

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:** 1 **APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALMONELLA  
REGULATIONS

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

A zero tolerance for salmonella in feed ingredients, and feed, is not practical, achievable or beneficial.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FSAN) to change the regulation (21 CFR 500.35) that states all salmonella are adulterants.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:**                    2        **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**SOURCE:**                        BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT MATTER:**            FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED RULE  
(589.2001), ENHANCED RUMINANT FEED BAN

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Proposed changes in the 1997 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Ruminant Feed Rule could cause significant economic and environmental harm, as well as threaten the health of animals from a number of pathogens that can be spread via inappropriate dead animal disposal.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to more thoroughly evaluate the unintended consequences of changes in the Ruminant Feed Rule so that reducing a very small risk from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) does not lead to a carcass disposal crisis in many areas of the United States.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 3 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** CAPITAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, IN AMES, IOWA

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Through the support of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and other customers and stakeholders, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) received funding from Congress for modernizing facilities for the National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH), which is comprised of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) and Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) and Agricultural Research Services' (ARS) National Animal Disease Center (NADC) in Ames, Iowa. The \$58.8 million included in the FY06 budget will complete the \$460.77 million requested for the design and construction of the facilities. It is anticipated that the modernization projects will be completed during calendar year 2009 with state-of-the-art facilities to support the work conducted at NCAH. To the extent possible, equipment in the existing facilities will be moved and used in the new facilities. However, \$25 million is needed during FY08 for capital equipment that was not included as part of the construction budget for the new laboratory and animal buildings.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request \$25 million in FY08 for capital equipment needs for the National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) in Ames, Iowa.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are in the process of refining the original itemized listing of capital equipment needed for the National Centers for Animal Health in Ames, Iowa. The re-use of existing capital equipment will be included in the evaluation process to arrive at a more accurate accounting of needs. The revised projection, along with documentation to substantiate that estimate, will be forwarded to the APHIS and ARS Administrators for inclusion in the FY 2008 budget.

#### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS fully supports efforts to complete the modernization of our National Centers for Animal Health. The equipment needs are met through research program funds and not the constructions budget. ARS is cognizant of instrument and equipment needed and will do everything we can to see that the research program is funded at a level to meet these needs. Construction of High Containment Large Animal Facilities began in the fall of 2003 and is progressing with a target for completion set for early 2007. Design of the Phase 2 Consolidated Laboratory is progressing and ground breaking occurred in October of 2005. The target for completion is the end of 2008.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 4 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

**SUBJECT MATTER:** RELEASE OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After premises registration, animal identification is the second step in implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The administration of official individual identification numbers is the responsibility of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and state animal health authorities.

USDA-APHIS-VS announced at a public hearing on October 12, 2005, that the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN) system is built, tested, and could be implemented within 90 days.

Industry groups and state animal health officials are ready to proceed with implementation of the second step of NAIS.

AIN Radio Frequency (RF) tags, as defined in the draft NAIS program standards, have received overwhelming support from cattle producers thru public comments supporting implementation of RF tags for cattle.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) make available the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN) system for use on the recommended ID devices and/or technology, as outlined in the species working group reports, with administration and oversight conducted by USDA-APHIS-VS. Implementation should be no later than 90 days after the October 12, 2005, public hearing.

### RESPONSE:

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

Since the October 2005 public hearing, substantial progress has been made in the development and implementation of the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN) Management System. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has implemented the system to support the implementation of the AIN for certain disease program tags and has scheduled a tentative launch date of early 2006 for public use of the AIN Management System. In addition, we will be releasing a document through a Federal Register notice of availability that will provide stakeholders with necessary information on how the authorization and distribution of official identification devices with the AIN will work. At the same time, user manuals and training tools to support the system's users will be available. Completion of the remaining task in each area is critical to the successful implementation of this phase of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). At this time, we expect to meet our target date for roll out of the new AIN Management System. The availability of AIN Tags remains contingent on the manufacturers submitting applications for devices along with tag sample that meet the specifications described in the AIN Tag document. Also, managers and resellers will need to have completed their participation requirements.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 5 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

**SUBJECT MATTER:** IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM TRACKING DATABASE

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

It is widely understood that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association representatives are now stating that the national animal tracking database is for animal disease surveillance, monitoring and control purposes only (9/28<sup>th</sup> 2005 ID Expo, Chicago, and 10/12<sup>th</sup> ID Stakeholders Hearing, Kansas City) and not for purposes of containing information that would "add value" for marketing purposes.

Also, by law and precedence, the gathering of animal tracking information supporting animal disease surveillance and monitoring has been and should remain activities undertaken by state animal health officials and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

With the knowledge that USDA-APHIS-VS was soon to complete the national animal tracking database proposed in the initial National Animal Identification System (NAIS) plan, the NAIS Cattle Industry Work Group has recommended that the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) play a pivotal role in facilitating and implementing the NAIS tracking database as initially outlined in the NAIS plan.

### **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 implement the animal tracking database for disease surveillance and monitoring as initially outlined in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) plan.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is committed to developing National Animal Identification System (NAIS) policy in a fully transparent manner that invites the input of producers and stakeholders large and small.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) believes that maintaining the animal movement data privately is the best solution for advancing the NAIS. Producers have expressed concern about the potential misuse of such data, and these concerns will only increase as more producers gain knowledge of the NAIS. Therefore, having stakeholders maintain control of their information is a practical solution. As a result of discussions about the industry's ability to achieve a single privately held database, we have proposed a solution for the information technology architecture that will enable the linkage of multiple databases. We are considering a metadata repository to support this architecture. By simple definition, metadata is usually described as "data about the data." The establishment of a metadata layer is an effective way of supporting a distributed architecture for animal movement databases.

The advantages of a metadata layer, given a distributed architecture, include: (1) tracing efficiencies, and (2) decreased query impact on source systems (the private databases). A significant benefit would be that only the private databases that have data on a particular animal would need to be searched when a query is submitted via the Veterinary Services Health Information System. That is, the metadata layer would direct (or route) the query only to those databases with information on the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN).

Participating private systems will need to be at a level that would allow query requests from an external source and be able to send newly-entered AIN data to the metadata layer on a regular basis.

USDA could manage this layer containing information about all participating source systems. Also, USDA would have a legal agreement with the industry organization and/or company responsible for databases. The agreement would define the legal responsibilities to ensure requirements of the system, access to the information and archives for historic data are met. The legal agreement would also define the necessary safeguards to preserve the data if the organization or company ceases business or decides to cease maintenance of the database.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 6 & 47 Combined APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION  
COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** TIMELY PREMISES REGISTRATION – STATE AND  
FEDERAL

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in cooperation with the states, administers disease control and eradication programs. These programs require the identification of animals for testing, monitoring, or surveillance purposes. Registration of premises in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is currently voluntary, and it will take significant time to register all locations. It is important to utilize the NAIS premises identification number (PIN) in all herds when APHIS-VS and/or the state are carrying out program disease activities. When conducting disease program activities in herds not yet assigned an NAIS PIN, we need to ensure that a PIN is provided in the most timely manner possible. Additionally, the process for the distribution of Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags in the NAIS requires the PIN to be assigned to the premises before the AIN tags can be assigned to the premises.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages state animal health officials to register premises in a timely manner and to allow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to register premises and to assign premises identification numbers (PINs) to premises on which official USDA disease program work is being conducted or for which official program tags have been requested from APHIS by the owner of the animals residing on the premises utilizing standard operating procedures approved by the state animal health official. USAHA also urges the adoption of this resolution as a National Animal Identification System NAIS program standard.

### RESPONSE:

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

Premises registration is the fundamental building block of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). It is preferred that all producers have premises numbers before conducting program disease tests in the herd or flock or processing disease program tag orders. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) realizes that this may not be the case for some time, especially when premises registration is voluntary. It is important that our animal disease databases utilize the new premises numbers for all future disease surveillance, monitoring, and eradication activities. USDA believes premises registration is best handled by the individual States and will continue to support their practices for premises registration. In the past, when USDA animal health officials needed a premises identification number for official disease control programs, and when they did not have access to the state premises registration system, they used the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) to assign a number to the premises. The problem is that this premises information did not go into the State premises registration system, and the State didn't consider the premise registered. A single premises registration system at the State level will ensure that all the State premises data is available to State and Federal animal health officials. Therefore, it's important for USDA animal health officials to have State database access privileges that would allow them to register premises that are involved in official disease program activities.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 7 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

**SUBJECT MATTER:** MODIFICATION OF THE PREMISES REGISTRATION SYSTEMS – DATA ELEMENT STANDARDS

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) provides species information to animal health authorities to successfully conduct animal disease investigations. While most premises systems provide for the collection of species information, "species" is not a required data field in most of the premises registration systems.

The dairy industry has formed an alliance known as IDAIRY that provides a focus for six of the nation's major dairy industry groups to encourage all dairy producers to register their premises voluntarily under the NAIS. In order to measure progress in meeting this goal in each state, IDAIRY needs to be able to determine how many dairy premises have been registered under NAIS in comparison to the number of dairy facilities that are currently permitted to ship either Grade A or manufacturing grade milk in each respective state. This is not currently possible when all cattle premises, including bison, are lumped together under one premises data element.

From an animal health standpoint, a breakout of species by premises as well as beef, dairy and bison would afford animal health authorities the opportunity to more readily identify disease events that are unique to each of these respective categories of livestock.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to modify the current data fields specified under the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Premises Registration System Data Element Standards to require the reporting of species managed at the premises and, more especially, break out beef, dairy and bison premises, respectively.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The data standards developed through the working groups of the U.S. Animal Identification Program are proving to be well defined. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) realizes that additional data fields will need to be defined over time. USDA is receptive to updating the standards and acknowledges such revisions will need thorough review. If revisions are implemented, they must be clearly communicated to ensure changes are uniformly implemented in all systems affected by the change.

Procedures to update data standards will be redefined so this request for additional data standards can appropriately and successfully be addressed and implemented in a timely manner.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 8 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND  
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** A NEW BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) WILDLIFE  
DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The introduction and emergence of infectious diseases of wildlife is becoming increasingly more important because many diseases of domestic animals and humans involve wildlife as hosts or reservoirs. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) has unique capabilities to address national disease control efforts in wildlife.

It is crucial that USDA-APHIS-WS expand its capacity to effectively deal with wildlife diseases of concern. An essential part of this increased capacity is the construction of a stand-alone Biosafety Level 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) research laboratory at the NWRC to support expanding research and operational efforts to better understand and combat these emerging and invasive wildlife diseases.

The laboratory should be used to conduct research on wildlife diseases; to develop methods to identify, monitor, control, eradicate and prevent the introduction of wildlife diseases into the United States; to respond to outbreaks of wildlife disease and emergency situations; and to provide emergency surge capacity to the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) to secure funding for the construction and operation of a 25,000 square foot (approximate) Biosafety Level 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) laboratory at an estimated cost of \$50 million at the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) at Fort Collins, Colorado.

### **RESPONSE:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) agrees and is committed to support USAHA Resolution Number 8. We recognize the importance of increased Biosafety Level 3 facilities to both conduct wildlife research and carry out critical wildlife disease diagnostics in support of biosafety to humans, domestic animals and wildlife, and has supported the planning and construction of a Biosafety Level 3 Wildlife Disease Research Building as part of the APHIS/WS National Wildlife Research Center's (NWRC) Master Plan on the campus of Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. While this facility is currently scheduled to be constructed under a private construct/USDA lease arrangement, APHIS supports Federal ownership of this important, unique wildlife disease facility due to bio safety concerns and the need to manage this kind of research to protect human safety.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 9 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND  
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health and national security. There are critical shortages of veterinarians in certain key public health practice areas. The nation's veterinary medical colleges are at capacity and can enroll only 2,500 students per year. Although these colleges provide a national resource by training veterinarians, only 27 states provide direct support to the colleges. Federal support is needed to increase capacity in veterinary medical education.

The Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914, H.R. 2206) was introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. VWEA authorizes a competitive grants program for veterinary medical colleges and other eligible entities to increase capacity in veterinary medical education. VWEA would provide \$1.5 billion to expand enrollment in the professional DVM/VMD programs by 400 students per year (a 16-percent increase) and it would open approximately 700 new postgraduate positions.

This initiative is separate from, but integrates with and supports, the request to seek full funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) by providing training opportunities for veterinarians in public health practice.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Congress enact the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914 and H.R. 2206) and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 10 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is part of a national strategy to coordinate the nation's federal, state and university laboratory resources to allow authorities to better respond to any type of animal health emergency, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases, and foreign animal disease (FAD) agents that threaten the nation's food supply and public health.

In fiscal year 2002, 12 state and university diagnostic laboratories were selected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to receive Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants to initiate the network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any animal health emergency, funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment.

USDA-APHIS-VS and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have established a collaborative relationship to produce, distribute and use proficiency panels and reference materials in order to harmonize the diagnosis of major animal diseases between the United States and Canada.

This initiative is separate from, but integrates with and supports, the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914, H.R. 2206) by providing training opportunities for veterinarians in public health practice.

It is essential that annual appropriations be provided for the full implementation, maintenance and long-term support of the NAHLN.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees to immediately provide \$90 million to fully fund the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) infrastructure.

USAHA urges the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspections Service (USDA), (APHIS) and Veterinary Services (VS) to request line-item funding in the USDA budget in the amount of \$35 million per year for ongoing support of the NAHLN and to ensure that adequate funding is available for transfer and full implementation of newly developed and validated assays from federal and other laboratories to the NAHLN laboratories.

### RESPONSE:

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

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories recently revised their Strategic Plan and has included an objective to strengthen the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). This will

build a system for surveillance and maximum emergency response capabilities. Action items were developed for each of objective and assigned priorities. One of the action items identified as a high priority, is to explore methods to more clearly identify NAHLN funding and make NAHLN a separate line item. A team has been formed to carry out the action item and personnel from the animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Veterinary Services have participated in discussions concerning the development of a line item for NAHLN.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 11 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NEED FOR RESEARCH TO DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF ANTIPROTOZOAL THERAPY FOR CLEARANCE OF INFECTION IN HORSES CHRONICALLY INFECTED WITH *BABESIA CABALLI* OR *BABESIA EQUI*, THE CAUSAL AGENTS FOR PIROPLASMOSIS

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For the past 30 years, it has been common practice to treat horses that are infected with equine piroplasmosis (EP) with various therapies. It was widely believed that treatment has been successful in clearing infection, particularly with *Babesia caballi* (*B. caballi*). There is some evidence that treated horses may not in fact have been cleared of the parasite.

Effective treatment of EP-infected horses would be of significant benefit to the horse industry in the United States and many countries worldwide. Research is urgently needed to determine whether anti-protozoal treatment does clear horses of infection with *B. caballi* or *Babesia equi* (*B. equi*).

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) in partnership with the USDA, Agriculture Research Service (ARS) pursue urgently needed research into the efficacy of antiprotozoal therapy for clearance of the carrier state in horses chronically infected with *Babesia caballi* (*B. caballi*) and *Babesia equi* (*B. equi*).

### RESPONSE:

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

Don Knowles and his team at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Service, Animal Disease Research Unit and the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories are developing and will initiate in 2006, projects to test the hypothesis that imidocarb or other babesiacides will clear persistent *B. caballi* or *B. equi* infections and/or impact transmissibility by *Dermacentor nitens* is as follows:

1. Tick transmit via *D. nitens* a Caribbean isolate of *B. caballi* and a field strain of *B. equi* to horses (number of horses is being determined based on statistical power of the outcome).
2. Determine baseline levels of *B. caballi* and *B. equi* in persistently infected horses by real time PCR and anti-*B. caballi* and *B. equi* antibody levels by cELISA, CFT and IFA . Due to the sequestration of *B. caballi* and *B. equi* in small capillaries we will also obtain blood from a mucosal surface (location to be determined) to measure parasite load by real time PCR.
3. Treat horses with imidocarb and other babesiacides (*B. equi*) and track parasitemia by real time PCR and antibody levels by cELISA and CFT.
4. Post treatment ability of *Dermacentor nitensto* acquire and transmit infection will be tested at least at two (2) time points.

5. Should tick transmission, serology and PCR indicate that horses are cleared of infection; horses will be splenectomized as the final test of clearance.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS fully supports research projects that will support the U.S. equine industries. Research to assess the efficacy of antiprotozoal therapy for equine babesiosis has already been initiated and we expect to be able to provide a progress report at the 2006 USAHA Annual Convention.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 12 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL CATEGORY FOR NON-COMPETITION ENTERTAINMENT HORSES IMPORTED FROM CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

From time to time, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) receives requests from importers wishing to bring non-competition entertainment horses to the United States for extended periods of time without having to meet the import requirements for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). Currently USDA regulations list two main categories of eligibility for exemption from CEM import requirements – one temporary and one permanent. The first is for competition horses entering for 90 days or less and the second is for Spanish Pure-Bred Horses from Spain.

In some cases, the two categories listed above do not meet the specific needs of companies wishing to import non-competition entertainment horses, particularly with regard to the length of time they plan to remain in the United States. Examples of non-competition horses include circus horses, the Lipizzan Horses of Austria and the performance stallions in Cavalia. In some, but not all, cases, the period of time these companies propose spending in the United States exceeds the 90-day period under which competition horses, i.e., race horses and competition or event horses, are allowed entry into the United States without having to meet the testing import requirements for CEM.

Under special permitting, the USDA-APHIS-VS staff must negotiate agreements with the individual entities importing non-competition entertainment horses that allow them to meet their schedule of performance engagements. Often what is approved for one entity is different from that approved for another. The process can often be problematic to enforce and is time-consuming for the limited number of USDA-APHIS-VS staff available to deal with such requests. More problematic, however, is the relentless push for extensions to waivers. The decision to either grant or extend a waiver often becomes a politically based one, involving U.S. congressional representatives and the Secretary of Agriculture. Unfortunately, these waivers are very often granted without the support of the horse industry.

There is growing concern over the practice of repeatedly issuing special waivers and the horse industry would prefer to restrict their use. Horses granted entry under special waivers require continued monitoring while in the country. Given limited USDA-APHIS-VS personnel, there is significant concern over the Department's ability to adequately monitor such horses. An example of this is the Moscow circus horses that were imported into the United States in the 1990s for the purpose of performing at numerous venues throughout the United States. Within a very short time, USDA-APHIS-VS had lost track of these horses. The effort to evaluate, develop, monitor and maintain these types of special waivers requires a significant commitment of staff time for the USDA-APHIS-VS, particularly since the terms under which these waivers are negotiated frequently vary between groups.

Since the number of inquiries and requests for these types of special permits has increased in recent years, it would seem both timely and appropriate to standardize a protocol for dealing with

such requests through regulations.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognize an additional category of horses presented for import into the United States and develop a separate set of requirements for horses imported into this country solely for non-competition entertainment purposes from countries where Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) is known to exist. This request represents a modification of the existing federal program currently in place with regard to the importation of mares and stallions from CEM affected countries, i.e., a 90-day permit for competition horses and permanent entry requirements for horses to remain in the country.

**RESPONSE:**

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

The National Center for Import and Export is gathering information regarding the development of Veterinary Services import requirements for non-competition horses from horses coming from countries affected with Contagious Equine Metritis. It is expected that this rule making will take 18 to 24 months.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 13, 18, 25, 26 and 30 Combined APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT  
COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS  
COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY  
COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,  
BISON AND CAMELIDS  
COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND BOVINE  
RETROVIRUSES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN VETERINARY EDUCATION

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has launched a program called Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education (GIVE) to support companion colleges in developing countries. Strengthening veterinary education abroad will improve livestock health infrastructures, expedite international trade, improve food safety and sow the seeds of world peace by supporting human-animal bonding and reducing starvation. This program is intended to provide needed expertise for governmental and private veterinarians, strengthen regulatory infrastructures, improve cooperation among the health professions, promote animal health extension and outreach programs and encourage academic research within and between developing and developed countries.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the concept of Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education (GIVE) undertaken by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) to strengthen veterinary education in developing countries and urges its allied and official agency member organizations to cooperate in this enterprise.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 14 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PRIORITY PASSAGE FOR LIVE ANIMAL CARGO AT BORDER CROSSINGS

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

With the usage of x-ray technology to screen cargo at border crossings, the waiting time has increased significantly.

There is inconsistency in the priority given to live animal cargos between ports of entry. Some allow more rapid passage for live animal transports, while at others the wait is for hours in line with all other cargo conveyances. In cases of weather extremes, the resultant long wait times can prove to be cruel as well as fatal to the animals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not have a consistent protocol for live animal cargo. A process to allow vehicles with live animal cargo to move ahead of inanimate cargo should be developed to avoid suffering of animals.

### **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 communicate to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection Directorate (CBPD) the need to develop a process to allow vehicles with live animals on board to advance ahead of other vehicles in line that are carrying inanimate cargo to enhance the well being of the animals and to avoid suffering.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The National Center for Import and Export will enter into discussions with Customs and Border Patrol to determine if a mechanism for granting priority to shipments of live animals can be developed. If so, such a mechanism will be developed.

#### **U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP)**

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) understands the need to facilitate the processing of compliant shipments of live animals at our ports of entry. Livestock carriers should consider participating in CBP voluntary partnership programs, such as Free and Secure Trade (FAST). The FAST program is a Border Accord Initiative between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. FAST is designed to ensure security and safety while enhancing the economic prosperity of each country. The FAST program allows known low-risk participants and low-risk cargo (low-risk for terrorism) to receive expedited border processing. Where available, CBP has dedicated lanes for those that apply and are accepted into the FAST program.

Eligibility for the FAST program requires participants (carrier, drivers, importers, and southern border manufacturers) to submit an application, agreement, and security profile depending on their role in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT). C-TPAT is a joint government and business initiative to build cooperative relationships that strengthen overall supply chain and border security. Through this initiative, CBP asks businesses to ensure the integrity of their security practices and communicate their security guidelines to their business partners within the supply chain.

For information on the FAST and C-TPAT programs, visit the CBP Web site at [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import). FAST information is also available on the Canada Border Security Web site, at [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

The U. S . Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has the actual regulatory authority relating to the importation of live animals. Even though shippers of live animals may be enrolled in a FAST or C-TPAT program, they must still be referred to a CBP Agriculture Specialist and the USDA veterinary official as appropriate. Should you have further concerns regarding live animals, you may write to USDA, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, Maryland 20737. You are also invited to visit their Web site, at [www.usda.aphis.gov](http://www.usda.aphis.gov).

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 15 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** THE DETERMINATION OF PROTOCOLS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF SOUTH AMERICAN CAMELID EMBRYOS

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The international movement of embryos from South American camelids has not been possible because, in these species, the embryos are retained in the oviduct until after hatching and therefore cannot be collected nonsurgically while still in the zona pellucida (ZP). Currently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) regulations require the presence of an intact ZP on embryos for importation into the United States.

A more significant barrier to international movement of camelid embryos has been the fact that these hatched blastocysts have proved to be nearly impossible to freeze by standard methods that rely on movement of the cryoprotectant down a concentration gradient from outside the trophectoderm layer of the conceptus in to the aqueous blastocoel fluid. It is universally accepted that embryos intended for movement across international borders must be cryopreserved so they can be held for a period of time greater than the incubation period for any diseases of concern to allow post-embryo-collection testing of the embryo donor animal. Donor animals can then be retested to provide reliable assurance that they were not infected with pathogens of concern at the time of embryo collection.

A new technique involving direct injection of cryoprotectant in to the blastocoel fluid and extraction of almost all of the blastocoel fluid to allow rapid equilibrium of the entire conceptus prior to cryopreservation, as well as the post-thaw injection of culture medium to reinflate the trophectoderm, has opened the door to practical cryopreservation of hatched blastocysts. Now, hatched embryos of South American camelids can be cryopreserved and held until post-collection testing can be accomplished.

Risk assessment of the animal health status of the country, region and farm of origin of embryos intended for importation, coupled with the ability to cryopreserve and hold these embryos until after post-collection testing, has shown to provide a wide margin of statistical certainty that the embryos imported under these strict guidelines are free from disease and safe for importation without a ZP.

Finally, international movement of cryopreserved, hatched blastocysts of the South American camelid will allow increased trade in the genetics of these species with a dramatic reduction in the health risks and animal welfare issues involved in the importation of live animals.

### **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 determine if protocols can be developed for the importation into the United States of cryopreserved, hatched blastocysts of South American camelids.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The National Center for Import and Export will evaluate the procedures required for importation of cryopreserved, hatched blastocysts of South American camelids.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 16 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PROCESS TO RESTORE NORMAL TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA TO ENSURE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) IMPORT REGULATIONS CONFORM TO OIE GUIDELINES

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has caused extreme hardship to cattle producers, importers and exporters in the United States, Canada and Mexico (for a disease that is not highly contagious and of low prevalence in North America). Furthermore, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has published updated guidelines for the importation of animals and animal products appropriate to the BSE status of the country of origin. Additionally, Canada, Mexico and the United States have signed an agreement to implement common, science-based BSE import policies. The lack of uniform application of these policies not only damages trade among our three countries, it also limits trade with other countries due to the lack of consistency and policy application.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to proceed in the most expeditious manner to complete the rule-making process or processes to restore normal trade in North America and to ensure that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) import regulations conform to the relative World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) supports this resolution and is in the process of amending the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to accomplish the intent of this regulation. Currently, APHIS is publishing interim rules for importing live cattle and ruminant products and a technical amendment to a final rule for ruminant products. APHIS is also developing a work plan and drafting proposed rule to changes to the CFR for the BSE Minimal Risk Rule regions regulation for ruminants and ruminant products, as well as the Comprehensive BSE Rule. Some issues still need to be resolved with Canada.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 17 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON AND COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

For national information systems to be successful they must be practical and usable by states with a variety of technical capabilities. As the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) develops national information systems, it is important to seek the input of states to assure that the systems developed can be supported by states. Many states have already developed their own information system for premises and animal identification data and to store and retrieve disease program data. It is important for the developers of national information systems to tap into this expertise and to assure that the products that are developed will be compatible with existing or planned state systems.

### **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 utilize Change Control Boards or other mechanisms during the development and implementation of information systems to encourage input from states and other stakeholders and facilitate interoperability with stakeholder systems. In addition, a communications mechanism for at least quarterly reporting to stakeholders on information systems development within VS should be implemented and maintained.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

Veterinary Services (VS) has traditionally depended on user groups to provide the system requirements for major information technology systems. Recently, the concept of user groups was expanded to Change Control Boards (CCBs), and successfully utilized in the development of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Surveillance System. The difference in the two concepts includes a broader representation of all stakeholders and continuance of involvement by the CCB in evaluating the on-going use of the system once developed and subsequent changes.

Due to the previously mentioned success, VS is establishing CCBs for other major VS enterprise systems including Generic Data Base, National Animal Identification System, and Veterinary Services Process Streamlining. A key component of the input from CCBs members representing states and other stakeholders will be to identify requirements for the interfacing of VS IT systems with State and industry information systems when appropriate.

In 2006, VS will include the status of major IT system development and milestones on the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, Center for Animal Disease Information and Analysis Web site.

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:** 18 Combined with 13

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN VETERINARY EDUCATION

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

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 19 APPROVED AS AMENDED  
**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE  
**SUBJECT MATTER:** DISTRIBUTION OF JOHNE'S FUNDING IN FY 2006  
**DATES:** Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Congress has cut the funding for the National Johne's Control Program from \$18.59 million in FY 05 to \$13.184 million in FY 06. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the President requested approximately \$3.0 million. The House of Representatives appropriated approximately \$7.5 million and the Senate appropriated approximately \$18.6 million. It is important that an emphasis of the total FY 06 funding is appropriated to those states that have exhibited a strong desire to control the spread of Johne's disease in cattle herds within their respective states.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to maintain funding for cooperative agreements with states under the National Johne's Control Program in the FY 2006 budget to the maximum extent possible. Consideration for funding may be based on compliance with Johne's Disease Control Program Standards, degree of state cost-share assistance (both direct and in-kind) and the number of herds participating in the program. A baseline would be established for all states to receive some monies for their programs.

### **Response:**

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

Veterinary Services is working hard to identify all the needs to sustain the program and will do our best to provide the maximum resources to the States in the face of the budget cuts to the program. Program funds used for cooperative agreements will be distributed based on compliance with the VBJDCP standards and the number of herds enrolled into the program. The degree of cost sharing will not be used in the determination of funding distribution but this information will be collected as a baseline measure for this year. A baseline funding level will be chosen so that all states participating will receive a minimal level of federal support.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 20 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PRODUCTION OF JOHNIN PURIFIED PROTEIN DERIVATIVES AT THE NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES LABORATORIES

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Tests that measure cell-mediated immunity, such as the intradermal skin test and the interferon-gamma assay, are beneficial for the detection of early stage paratuberculosis infection. Antigen preparations utilized in these assays have traditionally been Johnin purified protein derivatives (PPD). However, production of Johnin PPDs in the United States has resulted in inconsistent products. Diagnostic labs and researchers are hampered by the lack of well-characterized Johnin PPDs for use in these assays.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) develop a systematic protocol for the production and characterization of a uniform, quality Johnin purified protein derivative (PPD) and manufacture Johnin PPD. The Johnin PPDs must be of equivalent sensitivity and specificity from batch to batch. These products must be available for distribution to researchers upon request.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), Brucella and Mycobacterium Reagents Team (BMRT) is currently working with the Agriculture Research Service (ARS), National Animal Disease Center (NADC) and APHIS field veterinarians on monitoring the Johnne's Demonstration Herds to evaluate Johnin PPD production methods. There are several variables involved in the production process that may affect the diagnostic sensitivity and specificity of the product in sheep and cattle, and the NVSL is working towards defining an optimal and repeatable Johnin PPD production method. The BMRT is currently raising cultures of Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis that will be used to create 3 to 4 experimental batches of Johnin PPD. The method of culture growth and the method of Johnin PPD production will be closely monitored and recorded. Each of the PPD products will be evaluated in the laboratory setting as well as within sheep and cattle – with the help of NADC, other Johnne's research laboratories, and the Johnne's Demonstration Herds. Once an optimal experimental Johnin PPD product is identified, the BMRT will use the same production method in multiple batches of Johnin PPD. The entire process for evaluating and optimizing the Johnin PPD production method is hindered by the slow growth rate of the Mycobacterium spp. of bacteria and the time needed to compare skin test results in animals to culture results from those animals as a measure of true infection status. The BMRT is estimating that this validation process may take at least 18-24 months before a final production method is identified and proven to be reproducible.

At the current time, NVSL has not received funding to support this Johnin PPD production project, and as a result, we rely on the collaboration with other research groups to provide data on the performance of the PPD products in animals. The data that is generated must be reviewed by the APHIS Johnne's Disease Control Program Staff to determine if a Johnin PPD product would be a valuable diagnostic tool within the Johnne's Disease Control Program. If the APHIS Johnne's Disease Control Program Staff decides to incorporate the use of a Johnin PPD into the program standards, the NVSL will at that time seek funding to produce the Johnin PPD product.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 21 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

**SUBJECT MATTER:** DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF SAFE AND EFFECTIVE VACCINES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF *E. COLI* O157:H7

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

It is well documented that the presence of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 in improperly cooked ground beef or cross contamination of other food items is a significant public health threat. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared *E. coli* O157:H7 an adulterant in ground beef in 1994 and in 1996 developed the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) regulatory framework that establishes a science- and risk-based approach to reducing food safety risks. Since the implementation of HACCP and the development and adoption of in-plant interventions that improve the microbiological profiles of meat products, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has documented very significant declines in the rates of food-borne illness in the United States.

However, despite the recognition that reducing food-borne illness requires interventions at each step from the farm to the table and after over 12 years since *E. coli* O157:H7 was declared an adulterant, no viable or effective preharvest interventions have been developed and approved to reduce the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7. One reason for this is the existence of uncertain regulatory approval procedures, processes and authorities. Recent research indicates there is a significant opportunity to develop safe and efficacious vaccines to reduce the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7 shedding in cattle. However, the regulatory process necessary for review and potential licensing of a safe and efficacious vaccine is uncertain and an impediment to reducing the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7 at the preharvest level and subsequently reducing food safety risks.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) to work closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to allow the USDA-APHIS-VS-CVB to assume the review, approval and licensing process for vaccines used in animals that have a benefit in reducing food safety risks. The USDA-APHIS-VS-CVB has extensive expertise, experience, test facilities, inspection unit, and existing framework to regulate vaccines of this type. In addition, USDA has the authority to regulate vaccines for use in animals pursuant to the Virus Serum Toxin Act, in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FDA dated June 18, 1982, indicated the agreements to play this role have long been in place. USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS-CVB to work with FDA to quickly establish the clear regulatory path at the USDA for these important contributors to food safety.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have worked closely to clarify the regulatory jurisdiction of vaccines such as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 for

use in cattle. The outcome of those discussions were made public in the Center For Veterinary Biologics Notice No. 05-07, Biologics for Reduction of Colonization and/or Shedding in Animals. The notice informs industry of a change in APHIS policy regarding licensing requirements for veterinary biological products with a claim of reduced colonization and/or shedding of organisms that may not cause significant clinical disease in animals, but have the potential to adversely impact the management or care of the animal by causing the animal to be a disease carrier. The notice states:

*In response to requests from industry, the APHIS and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have agreed that the jurisdiction for animal vaccines targeted at the reduction or elimination of a carrier state of organisms that can infect other animals (even if that infection is only rarely associated with significant clinical disease in animals), will lie with APHIS as long as certain criteria are met.*

*Those criteria include:*

- 1. Products must be indicated for administration to animals only, and must act primarily through the direct stimulation, supplementation, enhancement, or modulation of the immune system or immune response.*
- 2. Label claims and advertising must contain only factual statements supported by data (e.g., as an aid in the reduction of colonization and/or shedding). No food safety or human health claims, either implicit or explicit, would be allowed by APHIS. Products with such claims would fall under the authority of the FDA and require their approval.*
- 3. The products will be required to show significant, substantively meaningful, and clinically relevant efficacy as defined by APHIS. For claims of reduction of colonization and/or shedding, products must demonstrate the ability to cause a substantial decrease in number of animals colonized and/or numbers of organisms shed by vaccinated animals.*

This jurisdictional clarification does not realign regulatory authority of vaccines that make overt human health claims away from FDA to CVB. However, it does offer a mechanism for licensure of vaccines that reduce shedding of pathogens and can therefore add value to food animal production by positively affecting the management of animals. It also still allows vaccine manufacturers wishing to market products with human food safety claims the ability to apply for and obtain FDA licensure.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

**RESOLUTION:** 22 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

**SUBJECT MATTER:** CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD) AND THE NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE MONITORING SYSTEM (NARMS)

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Antimicrobial compounds play an essential role in ensuring the health and well being of livestock. Protecting the health of livestock is also an important contributor to providing consumers an abundant supply of safe, wholesome and affordable food. In order to maintain the human safety, animal safety and continued efficacy of these important products, animal health professionals need prompt access to data relating to prudent use, including complex pharmacokinetic data. This data is an important contributor to prudent-use decisions as well as to aid in preventing violative residues in animal products. Since its inception in 1982, the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) has developed and maintained a unique and valuable pharmacokinetic food safety database for veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory agencies and extension specialists. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has established the Guidance for Industry #152 framework for evaluating the safety of antibiotics relative to their potential to contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. It is important that such resistance patterns, if present, are addressed so as not to jeopardize public health as a potential indirect consequence of antibiotic use in livestock.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), FDA-CVM and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have jointly funded the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) for many years. The NARMS program is the post-approval monitoring system for new and existing antibiotics and the data are a central element in the decision-making process employed by the FDA Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee as they implement the Guidance for Industry #152 evaluation process.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the continued funding of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) and full funding of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) by the United States Department of Human Health Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Service (ARS), Cooperative States Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to support these important programs.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS appreciates the importance of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) as a post-approval monitoring system for new and existing antibiotics whose data are a

central element in the decision-making process employed by the Food and Drug Administration Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee as they implement the Guidance for Industry #152 evaluation process. Antimicrobial resistance, where present, must not jeopardize public health as a potential indirect consequence of antibiotic use in livestock. ARS will cooperate with other Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and Human Services agencies in supporting NARMS to the extent that our resources allow.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 23 and 48 Combined APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY  
COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** EXPAND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAM COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) represents a high level of coordination among three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies: Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The three agencies have agreed to develop a comprehensive effort to address animal health and food safety issues, including those attributable to antimicrobial resistant bacterial pathogens. The purpose of this collaboration is to produce information regarding use of antibiotics in agriculture, the development of resistance patterns, and interventions to reduce the development and potential transfer of resistance. This collaborative effort is designed to enable USDA to identify and track emerging diseases, whether naturally or intentionally introduced, and implement mitigation strategies. The pork industry has been the major beneficiary of this new program to date. ARS has begun to fund a minor program effort with the dairy industry. CAHFSE will provide the animal industry with objective assessments of food safety risks pertaining to antibiotic resistant bacteria, provide practical means to routinely monitor critical diseases in food animal production and provide producers ultimately with best management practices to minimize antibiotic resistance. The overall CAHFSE budget has been minimal, with USDA requesting \$1.0 million in the President's FY 06 budget request. Congress has appropriated \$0.5 million in FY 06.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to recognize the important impact that this collaborative program effort between USDA and the industry can have with regard to enhancing both food safety and animal health. USAHA urges USDA-ARS, APHIS, FSIS and OMB to increase funding for the Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) by requesting \$2.5 million in the President's FY 07 budget request.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the strong support that this resolution expresses for the Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) work conducted by the three agencies. Each agency has been working to

identify specific budget needs and has submitted those requests through the agency budget process. In the meantime, all of the agencies continue to run the program using existing funds.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS recognizes the important impact that this collaborative program effort between USDA and the industry can have with regard to enhancing both food safety and animal health. ARS will use all available resources to cooperate with other USDA agencies to implement the Collaboration for Animal Health, Food Safety, and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program with all commodities and support the program and volunteer to participate. In addition, ARS will work with APHIS and FSIS to coordinate and develop the joint priority of CAHFSE for the respective agency budgets.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 24 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

**SUBJECT MATTER:** COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) is a stakeholder-driven, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) multi-agency Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) collaboration to address issues that may affect animal health and food safety. It has been under development for three years with input and support from multiple industries, key stakeholders, and by all three relevant USDA undersecretaries.

The CAHFSE is based on longitudinal sample and data collection on farms and at commodity processing facilities over time. The CAHFSE will provide a flexible platform to evaluate management factors that may be related to animal health, production practices and food safety outcomes, including antimicrobial resistance issues.

USDA will maintain confidentiality of data in a similar manner to the National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS), which has proven to be excellent over many years. The CAHFSE will complement the NAHMS by conducting quarterly sampling and collection of production practices over time. Currently, data and samples are being collected on swine farms and will soon be collected in swine slaughter/processing plants.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the continued Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) and recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) reprioritize funding in order to implement the program with all commodities that support the program and volunteer to participate.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services appreciates the strong support that this resolution expresses for the Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) work conducted by the three agencies. Each agency has been using existing funding by redirecting and reprioritizing funding as much as possible to continue this important work. Recruiting herds that are representative of the livestock populations under study will be linked to National Animal Health Monitoring Systems national studies in order to streamline the process of adding herds to CAHFSE in the future. We also plan to develop pilot studies in those commodities volunteering to participate so we can refine sampling and logistical issues prior to inclusion of a large number of operations.

We are rapidly reaching the point where it is not possible to continue to reprioritize existing funding without scaling back current programs or obtaining new funding.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS understands and appreciates that the Collaboration of Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program will provide a flexible platform to evaluate management factors that may be related to animal health, production practices, and food safety outcomes, including antimicrobial resistance issues. ARS will use all available resources to cooperate with other Department of Agriculture agencies to implement the CAHFSE program with all commodities groups that support the program and volunteer to participate.

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:**            **25    Combined with 13**

**SOURCE:**                COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

**SUBJECT MATTER:**       THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY  
MEDICAL COLLEGES GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN  
VETERINARY EDUCATION

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

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:**            **26    Combined with 13**

**SOURCE:**                COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,  
BISON AND CAMELIDS

**SUBJECT MATTER:**       ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL  
COLLEGE (AAVMC) GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN  
VETERINARY EDUCATION

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

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:** 27 **NOT APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,  
BISON AND CAMELIDS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS (BVDV)  
PERSISTENTLY INFECTED (PI) CATTLE

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) persistently infected (PI) cattle present a risk and a mechanism for the maintenance and dissemination of the virus/disease within the United States cattle herds.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) persistently infected (PI) cattle be permanently identified and removed from the production/cattle herd by slaughter or euthanasia. All cattle associations require that all breeding stock be BVDV PI test negative for sale.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 28 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,  
BISON AND CAMELIDS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS (BVDV) PERSISTENT  
INFECTED (PI) CAMELIDS

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) and BVDV persistent infected (PI) positive animals have been identified in camelids and the significant and/or prevalence of BVDV PI animals is unknown.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) support and provide research on the prevalence and impact of BVDV in camelids.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

Generally, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) funds cannot be used to fund research - which is under the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for direct work or Cooperative State Research Service for grants to universities. Periodically, APHIS provides limited grant funding to conduct field studies on emerging disease or specific disease threats to livestock or poultry. APHIS meets annually with ARS to review suggested research needs or priorities and to give thoughts on prioritization of their work.

#### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS fully supports efforts to identify reservoirs of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV). The ARS BVDV research program will continue to study mechanisms of disease transmission and diagnostic discovery work to provide scientific information and tools to support efforts to control and eradicate this important disease of cattle.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 29 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH INITIATIVE

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The importance of maintaining healthy populations has long been recognized by fish and wildlife managers and several disease issues are of growing concern to natural resource, animal health and public health professionals and the publics they serve. Significant diseases, such as plague, hemorrhagic disease, pasteurellosis, chronic wasting disease (CWD), botulism, West Nile virus, whirling disease, and others have been found in wild and farmed fish or wildlife populations in North America and can have a significant impact on resources. Reservoirs of economically important diseases like bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis have inadvertently become established in native wildlife and threaten livestock industries in some areas of the United States. Foreign animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), which was eradicated decades ago, and highly pathogenic avian influenza, which never has been reported in North American wildlife, also are of concern. The intentional or accidental introduction of these diseases could significantly impact wildlife, domestic animal, or human populations and would require a coordinated multi-agency response.

State fish and wildlife agencies are the principal front-line managers of fish and wildlife resources for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of its citizens, and collectively, the nation. As the principal managers of fish and wildlife resources, state fish and wildlife agencies have primary authority and responsibility for managing free-ranging wildlife, including diseases, and this authority extends to most federal lands. In view of the increasing need for fish and wildlife managers to effectively address disease issues, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), in cooperation with appropriate governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), is undertaking the development of a National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to protect the health of fish and wildlife resources, as well as the health of domestic animals and humans, in the United States and eventually, in cooperation with Canada and Mexico, throughout North America.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) fully supports the development and implementation of a National Fish and Wildlife Health Plan by an inclusive working group of appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations under the leadership of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). Furthermore, USAHA urges the United States Congress to provide adequate and sustained funding for development and implementation of the plan by state fish and wildlife agencies through additional appropriations specifically for this purpose to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Department of Interior (USDI) and others.

### RESPONSE:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has forwarded a copy of Resolution 29 to our Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and our Center for Veterinary Medicine for their consideration. Also,

FDA agrees with you that Resolution 29 may also fall under the purview of the United States Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Interior.

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:**               **30    Combined with 13**

**SOURCE:**                   COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND BOVINE  
RETROVIRUSES

**SUBJECT MATTER:**       AAVMC GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN VETERINARY  
EDUCATION

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 31 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** A NATIONAL PLAN FOR RABIES CONTROL IN WILDLIFE

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The epizootic of raccoon rabies continues to spread into uninfected areas of North America. The natural barriers that previously restricted the raccoon rabies variant to the Atlantic coast states have been compromised. Barriers have been breached in Ohio and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with a first-time occurrence of raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York. Translocation of raccoons with incubating rabies infection may have contributed in these instances. This creates the potential for a large portion of the nation to be affected by raccoon rabies. The cost of living with raccoon rabies cannot accurately be determined, but is substantial according to numerous local, state, and federal studies. This epidemic has reached national proportions and control efforts require coordination at the national level.

Rabies vaccine, licensed for use in raccoons and coyotes by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), is available for delivery to wildlife through bait distribution. The use of oral rabies vaccination has been successful in the control of raccoon rabies in urban and rural environments, limiting the spread of raccoon rabies to uninfected areas, and dramatically controlling and eliminating rabies in coyotes in south Texas. Large-scale control efforts must continue to be developed and implemented over large areas of the epizootic front to prevent the spread of rabies in raccoons throughout the continent. The USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) has provided substantial leadership, funding and program support to assist states with oral rabies vaccination programs which include raccoon, coyote, gray fox and skunk rabies. The USDA-APHIS-WS has also facilitated numerous meetings involving federal, state and provincial agencies to address the potential for coordinated, regional rabies control efforts, with the goal of developing a national rabies control program that would complement rabies control programs in Canada and Mexico. The National Working Group on Rabies Prevention, coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AAVMA), has developed recommendations for enhancing rabies control, including wildlife vaccination.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) to continue to seek additional funding for terrestrial wildlife rabies control programs. USAHA further encourages state and local governments and regional alliances to support this activity through appropriate funding channels. USAHA also strongly encourages the USDA-APHIS-WS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to allocate appropriated funding and resources to assist states and local agencies in the development, maintenance and expansion of coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs with the ultimate goal of eliminating terrestrial strains of rabies regionally and then nationally.

## RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) agrees and is committed to support USAHA Resolution Number 31. Rabies in raccoons, coyotes and gray foxes continues to challenge oral rabies vaccination zones and threatens to spread to uninfected areas, underscoring the need for additional funding for strategically coordinated rabies control. We accept the charge of cooperating with the United States Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and local, county and state governments, as well as regionally to include border States and provinces in Canada and Mexico to reach rabies management goals nationally. Without the continued cooperative efforts from all entities, the goal of successfully eliminating rabies in terrestrial carnivores such as the raccoon would not be attainable.

In response to our Federal leadership in managing rabies in wildlife, Wildlife Services received \$23,580,000 in FY 2006 Congressionally appropriated funding. Appropriated funding and resources have been used to expand the oral rabies vaccination program and to assist State and local agencies in the development, maintenance, and expansion of coordinated regional wildlife rabies control efforts. The NWRC initiated key research projects to address bait, bait density, vaccine, and rabies reservoir population issues in support of an effective ORVP. WS has requested additional resources for the expansion of wildlife rabies control efforts in fiscal year 2007.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 32 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FUNDING FOR ADITIONAL RESEARCH ON USE OF INFRARED TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT SIGNS OF ANIMAL DISEASES

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Detection, surveillance, and monitoring of animal diseases, especially zoonotic diseases, is of paramount importance in the world today. The development of new technology is being constantly sought. If a remote sensing method could be developed that would detect signs of select animal diseases, millions of dollars could be saved by government and private industry.

Infrared thermography is a non-invasive, non-contact diagnostic or screening technique that measures heat emitted from a target surface and displays the information as a pictorial representation. Infrared radiation, which is detected by thermal cameras, is emitted by all objects proportional to their temperature. Medical imaging makes use of the fact that heat is one of the cardinal signs of inflammation, so an increase in body surface temperature may indicate inflammation of tissues close to that point. While thermography does not reveal specific pathologies, it facilitates the localization of increased (inflammation and/or injury) or decreased heat (reduced blood flow or vasomotor tone). The patterns of a thermograph are affected by activities of the tissues, organs, and vessels inside the animal's body and may be unique for a particular disease (i.e., a "signature").

Currently, infrared thermal imaging is used in many different medical applications. The most prominent of these are oncology, including breast cancer (Anbar, 2002), vascular disorders (Lawson et al, 1993), pain (Graff-Radford, et al., 1995), surgery (Devulder et al., 1996), arthritis (Will et al., 1992), ophthalmology (Montoro, et al., 1991), and dentistry (Biagioni et al., 1996), to mention but a few. This technology has also been used in veterinary science in attempting to detect lameness in horses (Eddy et al., 2001) as well as other diseases in horses, including subluxation of vertebra, abscesses, periostitis, and laminitis (Purohit et al., 1980). To a more limited degree, infrared thermography has also been used to detect infectious disease in animals, including bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection in young cattle (Schaefer et al., 2004).

Studies conducted by scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) have provided data that indicated that infrared thermography can be used in an experimental setting to detect raccoons exhibiting clinical (neurological), and possibly prodromal, signs of rabies. They found that the infrared thermal image and temperature of the nose of raccoons correlated with stages of rabies infection. In studies at the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Animal Disease Center at Plum Island, New York, scientists also found that signs of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in cattle and pronghorn antelope could be detected by infrared cameras. In these studies, scientists found that infrared cameras could detect the signs in feet of pronghorn antelope before visual lesions were evident. Studies are currently underway to attempt to detect bovine tuberculosis in experimentally infected white-tailed deer.

The use of infrared thermography to detect additional diseases and in other animal species may hold promise. Signs of animal diseases, especially those presenting with external signs that may

also be detected by infrared, are classical swine fever, African swine fever, rinderpest, screwworm infestations, vesicular stomatitis and anthrax, to mention but a few. The detection of animal diseases by remote infrared thermography would add another tool in the arsenal in combating both domestic and foreign animal diseases. We believe the use of infrared thermography to detect diseases in animals is in its infancy and, after additional research, will prove invaluable in the areas of both human and animal health.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (STD) seek funding for research on the use of infrared thermography to detect signs of disease in both domestic and wild animals. Funding for the continuation of this research will support studies: 1) on the use of infrared technology to detect signs of infection in animals on a number of emerging diseases of importance to domestic animal and human health; 2) for the application of this technology to detect, monitor, control, and possibly prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases into the United States; and 3) to respond to emergency animal disease outbreaks in support of efforts of USDA and DHS.

### **RESPONSE:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) agrees and is committed to support USAHA Resolution Number 32. We recognize the importance that new techniques in Infrared Thermography might play in a variety of domestic animal and wildlife disease research and diagnostics, and support development and implementation of this technology for the early detection of zoonotic and domestic and foreign animal health diseases as resources become available.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 33 and 42 Combined APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS  
COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** BRUCELLA OVIS TESTING STANDARDIZATION

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2004, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed a resolution recommending that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) provide a standardized *Brucella ovis* (*B. ovis*) Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test. The rationale was that control sera and antigens produced and provided by NVSL for the *B. ovis* test were inconsistent in quality. The test resulted in both false positive results and a high proportion of suspects. Many animal health laboratories responded to this situation by in-house modification of the *B. ovis* test to attempt to minimize these effects. The result is that the *B. ovis* test offered by one laboratory often produces a different range of negative, suspect and positive results compared to other laboratories. This creates a lack of consumer confidence in the test, and in the competence of laboratories offering the test. Several laboratories have voluntarily stopped offering the test. These inconsistencies are affecting their reputation with producers. As a result of the 2004 resolution, the NVSL began work on an improved *B. ovis* test.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) alert all animal health diagnostic laboratories, state veterinarians and the sheep industry that it recognizes there is a serious problem associated with the current *Brucella ovis* (*B. ovis*) test.

USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL, animal health diagnostic laboratories, and the sheep industry work together to generate a panel of control sera that can be used in test validation. NVSL and the diagnostic laboratories should work together to establish the serum bank necessary to validate the new test methods and participate in inter-laboratory testing of the reagents. Alternate sources of antigen should be evaluated in parallel. USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL host a working group to evaluate these data and report these results.

The USAHA requests an update from USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL on when the revised testing protocol for *B. ovis* will be available.

An immediate need for *B. ovis* testing exists and USAHA requests USDA-APHIS-VS to encourage commercial interests to supply validated *B. ovis* test kits and further requests that approval of test kits by USDA-APHIS-VS-Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) be a high priority.

### RESPONSE:

The Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory (DBL) of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has evaluated a new ELISA format with the World Organization for Animal Health recommended antigen, REO 198. The NVSL has taken the lead in conducting interlaboratory

comparison of the new method. The reagents and a panel of sera were sent to 16 laboratories. The results are due February 17, 2006. Conference calls have been planned to discuss the comparison and results. All results will be reported to participating laboratories and USAHA. Future work at DBL will be focused on enlarging the serum bank for proficiency tests for *B. ovis* ELISA. Two commercial interests have been contacted and are aware of the interlaboratory comparison.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 34 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF FEDERAL TUBERCULOSIS INDEMNITY MONIES IF HERD OWNERS FAIL TO FOLLOW INDIVIDUAL HERD PLANS DESIGNED TO PREVENT RE-INFECTION

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Wildlife reservoirs of bovine tuberculosis (TB) continue to persist and pose a risk for local livestock populations in certain areas of the United States. Much advice, supported by research, has been provided to the local livestock industry in these areas to help mitigate the risk of infection in their herds. However, in a few cases, recommended mitigation procedures, as outlined in individual herd plans, have not been followed, and herds have become re-infected after being completely depopulated with federal and state indemnity monies.

To address this issue, a change is needed in the Code of Federal Regulations that would allow federal TB indemnity payments to potentially be reduced if a herd owner fails to follow requirements outlined in an individual herd plan to prevent re-infection.

### **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 make appropriate modifications to applicable sections of the Code of Federal Regulations that would allow USDA-APHIS-VS to provide federal tuberculosis (TB) indemnity payments of less than the fair market appraised value of animals classified as TB reactors, suspects, or exposed if the affected herd owner fails to follow specific requirements outlined in a written herd plan designed to prevent re-infection.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is in the process of amending the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to accomplish the intent of this regulation. APHIS is developing a proposed rule to make the necessary changes and also amending the CFR in order to revise domestic bovine tuberculosis regulations for indemnity.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 35 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** RESTRICTING FEEDER CATTLE FROM HIGHER-RISK TUBERCULOSIS AREAS IN MEXICO

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Even though current tuberculosis (TB) import regulations and requirements have been strengthened over the past few years, feeder steers and spayed heifers from many states in Mexico are allowed to enter the United States to graze unrestricted on pastures throughout the country with little consideration as to the risk to commingled or adjacent livestock that may be exposed to TB-incubating Mexican animals. Cases of tuberculosis continue to be found in these steers, and genetic fingerprinting of many of these cases suggests their involvement in transmitting tuberculosis to native U.S. cattle. This has been determined to be the largest deterrent in successfully completing the national tuberculosis program. From 2003-2005, Mexican steers originating from Mexican states with a current status of Accreditation Preparatory or less were more than three times more likely to have cases of TB than steers originating from states of higher status.

To adequately address this significant impediment to the successful completion of the U.S. TB Eradication Program, cattle import regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) must be modified to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from those higher-risk Mexican states, having a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognized status below Modified Accredited, be tested as currently required and be restricted by the USDA port veterinarian for movement directly to approved feedlots without provisions for grazing of these cattle.

### 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 modify applicable sections of 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 93.427 to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from Mexican states/zones that are recognized by USDA as having an equivalent tuberculosis (TB) status below Modified Accredited status only be allowed importation into the United States if tested negative and permanently identified as required per existing protocol, and transported directly from the port of entry to approved feedlots or approved pens specifically recognized as such by the receiving U.S. state. USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS consider modifying the applicable sections of 9 CFR relative to user fees to offset the increased costs that will be incurred by states in the enforcement of this provision.

### RESPONSE:

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the process of amending the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to accomplish the intent of this regulation. APHIS is making proposed changes to amend the 9 CFR, Part 93 and will review with the Office of General Counsel, the legal requirements for user fees to offset cost incurred by States for enforcement.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 36 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** MODIFICATION OF THE INTERSTATE MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS IN 9 CFR, CHAPTER 1, PART 77 AND IN THE JANUARY 2005 BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION UNIFORM METHODS AND RULES TO REQUIRE A NEGATIVE TEST ON INTACT DAIRY CATTLE OVER 6 MONTHS OF AGE

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Interstate movement requirements are established through federal regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and augmented by policies in the Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR). Traditionally, the federal tuberculosis requirements for interstate movement of livestock are based primarily upon state status. In recent years, continued detection of tuberculosis in dairy herds and dairy heifer raising facilities around the United States, particularly in Western States, has raised concerns that a very low prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) may still exist within the dairy industry. As a result of this, 34 states have imposed entry requirements for dairy cattle that are more stringent than those in the federal regulations. These state-imposed regulations are not uniform, making it difficult for owners to comply when selling and shipping cattle interstate. A uniform rule for the interstate movement of dairy cattle should be established to provide for their safe and uniform movement while allowing for the detection of low-level TB infection and preventing its spread.

Such a rule will accomplish the following:

- It will create a uniform rule and eliminate confusion for market-owners, producers, and other involved parts of the dairy industry when participating in interstate trade
- It will allow testing focused on dairy cattle to ascertain whether low-level infection is really present or not, possibly localize this infection, and determine what that level is and eliminate it.
- By continuing to require that tested animals be officially identified to their premises of birth, it will allow us to better characterize the typical movements of dairy cattle and identify likely sources of exposure if infection is present.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) modify the current interstate movement requirements for cattle and bison to create a separate movement requirement for dairy cattle. This change would establish a uniform testing and identification requirement for interstate movement of dairy cattle that is acceptable to industry, states and other stakeholders.

USAHA encourages the USDA-APHIS-VS to modify the interstate movement requirements in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 1, Part 77 and the 2005 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) to include the following language:

Dairy cattle that originate in a state or zone of any status and are not known to be infected with or exposed to tuberculosis, may be moved interstate only if they are officially identified prior to leaving their premises of birth and comply with one of the following conditions:

- (a) The dairy cattle are moved directly to slaughter at an approved slaughtering establishment or through an approved market and then direct to slaughter.
- (b) Sexually intact dairy cattle are accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection that states that the herd of origin is currently accredited.
- (c) The dairy cattle are sexually intact, are 6 months of age or older and are accompanied by a certificate stating that they were negative to an official tuberculosis test conducted within 60 days prior to the date of movement.

USAHA recommends that a definition for dairy cattle be added to both the CFR and the UMR. The definition should read that: dairy cattle are any domesticated bovine dairy animals or crosses of the Bos genus that show at least 50-percent phenotypic characteristics of a dairy breed, including; Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Canadienne, Dutch Belt, Holstein-Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey, Kerry, Milking Devon, Milking Shorthorn, or Norwegian Red.

**RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reviewing the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to see if it can accomplish the intent of this regulation. In several areas, the regulations in 9 CFR and the Uniform Methods and Rules are out of synch. However, only the regulations in 9 CFR are legally enforceable. APHIS has under review the proposed changes to 9 CFR, Part 77.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 37 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NATIONAL COORDINATED CLEARING HOUSE OF INFORMATION

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have been funding initiatives to develop programs, courses, and products relating to foreign and emerging animal diseases (FEDs) and animal emergency preparedness in an effort to improve the nation's response to an adverse agricultural event. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes the value of these activities for veterinarians, educators, state officials, and animal health industry stakeholders. A tool that would prevent unnecessary duplication, allow for synergistic expansion, and allow for broader, nationwide use of the projects would be of great benefit.

Towards this end, The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) proposes that USDA and DHS work together to develop a central, coordinated clearinghouse of programs, courses, information, and products relating to FEDs and animal emergency preparedness.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (STD) to develop a central, coordinated clearinghouse of programs, courses, information, and products relating to foreign and emerging diseases (FEDs) and animal emergency preparedness;

- a. that the acquired details and particulars not be limited to projects funded by USDA or DHS; however all projects funded by these organizations should be included;
- b. that the clearinghouse information be stratified in such a way for easy access; for example, stratified by targeted audience, species, type of program, etc.;
- c. that the clearinghouse be in a format amenable to the sharing of the information and products among stakeholders, such as federal and state regulators, funding organizations, and educators involved in FEDs and animal emergencies.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Inspection Service supports the concept of an information clearinghouse for funded initiatives supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). We look forward to working with USAHA to explore options to accomplishing this goal including defining more specifically the objectives and other aspects of collaborating with DHS.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 38 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NATIONAL SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS TASK GROUP

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has proposed in the October 4, 2005, *Federal Register* additional safeguards to prevent the transmission of the agent of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The FDA-CVM proposal will prohibit certain high-risk materials from entering the animal feed supply, including the brains and spinal cords of cattle 30 months of age and older, brains and spinal cords of cattle of any age not inspected and passed for human consumption, and the entire carcass of cattle not inspected and passed for human consumption if the brains and spinal cords have not been removed. In addition, tallow that is derived from the above prohibited materials cannot contain greater than 0.15 percent insoluble impurities and all mechanically separated beef is prohibited if derived from the above prohibited materials.

While the ultimate economic impact of this proposal is uncertain at the present time, FDA-CVM has estimated that disposing of just the brains and spinal cords from cattle over 30 months of age would create approximately 64 million pounds of waste per year that renderers would have to burn or bury at an estimated cost of approximately \$14 million. Such disposal costs are expected to be passed back to the producer level in the form of discounted prices for market slaughter cows. In addition, the rendering industry will no longer have meat and bone meal outlets for 4-D animals when it is not feasible or economical to remove brains and spinal cords. Concern is being expressed that such an economic disincentive could lead to further discontinuance of on-farm, dead pick-up service in many parts of the nation.

In the face of this regulatory decision by the FDA-CVM, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) needs to take a leadership role in bringing all affected stakeholders together to develop a national Specified Risk Materials (SRM) utilization and disposal plan that minimize the economic impact upon cattle producers and the rendering industry while enhancing animal disease surveillance functions of both federal and state animal health authorities.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Services, (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) to create a National Specified Risk Materials (SRM) Disposal Task Group to develop a viable national plan with state and affected industry stakeholders to utilize and/or dispose of SRM's to be prohibited from entering the animal feed supply if the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) proposed rule of October 4, 2005, is adopted. The plan should:

- Minimize the potential economic impact upon cattle producers and the rendering industry

- Maintain economical, on-farm, dead stock recovery by the rendering industry and enhance animal disease surveillance by the USDA and the states
- Develop value-added markets for non-ambulatory and dead stock that cannot be utilized in the feed supply and develop safe utilization and disposal options that maximize public health and environmental concerns.

**RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service recognizes the potential implications of the proposed rule for additional safeguards against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) transmission and supports the formation of a National Specified Risk Materials Task Group. The task groups should review the likely impacts of the rule as well as economically viable solutions to incentivize compliance with BSE control programs.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 39 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** SUPPORT THE INTER-AMERICAN GROUP FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) initiated a program in 1951 for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from South America. The program has been successful in eliminating the virus from a large portion of South America. From 1980 to 1990, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and two southern states of Brazil were declared free without vaccination. Parts of Brazil lost FMD-free status in 2001 because of FMD spread from bordering infected countries. This situation has been reversed and those areas are now FMD-free with vaccination.

In March 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and PAHO sponsored a conference in Houston, Texas, with 24 Ministers of Agriculture from the Western Hemisphere, the National Directors of Animal Health Programs, and representatives from the private sector.

One of the outcomes of the Houston Conference was the creation of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa - GIEFA). The GIEFA was tasked with the development of a comprehensive plan to complete the eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere. The group was composed of one representative each from the private sector, the public sector, and each of the six regions identified in the original Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of FMD (PHEFA) approved in 1988.

The GIEFA has met frequently during the past 18 months, resulting in the preparation and approval of an Action Plan for the Eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere with the goal of having all countries affected by FMD at least at the level of FMD-free with vaccination by the year 2010.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS) to continue to support the work of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa (GIEFA) with technical assistance, expertise, and training opportunities to achieve the goal of completing the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2010.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continues to promote the eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere and continues to support Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA) by providing Dr. John Shaw, APHIS International Service, as the North American government representative to the GIEFA committee. APHIS works closely with countries in South America to enhance the diagnostic, epidemiologic and programmatic expertise needed to control outbreaks and make progress towards eradication of FMD.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 40 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON VACCINES AND ANTIVIRALS FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

If outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or of classical swine fever (CSF) are not controlled and eradicated quickly, there will be a very serious negative impact to the United States livestock industry and the general economy of the nation, including travel, food distribution and tourism. A number of critical research needs must be adequately addressed and funded if the United States is to be better prepared to respond to an outbreak of FMD or CSF. Among the most pressing research needs is to greatly accelerate the deployment of a new generation of vaccines and antivirals against FMD and CSF that can be quickly utilized to prevent the spread of disease, reduce clinical symptoms, eliminate the possibility of infection after exposure and permit the United States to pursue a “vaccination to live” policy, rather than being forced to continue to pursue a “stamping out” policy as the only alternative response option.

While great strides have been made in the development of novel vaccines for FMD and recently for CSF, critical to the acceleration of these initiatives at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) is the need for adequate funding for basic research for vaccine and antiviral development by the Agriculture Research Service (ARS). Currently this effort for FMD is limited to one team of researchers with inadequate funding and lack of dedicated laboratory space for this important effort. Total funding in FY 03 was approximately \$1.544 million. A rescission in funding in FY 04 reduced the total to approximately \$1.391 million, but under a reimbursable agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), an additional \$1.751 million was provided. The President included an increase of \$2.0 million in FY 05, bringing the total ARS FMD research budget at PIADC to \$3.391 million, far less than a sustainable level of \$5.0 million. The funding for the research in vaccines and antivirals for CSF, currently much smaller than that for the FMD initiatives, also needs to be optimized.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make available needed additional funding to rapidly accelerate the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) basic research program at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) to develop and validate effective vaccines and antivirals that can protect our nation’s livestock industries against all subtypes of foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) and against contemporary classical swine fever (CSF) virus strains. In addition, the USAHA urges the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (STD) and USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to coordinate the deployment of such advanced vaccines and antivirals under the recently approved National Veterinary Stockpile for rapid deployment throughout the United States.

## **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are working together to advance the work on new foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccines and antivirals for use as control tools in the face of an FMD outbreak in the United States. In order for these new tools to be deployed, they must meet strict Center for Veterinary Biologics and Food and Drug Administration requirements. Much of the work on these new tools has been completed, but the licensing of new biological reagents is a long process. DHS has focused their research effort at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) on moving these two tools into the commercial market.

The PIADC Center Director, representing DHS, and the Associate Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services have had several discussions about what role the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) can play in moving the novel vaccines into the commercial market. The NVS is very interested in the potential of this new vaccine and has been following the research and proof of concept work closely. Once these tools are licensed for use in the United States, the NVS will begin to stockpile them for use in the face of an FMD outbreak.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) recognizes the importance of research on foot-and-mouth disease and Classical Swine Fever. ARS will continue to conduct basic research on disease pathogenesis and development of countermeasures as funding and space availability on Plum Island permit. ARS, with its U.S. Government partners (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Department of Homeland Security) will develop and validate vaccines and antivirals to aid in the protection of the Nation's livestock industries from these diseases. As funds are provided by Congress, research on these foreign animal diseases will be expanded and accelerated.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 41 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RAPID MILK POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION TESTING FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

A rapid milk polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based test has been developed at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) to detect foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) in raw milk. Progress has been made to develop nucleic acid extraction procedures that will permit the test to be utilized with a 96-well plate configuration to obtain positive or negative results in approximately 4 hours. Additional research is needed to develop extraction procedures to optimize throughput utilizing a real-time Smart machine. The basic test has been performed in 27 of the 41 animal health diagnostic laboratories that now constitute the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). However, lack of funding within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) prevents this test from being field validated in FMD-affected countries to determine actual performance against various dilutions of the virus in bulk milk samples. In addition, without funding to further develop the extraction protocol to optimize throughput with the real-time Smart machines, the NAHLN laboratories cannot proceed to develop the necessary surge capacity near milk producing areas.

In the event of a major FMD outbreak, it is essential that milk movement not be disrupted so milk from non-infected herds can continue to move to processing plants where milk can be pasteurized prior to further processing, thus greatly reducing any potential risk of FMDV reaching the animal population. In the event of such an outbreak, deployment of rapid PCR-based technology would greatly facilitate FMD surveillance by animal health authorities and greatly facilitate testing of dairy herds to establish and maintain negative herd status within FMD control zones.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to place the highest priority in developing and validating the performance (including sensitivity, specificity, reproducibility and other statistical parameters) of various polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based platforms that might be further developed and validated to determine the presence of foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) in various concentrations in bulk milk under field conditions in FMD-affected countries. USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS-VS to proceed as rapidly as possible to develop the necessary extraction procedures to optimize laboratory throughput, thus permitting these technologies to be deployed by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories at the earliest possible time. USAHA further urges USDA-APHIS-VS to conduct the necessary training to utilize this technology to provide reliable laboratory surge capacity so as to permit rapid evaluation of bulk milk samples from dairies located in FMD control zones.

## **RESPONSE:**

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

Veterinary Services (VS) and the National Milk Producers Federation personnel met in October 2005 to discuss this project. It was agreed that having a validated, sensitive, specific, easy-to-run assay for detecting foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) in milk was important. It was also decided that because of the problems involved in working with lactating dairy cows in a bio-containment environment, the possibility of doing some of this work in a country where foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is endemic should be investigated.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have been collaborating on the development and validation of a real-time PCR assay to detect FMDV nucleic acid. The assay VS is using was designed by a team of scientists from ARS and Tetracore. Twenty-nine National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories have been trained and proficiency tested to conduct this real-time PCR for FMD. The assay has been optimized for tissues and swabs and is currently being optimized for milk. ARS and APHIS have done proof-of-concept work using the ARS/Tetracore developed real-time PCR assay for FMDV nucleic acids in milk, which will make having this assay in our diagnostic assay toolbox valuable. VS recognizes the value of milk as a sample for FMD surveillance, as well as the value of this test in moving milk safely inside of quarantine zones. Due to the loss of some crucial staff at Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), they have not been able to move ahead with the optimization of this assay for milk and the validation of the assay for tissues and swab concurrently. Initial field validation efforts have been focused on tissues and swabs because this will allow the test to be used to detect FMD in many species, whereas the use of milk samples limits us to dairy cows only. By March 2006, FADDL should have in a place a Head for the newly formed Proficiency and Validation Services Section, which will enable them to move forward with the optimization and validation of this assay in milk. Once FADDL has completed the optimization and validation of this test for milk samples, participants from NAHLN laboratories will be trained to conduct the assay using milk samples.

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:**                **42 Combined with 33**

**SOURCE:**                    COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:**        *BRUCELLA OVIS* TESTING STANDARDIZATION

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 43 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** BRUCELLOSIS IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA (GYA)

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The state and federal governments and the livestock industries have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* infection from cattle in the United States; and the presence of *B. abortus* in the United States has significant economic impact upon the livestock industry and may have an impact on international trade.

The efforts to eradicate *B. abortus* are leading to a national herd that is nearly free of the disease. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) commends the agencies of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) and the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (USDI) on efforts to implement the Interagency Bison Management Plan and to attempt to achieve agreement regarding a new Greater Yellowstone Interagency Bison Committee (GYIBC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The USAHA supports the efforts of the GYA state and federal agencies in their efforts to prevent exposure of livestock to brucellosis from elk and bison in the GYA and supports the efforts of the GYA state agencies to control brucellosis in bison and elk in the GYA.

The only known remaining focus of brucellosis caused by *B. abortus* in the United States is in the bison and elk in the GYA and all signatory parties to the original GYIBC MOU (Secretaries of the USDA and USDI, and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming), which created the GYIBC, agreed that the objective is to eliminate *B. abortus* from the GYA. A plan to eliminate *B. abortus* from bison and elk in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and other areas of the GYA, consistent with the objectives of the original GYIBC MOU, is urgently needed.

Wyoming lost its Brucellosis Class Free classification in 2004 due to transmission of *B. abortus* from elk to cattle and *B. abortus*, due to transmission from elk, was confirmed in an Idaho cattle herd in 2002. Confirmation of another case in an Idaho cattle herd, with transmission appearing to be most likely from elk, is pending at this time,

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (USDI) and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming to take all steps and actions necessary, including, but not limited to, providing fiscal and human resources to: 1) conduct brucellosis surveillance, control and elimination activities; 2) to provide fiscal resources for necessary research; 3) to assure collaboration among all relevant state and federal agencies; and 4) to provide strong direction to these agencies to expeditiously eliminate the last known vestige of *Brucella abortus* from the United States.

## **RESPONSE:**

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

APHIS/VS agrees with the actions and steps included in this resolution. VS is providing resources for brucellosis surveillance and control activities. Eradication activities cannot occur until the other agencies agree on a disease eradication plan. To assure collaboration among the relevant agencies, VS is working and will continue to work with these agencies to develop MOU's and agreements on a plan of action that includes eradication of brucellosis from the GYA. VS is willing and able to take the lead once a brucellosis eradication plan has been agreed to between the agencies.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 44 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF  
POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** IMPORTATION OF RAW GAME BIRD CARCASSES FROM  
AREAS KNOWN TO BE INFECTED WITH NEWCASTLE  
DISEASE AND HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Current regulations on importation of carcasses, parts or products of carcasses, and eggs (other than hatching eggs) of poultry, game birds, or other birds from regions where exotic Newcastle disease (END) or highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 is considered to exist appear to allow entry of raw carcasses of game birds with feathers attached. The relevant section of 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 1, Part 94, Section 94.6 (pages 495-499 in the January 1, 2005, revision) states in paragraph (b) (1) "Carcasses of game birds may be imported if eviscerated, with heads and feet removed. Viscera, heads, and feet removed from game birds are ineligible for entry into the United States." Dr. Glen L. Snider, Animal Quarantine Inspection (AQI), Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) further indicates that USDA, Animal and Plant Inspection Services (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and Veterinary Services (VS) require some if not all of the feathers to be left intact on the carcass (typically a wing or the cape) as a means of identification of the game bird species. The remainder of Section 94.6 [paragraphs (b) (2) through (5)] describes numerous requirements for cooking, processing, and handling of other poultry products originating from, being processed in, or even passing through areas considered to be infected with END. There are at least two serious loopholes in this regulation that threaten the United States poultry industries. First, both of the referenced viruses can reside in tissues other than heads, feet, and viscera. While removing the heads and viscera eliminates some of the most dangerous materials, a raw, feathered carcass from an infected bird could still carry infectious amounts of virus. Secondly, the reason for singling out H5N1 is unclear; any highly pathogenic avian influenza virus should be cause for exclusion of raw carcasses. While the opening paragraph singles out H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza, the remainder of section 94.6 refers only to END.

### **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 amend 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter I, Part 94, Section 94.6 by deleting paragraph (b) (1), which allows importation from areas where exotic Newcastle Disease (END) is considered to exist on raw carcasses of game birds with heads, viscera, and feet removed. Importation of game bird carcasses and parts or products of carcasses should occur under the same restrictions in place for poultry and other birds found in paragraphs (b) (2) through (5) of Section 94.6. Furthermore, the restriction to only the H5N1 subtype of highly pathogenic avian influenza should be deleted, and the entire section worded such that the restrictions in paragraphs (b) (2) through (5) apply to all areas where END or any subtype of highly pathogenic avian influenza is considered to exist.

**RESPONSE:**

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

Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 1, Part 94, defines game birds as "migratory birds, including certain ducks, geese, pigeons, and doves ("migratory" refers to seasonal flight to and from the United States); free-flying quail, wild grouse, wild pheasants (as opposed to those that are commercial, domestic, or pen-raised)". The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes that the provisions currently written in Title 9 CFR Part 94.6(b)(1) can raise a concern that this regulation could potentially be a pathway for the introduction and dissemination of END into the United States.

In the past, this regulation has applied to hunter-harvested, eviscerated migratory game birds from Mexico. Mexico is classified by the USDA as a region affected with exotic Newcastle disease (END). However, based on the definition of game birds, the carcasses obtained from seasonal migratory game birds which are carried into the United States in compliance with 94.6(b)(1) are the same birds that fly into the United States during their seasonal flight. "We will re-evaluate the importation of seasonal game birds classified by the USDA from regions affected with exotic foreign animal disease.

We agree with USAHA's concern that the existing regulations should include other subtypes of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in addition to HPAI subtype H5N1. A work order has been initiated to amend existing regulations to include restrictions relative to any subtype of HPAI.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 45 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF  
POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FINAL APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (NPIP)  
CONTROL PROGRAM FOR LOW PATHOGENICITY H5/H7  
AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) IN COMMERCIAL POULTRY

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

After the 2002 outbreak of low pathogenicity H7N2 avian influenza (AI) in Virginia, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS) requested that the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species convene a special meeting to offer advice on the handling of future outbreaks of low pathogenicity H5 or H7 AI. This meeting was held in May 2002 in San Antonio, Texas, and resulted in the recommendation that a cooperative state-federal control program was needed. Due to the past success of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) with other poultry disease control programs, it was recommended that NPIP develop and administer the final program. A thorough deliberative process, involving industry, state, and federal government personnel and experts on the epidemiology of AI resulted in a final proposed program that was ratified by the NPIP General Conference Committee in July 2004. The ratified program is currently in the departmental review process. In the past three and a half years, there have been outbreaks of H7N2 low pathogenicity AI (LPAI) in Connecticut layers, H7N2 LPAI in broilers on the Delmarva Peninsula, H5N2 highly pathogenic AI (HPAI) in a live bird market supplier and H7N3 LPAI in commercial breeders in Texas, and H7N3 HPAI in broilers in British Columbia. International events have focused attention on this disease, the devastation that it is capable of visiting on the poultry industry, and the potential threat it represents to public health. The time has come to act quickly and decisively to control this threat.

### **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) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to proceed with all due speed to approve and implement the proposed National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Control Program for Low Pathogenicity H5/H7 Avian Influenza in Commercial Poultry.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Voluntary Control Program and Payment of Indemnity Interim Rule and request for comments is currently in final clearance within the Department. The Agency has placed a high priority on this interim rule and is working to expedite its publication. We anticipate the interim rule should be published by May 2006.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 46 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF  
POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM  
SECTION 205.239, REQUIRING ACCESS TO THE  
OUTDOORS, TO MAKE ACCESS OPTIONAL AND TO  
PROVIDE FOR CONFINEMENT DURING OUTBREAKS OF  
HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The American public expressed a desire for organic foods and a formal certification program for such foods. The National Organic Program (NOP) was formed to meet this need and became regulation in October 2001. There are many distinctive and unique requirements for the production and processing of organic foods including poultry. Section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP requires that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic poultry have “access to the outdoors” during their production life. This outdoor access enhances the likelihood that such poultry will have direct contact with migratory and wild birds as well as other animals. This requirement for outdoor access by a department of the official agricultural agency of this country, USDA, seems incongruous at best. Disease control is a priority for certified organic poultry as well as conventionally reared poultry. In over 50 years of progress, the poultry industries of this country have moved their flocks inside and this action has contributed significantly to the improvement in health of the nation’s chicken and turkey flocks. Avian influenza (AI) has been a long-standing threat to the health of our poultry and now takes on new potential public health and media perception identities. Migratory and wild birds are known carriers of AI virus and as such contact between them and domestic poultry must be prevented.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) work with the National Organic Program (NOP) to change to section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP regulations by eliminating the words “Access to the outdoors” as a requirement for production of USDA certified organic poultry. As amended, Section 205.239 reads: “(a) The producer must establish and maintain livestock living conditions, which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals including:

1. ~~Access to the outdoors~~ shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate and the environment.”

USAHA further recommend adding the following qualifying statement: “Direct access of poultry to the outdoors is not required, as this practice is a deterrent to the prevention of exposure to avian influenza (AI) and other diseases of poultry. In the event of the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza in birds in the United States, then direct access of poultry in the NOP to the outdoors should be prohibited.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will need to consider the regulatory changes proposed in this resolution. Veterinary Services has forwarded this resolution to them. Also, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has discussed with AMS our concerns for avian health, disease transmission, disease prevention and control regarding the National Organic Program husbandry standards for organic poultry production and for the potential contact with wild birds for organic poultry given access to the outdoors. AMS requested that APHIS provide them with recommendations and guidance on biosecurity and avian disease prevention and control practices for organic poultry operations. APHIS and AMS agreed to work together to develop joint guidance on organic poultry health and disease prevention that AMS could apply when interpreting their general “access to the outdoors” and “temporary confinement rules”. APHIS is preparing a draft guidance document that will be forwarded to AMS for their review.

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:** 47 COMBINED WITH 6

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** TIMELY PREMISES REGISTRATION –STATE AND  
FEDERAL

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

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005**

**RESOLUTION:** 48 Combined with 23

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** EXPAND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAM COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

**DATES:** Hershey, Pennsylvania - November 6, 2005

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 49 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** TROPICAL BONT TICK ERADICATION PROGRAMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Tropical Bont Tick (TBT), *Amblyomma variegatum*, and the associated disease heartwater were first introduced into the Caribbean region in the mid-1970s when infested cattle were imported from Senegal into Guadeloupe. The tick remained confined to only a few Caribbean islands until the mid-1970s when it began to rapidly spread to other islands in the Caribbean, reaching Puerto Rico to the north and St. Vincent to the south. This rapid spread appears to have been coincident with the expansion of the range of cattle egrets in the Caribbean.

In affected countries, TBT and its associated diseases heartwater and dermatophilosis limit the potential for increased livestock production. In TBT-infested countries, control activities continue to be a drain on limited financial and human resources. Furthermore, there is a high risk of introduction of TBT and its associated diseases into the Americas and subsequent spread in the region due to the presence of wildlife and domestic animal hosts for the tick and its associated diseases, and native tick species capable of serving as vectors for heartwater. Spread of TBT and its associated diseases in the southern United States, Mexico, Central America, the Greater Antilles, and South America could result in \$655,000 to \$3 billion potential annual losses.

Animal industry groups, state animal health officials, and federal officials have been concerned about the spread of TBT and its associated diseases to the United States since the mid-1980s. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS) have actively supported our involvement in a program to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean since the mid-1990s. USDA-APHIS support has been by means of financial contributions and technical assistance to a multi-national program known as the Caribbean *Amblyomma* Program (CAP) since 1994. Under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), CAP operates in ten English- or Dutch-speaking islands in the Lesser Antilles.

The CAP also liaises with complimentary programs in the French West Indies administered by the Government of France, as well as a USDA-APHIS-VS program on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, where TBT was discovered in the year 2000. Over the past decade, CAP has developed a proven methodology to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean. As a result, six of the ten CAP islands are presently considered "Provisionally Free from TBT." However, some of these have experienced re-infestations of TBT, and St. Kitts, which was formerly "Provisionally Free," was once again declared TBT infested in late 2004 due to a lack of funds to prevent the spread of TBT there. Additional funds are urgently needed to not only address the presence of TBT on Antigua and St. Croix, but also to continue TBT eradication and surveillance throughout the CAP islands until the entire Caribbean region is declared TBT free.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests continued and increased funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspections

Service (APHIS), International Services (IS) for the Caribbean *Amblyomma* Program (CAP), administered under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as funding for the USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) program on St. Croix, to eradicate the Tropical Bont Tick (TBT) and its associated diseases of heartwater and dermatophilosis. USAHA also requests USDA-APHIS IS and VS, by means of their membership in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to encourage their French counterparts to place greater emphasis on eradication of TBT from the French West Indies. We further request this funding be sought and allocated as soon as possible to mitigate the risk of spread of TBT to Puerto Rico and the United States mainland and to continue ongoing surveillance efforts in the region against TBT until the Caribbean as a whole is free from TBT and its associated diseases.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 50 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PREVENTING EXOTIC TICKS AND HEMOPARASITIC DISEASE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE U.S.A.

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

There is an increased risk to the United States of the introduction and establishment of exotic animal pests and diseases as a result of the changing international dynamics of animal movements and transmission of hemoparasitic diseases. A particular focus on the risks associated with the Mexican and Caribbean Region is required.

Actions to prevent the establishment of exotic tick species that infest livestock and other animals, including wildlife, in the United States are a continuous task. Such action requires vigilance, diligence and singleness of focus from scientific, animal health (domestic and wild) and regulatory communities.

It is important that these communities join in a common effort and thrust aimed at effectively preventing the establishment of exotic tick species and agents of hemoparasitic diseases in animals in the United States.

### **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 enter into a joint effort with state animal health officials, animal industries and state and federal wildlife management agencies to define and support a core organization/commission to facilitate the acquisition and allocation of continual funding for preventing the establishment of exotic animal pests and hemoparasitic diseases in the United States. The USAHA recognizes and supports the cooperative efforts of the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Committee to facilitate activities and actions that promote mutual interests in resolving problems to minimize risks of introduction to the United States of exotic ticks and tick-borne disease agents, and ensure free trade of livestock.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

On December 15, 2005, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Mexico Bi-National Tick Committee organized and successfully held a bi-national meeting to address the issues related to ticks of economical importance and wildlife along the Rio Grande. This meeting was attended by about 50 participants. In order to formalize collaborations among both countries and between different organizations, meeting participants agreed to follow-up with more discussions and meetings to continue dialogue. USDA, APHIS will continue its leading role in formalizing, implementing and supporting collaborations with partners in the United States and Mexico to eliminate or minimize the introduction or invasion of ticks that are of economical importance and threatening to our livestock.

## 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.

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 52 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** CONTROL OF TICKS ON IMPORTED REPTILES

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

High numbers of tick-infested reptiles continue to be brought into the United States from countries throughout the world. These imported exotic ticks may serve as vectors for animal diseases such as heartwater, and thus threaten the U.S. livestock industry. Program components have been drafted to permit, certify, inspect and treat, if necessary, such imported reptiles. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Health Protection Act has clear authority and responsibility to prohibit or restrict the importation of animals and to impose post-importation quarantine measures to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any pest or disease into the United States.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) expedite the implementation of regulations to prevent the introduction of disease agents and ectoparasites of concern on reptiles entering the United States and to carry out a program in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Control Directorate (CBP), and the Department of Interior (USDI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and in conjunction with affected states, to ensure effective control measures are taken to eliminate any ticks imported into the United States on reptiles.

### **RESPONSE:**

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

The National Center for Import and Export has initiated a risk assessment to determine the need for regulations regarding the importation of reptiles into the United States. The conclusions of the risk assessment will be used to determine the type of regulations needed. If rule making is needed, it will be given a priority in context of other rulemaking activities.