. The consortium has been approved by the USDA and is currently looking for funds. **It was decided to address the resolution on the CABS at this time. Discussion from the floor about the speed of the research was addressed by Dr. Galey. John Griffin moved to bring the resolution to the floor. It states: Whereas collaborative scientific research is an essential component of long-term goals to manage, control and eradicate brucellosis in cattle and wildlife; and Whereas the University of Wyoming college of Agriculture and Natural Resources has, with the support of the Wyoming Governor and Wyoming Legislature, established a consortium to coordinated, direct and seek funding for such research; therefore Be it resolved that WSGA actively support the UW Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science and assist in efforts to secure adequate federal, state and private funding for approved research projects. The motion was seconded. No discussion followed. The membership voted on the motion and motion passed.**

Dr. Don Montgomery gave a report on the State Vet Lab Expansion. Construction is underway and the lab should be operational by late August, early September 2010. The construction is under budget, but it is also 2 months behind schedule due to weather and equipment issues. Questions and discussion from the floor followed.

Dr. Jim Logan gave a report on the other livestock diseases of importance in the state, including a case of brucellosis found in Idaho, a possible tuberculosis case in Wyoming, Pyroplasmosis found in horses in Wyoming, and Equine Contagious Mycosis cases.

In other business Travis Jordon and Pete Obermueller reported on two pieces of livestock antibiotic use legislation that are being pursued in Washington at this time. One will ban all the use of antibiotics in livestock for therapeutic usage. The other will regulate the use of antibiotics used for growth promotion in livestock feeds. Discussion and comments from the floor followed.

An article published in the Bugle Magazine about elk feed ground elimination was discussed as it misrepresented the views of the WSGA that were reported at a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Conference. Scott Talbot with the Game and Fish will be developing a letter to the Bugle to address this.

The Pregnancy Testing Resolution was this addressed. John Griffin moved to bring the resolution to the floor. It read: Whereas certain areas of Wyoming are experiencing a severe shortage of large animal veterinarians during the critical seasons for pregnancy testing of cattle; and Whereas lay persons are currently permitted to perform pregnancy testing so long as it is done without compensation and have developed skill in this practice; therefore Be it resolved WSGA supports an amendment to the veterinary practice Act which assures the ability of qualified lay individuals to perform pregnancy testing of cattle to be compensated for such service. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Much of debate revolved around whether paying lay persons to pregnancy check cattle would discourage the recruitment of rural veterinarians. The justification was that pregnancy testing contributes one half to two thirds of the vet's income and if lay persons were allowed to be compensated, vets would be unable to make a living. Those in favor of the resolution cited a free market system would be attained and communities would be willing to support the vet first, and go to lay persons for pregnancy testing when no other option was available. There was also discussion concerning certification rules and liability. The Veterinarian Practice Act would write the rules for certification if this legislation passes. A point of question was called after much debate. The motion was voted on by raise of hands and the resolution failed.

The chair asked for any other business. Seeing none the meeting was adjourned.