

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS
SUBJECT MATTER: INTERIM FUNDING FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE
AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), in existence since 1982, develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory and extension specialists on avoiding both animal drug residues and environmental contaminants in meat, milk and eggs. FARAD's databank provides information regarding the time-course of drug and chemical depletion in the blood and tissues of animals following the routine use of drugs in animal agriculture, for the extra-label use of drugs in animal agriculture, and during food contamination emergencies which might arise from exposure to environmental toxins, particularly pesticides, either accidentally or intentionally introduced into the food supply. Additionally, FARAD provides rapid response assistance, through both its telephone hotline and web access, for inquiries concerning residue issues that affect food animal health and food product contamination. FARAD provides assistance in trade matters by maintaining databanks of foreign drug approvals, and it trains veterinary students and veterinary medical residents in the principles of residue avoidance.

The loss of an earmark for funding of FARAD in 2007 clearly demonstrates the dilemma that has existed throughout FARAD's existence. FARAD shut down all public access on September 30, 2008, and with remaining funds, will maintain the existing databank for an additional month. Without permanent multi-year funding (\$2.5M/year for 3-5 years), FARAD will discontinue all activities by the start of 2009. Once FARAD activities are discontinued, FARAD will be unable to reactivate FARAD activities and the databank will be permanently disabled. In the absence of the valuable scientific information provided by FARAD, food safety and international trade will be compromised.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urgently requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CREES) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) provide immediate interim funding to sustain the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) until the \$2.5 million multi-year funding authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill is appropriated by Congress.

RESPONSES:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine

FDA is continuing to work with the other agencies referenced in the resolution to try and provide enough funding to keep FARAD activities going until the Farm Bill is appropriated. Unfortunately, we do not have any updates to provide to you at the time of the writing of this letter.

USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service

In November of 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture directed the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), the Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to each make available \$25,000 in current fiscal year funds to help support FARAD. Furthermore, the Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine made \$50,000 available to assist in the current fiscal year. CSREES coordinated the effort to provide this interim funding to each of the three institutions participating in the operation of FARAD.

CSREES has now completed its grant review and awards management processes and awarded all available emergency funds (\$125,000 total) to the three FARAD stations. The University of California-Davis award was made on February 24, 2009, the North Carolina State University award was made on February 13, 2009, and the University of Florida award was made on February 11, 2009.