

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CONSORTIUM FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BRUCELLOSIS
SCIENCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After over six decades of eradication efforts and expenditure of several billion dollars, brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) has nearly been eliminated from this nation's cattle herds. The last remaining reservoir for *Brucella abortus* in the United States is in the wild bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). In the last few years, the disease has spilled over from those affected wildlife to cattle populations in the states surrounding the GYA, thus threatening the ultimate success of the National Brucellosis Eradication Program. Current vaccine and diagnostic technologies to eliminate this disease in free ranging elk and bison are inadequate. To address this issue, a Special Committee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) was formed. In August 2005, this Committee held a working symposium of scientists to identify the research needs for new and improved brucellosis vaccines, vaccine delivery systems, and diagnostic tests for use in elk and bison. The summary of the results of that working symposium were published in a document entitled the USAHA Laramie Agenda. The total cost of the needed research identified in the Laramie Agenda is substantial. However, funds for their research were not readily available.

As a follow-up to the USAHA Laramie Agenda, funds were provided by the legislature of the state of Wyoming to develop a framework for brucellosis vaccine and diagnostic test development. As a result, the Consortium for The Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS) was initiated, assembling brucellosis researchers and scientists from across the nation. The purpose of this Consortium is to evaluate the current status of brucellosis research with a focus on immunology, vaccines, and diagnostic tests; to identify gaps in research; and to develop a road map for advancing brucellosis science. As part of this effort, two subgroups will be formed; a scientific team (which has already been formed) and a stakeholder's group. The purpose of the stakeholders group will be to provide feedback to the scientific team, and to work to obtain funding for the research priorities identified. Endorsement of CABS by USAHA and its stakeholders will be a key to success.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) endorse formation of the Consortium for The Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS) and participate in a meeting with CABS included on the agenda for the 2010 USAHA Government Relations meeting in Washington DC, in order to identify long-term support to CABS, including but not limited to financial, political, and regulatory support.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) is supportive of the efforts of the Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS) in its goal to extend the research efforts as outlined in the 2006 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Laramie Agenda. VS intends to further collaborate with CABS through the activities of the VS, Agricultural Research Service, and the Research Priorities Brucellosis Working Group. VS will meet with the USAHA Government Relations Committee to discuss CABS during the 2010 meeting in Washington, D.C.