



*Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region*



Cross Border
Livestock Health Conference

**2013 Pacific Northwest Economic Region
Annual Summit
Anchorage, AK**

**Cross Border Livestock Health Conference
July 17-18, 2013**

*Dena'ina Centre - Kahtnu 2 Room
555 W 5th Ave,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501*

Prepared by:
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INTRODUCTION

Background and Objectives

The 2013 Cross Border Livestock Health Conference (CBLHC) took place July 17 and 18, 2013 in conjunction with the 23rd Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit. The CBLHC focused on four topic areas over two days that included; antimicrobial resistance and beta-adrenergic agonist use in livestock, animal welfare pressures, one-health and electronic certification updates and technology advancements. An update was also provided on the Regulatory Cooperation Council's (RCC) progress to date.

The main objective of the two day conference was to enhance cross border cooperation on animal health issues. Specific objectives were:

- ◆ Enhanced relationships and build networks between US state and Canadian provincial jurisdictions
- ◆ Exchange information on animal health issues/concerns
- ◆ Develop a common understanding of disease policies
- ◆ Exchange information on emergency response for emerging and foreign/transboundary animal diseases
- ◆ Advance Canadian and American animal health interests
- ◆ Identify and execute action items to collectively address animal health and cross border issues

The conference began with welcoming remarks from Honourable Lyle Stewart, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture and outgoing president of PNWER. Following the welcoming address there was a discussion on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and livestock production, public risk vs. public perception regarding AMR and trade and industry issues with the use of beta-adrenergic agonists in livestock. After lunch the conference shifted focus onto animal welfare. These discussions included information on Food costs and the consumer with increasing animal welfare pressures and animal welfare pressures on meat processors in USA and Canada. At the end of the day there was an update on the progress of the RCC action plan. The morning session on the following day was focused on one health, presentation topics included: one health – implications for cross border trade and humans, livestock and wildlife interfaces in Alaska. The afternoon session included United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Kansas State update on e-certification. Following those presentations there was a demonstration of technology advancements on e-certification.

Action Items Development

At the end of the session action items were developed based on the discussion that took place over the past two days. Action item leads and team members were to be determined following the conference. Action item updates will be communicated to the conference participants through email and postings on the CBLHC website <http://cblhconference.com/2013-action-items.html> Conference action items will be presented to the PNWER Executive Board, which is comprised of state and provincial legislators from around the region. These action items will also be presented to federal leadership in Washington, DC and Ottawa, ON to further advance regional animal health concerns. The CBLHC website will be maintained and used as a communication tool to share information with past and future conference participants. PNWER will also collaborate with the CBLHC Action Item Team to identify how the organization and legislators can advocate on behalf of the group.

AGENDA

Wednesday July 17, 2013 Morning

Location: Dena'ina Center –Kahtnu 2 Room

Session Topic: Antimicrobial Resistance and Beta-Adrenergic Agonist use in livestock

Time	Session	Speakers
9:15 – 9:25 AM	Welcome	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Dr. Robert Gerlach – Alaska State Veterinarian Mr. Mike Nikolaisen – British Columbia Association of Cattle Feeders
9:25 – 9:30 AM	Opening Remarks	Honourable Lyle Stewart – Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture and PNWER President
9:30 – 9:55 AM	Antimicrobial Resistance and Livestock Production	Dr. Trevor Alexander – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
9:55 – 10:20 AM	Public Risk vs. Public Perception regarding Antimicrobial use in Agriculture	Dr. Reynold Bergen – Canadian Cattlemen's Association
10:20 – 10:45 AM	Trade and industry issues with the use of β -adrenergic agonists in livestock.	Mr. Del Holzer – Elanco
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Panel Discussion <i>Moderated by:</i> Dr. Betty Althouse – Saskatchewan Chief Veterinary Officer	Dr. Trevor Alexander – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Dr. Reynold Bergen – Canadian Cattlemen's Association Mr. Del Holzer – Elanco
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Update and discussion on previous Action Items.	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Dr. Robert Gerlach – Alaska State Veterinarian Mr. Mike Nikolaisen – British Columbia Association of Cattle Feeders
12:00 – 2:00 PM	Adjourn for Lunch	

Wednesday July 17, 2013 Afternoon

Location: Dena'ina Center –Kahtnu 2 Room

Session Topic: Animal Welfare Pressures and Regulatory Cooperation Council Update

Time	Session	Speakers
2:30 – 3:05 PM	Food costs and the consumer with increasing animal welfare pressures.	Mr. David Fikes - Food Marketing Institute
3:05 – 3:45 PM	Animal welfare pressures on meat processors in USA/Canada	Dr. Lily Edwards-Callaway – JBS USA
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Break	
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Panel Discussion: <i>Moderated by:</i> Ms. Franci Havemeister – Alaska Director of Agriculture	Mr. David Fikes - Food Marketing Institute Dr. Lily Edwards-Callaway – JBS USA
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Regulatory Cooperation Council Progress Updates	Mr. Robert Carberry – Assistant Secretary for RCC, Privy Council Office
5:30 PM	Adjourn	

Thursday July 18, 2013 Morning

Location: Dena'ina Center –Kahtnu 2 Room

Session Topic: One-Health

Time	Session	Speakers
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Opening Remarks	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Dr. Robert Gerlach – Alaska State Veterinarian Mr. Mike Nikolaisen – British Columbia Association of Cattle Feeders
9:30 – 10:10 AM	One Health – Implications for Cross Border Trade.	Mr. Bob Harding – Canadian Swine Health Board
10:10 – 10:45 AM	Humans, livestock and wildlife interfaces in Alaska.	Dr. James Berner – Alaska Native Medical Centre
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Panel Discussion – One Health <i>Moderated by:</i> Dr. Mary Vanderkop – Yukon Chief Veterinary Officer	Mr. Bob Harding – Canadian Swine Health Board Dr. James Berner – Alaska Native Medical Centre
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	2013 Action Item Development/Discussion	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Dr. Robert Gerlach – Alaska State Veterinarian Mr. Mike Nikolaisen – British Columbia Association of Cattle Feeders
12:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch	

Thursday July 18, 2013 Afternoon

Location: Dena'ina Center –Kahtnu 2 Room

Session Topic: Electronic Certification Updates and Technology Advancements

Time	Session	Speakers
2:30 – 2:45 PM	USDA Updates on E-Certification	Dr. Cynthia Gaborick – United States Department of Agriculture
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Western States E-Certification Progress	Dr. William Brown – Kansas Animal Health Commissioner
3:00 – 3:30 PM	E-Certification technology advancements – IPad App demonstration	Dr. Keith Biggers – Texas A&M University
3:30 – 3:45 PM	Break	
3:45 – 4:30 PM	Panel Discussion - E-Certification Progress <i>Moderated by:</i> Mr. Aaron Canart – Agri Beef Co.	Dr. Cynthia Gaborick – United States Department of Agriculture Dr. William Brown – Kansas Animal Health Commissioner Dr. Keith Biggers – Texas A&M University
4:30 – 5:00 PM	2013 Action Items Discussion/Closing Comments	<i>Co-Chairs</i> Dr. Robert Gerlach – Alaska State Veterinarian Mr. Mike Nikolaisen – British Columbia Association of Cattle Feeders
5:00 PM	Adjourn	
	End of 2013 Cross Border Livestock Health Conference.	

PRESENTATIONS

All presentations are available on the CBLHC website
<http://cblhconference.com/2013-presentations.html>

DAY 1: Session 1

Antimicrobial resistance and beta-adrenergic agonist use in livestock.

Antimicrobial Resistance and Livestock Production

Dr. Trevor Alexander – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

<http://cblhconference.com/pdf/antimicrobial-resistance-livestock-production.pdf>

Public Risk vs. Public Perception regarding Antimicrobial use in Agriculture

Dr. Reynold Bergen – Canadian Cattlemen’s Association

<http://cblhconference.com/pdf/public-risk-public-perception.pdf>

Trade and industry issues with the use of beta-adrenergic agonists in livestock.

Mr. Del Holzer – Elanco Animal Health

<http://cblhconference.com/pdf/trade-%20industry-issues.pdf>

Panel Discussion

1. Consumers don’t know a lot about animal production but the more they know the more concerns they seem to have?

Trust in the food supply is critical, if it’s in the store the consumer should assume that the food has gone through all appropriate safeguards. Consumers do not want to be forced to have a conversation about food safety because there is a lack of knowledge around agriculture and the fundamental management practices are difficult to grasp for the general consumer.

2. Is there actual data showing the transfer of genes to *E.coli*?

There has been some data showing gene transfer but typically transfer mechanisms are studied rather than the actual transfer itself. Bacteria take up free DNA or utilize transduction when they transfer genes into the genome. It is difficult to determine where and how it is being transferred; resistance genes need to become available and if they become available for the pathogen there are still other mechanisms that can prevent a transfer.

3. How would you explain antibiotic use in livestock to a child?

Let them know that the reason they are used in livestock is to prevent the animals from getting sick or to treat them when they are sick. There is scientific background showing that antibiotics are safe to use in livestock and many of the antibiotics are fine because they are of low importance in human health. It is a welfare issue to not treat or prevent illness, and there is inconsistency in the livestock industry.

4. Are there some resistant bacteria present in soils, i.e. contamination in lettuce; is it in the produce or on produce contaminated with manure? Is there some transfer that cannot be eliminated at all?

E.coli is mostly found on hides, how can this be reduced at the farm? Feeding sub-therapeutic antibiotics will help to prevent the transfer from hides to meat products. Abattoir methods that are very effective include washing the carcass significantly reduce microbial load, including resistant bacteria. Commercial packing plants, there can be 4 *E.coli* on an entire carcass, preventing any getting into the plant is a tall order when plants already do a very good job at preventing contamination.

5. What is your opinion on the movement to making some antibiotics only available by veterinary prescription?

Time to treatment will be extended because if the animal needs the treatment there is an additional cost for a veterinarian to prescribe it and this may reduce a producer's capability of treating the illness. The vet prescription isn't for every treatment it describes what animals can have it and what dose is required. The vet knows why a producer bought the product for what animals and why it is required for treatment. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is changing the regulations surrounding vet oversight on antimicrobial use in livestock, public feedback will be gathered at 5 separate meetings. A draft text with the proposed regulations will be available when prepared.

DAY 1: Session 2

Animal Welfare Pressures and Regulatory Cooperation Council Update

Food costs and the consumer with increasing animal welfare pressures.

Mr. David Fikes - Food Marketing Institute

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/food-costs.pdf>

Animal welfare pressures on meat processors in USA/Canada

Dr. Lily Edwards-Callaway – JBS USA

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/animal-welfare-pressures.pdf>

Panel Discussion

1. Comment regarding the 90 day waiver announcement from the US Department of Transportation which requires truck drivers to take a 30-minute break if more than eight hours have passed since they began service.

Is it better for the animals to have a break on the truck or is it better to get the animals to the destination. Appreciate allowing the 90 days to comment on the welfare implications of this rule rather than a waiver.

2. How soon do you think society, abattoirs and retailers are going to require animal welfare audits of producers?

Producers have a reasonable concern that they will be excluded and disparaged from marketing their animals due to the auditing process. Third party audits have served industry best but then is there a need to audit the auditing system? The purpose of PNWER should be to provide a position for the producer rather than the animal concerns that have already been addressed. Codes of practice for humane handling of livestock, but there is no CFIA label stating that livestock are humanely raised. Is using a label stating raised according to the code of practice, this is practical and could serve a purpose for the consumer. All of these welfare pressures i.e. gestation stalls require money to change, every producer is so independent that it makes it difficult to implement change, and these requirements can force producers out of the business and drive industry down. Should also be noted to consumers that we can make these changes to how livestock are managed but they should be aware that this comes with an increase in cost.

3. Has JBS done any comparison with bruising and wait times at plants?

Suggest that the Brooks plant may be a good place to get Canadian data since a lot of Sask animals are slaughtered there.

Regulatory Cooperation Council Progress Updates

Mr. Robert Carberry – Assistant Secretary for RCC, Privy Council Office

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/regulatory-cooperation-council.pdf>

Session Comments

- The RCC process is smart public policy that involves industry. Having a commitment by the working groups to allow industry to provide a role in consultation and participation.
- Money on research on both sides of the border, is agricultural research a part of this sharing?
- Two points of intervention of stakeholders, one with government departments on commodity specific and broader basis, talk to RCC on the overall direction on how to set priorities.

DAY 2: Session 1 **One-Health**

One Health – Implications for Cross Border Trade

Mr. Bob Harding – Canadian Swine Health Board

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/one-health-implication-cross-border.pdf>

Humans, livestock and wildlife interfaces in Alaska

Dr. James Berner – Alaska Native Medical Centre

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/humans-%20livestock-wildlife-interfaces-alaska.pdf>

Panel Discussion

1. It is important to initiate discussions with Health on zoonotic diseases prior to an outbreak; during the H1N1 outbreak Health had a lot of questions on swine production. Agriculture needs to be careful as sometimes Health can overreact, i.e. Health wanted to do some work at fairs with swabbing pigs when they arrived at shows. If the pigs were positive for influenza they would not let them off the truck, but this is not really helpful since some pigs may not test positive if they just recently began incubating a disease. This issue is very important when it comes to diseases that do not fall under federal jurisdiction. In these situations it is critical to clarify roles, determine where the risks and barriers are. Gradual understanding that a zoonotic disease goes both ways.

2. What diseases have the most awareness in Alaska?

Trichinosis and Rabies have the most awareness; there is limited knowledge on the vector borne diseases. It is important to enable communities to take charge at observing their own environment; local environment observers provide data throughout Alaska. These people want to participate in community biomonitoring, therefore equip them with sampling kits to look at blood to determine antibody and mercury levels. Incorporation of traditional knowledge is critical, because the locals have a good sense of change based on what animals are doing on the land. It is also important to provide education sessions for local environment observers.

DAY 2: Session 2

Electronic Certification Updates and Technology Advancements

USDA Updates on E-Certification

Dr. Cynthia Gaborick –United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/usda-updates-e-ertification.pdf>

Western States E-Certification Progress

Dr. William Brown – Kansas Animal Health Commissioner

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/western-states-e-certification-progress.pdf>

E-Certification technology advancements – IPad App demonstration

Dr. Keith Biggers – Texas A&M University

<http://www.cblhconference.com/pdf/e-certification-technology-advancements.pdf>

Panel Discussion

1. It was suggested that certification programs should be extended to include semen and embryos. This is especially important in the horse industry because could apply when the mare is in heat. Currently for equine semen, fax the document for endorsement and fax it to the border to help speed up the process, this currently doesn't even use an electronic system.
2. What are the major concerns with an electronic certification system?

The biggest concern is the release of personal information. What type of safeguards would be in place to ensure producer information is protected? In Kansas, it is prohibited the release of any information other than in an animal health event. All information is stored in government offices. In an animal disease event information would be shared with USDA in to track movements and figure out logistics. With the FAZD center legal agreements are setup to ensure data is protected.

3. Encourage the CFIA to utilize the system that USDA has already developed, this could help reduce duplication in creating a new system and help with compatibility between countries.

2013 ACTION ITEMS

Action Item 1 - Have the Cross Border Livestock Health Conference Working Group develop a One Health risk communication strategy in conjunction with the PNWER Health Working Group on issues that affect human, animal and environmental health.

Action Item 2 - The Cross Border Livestock Health Conference Working Group form a subcommittee to develop a list of issues to propose to the Regulatory Council Cooperation request for new action plans. This will include a communication plan on animal welfare perceptions and realities affecting both Canada and USA livestock industries.

Timeline - RCC asking for ideas in fall 2013.

Action Item 3 - The Cross Border Livestock Health Conference Working Group propose that the RCC encourage CFIA to adopt the electronic certification system Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) for livestock that USDA-APHIS has already begun piloting in March 2012.

Action Item 4 - Form a working group to discuss import/export requirements of livestock at the border and determine if there are any processes that can be harmonized.

Project Team - Canadian Pork Swine Health Board to provide name.

Initial Project Lead - Aaron Canart

2013 CROSS BORDER LIVESTOCK HEALTH CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Name	Organization	State/ Province
Alexander, Trevor	AAFC	AB
Althouse, Betty	Government of Saskatchewan	SK
Andres, Brad	Government of Alberta	AB
Barton, Bill	State of Idaho	ID
Beierbach, Ryan	Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association	SK
Berner, Jim	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	AK
Biggers, Keith	FAZD Center Texas A & M	TX
Brown, Bill	State of Kansas	KS
Canart, Aaron	Agri Beef	AB
Carberry, Bob	Privy Council Office	ON
Chase, Maralyn	State of Washington	WA
Clark, Jill	Government of Saskatchewan	SK
Cooper, Bob	CFIA	BC
Cox, Herb	MLA - Saskatchewan	SK
Delver, Larry	Alberta Beef Producers	AB
Eagles, Doreen	MLA - Saskatchewan	SK
Edwards-Callaway, Lily	JBS	CO
Fikes, David	Food Marketing Institute	VA
Floyd, Elaine Busse	State of Alaska	AK
Fuller, Jay	State of Alaska	AK
Gaborick, Cindy	USDA: APHIS: VS	ID
Geltink, Dick Klein	BC MMB	BC
Gerlach, Bob	State of Alaska	AK
Hardenbrook, Brandon	PNWER	WA
Harding, Bob	Canadian Swine Health Board	ON
Havemeister, Franci	State of Alaska	AK
Heemskerck, Joe	BC Association of Cattle Feeders	BC
Hehli, Heini	Alberta Milk	AB
Herriot, Don	USDA: APHIS: VS	OR
Holdeman, Eric	PNWER	WA
Holzer, Del	Elanco	IN
Janzen, Eugene	UCVM	AB
Jensen, Cort	State of Montana	MT
Johnson, Norm	State of Washington	WA
Kettel, James	Government of Saskatchewan	SK
Kirsch, Delbert	MLA - Saskatchewan	SK
Larson, Paula	Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association	SK

Name	Organization	State/ Province
Lombardi, Rosemarie	USDA: APHIS: VS	AK
Maruo, Donna	Government of Alberta	AB
McCreary, Meredyth	Government of Saskatchewan	SK
Nikolaisen, Mike	BC Association of Cattle Feeders	BC
Rice, Martin	Canadian Pork Council	ON
Richy, Brad	Homeland Security	ID
Scott, Kirsten	Yukon Agricultural Association	YK
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	Government of Saskatchewan	SK
Tonita, Kathryn	Government of Saskatchewan	SK
Vanderkop, Mary	Yukon Government	YK
Vanee, Doug	Vanee Livestock Marketing	AB
Walker, Patricia	State of Alaska	AK
Walton, Bryan	National Cattle Feeders Association	AB
Wrigley, Bryce	Salaha-Delta SWCD	AK