“Improving Antimicrobial Use in Food Animal Production: Alternatives, Options and Incentives”

APUA-sponsored National Stakeholder Meeting
May 6-7, 2012, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Overall Conclusions:

Joann Lindenmayer (JL): Is there consensus on which approaches/incentives carry the most promise vis a vis effective implementation based on the reports on how to move forward?

1-3 year outcome:
- Common theme around education at the farm level: husbandry education;
- Veterinary medical students and veterinarians—a target group to include for this whole issue.

Long-term outcome:
- Importance of the veterinary profession

M. Lormore (ML): Veterinarians are excited about participating in training; a totally different set of skills in terms of leadership, communication.

Scott Brown: continuing education on veterinary level has got to go together. Most of the producers in the U.S. will do an experiment on their own. They will try the husbandry educator, as long as they can see how it matters to them.

ML: Some producers are leaders. They are examples and when others see what they are doing, the ducks fall in line. Animals that go to auctions create higher risks; The information technology piece re: online trade may be a way to reduce risks.

ML: the auctions are a risk factor. He would love to find a more effective way on the dairy side.

M. Apley: have a substantial number of auctions on the beef side. If they do well enough, it is a price signal. Many want to buy direct.

JL: Is there a surveillance consensus? Do we need better surveillance?

Mike Lormore (ML) (Dairy) we would like to have a more integrated system to make valid observations – He would love to have the SMART systems – epidemiological systems. It is a huge opportunity. He has a lot of data on individual animals.

Mike Apley (Beef Cattle): Animals are individually identified in the feedlot. They can go back to exposure models – and what calf was next to what other calf --neighbors in the pen.

Bill Flynn: Surveillance: NARMS – still not a perfect system; opportunities for improvement. How can the data be used to detect trends in antibiotic resistance. FDA, USDA & CDC- NARMS is not in every state.

JL: Where would support come from?

ML: Industry will come up with the financial support, because there is economic value to having the system. It can be market driven. The challenge is in integrating data. The economics are not a barrier.

JL: What impact will consumer demand have on AB use?

Sean Cash: consumers are not so tuned in to the resistance issue. He thinks consumer perception does not correspond to the realities of public health.

Scott Brown: It depends on how much disposable income we have and competing priorities.. We are a global economy. There is a large demand for protein. Japan is the number 1 export market.
ML: A certain number dedicated to organic. Ultimately there will be a balance by market. Organic adoption in Europe – supply greatly exceeded demand (15-20 years ago) – 12-15%, In dairy industry – 3.5% volume milk is organic.

Andrew Rowan: It is a humane issue, not an organic issue.

ML: There are 25,000 management audits – handlers; Pfizer is looking for ways to assure consumers those animals are well cared for.

JL: an issue of quality of life.

ML: need standardization of label.

Dr. Stuart Levy, concluding the meeting, thanked everyone and said it had been more than we had hoped for. He had learned a lot and hoped that our paths would cross again. APUA plans to continue to provide a forum for diverse stakeholders’ discussion and consensus.