

Conference Summary

February 3rd, 2015



Antimicrobial Stewardship & Pain Mitigation in Livestock: Current Developments Conference

This one day conference was held on Jan. 27, 2015 in Olds, AB. With 110 delegates in attendance, it was a resounding success. Presented by various livestock industry and government organizations, the conference addressed current trends in livestock welfare, social responsibility and up to date research.

The morning featured keynote sessions from some of the best known experts in the areas of antimicrobial use and resistance as well as animal welfare. Dr. Tim McAllister (Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Lethbridge) treated the audience to a very coherent overview of the complex topic of the development of antibiotic resistance. Dr. Sherry Hannon (Feedlot Health Management Services, Okotoks) reminded us that it is everyone's responsibility to use antimicrobials judiciously (right drug for the right bug in the right amount for the right period of time), and that the industry challenge is to maintain the use of these products to ensure animal health and welfare.

Dr. Ed Pajor (University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine) shared some interesting consumer research around animal welfare such as shared values are 3-5 times more important in building trust than demonstrating competence. Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein (Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Lethbridge) explained that before we can control pain we need to understand it, and measuring pain can be difficult in prey species. It is a challenge to achieve pain control in livestock, as available products are limited, and effective strategies that are also practical are still under development.

The antimicrobial breakout sessions began with an update on a project designed to create a screening tool for antimicrobial resistance and sensitivity for cattle feedlot respiratory pathogens by Nick Allan (Institute for Applied Poultry Technologies). Dr. Delores Peters (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development) gave an update on improvements to the Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network (AVSN) to be able to capture and record antibiotic resistance data. Dr. Sheryl Gow (Public Health Agency of Canada) gave an explanation of the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS). The afternoon was rounded out with Dr. Karen Liljebjelke (University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine) talking about antimicrobial resistance from the poultry perspective and Dr. Reynold Bergen (Beef Cattle Research Council) covering past and present research by the beef industry.

The pain mitigation breakout sessions began with Dr. Merle Olson's (Alberta Veterinary Laboratories) overview of the drug approval process and the benefits and limitations of the few, currently available, drugs for pain control. They are currently in the process of registering an oral form of meloxicam and are exploring the opportunities for a topical NSAID gel in horses and other species. This was followed by a presentation by Javier Bahamon (AB Pork) talking about the new Code of Practice for pigs, and Dr. Madonna Gemus Benjamin's (Michigan State University) insights on pain mitigation for swine. Les Burwash (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development) explored pain mitigation options in horses to

coincide with the new Equine Code of Practice. The afternoon pain mitigation sessions ended with Dr. Eugene Janzen (University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine) exploring how veterinary and producer attitudes towards pain control have changed with time. He also emphasized that for pain control to be adopted by industry, there must be readily available registered products that are effective, long acting, and have short withdrawal times.

The conference organization committee, stakeholders and speakers were grateful to the representatives from collaborating organizations, as well as all other attendees who took time out of their busy schedules to attend.

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