MEETING PURPOSE: DISCUSS THE PRIMARY ANIMAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FACING THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm CST by Chairman Jimmy Holliman. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the 2016 Cattle Industry Summer Conference meeting in Denver, Colorado were approved without objection.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

After the conclusion of presentations by Dr. Jack Shere, CVO, USDA-APHIS concerning a USDA-APHIS Activities Update and Dr. Aaron Scott, USDA-APHIS, SPRS, NPIC and Dr. Sunny Geiser-Novotny, USDA-APHIS, VS concerning an Overview of U.S. Animal Disease Traceability Program Performance, and reports from the two working groups, Chairman Holliman opened the floor to Vice Chairman, Dr. Dale Grotelueschen, to present a report from the BQA forum and a recommendation to the Cattle Health and Well-being Committee brought forward at the BQA Forum. The recommendation stated that in light of increased development and requirements of various feedyard audits by retail, food service and packing segments and with the desire of the BQA Advisory Board to continue an educational focus for the BQA program, the NCBA Cattle Health and Well-being committee should consider the formation of a task force to examine the feasibility and advisability of developing a Cattle Industry Feedyard Audit Tool, based on the recently revised BQA Feedyard Assessment. Chairman Holliman acted on the recommendation to form a task force of not more than 10 members to work by conference call and electronically to review the feasibility and advisability of developing a cattle industry feedyard audit tool and report back to the committee membership at the summer conference meeting in Denver in July 2017.

A Cattle Health and Well-being (CHWB) Traceability task force was formed by the committee at the July 2016 Summer Conference meeting in Denver, Colorado and tasked to review existing NCBA policies that involve cattle identification and/or disease traceability issues and present
recommendations for future policy considerations to the committee at the 2017 Cattle Industry Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Bud Dinges, who chaired the task force, presented the Traceability task force report, which is contained as an addendum to the committee minutes.

There was a motion to accept the report of the task force for consideration when reviewing the expiring cattle identification and animal disease traceability policies at the 2017 Summer Conference meeting in Denver. The motion was seconded by Mary Ann Kniebel and passed without objection after a short discussion by the committee.

Chairman Holliman opened the floor to new business. There was a motion by Tom Maier from Missouri to consider the proposed amendment to CH 3.14, Ensure Producer Access to Antibiotics for Cattle Health submitted to the committee from the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association. The motion to consider was seconded by Dr. Chuck Massengill from the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association.

CH Winter Resolution 1
Proposed Amendment to CH 3.14
2017 – Submitted by Missouri Cattlemen’s Association
Ensure Producer Access to Antibiotics for Cattle Health

WHEREAS, antibiotics are important animal health tools for prevention, control, treatment of disease in all segments of beef cattle production, and

WHEREAS, ionophores are used to assist feed efficiency and rumen health, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA should work with all appropriate entities, organizations, and elected and appointed government officials to ensure that cattle producers’ access and ability to use these products in beef cattle production systems is retained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA work to prevent scientifically unfounded restrictions on the use of antibiotics, push for repeal of any scientifically unfounded restriction on cattle producers’ access and ability to judiciously use antibiotics, and push for transition of Veterinary Feed Directive drugs, with the exception of Avilamycin, Florfenicol and Tilmicosin, to Over-the-Counter status.

A robust discussion in the committee followed the motion to consider the proposed resolution to amend CH 3.14. The proposed resolution to amend CH 3.14 was defeated by red card vote of the CHWB membership in attendance, with two votes in favor of the resolution and the rest opposed.

Chairman Holliman asked if there was any additional business to come before the committee. Hearing no further business to come before the committee, Chairman Holliman adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm CST and invited everyone to attend the next CHWB committee meeting held at the Summer Conference meeting in Denver Colorado on July 14, 2017.
ADDENDUM to the Minutes of the Cattle Health and Well-being Committee:

CHWB Traceability Task Force Report - January 2017

Mr. Chairman,

The Cattle Health and Well-Being (CHWB) Traceability task force was formed by the CHWB committee at the summer conference meeting in July 2016 in Denver, Colorado. The task force worked electronically and by conference call to review the existing NCBA policies that involve cattle identification and/or disease traceability issues and present recommendations for future policy to CHWB membership at the 2017 Cattle Industry Convention. The task force will sunset after presentation of the task force report to the membership. The task force was chaired by Dr. Bud Dinges, past chairman of the CHWB Committee, and consisted of the following nine members:

Meaghan Anderson (NE)
Lyman Nuss (KS)
Kevin Miller (CO)
Ron Gill (TX)
Dan Kniffen (PA)
Bob Smith (OK)
Tom Talbot (CA) Jay O’Brien (TX) Gene Lollis (FL)

The task force met three times by conference call and worked electronically to review NCBA policy related to animal identification/traceability with increased attention to pertinent policy scheduled to sunset at Summer Conference 2017—CH 8.6; CH 8.7; CH 8.8; and CH 8.9.

The CHWB Traceability task force presents the following recommendations for consideration by the CHWB committee membership:

- Support confidentiality of producer information as a priority.
- Consider all benefits of animal identification systems. While animal disease traceability is a primary goal of cattle identification systems, the task force believes that consideration should be extended to other uses/outcomes for animal identification systems in creating policy.
- Delete or allow to sunset CH 8.7, The Role of Individual Animal Identification to Enhance Genetic Improvement and Source Verification Programs. The task force believed that this policy primarily relates to marketing rather than to cattle health issues.
- Combine CH 8.8 and CH 8.9 with reference to the suggested language of the task force and subject to approval and editing by the membership:
Support of Individual Animal Identification to Enhance Traceability

WHEREAS, NCBA continues to be an industry-leading organization on animal identification issues, and

WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal identification plans are being developed for the purpose of establishing a means to ensure animal disease traceability, and

WHEREAS, a goal should be to enable the cattle industry, state, and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign animal diseases of concern, and

WHEREAS, the proposed USDA-APHIS Animal Disease Traceability Framework does not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs,

WHEREAS, foreign governments and our customers overseas expect the USDA and the U.S. beef industry to be able to respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and to provide them with assurances that the beef we export to them is safe, and

WHEREAS, most other major beef exporting countries have implemented animal ID and traceability systems and are using their systems to differentiate themselves from the U.S. with customers in global markets, and

WHEREAS, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted guidelines on animal ID and traceability that establish basic principles which any traceability system should satisfy, and

WHEREAS, USDA-APHIS has developed a national animal disease traceability (ADT) program that establishes minimum disease traceability requirements, and

WHEREAS, an ID traceability program would complement and enhance the USDA-APHIS ADT program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA be at the forefront of discussions on any animal identification program(s) and NCBA strongly supports the implementation of an efficacious national traceability system in the U.S., whether voluntary or mandatory, that:

1. Is built on private sector animal identification and verification programs backed by the USDA,

2. Is compatible with general traceability principles of the OIE,
3. Recognizes existing USDA programs for beef exports,

4. Can be used to achieve compliance under the requirements of the USDA-APHIS ADT program,

5. Is flexible enough to work with other potential uses of ID,

6. Utilizes low cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible,

7. Requires that Cattle ID Information for disease traceability be kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure,

8. Protects producers from liability for acts of others after the cattle have left the producer’s control,

9. Operates at the speed of commerce,

10. Does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.

A copy of the proposed CH 8.X showing edits made to the previous policies CH 8.8 and 8.9 is listed below for your review:

CH 8.X (8.8 and 8.9 combined)
2012/Renewed
Animal Disease Traceability

WHEREAS, NCBA continues to be an industry-leading organization on animal identification issues, and

WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal identification plans are being developed for the purpose of establishing a means to ensure animal disease traceability, and

WHEREAS, the goal should be to enable the cattle industry, state, and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign animal diseases of concern, and

WHEREAS, U.S. beef exports to certain countries have suffered due to the absence of an animal disease traceability program, and
WHEREAS, the proposed USDA-APHIS Animal Disease Traceability Framework does not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA be at the forefront of discussions on any animal disease traceability program(s) requiring animal identification, and maintain that any such regulations, imposed at the state and/or federal level, adhere to the following criteria:

Additional costs to the beef and dairy industry must be minimized allowing low-cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible:

Any information relative to cattle identification information should be under the control of state animal health officials and kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure.

The system must operate at the speed of commerce.

The priority animal for participation in the framework is the individual identification of adult cattle. Cattle herd movement between adjoining states on pasture to pasture permits should be allowed to continue at the discretion of the state animal health officials involved.

Producers must be protected from liability for acts of others after cattle have left their control.

CH 8.9

2012/New

Traceability

WHEREAS, foreign governments and our customers overseas expect the USDA and the U.S. beef industry to be able to respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and to provide them with assurances that the beef we export to them is safe, and

WHEREAS, most other major beef exporting countries have implemented animal ID and traceability systems and are using their systems to differentiate themselves from the U.S. with customers in foreign-global markets, and

WHEREAS, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted guidelines on animal ID and traceability that establish basic principles which any traceability system should satisfy, and

WHEREAS, USDA APHIS has developed a national animal disease traceability (ADT)
program that establishes minimum disease traceability requirements, and

WHEREAS, voluntary animal ID traceability program would complement and enhance the USDA APHIS ADT program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA be at the forefront of discussions on any animal identification program(s) and NCBA strongly supports the implementation of an efficacious voluntary national traceability system in the U.S., whether voluntary or mandatory, that:

1. Is built on private sector animal identification and verification programs backed by the USDA,

2. Is compatible with general traceability principles of the OIE,

3. Recognizes existing USDA programs for beef exports,

4. Can be used to achieve compliance under the requirements of the USDA APHIS ADT program.

5. Is flexible enough to work with other potential uses of ID.

6. Utilizes low cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible.

7. Requires that Cattle ID information for disease traceability be kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure.

8. Protects producers from liability for acts of others after the cattle have left the producer’s control.

9. Operates at the speed of commerce.

10. Does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.

We respectfully submit this report for consideration by the CHWB Committee with regard to animal identification and disease traceability policy originating from the CHWB Committee.

Dr. Bud Dinges
Chairman, CHWB Traceability Task Force