

MINUTES

JOINT INDUSTRY BEEF SAFETY COMMITTEE

2009 Cattle Industry Annual Convention & Trade Show – Phoenix, AZ
Friday, January 30, 2009

Duane Theuninck, Ph.D., Chair
Mark Riechers, Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chairman Duane Theuninck called the meeting of the Joint Industry Beef Safety Committee to order, welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and minutes from the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Moved: Mark Riechers

Second: Jerry Jones

Approved

Invited Presentations

Dr. Dave Theno, former executive with Jack-in-the-Box, shared his perspectives on the value and application of safety research funded by The Beef Checkoff. He cited the fact that checkoff funded safety research has broad application and has greatly impacted the safety systems in place in the U.S. Dr. Theno also told the committee that they must continue to be pro-active in monitoring emerging issues and funding research that uses the systems approach when evaluating safety research projects.

Policy Update

Kristina Butts, M.S., from the Washington D.C. NCBA office provided a policy update on the following topics:

- Nutrition/Safety Interface- Many nutrition initiatives are being discussed in D.C. and product safety issues are included in these discussions. The beef industry needs to monitor these discussions and ensure the discussion participants are educated on beef's nutrition attributes as well as safety programs in place.
- Safety Bills – Multiple bills will be introduced this year that include provisions for restructuring the federal agencies that oversee food safety. D.C. staff will monitor these discussions and ensure that the beef's industry's commitment to producing safe beef products is understood.
- Educational Efforts- Many audiences in D.C. would benefit from education on beef safety systems and efforts will be made to reach out to elected officials and their staff members to provide data and information that demonstrates the beef industry focus on beef safety.

Resolutions

The following resolution was amended by the committee:

Food Safety Agency Structure

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) oversees the inspection of meat, poultry, and egg products while the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees almost all other food products, and

WHEREAS, the safety of the U.S. beef supply continues to improve due to the commitment of the beef industry and FSIS to enhance the protection of public health, and

WHEREAS, there have been attempts to restructure the federal food safety agencies that have responsibilities overseeing the safety of the U.S. food supply and

WHEREAS, efforts to restructure federal agencies may create a burdensome process that could threaten the progress made on beef safety and future protection of public health, and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of federal agencies into the Department of Homeland Security has been complicated and not without problems, and

WHEREAS, a complicated restructuring of federal food safety agencies may create a disruption in effective monitoring and inspection of the food supply,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA opposes the creation of a single food safety agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA only supports restructuring that will enhance the effectiveness of the federal food safety agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA urges continued cooperation between USDA and FDA to further protect public health.

Approval of Amended Resolution:

Moved: Shorty Jones

Second: Phil Reid

Approved

Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 Program Update

Mandy Carr, Ph.D. and Michelle Rossman, M.S. summarized the FY 2008 research projects that will be completed this spring. The final reports from these projects are due May 2009. The 2009 Beef Industry Safety Summit will be March 4-6 in San Diego, CA. A summary of the event was shared and all participants were invited to attend.

Budget Update

Mandy Carr reviewed the budget adjustment that occurred in December 2008 to the FY 09 budget. She also asked for the committee's input regarding an additional budget adjustment of 5.2%. The committee suggested removing the funds from the Safety Threat Research tactic.

Budget Reduction Allocation to Tactic 1A Safety Threat Research

Moved: Jerry Jones

Second: Judy Prosser

Approved

Planning Factors for FY 2010

Mandy Carr reviewed the process outlined by Rick Husted in the Federation Forum to evaluate the planning factors selected by committee leadership in January. The committee reviewed the selected factors, and voted on the factors they believed the committee could impact. The results can be seen below:

- *Take proactive steps to protect public health from emerging threats.*
- *Protect consumers from E. coli and Salmonella.*
- *Responsibly employ economically viable practices without negatively impacting beef quality or safety.*
- *Provide thought leaders with science-based industry information.*

Research Advisory Panel Report

Dr. Justin Ransom, OSI Industries, presented the list of research priorities developed by the Safety Research Advisory Panel in December.

- *E. coli O157:H7 research should remain an area of focus*
- *Novel approach to applying pre- and post- harvest interventions*
- *Continue to explore essential research areas*
- *Continue supporting education, especially policy makers*
- *Committed to food safety and public health*

Approval of Research Priorities:

Moved: Don Smith

Second: Peter Case

Approved

Adjournment

Moved: Charlie Higdon

Second: Robert Bruner

Approved

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.

Respectfully
Submitted by:



Mandy Carr, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Beef Safety Research

Accepted by:



Duane Theuninck, Ph.D. Chairman
Joint Industry Beef Safety Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Bruner
Keith Burgett
Peter Case
Jeffery Clausen
Andy Cloud
Charlie Higdon
Todd Johnson
Jerry Jones
Mohammad Koochmaraie
Walter Lasley
Sharon Livingston

Rol Roland May
Do Doug McKinney
JudJudy Prosser
Phi Phill Reid
Din Dina Reitzel
Ma Mark Riechers
Do Don Smith
De Dennis Swan
Du Duane Theuninck
Dia Diane Weston

GUESTS

Gary Acuff
Robin Anderson
Jason Bagley
Ron Eustice
Jay Flincher
Kerri Harris
Bill Hyman
Guy Loneragan
Wendy Maduff
Patrick Mies
Tom Nichols
Thomas Powell
James Sandstrom
Craig Uden
Gary Weber