

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

### RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION OF DAIRY ANIMALS IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION APPROVED RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION

**DATES:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Board of Directors of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) recognizes the importance of eradicating the last vestiges of bovine tuberculosis (TB) from dairy cattle in the United States. NMPF is concerned that a very low prevalence of TB may still exist, particularly in dairy herds and dairy heifer raising operations which market breeding animals in interstate commerce. The NMPF recommends and supports separate interstate movement requirements for all dairy animals. NMPF supports individual animal identification with radio frequency identification (RFID) International Standards Organization (ISO) approved ear tags so that all interstate dairy movements will be in compliance with the TB movement requirements in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77, the January 2005 Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules, as well as the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) requirements for ear tagging individual animals. Uniform federal requirements for movement of dairy animals in interstate commerce will alleviate different individual state entry requirements for dairy animals. The NMPF is aware of at least 34 states now requiring more stringent requirements for entry of dairy cattle than required in federal regulations. Requiring RFID ISO compliant ear tags containing the official animal identification number (AIN) will make it more likely that dairy animals will be properly identified at each change of ownership and location where animals are being commingled. Registry tattoos are hard to read and most dairy animals are not branded to avoid damage to the hide. The button RFID ISO approved ear tags are less likely to be missed as opposed to the official metal ear tags which are easier to remove and more difficult to read.

### 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 issue uniform federal requirements for movement of dairy animals in interstate commerce. Furthermore, USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to require individual dairy animal identification with USDA approved radio frequency identification (RFID) International Standards Organization (ISO) approved individual identification (ear tags) devices which contain the official animal identification number (AIN), this will provide additional assurance that all dairy animals moving in interstate commerce can be traced back to the herd of origin.

**RESPONSE:**

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is actively completing a proposed set of regulations within the tuberculosis program concerning the interstate movement and identification of cattle and bison. The proposed regulations are in accord with a previous USAHA resolution from 2005, and will include a uniform identification and testing requirement for interstate movement of dairy cattle. However, the Federal policy for national animal identification does not restrict identification to only one type of identification device; therefore, the agency will not restrict what type of official identification device can be used. Comments and suggestions will also be welcome when this proposed rule is published later in 2007.