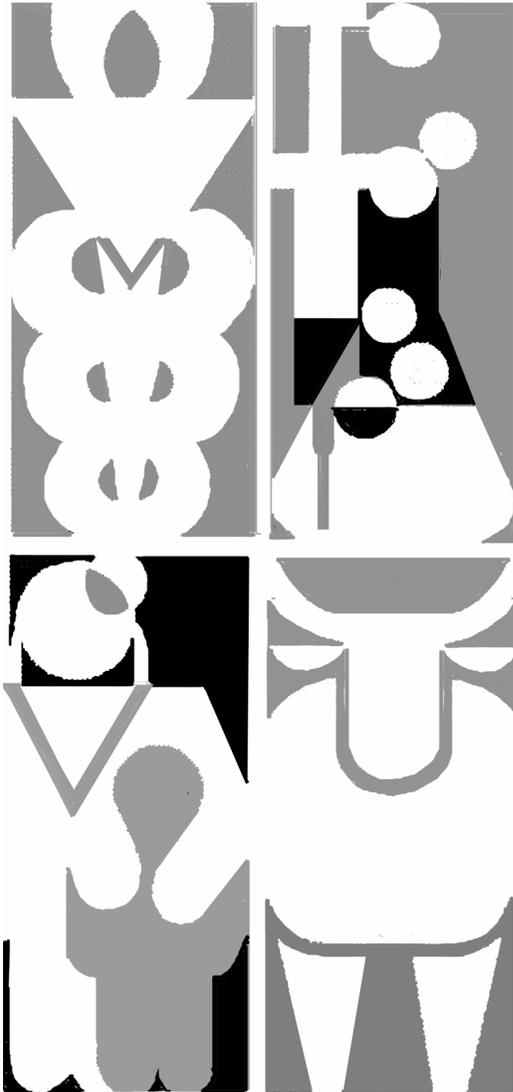


NEWSLETTER



Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

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AVEPM is committed to developing and fostering the academic base for veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine

Visit the AVEPM Web site at...

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

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Important: Please take a moment to look at your mailing label on the envelope. The number (e.g. 06) in the lower right corner of the mailing label is the last year for which a dues payment has been recorded. Membership dues are \$20 US annually and are payable to AVEPM on January 1 of each year. If, for example, your dues payment year is indicated to be 05, then to become current you should remit two years dues or \$40. The AVEPM Constitution and By-Laws require that members two years in arrears in payment of dues shall be dropped from membership (Article VI)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AVEPM Board Meeting

Sheraton West Port Chalet
December 5 2005
7:00 a.m.

Officers and Board Members present were Laura Hungerford, Tom Wittum, Jim Thorne and Morgan Scott and Margaret Slater.

President Hungerford called meeting to order at 7:05 a.m.

Schwabe Symposium: Tom Wittum will send a thank you letter to Bayer and Mike Vaughn for their sponsorship of the Schwabe Symposium held Sunday, December 4, 2005.

Preventive Vet Med Magazine – Laura will let me know about getting subscription from Prev Vet Med Mag

Treasurer's report (November 15 2004 – November 15 2005) was distributed by Treasurer Thorne, who explained various aspects of it. Copy is attached.

ISVEE - August 2006 – Cairns, Australia. Moe Salman (via Jim Thorne) suggested that AVEPM support graduate student travel. Consensus was to provide \$1,000 stipends to subsidize travel to 5 graduate students. Criteria for consideration: 1) Advisor and graduate student to be member of AVEPM, 2) Competitive by way of abstracts submitted for ISVEE presentation and publication, 3) Morgan Scott will chair a committee to review abstracts.

CRWAD Awards – Tom Wittum. There are 7 posters, 6 Food Safety and 13 Epidemiology presentations. Consensus was to provide \$200 awards to 1 poster, 1 Food Safety and 2 Epidemiology abstracts.

Gearhart Award – Board voted to provide \$500 for the Gearhart Award

Schwabe Symposium: Held Sunday, December 4, the symposium with 4 speakers had 50-60 attendees at most sessions. Speakers were to receive travel and lodging for 2 nights. Laura Hungerford will get this info to the secretary-treasurer.

A committee is needed for 2006. Paul Morley will chair this committee. Consensus was to have it at on the Sunday before CRWAD in Chicago in 2006.

Brochure: Laura Hungerford will check with John New about a copy of the old brochure.

NCPPSP: Tom Wittum moved, 2nd Laura Hungerford, that AVEPM continue membership in NCPPSP. Motion carried. Margaret Slater will write a report on NCPPSP activities for an upcoming newsletter.

AVEPM annual meeting expenses: Tom moved, 2nd Margaret Slater, that hotel expenses for Jim Thorne and breakfast expenses for this meeting by paid by AVEPM. Motion carried.

Newsletter – Jim Thorne reported that Ron Smith, newsletter publisher, has retired and wishes to distribute the newsletter by email. Consensus was to proceed in this manner.

Officer and board member nominations: We need to consider changing the bylaws to nominate and elect officers at the annual meeting.

Suggestions for Officers and board members were:
President Elect – Paul Morley

Board member term to expire in 2007 and one in 2006 (replace Paul if he ascends to President-Elect):
Suggestions were: Randy Singer of Univ of Minnesota, Bob Wills of Mississippi State, Carla Huston of Mississippi State, Paivi J Rajala-Schultz of The Ohio State University.

Sixty (60) paid dues between November 15, 2004 and November 15, 2005.

Dues status of mailing list:

25 dues expire 2003

26 dues expire 2004

59 dues expire 2005

8 dues expire 2006

1 dues each expiring in 2007, 2008, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Thorne, Secretary Treasurer AVEPM

AVEPM Annual Meeting

Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel Chalet
11:30 a.m. December 5, 2005

President Hungerford called the meeting to order and introduced the officers present.

Members present are listed at the end of the minutes.

Annual minutes of 2004: It was moved and seconded that minutes be approved as published in a previous newsletter and on the AVEPM webpage. Motion carried

Treasurer Thorne gave the treasurer's report (a copy is attached).

ISVEE 11: Directors have determined that awards will be given for travel to students of \$1,000 to 5 based on proceedings abstracts and manuscripts. Criteria for consideration: 1) Advisor and graduate student to be member of AVEPM, 2) Competitive by way of

abstracts submitted for ISVEE presentation and publication, 3) Morgan Scott will chair a committee to review abstracts.

Continuing Education: Secretary Thorne reported that Moe Salman directed 3 epidemiology training programs for USDA.

Tom Wittum announced that awards at CRWAD will be given as 2 in epidemiology, one in food safety and one for a poster at \$200 each.

Schwabe symposium – President Hungerford announced that attendance was 50-60 at each session held the day before on Sunday. The honorees were happy and good discussion ensued at the panel at the conclusion.

Dr Steele is around until tomorrow and would enjoy visiting with students.

Paul Morley will be in charge of the Schwabe Symposium for next year. We already have nominations for next year at Chicago. Board discussed having next year's symposium at ISVEE-11 but decided to have it just prior to CRWAD in Chicago next year. Additional nominations should go to Laura Hungerford or Tom Wittum. Members interested in being involved contact her.

Officer and Director Nominations: Last year Paul Morley was nominated as president elect Members voted unanimously for him as President-Elect (assumes Presidency in fall 2007). Randy Singer (nominated in 2004 for Director for term expiring in fall 2007) was elected unanimously.

Replacement nominations were made for the two Director positions (one, the vacated Board Director position being vacated by Morley being elected President-Elect expiring in fall 2006 and the other to expire in the fall of 2008). They were: Yvette Johnson, Robert Wills and Paivi Rajala-Schultz.

Additional nominees for board member can be made to any officer.

Secretary-Treasurer (term expiring in 2008) nominee was Jim Thorne.

CRWAD: Ian Gardner reported that section leaders will be more involved for next year which should increase coordination among sections.

New business

NCPPSP – Margaret Slater, AVEPM's representative gave a report about NCPPSP projects. AVEPM pay annual dues of \$500 and the board pays expenses for a representative to attend NCPPSP annual meeting..

Newsletter – Ron Smith has retired and is over 250 miles from University of Illinois campus. It was moved and seconded that AVEPM send future newsletter issues by email. Motion carried.

President Hungerford installed President-Elect Tom Wittum as President, who then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer

Attendance: Carpenter, Tim; Gardner, Ian; Hoar, Bruce; Huston, Carla; Johnson, Yvette; Keen, Jim; Khaitsea, Margaret; Lord, Linda; New, John; Rajala-Schultz, Paivi; Renter, David; Sanderson, Mike; Sargeant, Jan; Scott, Morgan; Sharpe, Melanie; Slater, Margaret; Thomas, Chet; Weigel, Ronald; Will, Robert; Wittum, Tom

AVEPM Financial Report – Fall 2005

AVEPM	
Balance November 15, 2004	27,709.38
Income	
Dues Paid	1,600.00
Interest	253.03
Bayer	5,000.00
Epidemiology training USDA	97,553.72
Prev Vet Med Mag	135.00
Pay Pal Verification	0.51
Total Income	104,542.26
Expenses	
Epidemiology Training for USDA	27,840.00
USDA Expenses	10,574.74
USDA Travel	8,825.26
Grant - CSU Foundation	20,700.00
Schwabe Award	4,984.76
NCPPSP Dues	500.00
NCPPSP Meeting Expenses	670.14
Postage	6.26
Genesis Fine Arts	3,455.90
Bank Charge	9.10
Miscellaneous (Annual Meeting)	343.90
Annual Registration	10.00
CRWAD Awards	600.00
Total Expenses	78,520.06
Income over Expenses	26,022.20
Balance November 28, 2005	53,731.58

Note:

\$24,033 was paid by USDA, APHIS to AVEPM in error. USDA, APHIS has discovered their error and AVEPM has refunded the money. JGT, Sec.

AVEPM Officers – Fall 2005

President

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Elected fall 2005 - serving to fall 2007, then to president
in fall of 2007

Secretary – Treasurer

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Elected fall 2004 – serving to fall 2006

Director

Dr. Randy Singer
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University of Minnesota
1988 Fitch Ave
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singe024@umn.edu
Elected fall 2005 – serving to fall 2007

Director

To be elected to replace Paul Morley
- serving to fall 2006

Past-President

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Elcted fall 2005 – serving to fall 2007

How to Contact AVEPM

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check
for \$20 payable to the AVEPM, should be sent to:

Dr. James Thorne, Secretary/Treasurer, AVEPM
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Columbia, MO 65201-9383

Phone: 573/443-0157
FAX: 573/884-5050
E-mail: AVEPM@centurytel.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

Newsletter items can be sent to:

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E-mail: rd-smith@uiuc.edu

Current and past issues of the AVEPM Newsletter are
also available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

NEWS & COMMENTARY

The "Alternative" to Pasteurized Milk May Be Illness and Death

December 14, 2005

American Council on Science and Health
Ruth Kava

http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.672/news_detail.asp

Six children have been hospitalized with E. coli O157:H7 infections, acquired from drinking unpasteurized (raw) milk. As of this writing, three are reported to still be in the hospital in Oregon -- two in critical condition.

"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." While the author of that quote, philosopher George Santayana, probably wasn't talking about the history of public health and food safety, he might well have been.

One of the great advances in public health in the United States was the adoption of pasteurization of milk in the 1920s and 30s. Previously, many babies and children became ill and died from consuming contaminated milk. But pasteurization, a process of heating milk briefly to a temperature designed to kill disease-causing bacteria, essentially put a halt to that problem.

Unfortunately, a segment of the population seems to have forgotten that pasteurization is used for a good reason -- to protect health. As part of the misguided "alternative" health movement, some have bought into the myth that raw milk is nutritionally and otherwise superior to milk that has been processed in any way. Added to that are unwarranted fears of genetically-engineered hormones given to cows to prolong lactation. Neither of these myths is true; but that hasn't stopped the proliferation of farms that will provide the unwary with supposedly beneficial raw milk.

Meat Inspection for Trichinella in Pork, Horsemeat and Game Within The EU: Available Technology and its Present Implementation

January 30, 2006

Eurosurveillance monthly releases 2006 Volume 11, Issue 1
P Webster et al

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/em/v11n01/1101-228.asp>

A new EU directive relating to meat inspection for Trichinella, expected to come into force in 2006, imposes important modifications to current legislation. Nevertheless, several issues need more attention. Optimisation of methods, especially concerning sensitivity and digestibility of the meat to be inspected, along with further simplification of the legislation with regard to the number of techniques accepted, is recommended to guarantee that all member states of the EU will be given tools to perform inspection of consumer meat at the same high level. Additionally, there is a need for guidelines and protocols regarding optimal proficiency testing procedures.

This paper presents an overview of the current methods for Trichinella meat inspection and their implementation in the EU, listing advantages and disadvantages for each method, including some suggestions for specific points of improvement.

Introduction

Pork, horsemeat and game may be infected with muscle larvae of the zoonotic nematode Trichinella, which can cause severe disease in humans. Consequently, all countries in the EU perform mandatory official inspection of slaughtered animals intended for export to prevent distribution of infected meat to consumers. Trichinella infections have worldwide socioeconomic significance, and are of medical and veterinary concern in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, but foremost in the east and central European countries [1, 2] where human trichinellosis is reported to be a very important zoonosis. Some of the new EU member states (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) as well as some candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia) have outbreaks every year (reported by the International Commission on Trichinellosis (ICT) [3]. The costs for inspection of pork in the EU is estimated to €570 million annually [1, 4].

All procedures for Trichinella inspection are based on direct detection of the parasite larval stages in muscle tissue, initially (from around 1860s) by direct trichinoscopy of compressed muscle tissue, termed trichinoscopy [5,6,7,8,9,10], later (in the 1970s) by pooled digestion of 1g muscle tissue from up to 100 pigs, which allowed for significant improvements in sensitivity of the inspection test and were less labour intensive, hence allowing larger numbers of animals to be examined.

In the present EU legislation (Directive 77/96/EEC), seven methods are accepted [TABLE 1]: six digestion methods and trichinoscopy. In the anticipated future EU legislation (SANCO/1900/2002 Rev. 8 draft, in force 01-2006), the number of inspection methods has been reduced to four with magnetic stirrer digestion as the reference method to be preferred before three alternative (termed 'équivalentâ') methods. Trichinoscopy is only allowed as a transitional measure, and meat inspected by this method should be clearly marked. Furthermore, such meat is limited to be sold on the national market and is not acceptable for products where the production process does not kill *Trichinella*. The digestion methods have a theoretical detection limit of down to 1 larva per gram muscle tissue (lpg). However, there are several critical steps, which may compromise the sensitivity of the techniques [11, 12] and many of these are not adequately addressed in the new EU legislation.

Complete document available at
<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/em/v11n01/1101-228.asp>

International Portal on Food Safety, Animal & Plant Health

Dear colleagues,

Please visit the International Portal on Food Safety,
Animal & Plant Health:
<<http://www.ipfsaph.org/En/default.jsp>><http://www.ipfsaph.org/En/default.jsp>
I am sure will be very useful to many of you...!

Dr. Carlos Eddi, DVM, MS, PhD
Senior Officer, Parasitology
Animal Health Service
Animal Production and Health Division, FAO
<<http://www.fao.org/ag/vph.html>><http://www.fao.org/ag/vph.html>

Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Information Database

From a posting to the AAVLD mail list

For those of you who attended the presentation on the FAD image website at the AAVLD Pathology Section Sunday at 10:45, I had promised a follow up email about how to submit images. This refers to the URL

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/default.htm>

Click on the camera to see all the images for that disease. Also, you can click on the disease name ---- this will bring up the fact sheet text, with the photo numbers inserted in the text. Clicking on the number will bring up the associated photo.

We are still in need of high quality images and we have concentrated first on the diseases of high consequence to livestock and FADs. The priorities for gross images now are: Plague, Glanders, Q fever, Anthrax, Melioidosis, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, Peste des Petis Ruminants, and Nipah. We will be seeking images for the other listed diseases as well.

The protocol is:

- Contact Drs. Sorden and Andreasen (contact information below)
- Drs. Sorden/Andreasen will review received images (we cannot accept all images)
- If digital, we use digital images with a minimum of 300 dpi. (we may request the original 2x2s to have high quality scanned images)
- If 2x2 slides are reviewed and selected, we will scan these, return them and provide you with a CD of the scanned images. All images will be credited.
- Note: Please do not send 2x2 slides until we talk with you since we do not want them to get lost in the mail. If a number of slides are in a collection, we may need to travel to your site to review them.

If you wish to contribute slides, please contact Dr. Steve Sorden (ssorden@iastate.edu) and myself. We will need to talk with you on a case by case basis.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this project. We welcome your input and participation.

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Acknowledgment: This project is sponsored by a USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant.

The Changing Face of Veterinary Epidemiology

From: "Pig Disease Information Centre"
<pighealth@btconnect.com>

The last decade has some major trends in Veterinary Epidemiology including:

- a) Increased use of the internet & more public visibility of animal epidemics;
- b) Growth of mathematical and computer modelling as epidemiology tools;
- c) Heightened awareness of the economic, political, social and environmental aspects of epidemics

This month is the 5th Anniversary of the start of world's worst foot-and-mouth disease epidemic and like all major epidemics throughout history it has had a "tail" of cultural change - a natural desire to respond to suffering and loss by learning lessons and evolving our skill to prevent and control disease epidemics in the future.

The 5th Anniversary of this awful FMD epidemic is being marked by 3 events that may be of interest to Epivet members:

New Book

"Following Orders" is the first novel whose hero is a veterinary epidemiologist! It is a dramatised account of the life of a government veterinary officer during the real-life swine fever epidemic which occurred in 2000 and the notorious epidemic of FMD in 2001. Although ostensibly a novel it documents the real-life events in these 2 epidemics and is packed with practical tips regarding on-farm epidemiology investigations, on-farm sampling, on-farm slaughtering and the practicalities of carcase disposal in a variety of situations.

The book is also a revealing insight into the ethical and moral dilemmas that veterinary epidemiologists can face. It is also a cautionary tale about the practical limitations of computer modelling! Details at: www.pighealth.com

Free International Conference

Manchester UK 14-16 March 2006, entitled "The Cultural Documents of the 2001 Foot and Mouth Epidemic - A review of the social, health, veterinary, cultural and scientific research work and documentary records relating to the 2001 FMD outbreak in Britain".

The conference focuses on:

- a) A non-partisan, informed and constructive public debate about what happened, why and the lessons are that we can now learn from all this five years on. It will involve a wider general public and urban community leaders in the debate about FMD for the first time.
- b) Framing a new cultural understanding and response to FMD and animal epidemiology in general in the light of public concerns about HPAI "Bird Flu".

For details see:

www.littoral.org.uk/HTML01/conferences/index.html
www.warmwell.com/06jan6fmdconf.html

Fmd Archive Opened

To mark this 5th anniversary and contribute to the "mature reflection" debate at this time, I have made freely available on-line my own archive of the 2001 EU epidemic of FMD. www.sunflower-health.com/fmd220803/fmdoutbreaks.htm

There has never been a more challenging and exciting time to be a veterinary epidemiologist!

Michael Meredith

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

See the AVEPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/> for details and the most current listings.

POSITIONS

Space does not permit a listing of the many opportunities for graduate study and employment. Please visit the AVEPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/> for the most current listings.

SUGGESTED READING

Outbreaks of Escherichia coli O157:H7 Associated with Petting Zoos --- North Carolina, Florida, and Arizona, 2004 and 2005

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5450a1.htm?s_cid=mm5450a1_e

During 2004--2005, three outbreaks of Escherichia coli O157:H7 infections occurred among agricultural fair, festival, and petting zoo visitors in North Carolina, Florida, and Arizona. One hundred eight cases, including 15 cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome* (HUS), were reported in the North Carolina outbreak; 63 cases, including seven HUS cases, were reported in the Florida outbreak; and two cases were reported in Arizona. No fatalities occurred. Illnesses primarily affected children who visited petting zoos at these events. This report summarizes findings from these outbreak investigations, which indicated the need for adequate control measures to reduce zoonotic transmission of E. coli O157:H7.

MMWR Available Via Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds

MMWR now offers RSS feeds, a free, automated method to receive all MMWR publications. Through RSS, new reports and publications are fed to your desktop or browser-based news reader when they are posted online. Headlines are presented in the RSS feeds, with links to the full reports and publications on the MMWR website. RSS feeds to MMWR publications are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/rss/rss.html>.