

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 50 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: PREVENTING EXOTIC TICKS AND HEMOPARASITIC DISEASE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE U.S.A.

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is an increased risk to the United States of the introduction and establishment of exotic animal pests and diseases as a result of the changing international dynamics of animal movements and transmission of hemoparasitic diseases. A particular focus on the risks associated with the Mexican and Caribbean Region is required.

Actions to prevent the establishment of exotic tick species that infest livestock and other animals, including wildlife, in the United States are a continuous task. Such action requires vigilance, diligence and singleness of focus from scientific, animal health (domestic and wild) and regulatory communities.

It is important that these communities join in a common effort and thrust aimed at effectively preventing the establishment of exotic tick species and agents of hemoparasitic diseases in animals in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to enter into a joint effort with state animal health officials, animal industries and state and federal wildlife management agencies to define and support a core organization/commission to facilitate the acquisition and allocation of continual funding for preventing the establishment of exotic animal pests and hemoparasitic diseases in the United States. The USAHA recognizes and supports the cooperative efforts of the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Committee to facilitate activities and actions that promote mutual interests in resolving problems to minimize risks of introduction to the United States of exotic ticks and tick-borne disease agents, and ensure free trade of livestock.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

On December 15, 2005, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Mexico Bi-National Tick Committee organized and successfully held a bi-national meeting to address the issues related to ticks of economical importance and wildlife along the Rio Grande. This meeting was attended by about 50 participants. In order to formalize collaborations among both countries and between different organizations, meeting participants agreed to follow-up with more discussions and meetings to continue dialogue. USDA, APHIS will continue its leading role in formalizing, implementing and supporting collaborations with partners in the United States and Mexico to eliminate or minimize the introduction or invasion of ticks that are of economical importance and threatening to our livestock.