

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 51 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR THE CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recent dramatic increases of the ingress of cattle fever ticks from Mexico into the Quarantine Zone and adjacent Tick-Free Area in south Texas is evidence that the need for more funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP) is critical. Additionally, there has been recent documentation of the spread of acaricide-resistant southern cattle ticks from Mexico into Texas, and continued evidence of the role of the white-tailed deer and exotic ungulate wildlife in the maintenance and dissemination of cattle fever ticks into and within the Quarantine Zone and Tick-Free Areas. These factors, along with climatic variables such as warm winters, threaten the ability of the excellent, but under-manned and under-funded work of the CFTEP to protect the United States cattle population from high mortality and morbidity that would result from introduction of cattle fever ticks and Texas fever.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) implement a thorough review of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP), including strategies, operational details, equipment needs, funding, education, research, and bi-national cooperation with Mexico to ensure and enhance the programs that protect U.S. cattle against cattle fever ticks and Texas fever.

RESPONSE:

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

During the week of November 28, 2005, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Officials conducted an on-site visit in Texas, with Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP) field personnel, APHIS' area veterinarian in charge for the State, and Texas' State Veterinarian. Short and long term needs for the program were identified and discussed during the visit. A review of the program will be conducted later this year. In December 2005 in Austin, TX, Veterinary Services (VS) organized a tick task force composed of officials from APHIS, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and State agencies to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for the CFTEP. The plan will outline the program's goals, timelines, and will address any needs for additional resources and personnel in Texas. VS will continue seeking support and funding for the CFTEP, and encouraging counterparts to place greater emphasis on eradication of cattle fever ticks.