

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 51 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: PREVENTION OF INTRODUCTION OF CLASSICAL SWINE
FEVER (CSF) AND OTHER FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES
(FADs) INTO THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mitigations that prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases (FADs) into the United States (US) from international travelers disembarking from countries at risk for classical swine fever (CSF) and other FADs are essential to protecting the health and viability of the US pork industry.

The Passenger Pre-inspection Program (PIIP), funded by Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) user fees, the Dominican Republic provides an excellent example of a risk-based, cost-effective program that successfully reduces the risk of introduction of CSF and other FADs through the interception of prohibited meat and meat products before they enter the US.

The PIIP is the only pre-inspection program of its kind focusing on preventing the entry of prohibited products prior to international passengers arriving in the US. The emphasis of the PIIP on disease prevention meets the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services 2015 strategic vision and the success of the program suggests it should be used as a model to expand other similar initiatives in other countries.

Currently, the PIIP has the potential to be expanded to include Haiti, which would further reduce the risk of introduction of CSF and other FADs to the US by international travelers provided adequate funding from AQI user fees.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ), with support from Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS), to:

- Continue to utilize Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) user fees to adequately fund the Passenger Pre-inspection Program (PIIP) in the Dominican Republic;
- Acquire the necessary funding from AQI user fees to expand the PIIP to include Haiti; and
- Explore opportunities to use AQI user fees to develop similar, prioritized passenger inspection programs for other countries that have been determined to pose significant risks to the United States for the introduction of Classical Swine Fever and other Foreign Animal Diseases through international travel.

RESPONSES:

USDA, APHIS, International Standards

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services (IS) recognize the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Regarding Resolution 51 from the Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine to Prevent the Introduction of Classical Swine Fever and other Foreign Animal Diseases into the United States and the USAHA request for APHIS IS to support the Passenger Pre-inspection Programs. IS will continue to work together with Veterinary Services and Plant Protection and Quarantine to prioritize the use of AQI funds. We are currently evaluating PPIP in the Dominican Republic and other prohibited product entry programs.

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees that the Passenger Pre-inspection Program (PPIP) has successfully reduced the risk of introducing classical swine fever and other foreign animal diseases from the Dominican Republic into the United States. In 2008, this program resulted in the discovery and confiscation of 127 tons of prohibited material.

APHIS reviewed the performance of the PPIP in 2008. The final report from this review supported continuing and expanding this program. The review team made suggestions to improve the program, and we are considering these suggestions.

VS will continue to work together with APHIS' International Services and Plant Protection and Quarantine to prioritize Agricultural Quarantine Inspection funds and to strengthen the PPIP.

USDA, APHIS

The Passenger Pre-departure Inspection Program (PPIP) in the Dominican Republic has been in operation since 2001. It was intended to be an interim solution to carry out off-shore mitigations, in response to the high volume of animal products potentially infected with classical swine fever that were being intercepted in passenger baggage from the Dominican Republic at U.S. ports of entry.

For Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) to expand the PPIP from the Dominican Republic to Haiti or other countries is not feasible at this time. The program is funded by agricultural quarantine and inspection user fees, and, while program costs have increased, user fee collections have declined significantly in 2009. Funding is not available to expand the program.

PPQ works hard to ensure that limited resources are allocated to programs where the pest risk is greatest and where mitigation measures are likely to have the biggest impact on preventing the introduction and dissemination of pests into and around the United States. Customs and Border Protection is responsible for and fully funded to interdict all prohibited animal products arriving at U.S. ports of entry from all foreign sources, including the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

PPQ remains committed to our mission to protect U.S. agricultural and natural resources from plant and animal pests and diseases.