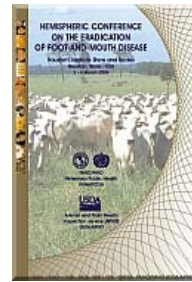




Hemispheric Conference on the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

(Houston, Texas, USA, 3–4 March 2004)



Conference Information

Background

The process towards eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere has progressed significantly. Today, there are only a few remaining areas in South America where FMD is endemic. Completing the final stages of FMD eradication from this Hemisphere will require concerted joint efforts from both the public and private sectors.

In response to Resolution RIMSA13.R5 made at the 13th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 13), endorsed by Resolution CD44.R7 of the PAHO Directing Council, the Pan American Health Organization /World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), will hold a Hemispheric Conference on the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. At the conference, all stakeholders in the livestock and agricultural production chain, public and private sectors, at both the regional and global levels, will be able to express their commitment to completing the final stages of FMD eradication.

A meeting of the Organizing Committee of the Conference was held at PAHO Headquarters on 25 November 2003 to review the provisional agenda proposed by the Secretariat and to make recommendations on speakers as well as logistic aspects of the Conference.

Conference Objectives

- General* To increase awareness and generate support among the public and private sectors to enable the final stages of FMD eradication from the Western Hemisphere.
- Specific*
- To demonstrate institutional and commercial commitment towards a strategic approach to eradicate FMD from the Western Hemisphere.
 - To identify potential contributions that the various stakeholders can make toward the final stages of FMD eradication.
 - To promote effective methods for independent evaluation and support for the progress towards eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere.

Participants: Delegates from countries of the Americas and other Regions representing public and private sectors, international organizations for technical and financial cooperation, scientists, trade representatives, and consumers.

Activities

- Panel presentations and interactive discussions with participants (summaries of the presentations will be distributed)
- Poster displays
- Formulation of a resolution of commitment to complete hemispheric eradication of FMD

Place and Date: Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Houston, Texas, USA, 3–4 March 2004.

Organizing Committee Members

Representatives of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA) and stakeholders involved in the eradication of the disease.

Additional Information on the organization of the meeting, documents, and hotel facilities will be posted on the PAHO website at www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/vp/conference-030304.htm.