

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 77 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO NATIONAL
BRUCELLOSIS SURVEILLANCE

DATE: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) presented an overview during the committee meeting of proposed adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance to reflect declining budgetary resources, reduce redundancy, and improve program efficiency. Adjustments to national surveillance occurred in the 1970s with unintended consequences to nationwide brucellosis prevalence.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the concepts of the proposed adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance. It urges caution in adopting the adjustments to prevent the unintended re-occurrence of brucellosis, as has occurred in the past. It also urges that no funding changes be implemented until Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) changes, if needed, are finalized. The proposed adjustments should be made publically available for review and comment. Any changes should receive a risk analysis. The efforts of the working groups that generated the proposed adjustments should be publicly acknowledged. Special attention should be given to the ramifications of reducing Brucellosis Ring Test (BRT) testing. Special attention should also be given to the ramifications of relying on slaughter surveillance until mandatory identification of the breeding herd is in place, which would assure necessary traceability.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) shares the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) concern about maintaining the progress and accomplishments of national brucellosis eradication efforts, and we appreciate the opportunity to respond. VS is committed to implementing changes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the national

brucellosis surveillance program. During 2006, the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) comprehensively assessed current brucellosis program surveillance activities. This NSU assessment provided valuable insight into (1) redundancies in low-risk States; (2) disproportionate level of surveillance in dairy cattle; and (3) inconsistencies in laboratory and data entry protocols. Using this comprehensive assessment as a foundation, a Federal-State Working Group developed the proposed surveillance plan in 2007.

Given USAHA's endorsement of the proposed surveillance concepts, VS is moving forward with implementation of the surveillance plan. VS has determined that 2008 will be the last calendar year for providing Federal cooperative agreement funding for first point testing in low-risk States. The target year for revising Federal funding for brucellosis ring testing and market cattle identification slaughter surveillance in low-risk States is calendar year 2010. We recognize that these revisions require amendments to the title 9 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. VS continues to seek adequate funding to support brucellosis surveillance activities required by regulation and essential to maintaining the integrity of the brucellosis surveillance program.