



***An interdisciplinary symposium organized by Farm Foundation
to examine relationships between animal agriculture and human health***

CALL FOR POSTERS

Background

The recent H1N1 outbreak is one in a long series of disease outbreaks that have raised questions about the relationship between agricultural production systems and human health. Media coverage of the outbreak has frequently included unsubstantiated information with little or no basis in science on the relationship between animal agriculture and zoonotic disease outbreaks. Agricultural production systems differ in risks and relationships to human health. Understanding these risks and interactions is critical to health professionals working with humans and animals, policy makers and regulators as they work to identify critical risk points, improve effectiveness of surveillance and monitoring programs, and decide on quarantines and trade restrictions.

A substantial body of research exists within individual disciplines, but much of it is focused on individual diseases. What is lacking is research that can provide a holistic understanding of the relationship between agricultural production systems, zoonotic disease and human health. Human behavior and biology shape interactions between animals and humans, requiring the inclusion of social science research to fully understand animal agriculture and zoonotic diseases.

To help develop a systematic knowledge of the relationship between zoonotic disease and agriculture, Farm Foundation will host a one and a half day interdisciplinary symposium on September 23 and 24, 2010, at the Grant Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. The target audience will be the multiple disciplines involved in any disease outbreak—public health officials, epidemiologists, virologists, veterinarians, agriculture producers groups and media representatives, particularly those responsible for health, science and agricultural coverage. The project goals are to:

- Clarify specific issues in the relationships between animal agriculture and human health,
- Broaden understanding of the relationship between diverse production systems and practices and zoonotic diseases, and
- Identify questions that need more research or attention.

Poster Submission Procedure

Poster submissions should conform to the following guidelines:

1. Title, author(s) Last name, First name; e-mail address and affiliation of the primary author and affiliations of following authors, if any.

2. Text of the abstract is limited to 500 words and should include a statement of objectives, brief description of methods, principal results and conclusions. No tables or graphs should be submitted in the abstract.
3. Only one submission per primary author will be considered.
4. Abstracts will be evaluated for technical merit and interest by section chairs for each of the three sections as they relate to zoonoses: a) Wildlife populations; 2) Commercial animal agricultural systems and 3) Human health concerns.

Submission deadline has been extended to 5:00 p.m. CDT, AUGUST 16, 2010. All submissions should be sent by e-mail to the following address: hlg@teamsolutionsllc.com.

Selection notification will occur not later than Sept. 1, 2010 so that arrangements may be made for the symposium. Details on symposium events, schedules, program and lodging are available at: <http://www.farmfoundation.org>

The Symposium and Project Outreach

To build the Symposium program, Farm Foundation brought together a diverse planning committee of representatives from academia, the veterinary health community, public health agencies, livestock production and the media. In addition to high-profile speakers, the program features invited and selected papers on the relationship between zoonotic disease, agriculture and human health. Specific emphasis will be on the need for science-based and cohesive communication between the multiple disciplines involved in any disease outbreak.

Farm Foundation plans a rigorous, holistic examination of issues within the context of diverse agricultural production systems, public health systems, and human behavior. The symposium will provide a unique opportunity for experts from diverse disciplines to discuss understanding of the relationships between zoonoses, animal production systems and human health. Events will conclude with sessions outlining needs and challenges identified at the symposium.

Project Coordinators

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