

**THE ROLE OF THE CENTERS FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ANIMAL
HEALTH AS AN OIE COLLABORATING CENTER FOR ANIMAL DISEASE
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS AND RISK ANALYSIS**

Submission by the United States

INTRODUCTION

1. The Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) are part of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services. Their function is to provide information and technical services for animal health and other agricultural interests to ensure a safe and economical supply of food and agricultural products through a multidisciplinary team approach.

2. In 1998, CEAH was nominated as the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Collaborating Center for Animal Disease Surveillance Systems and Risk Analysis. The role of Collaborating Centers is to provide Member Countries of the OIE with scientific and technical assistance and expert advice on topics linked to disease surveillance and control and risk analysis.

3. The Collaborating Center has four primary objectives: (1) Develop methodologies and approaches to enhance animal disease surveillance systems and the risk analysis process; (2) Promote the harmonization of methods applied in disease surveillance and risk analysis; (3) Provide technical cooperation to OIE Member countries on an ad hoc basis in areas related to animal disease surveillance systems and risk analysis; and (4) Establish a critical mass of trained individuals in OIE member countries to improve the quality of animal disease surveillance and risk analysis.

4. CEAH continually seeks and welcomes input and inquiries on tasks and activities that will help the Collaborating Center meet these objectives. Below is a report of the activities of the Collaborating Center for 1999, as well as contact information for inquiries.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1999

Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health

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Name of Director: Position vacant at this time

Name of OIE designated expert: Steve Weber, Center's representative

Activities related to the mandate of OIE Collaborating Centers

(a) International harmonization and standardization of methods:

- Risk analysis in decision-making training courses held in Japan, India and Canada (Dr. Ken Forsythe);
- Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas ad hoc group on risk analysis. Fort Collins, Colorado, 23-27 August 1999;
- CEAH is working with Canada and Mexico examining different mitigations in the face of an FMD outbreak. The objective is to develop a model using animal demographics and contact rates to determine when the use of vaccination becomes economically feasible. The results of the modeling efforts will help managers to decide if and when to use vaccine in the event of an FMD outbreak.

(b) Provision of consultant expertise to OIE or to OIE member countries:

- OIE ad hoc group on guidelines for surveillance and monitoring, Paris 29-30 September 1999 attended by Drs. Mark Schoenbaum and Cristóbal Zepeda
- Analysis and dissemination of results from the Schwein 99 national study. Institute of Virology and Immunoprophylaxis (IVI) of Swiss BVET
- OIE Working Group on Epidemiology and Informatics, Madrid, 4-7 October 1999, Dr. Steve Weber.

(c) Provision of scientific and technical training to personnel from OIE member countries:

- Geographical Information Systems (**Mexico**)
- Veterinary epidemiology and health management systems related to bovine salmonella and pathogenic E. coli in the United States (**Japan**)
- Monitoring and surveillance strategies (**Japan**)
- Epidemiology and data analysis (**Italy**)

- (d) Organization of international scientific meetings on behalf of OIE or other international bodies
- (e) Participation in international scientific collaborative studies
- Dr. Jerry Freier visited the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV), in Rabat, Morocco. The purpose of this visit was to review accomplishments of the current collaborative research effort on ticks and tick-borne diseases (TBD) in Morocco, an initiative funded by the US State Department through USDA/FAS and USDA/ARS. The main objectives of the project were: (1) Validate improved diagnostic assays for use in Morocco; (2) Transfer of technology to IAV; (3) Determine the seroprevalence of TBD in a limited survey near IAV.
- (f) Participation in international scientific meetings
- "The Role of Agriculture in Managing Antimicrobial Resistance" Toronto, Canada, 24-26 October 1999
- "Developing a National Surveillance Strategy". Lelystad, Netherlands 20-22 October 1999
- International colloquium on paratuberculosis in Melbourne, Australia, February 1999
- Third International Symposium on the Epidemiology and Control of Salmonella in Pork. Washington, D.C. on 4-7 August 1999
- (g) Publication and dissemination of information relevant to the work of OIE. A list of scientific publications, internet publishing activities, and presentations at international conferences is available upon request.
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