

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 42 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM SHEEP
STUDY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (US) sheep industry has been the subject of only two studies by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in the past. In 1996, a mail survey conducted in cooperation with the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) was completed. The survey results were very helpful to the sheep industry and allied industries, plus served a needs assessment role for the more complete study in 2001 which included on-farm sample collection and diagnostic surveys. The 2001 study results have been widely used by industry and government alike as a national benchmark of US sheep industry health, disease and management issues. A timeline and draft study plan for another NAHMS sheep study to be conducted in 2011 has been established.

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), National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) proceed with a sheep study in 2011, that is both regional and national in scope and priority disease issue targeted.

USAHA also recommends that NAHMS work with industry and the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) as well as state animal health officials on study design and implementation.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services' Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) maintains regular contact with the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) to facilitate the collection of the livestock and poultry demographics necessary for animal health decisionmaking. CEAH is incorporating the demographic data provided by NASS to begin the process of State selection in preparation for the Sheep 2011 study. The National Animal Health Monitoring System studies typically include States that represent at least 70 percent of the operations and animals in the

focus industry for a study. The 2011 study will be the third such study for the U.S. sheep industry and will allow us to identify trends in the industry.

APHIS is using a Web-based survey to collect information from stakeholders on the priorities for this study. In addition, CEAH has been in communication with researchers, university extension agents, and government agencies in preparation for determining the study objectives.