

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: INTERIM EMERGENCY REGULATION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) has historically been considered to be the most serious viral disease of salmonids reared in freshwater environments in Europe. More recently, VHS has been associated with marine finfish species, and most recently has become an emerging disease of freshwater fish in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia was first detected in the Great Lakes region in the Bay of Quinte, Lake Ontario, in 2005, and was subsequently detected in an archived 2003 sample from Lake St. Clair. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus also was detected in Lake St. Clair in 2005 and in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clare and the St. Lawrence River in 2006 in a variety of fish species. Prior to 2003, isolations of VHS virus were limited in North America to saltwater finfish from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, including Chinook and Coho salmon, Pacific herring, Atlantic herring and cod. Since 2005, the list of species known to be affected by VHS has risen to more than 40, including a number of ecologically and recreationally important fish.

Because of the threat of this emerging disease, regulations should be put in place immediately to minimize potential risks and prevent impacts on aquaculture fish species in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) develop and implement an interim emergency regulation to prevent the movement of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus from positive to negative areas.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection

Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. On October 24, 2006, USDA-APHIS issued a Federal Order that prohibited the movement of live fish susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) from Ontario and Quebec, Canada, and the movement of these species out of the eight States bordering the Great Lakes. Based on comments received and discussion with stakeholders, APHIS amended the Order on November 14.

VS held a series of public meetings in early January with stakeholders in all regions of the country and is currently working to replace the Federal Order with regulations that would provide specific conditions under which VHS-susceptible species could be imported into the United States or moved interstate.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: RECOMMENDATION TO RE-LIST ONCORHYNCHUS MASU VIRUS DISEASE (OMVD)

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The finfish team of The Ad Hoc Group on the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) List of Aquatic Animal Diseases issued an interim report regarding their recommendation of OIE-listed fish diseases that did not meet all the listing criteria at the Fish Diseases Commission's meeting of June 23-27, 2003. One of those recommendations was to de-list Oncorhynchus Masu Virus Disease (OMVD). The Commission voted in favor of this recommendation and OMVD was de-listed.

Historically OMVD had only minor impacts on cultured fish; however, the first report on the re-occurrence of OMVD was in the spring of 1998 in rainbow trout cultured in Shizuoka Prefecture on the mainland of Japan. OMVD then spread to rainbow trout cultured in Nagano Prefecture in 2000. A report was published in the journal Fish Pathology (2003, 38:23-26). Currently, OMVD is found in Shizuoka, Nagano, Gifu, Yamanashi, Tochigi and Iwate Prefectures. The infected species of fish are currently only rainbow trout and the size of fish affected is 15 to 1,000 grams. The damage is reported to be very severe and infected fish either die or are not suitable for harvest. The economic impact is estimated to be greater than that of Koi Herpes Virus Disease. The disease has only been observed in cultured rainbow trout. There are reports that OMVD may have spread to rainbow trout cultured in Korea and losses may also be very severe there but this has not been confirmed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) suggest that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) conduct a risk assessment for Oncorhynchus Masu Virus Disease (OMVD) as quickly as possible using a World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recognized risk assessment procedure. If the risk assessment demonstrates that OMVD is a significant risk to the United States fisheries resources, USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS recommend to the OIE that OMVD be urgently considered for re-listing.

RESPONSE:

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

APHIS-VS has been closely monitoring OMVD. Currently, VS has devoted much of its aquaculture resources toward preventing the spread of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS). The risk assessment for VHS is in progress, and VS is hopeful that the information collected to support that assessment may also have some relevance to a possible proposed regulation and OMVD risk assessment. In the meantime, in the absence of current USDA regulations pertaining to OMVD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does require salmonids imported into the United States to be tested for OMVD under Title 50.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARDIZED DIAGNOSTIC REAGENTS FOR THE LISTED DISEASES OF AQUATIC ANIMALS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) supplies and distributes reagents for the diagnosis of important terrestrial animal diseases. Currently there is not a single standardized source of reagents available for the diagnosis of important diseases of wild and cultured aquatic animals. A source of standardized diagnostic reagents is extremely important in protecting wild and cultured aquatic animals from foreign aquatic animal diseases as well as surveillance and control of endemic aquatic animal diseases. The Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society is available to assist in prioritizing the diagnostic reagents that are needed.

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), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) develop and make available a standardized source of reagents, that are not readily available from commercial sources, for the diagnosis of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) notifiable diseases or the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan listed diseases.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) recognizes that a major component of a national animal health management program is the detection of economically and biologically important diseases and their causative agents. Standardized reagents are critical to detection and accurate diagnosis. Reagent development and standardization by the NVSL would require a functional aquatic animal wet laboratory. NVSL has been unable to secure funds to renovate or replace the

existing aquatic animal wet laboratory which does not meet current biosafety or animal care standards. Reagent development and standardization is an activity that is part of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan. USDA- APHIS recognizes that development and standardization of reagents will require resources. As such, APHIS will continue to request Congressional line item funding for the NAAHP.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION-2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For the past three years a National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force, composed of representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has been engaged in developing a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) for the United States (US). During multiple stakeholder meetings throughout the country with various aquatic industry and natural resource agency groups as well as state, federal and university personnel, the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force has been soliciting input and drafting chapters for the NAAHP. Key elements of the plan include identification of diseases of regulatory concern, measures to protect US aquatic species from the introduction of exotic diseases, plans for control should an introduction occur, importation standards for aquatic species and wild species/cultured species interface issues. Implementation of the NAAHP will require significant resources.

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), the United States Department of Interior and the United States Department of Commerce to propose line item funding in future budgets to adequately fund the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.

RESPONSE:

Department Of Interior, Fish And Wildlife Service

The Service recognizes the importance of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and the significant potential benefits of its development and implementation to the Nation's natural and commercial resources. As co-chair of the National Aquatic Animal Health Taskforce, the Service has actively been, and will continue to be, thoroughly engaged in both the development and implementation of the plan. The Service remains fully committed to continuing our work with our Federal partners in the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, as well as with state and tribal agencies. In collaboration with our partners, the Service will determine the best use of

available resources to implement the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan in the most effective manner possible

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services considers the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan a priority in order to support aquaculture production in the United States. APHIS will continue to seek the necessary funding for our aquaculture activities through all appropriate channels within the Department.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 – 34 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR A DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD— CONTINUITY OF
BUSINESS ALL HAZARD PLAN

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), other foreign animal diseases or destructive biological incursions that are not quickly controlled and/or eradicated, will have very serious negative impacts on the United States livestock, food and agricultural industries, as well as to the general economy of the nation, including transportation, travel, food processing and distribution, and tourism.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) establishes national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (FASCC) and Government Coordinating Council (GCC) organized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is in the process of considering an expanded version of a proposed National Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Plan (NAF/COBP) developed by the Animal Production Sub council of FASCC. This expanded version of the original NAF/COBP is intended to apply the policy directives embodied in HSPD 9 across the entire food and agriculture sector through the creation of Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Council's (AF/COBC) that would operate within each Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region. The Councils would bring the public and private sectors at all levels together at the regional level to address the recommendations contained in HSPD 9, so as to take full advantage of the FEMA infrastructure support system in the event of a major agriculture or food emergency. A national demonstration project is being proposed to gain understanding and support for implementation of this all hazards type regional approach to emergency preparedness and response utilizing FMD as an emergency disease template.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) urge the Secretaries of Agriculture and Homeland Security, and the Office of Management and Budget to provide adequate funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) for State Animal Health Officials to develop regional demonstration projects to implement the recommendations contained in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) under the proposed National Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Plan (NAF/COBP) being considered by the Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council of Department of Homeland Security.

RESPONSE:

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate

The Infrastructure Coordination and Analysis Office supports National Agro and Food Business Continuity Plans. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and its associated Sector Specific Plans (SSP) set the stage for the states and industry to come back to the GCC/SCC with sector and industry specific plans following NIPP-SSP guidelines to operationalize infrastructure protection plans.

This is the first proposal from an industry group to address one of the most significant threats to the Food and Agriculture sector.

Continuity of Business plans for Food and Agriculture are a central component fulfillment of NIPP-SSP. The NIPP-SSP process needs tangible strategic implementation objectives such as these to be effective.

Office Of Management And Budget – NO RESPONSE

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

All-hazards animal emergency management addresses critical issues impacting public safety, public health, animal health, animal welfare, agricultural and pet industry economic systems, wildlife, and the environment. Approximately sixty percent of American households contain pets with many of these animals considered family members. Additionally, commercial livestock, non-commercial livestock, wildlife, service animals, and animals in research comprise the diverse population of animals that must be considered within emergency management plans.

Studies conducted by the National Academy of Science clearly indicate the continuing convergence of animal health, human health, and environmental health and the concept of "one medicine" should be embraced. We need to bridge relationships among interdisciplinary areas. Animal health is truly at a crossroads. The convergence of animal health with human and ecosystem health dictates that the "one world, one health, one medicine" concept must be embraced to improve overall global health.

Animal owners and the owner's agent are primarily responsible for animals during emergency events; however, state, local and federal governments have responsibilities when disasters affect critical infrastructures and when citizens are unable to take effective action to protect animals under their care. The hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 highlighted the need to more effectively prepare for emergencies, disasters and catastrophes involving animals within all levels of emergency plans. These complex and challenging issues will demand collaboration and resource support by every level of government, private industry, animal owners and a broad array of non-governmental organizations.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges that the The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)

- be mandated and funded, as the lead federal Emergency Support Function–11 (ESF-11) agency, to coordinate all-hazards, all-species animal emergency management

- establish a coalition of national stakeholders on animal emergency management to ensure coordination and long-term maintenance of national animal emergency management capabilities
- revise ESF-11 to incorporate an expanded USDA role and responsibility as the lead governmental agency in charge of coordination of animal issues in disaster including; companion animals, livestock, service animals, and laboratory animals.
- engage federal agencies in support of all-species, all-hazards animal emergency management issues, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and other federal entities; that

The Department of Homeland Security

- revise the National Response Plan and supporting documents to address animal emergency management in detail with ESF-11 designated as the lead ESF for all-hazards, all-species animal issues with many other ESFs providing strong support roles.
- incorporate such provisions as needed to support the PETS Act of 2006.
- engage all national key stakeholders in this National Response Plan (NRP) revision process
- fund development of institutional infrastructure and national programmatic activities to assure the national, state and local ability to achieve animal emergency management goals.; and that

Congress

- appropriate funding to states for the development of animal emergency management plans and implementation of sustainable animal emergency response capabilities.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services appreciates the opportunity to address emergency response issues; however, the Animal Care division has the lead for companion animal emergency response within APHIS. The USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs delegated responsibility for companion animal evacuation and sheltering to APHIS, and leadership to Animal Care. Animal Care is working to integrate emergency response for companion animals with livestock in order for APHIS to provide all-hazards, all-species responses to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and terrorist activities.

Animal Care has begun work to address each of the four issues identified in the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolution:

Funding and mandate

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has requested APHIS-Animal Care to be the lead Emergency Support Function -11 (ESF-11) agency for companion animal response. Animal Care is developing an interagency agreement with DHS to provide support for program activities during FY 2007. Animal Care requested funding from Congress in FY 2008 to coordinate the companion animal components of all-hazards, all-species emergency management.

Establish a coalition of stakeholders

Animal Care is working to establish a coalition of national stakeholders on animal emergency management. State Animal Response Teams, State departments of agriculture, humane organizations, animal rescue organizations, and societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals are some of the stakeholders who must provide input in order to ensure an effective and efficient response to emergencies. USAHA, the National Emergency Management Association, or the American Veterinary Medical Association could serve as an umbrella organization for a coalition of stakeholders on companion animal emergency response.

Revise ESF-11

Animal Care is working with DHS to develop a National Concept of Operations and revise the ESF-11 section of the National Response Plan. These documents will integrate companion animal evacuation and shelter issues into an all-hazards, all-species, emergency response plan for animals.

Engage Federal agencies

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a role in companion animal evacuation and shelter under ESF-8. Animal Care is collaborating with HHS and other work Federal agencies to identify roles and responsibilities.

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate

DHS is committed to its mission and strategic goals, which are:

Mission

We will lead the unified national effort to secure America. We will prevent and deter terrorist attacks and protect against and respond to threats and hazards to the nation. We will ensure safe and secure borders, welcome lawful immigrants and visitors, and promote the free-flow of commerce.

Strategic Goals

Awareness -- Identify and understand threats, assess vulnerabilities, determine potential impacts and disseminate timely information to our homeland security partners and the American public.

Prevention — Detect, deter and mitigate threats to our homeland.

Protection — Safeguard our people and their freedoms, critical infrastructure, property and the economy of our Nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

Response — Lead, manage and coordinate the national response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

Recovery — Lead national, state, local and private sector efforts to restore services and rebuild communities after acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

Service — Serve the public effectively by facilitating lawful trade, travel and immigration.

Organizational Excellence — Value our most important resource, our people. Create a culture that promotes a common identity, innovation, mutual respect, accountability and teamwork to achieve efficiencies, effectiveness, and operational synergies.

DHS is engaged and supports the re-write the National Response Plan (NRP) and supporting documents to address animal issues. Through the Animal Issues Working Group, many national key stakeholders have had the opportunity to provide input into the NRP re-write process. Additionally, DHS supports the NRP, which states that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), serve as the lead for Emergency Support Function–11 (ESF-11) which is responsible for coordinating animal emergency response issues.

DHS sponsored, Animal Issues Working Group, involved in the NRP re-write has recommended the following in its final report:

“This revision of the NRP must take into account that the Stafford Act has been amended (through the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006) to require State and local disaster plans to specifically address animal issues. The PETS Act of 2006 also requires that Federal plans “take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.” The NRP should consider the implications of the PETS Act on incident response.”

DHS through its many programs has supplied, since 2001, the following:

Provided nearly \$37.5 billion to State, local, and tribal governments to enhance first responder preparedness of which \$22 billion was allocated through Department grant programs. This includes a total of \$25.5 billion in support related to terrorism and catastrophic preparedness events, with \$16.3 billion allocated through the Department.

For 2008, DHS proposes within its budget the following:

Increase non-defense homeland security spending by 9.5 percent Government-wide compared to 2007, excluding 2007 emergency funding and borrowing authority for interoperability grants; Provide an additional \$2 billion in grants for first responder preparedness—on top of \$1 billion in interoperable

communications grants previously authorized—and over \$5 billion in funds that State, local, and tribal governments are currently spending.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) only regulates the movement of equine infectious anemia (EIA) reactor equines. Requirements for testing prior to movement across state lines vary from state to state, leading to testing inconsistency, industry confusion, and imprecise surveillance. The equine Industry has expressed an interest in standardizing movement regulations as an important step in EIA control in the United States.

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) incorporate specific elements of the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, part 75, Communicable diseases in horses, asses, ponies, mules, and zebras, in order to assure that only equines having negative EIA testing status are moved interstate except as described under section 6.

Specifically, add sections 2 through 5 and 7 through 10 to part 75.4 as follows (sections 1, 6, 11, and 12 are currently part of 75.4):

75.4-Equine Infectious Anemia (Swamp Fever)

1. Definitions
2. General restrictions
3. Certificates and permits for interstate movement of equines
4. Handling in transit of equines moved interstate
5. Restrictions on interstate movement of equines because of EIA
6. EIA reactor equines
7. EIA exposed equines
8. Other interstate movements
9. Testing procedures for EIA in equines
10. Official EIA tests
11. Approval of laboratories, and diagnostic or research facilities
12. Denial and withdrawal of approval of laboratories and diagnostic or research facilities

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the work of the United States Animal Health Association, Infectious Diseases of Horses Committee's equine infectious anemia (EIA) Subcommittee, and acknowledges the need to incorporate certain specific elements of the EIA Uniform Methods and Rules into the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Title 9, part 75, Communicable diseases in horses, asses, ponies. A work plan is currently in place to initiate the proposed rulemaking process in order to offer these suggested regulatory changes to the equine industry for review and comment.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) to the United States. However, it is assumed that the disease exists at some unknown prevalence in horses indigenous to the United States and in horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the official test for piroplasmosis, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States was the compliment fixation (CF) test, a test that is known to occasionally yield false negative results. Unscrupulous owners, importers or agents have compounded the problem by purposely treating EP infected horses with immunosuppressive medications to create a false negative response to the CF test. An upgraded C-ELISA test was specified as the official test on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield false negative results on adult horses.

EP infected horses may exist in the United States at a sufficient disease prevalence to infect resident tick vectors and possibly result in establishment of the disease as endemic in the United States.

There is no conclusive evidence that treatment of a carrier of either of the two strains of EP (*Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*) is a viable option.

It is crucial to 1) maintain stringent import restrictions that are sufficient to prevent the importation of seropositive horses into the U.S., 2) develop a cohesive policy at both federal and state levels for identifying and dealing with resident EP seropositive horses, and 3) request funding to research effective treatment protocols for EP.

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) in partnership with USDA, Agricultural Research Services (ARS) to expand the funding for research into finding an effective and safe treatment for elimination of the carrier state for *Babesia caballi* and/or *Babesia equi*. Additionally, USAHA encourages USDA-ARS to work with owners of equine piroplasmosis (EP) seropositive horses found in the United States to make their EP horses available for participation in this research.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection

Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) continues to support research for the treatment of equine diseases; however, additional funding is needed to continue to expand research that will yield appropriate parasite clearing therapy for horses infected with *Babesia equi* and/or *Babesia caballi*. APHIS and the Agricultural Research Services (ARS) have entered into a partnership to test imidocarb and ponizural. As first steps, we have collaboratively obtained tick transmissible isolates of *B. equi* (Argentina) and *B. caballi* (Puerto Rico). Additionally, a colony of *Dermacentor nitens* ticks from Puerto Rico has been established within the Animal Disease Research Unit, Pullman, WA. Experimental design has been established through ARS-APHIS collaboration to initially test the ability of imidocarb to clear (provide sterilization) of horses infected with *B. equi* (APHIS) and *B. caballi* (ARS). Through our collaboration, we are working with infected horses in Washington and California to establish parasite levels, test certain chemotherapies for ability to clear infection, and to obtain naturally infected horses for research when owners and State veterinarians are so inclined.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS)

Finding an effective and safe treatment for eliminating the carrier state for *Babesia caballi* and/or *Babesia equi* is critical to controlling EP, and ARS will look for opportunities to work with owners of EP-seropositive horses in the United States to make these horses available for participation in this research. ARS appreciates your input relative to funding and will give it full consideration as it develops its budget request.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS (EP)

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a foreign animal disease (FAD) to the United States. However, it is assumed that the disease exists at some unknown prevalence in horses indigenous to the United States and in horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the "official test" for EP, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States was the compliment fixation (CF) test, a test that is known to occasionally yield false negative results. Unscrupulous owners, importers or agents have compounded the problem by purposely treating EP infected horses with immunosuppressive medications to create a false negative response to the CF test. An upgraded C-ELISA test was specified as the "official test" on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield false negative results on adult horses.

EP infected horses may exist in the United States at a sufficient disease prevalence to infect resident tick vectors and possibly result in establishment of the disease as endemic in the United States.

There is no conclusive evidence that treatment of a carrier of either of the two strains of EP (*Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*) is a viable option.

It is crucial to 1) maintain stringent import restrictions that are sufficient to prevent the importation of seropositive horses into the U.S., 2) develop a cohesive policy at both federal and state levels for identifying and dealing with resident EP seropositive horses, and 3) request funding to research effective treatment protocols for EP.

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 investigate the prevalence of equine piroplasmosis (EP) infection in the United States utilizing accepted survey methodology. USAHA recommends that the first component of this incentive is to conduct a national survey of slaughter horses. It is further recommended that USAHA establish a working group consisting of representatives from equine industry groups, the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, researchers and veterinarians knowledgeable about EP to evaluate the survey results, and if indicated, develop recommendations for control of EP positive horses in the United States and/or elimination of EP from the United States.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the work the United States Animal Health Association Infectious Diseases of Horses Committee's equine piroplasmiasis (EP) Subcommittee has done, and acknowledges the need to investigate the prevalence of EP infection in the United States using accepted survey methodology. The current progress on this national survey of slaughter horses is as follows:

- APHIS-VS has established a sample size of approximately 14,000 horses based on the projected low prevalence of EP.
- Horse processing plant management in Illinois has agreed to assist with the survey and has approved the collection protocol.
- The Agricultural Research Services has agreed to direct the laboratory component of this project through collaboration with the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.
- The estimated total cost for the survey is approximately \$45,000.
- The continuing resolution currently prohibits the allocation of funding for this project.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: INDEMNIFICATION TO ELIMINATE CATTLE CONFIRMED POSITIVE FOR *MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM PARATUBERCULOSIS* (MAP)

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Providing indemnification to producers for culling cattle confirmed positive for *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) by an officially recognized test for slaughter when such cattle are clinically normal and a high or moderate MAP shedder, will serve to prevent further transmission of the disease. Indemnification tied to program participation will also enhance identification, testing and confirmation of MAP positive animals, thereby promoting Johne's disease free status herds.

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) request necessary funding to provide limited indemnification of cattle for producers who participate in the National Johne's Control Program, meet all Program Standards and cull to slaughter any animal confirmed positive for *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) by an officially recognized test provided further that the indemnification will apply only to animals determined to be clinically normal and a high or moderate MAP shedder.

The USAHA further requests that Congress recognize the importance of funding a Johne's disease indemnification program to augment, and not subtract from, current minimal funding for the National Johne's Control Program. USAHA recommends that this program remain voluntary.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates this recommendation

and remains committed to improving our Johne's control program. However, we have several concerns regarding the request to provide indemnity for cattle confirmed positive for *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP).

These include:

- No authorization for indemnity in the statute which establishes the Johne's program (7 USC Sec. 7626). This statute limits USDA to funding requests for conducting research, testing, and evaluation of programs for the control and management of Johne's disease in livestock. In addition, authorizations of appropriations for the Johne's program only extend through 2007. USDA can not consider acting on this request until the new farm bill updates this restriction.
- Indemnity can only be applied to eradication programs (regardless of whether they are voluntary or mandatory). The Johne's program is a **control** program. Removal of some infected animals, while leaving others within the herd, will not produce a reduction in the national herd prevalence and can not be considered eradication. Currently, the economic models published show that test and cull programs can not remove the infection from the herds and would not be cost-effective methods to eradicating Johne's disease.
- Any herd owner that would participate in the indemnity program would have to make eradication of the disease the goal of their herd plan which requires the removal of all infected animals. Removal of some infected animals, while leaving others, will not produce a rapid reduction within a producer's herd prevalence levels, thereby prolonging the cleanup efforts.
- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing is the most cost-effective method of managing the infection on the farm after the presence of MAP has been confirmed in moderate to heavily infected herds. Confirming ELISA positive animals to establish their eligibility for indemnity delays removal of the animal from the herd, in addition to accumulating further costs to the program.
- Producers that are only willing to remove heavily shedding animals after applying for indemnity would not be considered committed to Johne's eradication in their herd. Industry has not provided any information supporting how the inclusion of indemnity would increase participation in the voluntary program, or increase the commitment of producers already enrolled.

As a result of these concerns, VS will not pursue indemnity funds for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program at this time.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: QUANTITATIVE BULK TANK MILK TESTS FOR
DETECTING JOHNE'S DISEASE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The routine availability of quantitative bulk tank test levels of *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) would enable producers to know and understand how their level of MAP compared on a national basis and would encourage individual progress to reduce levels of MAP in their herd. Such quantitative results would also reduce the cost of routine testing, help in identifying Johne's positive herds and encourage greater producer participation in the National Johne's Control Program, particularly if buyers or marketers of milk could provide free or subsidized testing in return for producer participation in the national program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) and the research community have a greater focus on development of quantitative based tests for detecting *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) in bulk tank milk.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS)

ARS proactively initiated the development of a quantitative-based test for detecting MAP in bulk tank milk in 2006; this is a quantitative real-time PCR test for Johne's disease in milk and other tissues that uses the unique target sequences, ISMapO2, identified by ARS through the Johne's genome sequence project. ARS has developed a test format that includes a probe enabling the quantitation of the amount of MAP DNA present in a test sample. ARS is collaborating with Dr. Sandra Godden at University of Minnesota in using this test on colostrums samples obtained from noninfected and infected dairy herds, and to date has evaluated this experimental test on over 350 samples. When completed, the results will be submitted to the University of Minnesota, which will then conduct validation studies by comparing the results to fecal shedding of

the bacterium. ARS plans further research on this approach to enabling the quantitation of MAP in bulk tank milk .

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE
AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: THE USE OF THE ENZYME LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT
ASSAY (ELISA) TEST TO DIAGNOSE CHRONIC
WASTING DISEASE IN CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for chronic wasting disease (CWD) is approved and licensed for free roaming mule deer, white tailed deer and elk. There is ample data indicating essentially equal sensitivity and specificity of ELISA tests compared to immunohistochemistry (IHC). The ELISA test can be done with faster turnaround times and is more efficient for the laboratory and requires fewer personnel than IHC. The ELISA test positives can be confirmed by IHC conducted by laboratory personnel who are experienced in identifying the obex and lymph node tissue to ensure proper tissue submission. More timely laboratory results are needed for producers to move animal product, to verify CWD status and for proper disposal of potentially CWD positive animals.

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) approve the USDA licensed enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test for use on cervid species within the captive wildlife industry

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is proactive in detecting and monitoring chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the United States. The VS Center for Veterinary Biologics has approved four rapid test kits for CWD in wild deer and elk. The species and tissues for which each kit has been approved vary. APHIS has approved

the kits to facilitate processing large numbers of samples collected during the hunting season. In wild cervids (where the goal is to detect and monitor the prevalence of CWD at the population level, and where animals migrate relatively short distances), it is preferable to identify positive animals early, but not as critical if one is not detected.

Conversely, in farmed and captive populations—where the goal is to eliminate CWD, animals are often transported over long distances, and where the diagnosis of a positive animal has dire economic consequences for the owner or producer—it is extremely important to detect every positive animal and herd as early as possible and have the greatest possible confidence in that diagnosis. Therefore, the VS CWD program and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) have continued to use immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing methods as the “gold standard” and only diagnostic test used for CWD in farmed and captive cervids.

When evaluating farmed and captive cervid submissions for CWD, it is extremely important to be able to visualize tissue architecture because it can not be verified in enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing. Samples that do not contain the proper tissues could result in positive animals testing negative and being missed. Approximately 8 percent of the FY 2006 samples submitted for IHC testing were problematic because of location verification difficulties.

APHIS agrees that there are some circumstances when a quicker turnaround time for CWD testing is preferable—one example is slaughter surveillance testing, where product must be held pending test results. We are exploring the possibility of using rapid test kits for CWD slaughter surveillance, provided that a professional sample collection protocol can ensure confidence in the quality of the samples being submitted.

At depopulation, where carcasses may need to be held for test results before being directed to landfill, alkaline digestion, or incineration for disposal, the rapid test kits may prove to be a useful screening tool. In these cases, sample collectors are generally well-trained professionals and the consequences of spreading the disease because of missed positive results are remote. Furthermore, all animals in herd depopulations (including ELISA positives) will be tested by IHC.

APHIS does not believe that increased speed is justified (at the expense of potentially missing a positive result through improper tissue submission) during routine, on-farm surveillance testing scenarios where product is not being held pending test results.

We are currently testing approximately 15,000 farmed or captive cervid samples per year by IHC and have a network of 26 approved IHC laboratories. If evenly distributed, this equates to less than 600 IHC tests per lab per year, or approximately 22 per week. If laboratories have excessive IHC testing loads, it may be necessary for NVSL to redirect some of this testing to labs with the capacity to take additional samples.

Therefore, we do not believe that a blanket approval of CWD testing by ELISA in farmed cervids is indicated at this time. There were concerns raised during Committee

discussions and we will continue to evaluate the use of the ELISA and its use in the VS CWD program.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: ERADICATION OF BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS
FROM NORTH AMERICA

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The beef and dairy industries suffer enormous losses due to bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection. Losses have also been noted in other livestock industries. The highly mutable nature of BVDV and the emergence of highly virulent strains of BVDV contribute to limited success of present control programs. Also, BVDV persistently infected (PI) cattle are the primary source of infection and effective testing procedures are available to identify those infected carriers. Resolutions supporting eventual BVDV eradication from North America have been put forward by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Academy of Veterinary Consultants and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Further, the livestock industry has a moral, ethical and potentially legal obligation not to sell known diseased or damaged animals to other parties without full disclosure. Responsible disposition of BVDV PI animals will be an important component of BVDV control.

A BVDV PI animal is defective. The dilemma of how to deal with known BVDV PI animals becomes more critical as BVDV testing becomes more widespread. Appropriate disposition programs for known BVDV PI animals must take into account the adverse impact these animals have on the health and welfare of the herds, and the economic return of livestock operations impacted by BVDV.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the livestock industries in adopting measures to control and target eventual eradication of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) from North America.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 15 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES, CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB), has the licensing and enforcement responsibilities for the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (VST Act) to assure that veterinary biological products distributed in the United States are pure, safe, potent, and effective.

In fiscal year 2007, CVB faces increased costs for the operation of new facilities at the National Center for Animal Health (NCAH). Furthermore, in fiscal year 2007, CVB also faces increased costs for shared-service personnel at the NCAH.

Congressional agricultural leaders had the foresight in 2000 to authorize the NCAH, and resulting is a world class facility featuring advanced design and equipment. But we cannot stop when the bricks are in place: the expanded capabilities also bring increased costs. Without adequate funding for personnel and operating costs, the great capabilities of the new facilities cannot be utilized. Availability of CVB services will be limited and international trade negatively impacted without sufficient resources dedicated to the review and approval of new and improved biological products.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States House and Senate Appropriations Committees to support the President's proposed budget of \$19,369,000 for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB).

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 16 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: VACCINE DEVELOPMENT FOR MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER IN BISON

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) continues to be a problem in bison. A previous resolution five years ago asked for eventual control of the disease which has not yet been accomplished. While education is improving, it will take more than education to halt the spread of MCF. A vaccine is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges and requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to continue financial support for developing a malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) vaccine for bison.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS)

For the past 15 years, ARS scientists at Pullman, Washington, have collaborated with faculty at Washington State University and the University of Wyoming on MCF research and have made significant progress in learning more about MCF and identifying potential approaches to its control. Despite the lack of an *in vitro* propagation system for the virus, ARS scientists have successfully characterized viral shedding patterns in domestic sheep, established infectious virus pools from sheep nasal secretions, and sequenced and annotated the ovine herpesvirus 2 (OvHV-2) genome. Using infectious OvHV-2 from sheep nasal secretions as inoculum, ARS scientists have developed an experimental animal model (bison) that can be reliably used to induce infection and clinical MCF. Development of a vaccine against OvHV-2-induced MCF in bison is an ARS research priority, and ARS will continue the MCF research project in the next cycle of the Animal Health National Program as resources permit.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUESTING AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE ON THE PROPOSED
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY NATIONAL
BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

DATE: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGORUND INFORMATION:

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) representing the nation's 28 Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, 8 Veterinary Science Departments and 8 Comparative Medicine Departments that are involved in teaching, research and service for the United States have a large stake in the outcome of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). As the primary educators for the veterinary profession, member institutions are responsible for the education of 10,000 veterinary students and the postgraduate training of the research and future public service veterinary workforce for the United States. The AAVMC along with many national stakeholders endorse the proposed NBAF.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to provide an opportunity for stakeholder organizations, such as the USAHA, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), and the various commodity organizations, to present meaningful recommendations and advice concerning the mission and goals of the new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). In addition, the goals for NBAF should include establishing collaborative relationships for research and training of the future national veterinary workforce to meet the needs of national security.

RESPONSE:

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS),Science and Technology Directorate

The Department of Homeland Security is pleased to provide a response concerning the development of the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility. The proposed National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) will enable DHS to fulfill its mission of detecting,

preventing, protecting against and responding to bioterrorist attacks within the United States. The process to develop NBAF is a multi-phase, multi-year effort that involves site selection, environmental assessment, planning, design, construction, and commissioning. The NBAF project brings together several cooperating agencies with mission critical objectives in an effort to share resources in a state of the art building designed and built to facilitate integration and collaboration.

The Science and Technology Directorate's, Office of National Labs is leading a team of researchers, scientists, technicians, and other skilled professionals from various agencies in the specifics of facility development. While future management and resource allocation planning are being handled at the highest levels of DHS and its collaborating agencies, the NBAF project management team remains committed to providing an open, inclusive, and iterative process that considers the input of all interested stakeholders during every phase of the project.

The NBAF project management team will oversee the entire development process. All program and technical requirements, budgetary planning, resource allocation planning and coordination, schedule tracking, and status reporting will be managed by these team leaders with necessary agency input at the most senior levels. The NBAF project management team will manage the development and posting of public information to stakeholders throughout the project and specifically for the small number of sites that will be selected for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development. The Notice of Intent (NOI) will be the vehicle to notify interested parties and the public of the selected sites.

Copies of the NOI will be posted in the Federal Register and will announce the selection of sites for which an EIS will be performed. Postcards will be mailed to stakeholders announcing public scoping meetings, and other significant milestone events affording the opportunity for meaningful input for all sites where an EIS will be conducted.

Following the scoping meetings, stakeholders can continue to monitor and provide input to the design and development of the NBAF and associated activities via the NBAF website (www.dhs.gov/nbaf). Stakeholders are encouraged to engage the program manager to provide input, assessments, and commentary of a technical or programmatic nature that will assist the government in developing a program that properly engages the varied and combined missions of the agencies involved in the NBAF project.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR A DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS
PLAN

DATE: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGORUND INFORMATION:

In the event that outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), other foreign animal diseases or destructive biological incursions are not quickly controlled and/or eradicated, there will be catastrophic impacts to the United States livestock, food and agricultural industries, as well as the general economy of the nation, including transportation, travel, food processing, distribution and tourism.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) establishes national policy to defend the United States agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (FASCC) and Government Coordinating Council (GCC) organized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are in the process of considering an expanded version of a proposed National Livestock/Continuity of Business Plan (NL/COBP) developed by the Animal Production Subcouncil of FASCC. This expanded version of the original NL/COBP is intended to apply the policy directives embodied in HSPD 9 across the entire food and agriculture sector through the creation of Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Councils (AF/COBC) that would operate within each Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region. The Councils would bring the public and private sectors at all levels together at the regional level to address the recommendations contained in HSPD 9, so as to take full advantage of the FEMA infrastructure support system in the event of a major agriculture or food emergency.

A national demonstration project is being proposed to gain understanding and support for implementation of this all hazards type regional approach to emergency preparedness and response utilizing FMD as an emergency disease template. The demonstration project would provide funding for cooperative agreements administered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to organize several regional projects to demonstrate the feasibility of organizing AF/COBC and provide direction and

guidance for broader future implementation of this approach to emergency management.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretaries of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Interior, and Health and Human Services to provide adequate funding to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to develop regional demonstration projects for the proposed National Agriculture and Food/Continuity of Business Plan. The demonstration projects should be developed in cooperation with appropriate state agencies and land grant universities.

RESPONSE:

Department Of Interior, Fish And Wildlife Service

The Service defers to expertise within the Department of Agriculture for consideration of the merits of the proposed regional demonstration projects for the National Agriculture and Food/Continuity of Business Plan.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate

The Infrastructure Coordination and Analysis Office supports National Agro and Food Business Continuity Plans. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and its associated Sector Specific Plans (SSP) set the stage for the states and industry to come back to the GCC/SCC with sector and industry specific plans following NIPP-SSP guidelines to operationalize infrastructure protection plans.

This is the first proposal from an industry group to address one of the most significant threats to the Food and Agriculture sector.

Continuity of Business plans for Food and Agriculture are a central component fulfillment of NIPP-SSP. The NIPP-SSP process needs tangible strategic implementation objectives such as these to be effective.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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

DATE: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

In fiscal year 2002, twelve state and university diagnostic laboratories were selected by the United States Department of Agriculture's (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 laboratory network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any and all animal health emergencies, sustained funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment.

It is essential to food safety, animal and public health and the robust economy of the nation that annual appropriations are provided for operational support of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to request annual funding in the USDA budget in the amount of at least \$35 million per year for operational support of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Also, it is necessary that the Secretary ensure annual funding for transfer and implementation of newly developed and validated assays from federal and other laboratories to the NAHLN laboratories.

Furthermore, USAHA requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees to support the Secretary's request for at least \$35 million each year to USDA for operational support of the NAHLN.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT

DATE: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGORUND INFORMATION:

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health and national security. There is a critical shortage of veterinarians in certain key public 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.

A Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act would authorize a competitive grants program for veterinary medical colleges and other eligible entities to increase capacity in veterinary medical education. At least an additional 400 DVM/VMD students are needed per year and 7,600 new postgraduate positions are needed to meet the current United States population societal needs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the 110th United States Congress enact a Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: COLLECTION OF SERUM FROM CERVIDS ROUTINELY TESTED BY THE SINGLE CERVICAL TEST FOR EVALUATION OF THE RAPID TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN CERVIDS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recent advances in the science of tuberculosis testing has led to the development of serological tests. The availability of serological tests for captive cervids would decrease the need for handling of these species, and would allow for increased interest in tuberculosis testing by producers. In order to provide information needed to assess the sensitivity and specificity of these tests, collection of serum samples during tuberculosis (TB) testing is needed. This serum could be used to evaluate currently available tests, and create a serum bank for use in evaluation of tests which may be developed in the future. Serum-based tests for use in cervid species would lead to increased participation of captive cervid herds in the tuberculosis eradication program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), recommends that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) validate a serological tuberculosis test for captive cervids. USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to take the lead in organizing a pilot project with industry so that prior to each single cervical test injection in captive cervids a blood sample is collected and serum submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for evaluation of the VetTB Stat-Pak™ rapid test for one year. Serum should be banked for evaluation of a future serology test. Results of this evaluation should be submitted for review by the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee on Tuberculosis.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) maintains interest in enhancing and approving new, reliable tests for tuberculosis. We specifically look forward to

testing methods that will exceed the accuracy of our current tests and reduce the impact of testing on producers and their livestock. For these reasons, VS fully supports this recommendation.

Implementation of this project will be heavily dependent on the industry for providing samples, providing assistance with the purchase of suspects and reactors for confirmatory testing, assistance during testing, and with the promotion of this effort within the industry. Implementation of this project is also dependent on the availability of time, personnel, and financial resources. VS fully intends to pursue this project as long as the required resources and industry support are available.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

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

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

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

RESPONSE:

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

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

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 23 NOT APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: TAIL DOCKING OF DAIRY CATTLE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The practice of tail-docking in the dairy industry has developed primarily to avoid physical harm and contamination of workers during milking. A major concern has been the exposure of workers to manure and urine contaminated tail switches, primarily with parallel front exit discharge parlors where the milker must apply the milking machine from directly behind the animal.

The dairy industry appreciates the concerns of some individuals and organizations that raise animal welfare implications regarding tail-docking. The industry also recognizes that some studies indicate there is no benefit to routine tail-docking in cattle. However, such studies do not provide guidance to dairy producers who feel that tail-docking is necessary in their operations, such as the example cited above involving parallel front exit discharge parlors. Many practicing veterinarians also question if there is any real scientific basis to differentiate tail docking of dairy cattle from the tail-docking of other species of animals such as draft horses, sheep, pigs, and certain breeds of dogs such as Australian Shepherds.

The Animal Health Committee of the National Milk Producers Federation, encourage the United States Animal Health Association to adopt a position regarding tail-docking of dairy animals which accounts for milker safety and health, provides for best management guidance to minimize stress, endorses tail-docking under review and approval of the herd veterinarian, and takes into consideration the proper level of herd management necessary to enhance cow hygiene and sanitation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes that the practice of tail-docking dairy animals may be necessary and desired to provide for human (i.e. milker) wellbeing, health, and safety.

USAHA urges that dairy producers who wish to employ tail-docking as a management tool do so under the oversight of a licensed veterinarian.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 24 NOT APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: THE BAN OF DOUBLE-DECK TRAILERS TRANSPORTING EQUINES TO PROCESSING FACILITIES

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

February 2002, Part 88 Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations became effective pertaining to the transport of equines to processing facilities. The regulations were based on data collected from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded studies by Colorado State University, Texas A&M University, and the University of California. These studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals documented that the number of horses injured in double-deck trailers (29%) was greater than straight-deck (8%) trailers. These data led to the specific Federal regulation Part 88.3(4)(b) which was a "grandfather" clause to eliminate the use of two-tiered trailers by December 7, 2006. The 5-year clause was implemented to minimize economic losses by those dependent on the use of the double-deck trailers. Thus, there is a need to enact state regulations banning the use of double-deck trailers following the termination of the Federal five-year phase-out period on the use of double-deck trailers for horses commercially transported to processing facilities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests state animal health officials to work through the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) to enact and enforce a ban on commercially transporting horses in double-deck trailers to processing facilities. USAHA recognizes this joint effort as an effective measure in ensuring the humane and safe transport of horses to processing facilities both domestically and internationally.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 25 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPROVING THE RESPONSE TO FOOD-ASSOCIATED DISEASE OUTBREAKS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The slow speed of response to foodborne outbreaks is commonly criticized. In reviewing after-action reports of these events, the need to facilitate communication and coordinate response efforts between agencies and entities has also been identified. Investigations are often hampered by the lack of expertise and resources when a single agency or person does the investigation resulting in critical factors being missed. Many of these issues can be corrected by developing multidisciplinary and interagency teams.

Developing interagency teams also makes the process more efficient by reducing the duplication of effort by various agencies. California has developed such a team, the California Food Emergency Response Team (CALFERT), which is doing an outstanding job. Development of these teams promotes the one medicine concept since these teams need to reach across many disciplines to be effective and efficient.

These teams would be invaluable in food defense events since they would already comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which has been established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 9. They would also fulfill roles in Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 8 and 11 of the National Response Plan (NRP).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work with their respective state counterparts to promote the development of multidisciplinary response teams for food-associated disease outbreaks in humans or animals at the federal, state, and local levels.

RESPONSE:

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food And Drug Administration (FDA), Center For Food Safety And Applied Nutrition

Experts from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are members of the California Food Emergency Response Team (Ca1FERT), and that the Agency has been working directly, and very successfully, through CalFERT to investigate recent foodborne outbreaks linked to California fresh produce. In addition, to improve outbreak response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently funded the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to cochair the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR). CIFOR was created to help develop model programs and processes that will facilitate the investigation and control of foodborne disease outbreaks. CIFOR includes representatives from CSTE, NACCHO, CDC, FDA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). CIFOR is sponsoring two projects aimed at improving outbreak response: 1) review and update of the 2001 *MultiState Foodborne Outbreak Investigations: Guidelines for Improving Coordination and Communication* and 2) development of performance indicators to assess completeness of outbreak-related records and surveillance functions and evaluate the timeliness of surveillance. More information on CIFOR can be found at

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

APHIS will continue discussions with the Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on how to further strengthen collaborative communication and coordination response efforts at all levels. APHIS generally functions as a support agency to HHS and FSIS in human food borne outbreak investigations.

Currently, there are several ongoing food-borne outbreak response activities. These activities include the development of a series of updated guidelines to improve public health coordination and response to multi-jurisdictional outbreaks, and a proposal to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU would include FSIS, the Agricultural Research Service, APHIS, the Agricultural Marketing Service, HHS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of the MOU is to strengthen coordination and collaboration on food-borne disease outbreak investigations. Responsibilities within the draft MOU include the development of interdepartmental response teams and enhancing coordination and collaboration among local, State, and Federal officials.

At the Federal level, there are current activities to coordinate interagency food-borne outbreak responses. FSIS, APHIS, and FDA have physically stationed liaison officers at CDC, and CDC has physically stationed a liaison officer at FDA. Co-location of these individuals has enhanced communications and response among agencies on domestic and international animal and public health issues of mutual concern, including food-borne outbreaks.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and various State health departments regularly cooperate in investigating foodborne disease outbreaks. Each outbreak is unique, and cooperative efforts generally occur on a case-by-case basis. Multidisciplinary, multi-agency teams are often convened in response to outbreaks, and team members are selected based on the expertise needed for each given situation. The teams are in frequent contact and share information freely. Recent examples of extensive and effective collaboration among Federal and State partners are the 2006 investigations of large *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreaks associated with fresh spinach and with Taco Bell restaurants.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), CDC, and FDA are currently exploring a number of platforms for enhanced collaboration in protecting public health in the prevention of and response to foodborne outbreaks. An important example of collaboration already in place among Federal, State, and local public health partners is the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR). CIFOR is co-chaired by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and aims to develop guidelines, a resource and tool repository, and performance measures for response to enteric illness outbreaks. One of the expected outcomes is the development of coordinated systems to speed investigations and reduce further outbreaks of foodborne disease. FSIS/USDA, FDA, CDC, and various associations of public health professionals are all represented and actively involved in CIFOR. Federal, State, and local public health agencies also collaborate via OutbreakNet, a network designed to enhance communications, consultation, and information exchange regarding foodborne outbreaks.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC agrees with the spirit and intent of Resolution 25 urging CDC to work with our state counterparts to promote the development of multidisciplinary response teams for food-associated outbreaks. During the recent outbreak associated with bagged spinach, CDC supplied an environmental engineer to support the CALFERT field investigation teams. Each year, CDC holds an annual meeting of OutbreakNet, the foodborne disease epidemiologists from all the states, to review recent experience and identify ways to increase the effectiveness of investigations. CDC also currently supports NEHA's Epi-Ready course multidisciplinary train in outbreak investigation targeted at state and local public health epidemiology, laboratory, and environmental health workers (http://www.neha.org/research/food_safety.html#train_schedule). Moreover, CDC provides funding to support the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response, a multidisciplinary group of federal, state, and local public health professionals engaged in outbreak response

<http://www.cste.org/pdffiles/CIFOR%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL.pdf>).

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 26 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: STANDARDIZATION OF POINT SOURCE
CONTAMINATION DETECTION, DETERMINATION, AND
INVESTIGATION METHODS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 outbreak associated with fresh spinach in the Fall of 2006 underscores the need for standardized methods to detect, investigate, and attribute point-source contamination. This outbreak follows numerous others where the relationship between foodborne illness and point-source contamination was not completely understood or thoroughly investigated. Past examples are other leafy green vegetable outbreaks since 1995 where the source of contamination was not identified, and the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak that occurred at a county fair in New York where cattle were initially implicated but a faulty septic system was ultimately identified as the source. Additionally, agriculture operations need better scientific information and guidance to enhance environmental protection, animal health and public health

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work together to develop validated standardized methods to detect, investigate, and attribute point source contamination of water, crops, and food stuffs.

USAHA also urges USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to make development of methods of prevention, surveillance, and mitigation of point source contamination a priority.

RESPONSE:

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food And Drug Administration (FDA), Center For Food Safety And Applied Nutrition

Regarding USAIIA's Resolution 26 and specific to produce safety, you may be interested in FDA's "Guide to Produce Farm Investigations," and the Agency's training course supporting the Guide's recommendations. The Guide provides instructions for conducting on-farm investigations, focusing specifically on the detection and documentation of practices that may lead to the contamination of produce. The Guide is posted on the Agency's website at http://www.fda.gov/ora/inspect_ref/igs/farmirivcstigation.html. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the Guide, and an outline of the contents of the supporting training course.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC agrees with the spirit and intent of Resolution 26 urging CDC to work with its federal counterparts to develop standard operating procedures for detecting, investigating the source of contamination of water, crops, and food stuffs. CDC and state and local counterparts are primarily responsible for outbreak detection and investigation at the point of consumption and as such are best positioned to identify causative agents and food stuffs that have been contaminated by these agents. Determining how the food stuffs were contaminated may need to involve FDA and FSIS and others. FDA and FSIS and their state/local counterparts are responsible for tracebacks and in-plant and on-farm investigations. CDC agrees that those investigations should be multidisciplinary and is happy to provide support to our sister agencies' investigation teams as appropriate.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS)

ARS agrees in principle with Resolution 26, specifically on the need to develop and validate standardized methods for epidemiological investigations. Current ARS research in these areas includes studying the migration of pathogens through soil, quantifying environmental pathogen loading by vertebrate sources, characterizing predisposing conditions for hydrological transport of pathogens to produce fields, determining if concentrations of non-0157 *E. coli* predict an increased risk of contamination with *E. coli* 0157 in water, identifying in-field mechanism(s) of produce contamination, creating a molecular subtyping database of *E. coli* 0157 strains to characterize the genetic relatedness of environmental and outbreak-associated isolates, and developing and disseminating educational materials for agricultural producers about microbial water quality, potential impacts on down-stream stakeholders, and effective best management practices for improving water quality.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 27 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: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

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 Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (STD) to 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:

United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA), Animal And Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS)

Scientists at our National Wildlife Research Center have been involved in preliminary evaluation of infrared technology to detect signs of wildlife diseases including rabies, bovine tuberculosis, and foot and mouth disease. To this end, we have successfully used infrared technology to detect signs of rabies infection in experimentally infected raccoons, and have conducted some pilot studies with the APHIS/Veterinary Services program to develop the use of this technology to detect signs of foot and mouth disease in wild and domestic ungulates, including mule deer,

pronghorn antelope and cattle at the Department of Homeland Security/Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York. The use of infrared technology, if effectively developed, could lead to early detection, quick screening, and rapid isolation of infected animals, which would help reduce the economic impact, and eventually help control the spread of important diseases. We will continue to support the development of new technology for the effective control of wildlife diseases.

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate

DHS will continue to examine new technologies or improved versions of technology that may show promise for use with early disease detection or for use during an outbreak or the recovery phase of an outbreak. DHS will continue to work cooperatively with USDA-APHIS-VS and WS to assist in technology evaluation. This is done through a process that prioritizes our activities with in a fixed budget. Currently there are still a number of significant questions around the effective use of infrared-based detection: e.g. the signatures are non-specific and can arise from a number of infections or even over-crowding; and remote detection of such signals would be extremely difficult because of the background clutter from other elements in the scene. Given those considerations, we believe that it is a higher priority to continue to invest in veterinary countermeasures and diagnostics that are specific to foreign animal diseases of concern. DHS will continue to lend support for such trials as those previously performed at Plum Island Animal Disease Center as part of our continuing support of USDA-APHIS-VS and WS in evaluating new technologies

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 28 NOT APPROVED

SOURCE: 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: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The introduction and emergence of infectious diseases of wildlife is becoming increasingly 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 Laboratory (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.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 29 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: A NATIONAL PLAN FOR RABIES CONTROL IN WILDLIFE

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

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 were recently compromised. Barriers have been breached in Ohio and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with a first-time occurrence in 2004 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 includes 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 (NASPHV), the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), 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) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) 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:

United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA), Animal And Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Wildlife Services(WS)

We are committed to supporting this Resolution. Raccoons, coyotes, and gray foxes continue to challenge oral rabies vaccination zones and threaten to spread to uninfected areas. We recognize the need for additional funding for strategically coordinated rabies control and we will work to address those needs within available funding. 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. We have initiated a North American Rabies Management Planning process with our counterparts in Mexico and Canada; and our state, federal, and local cooperators to advance surveillance and control in border areas and to better achieve rabies management goals. Without the continued cooperative support from all entities, the goal of eliminating rabies from terrestrial carnivores such as the raccoon would not be attainable.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

We are highly supportive of the concept of oral wildlife vaccination as a critical part of rabies prevention and control. The original concept of oral wildlife vaccination evolved initially at CDC. Current investigators in our rabies program were responsible for the development of the only vaccine licensed for carnivores in the USA. As the national reference center, CDC is responsible for the laboratory-based surveillance of rabies in humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. Moreover, CDC has deployed a new field test utilized by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services staff for enhanced surveillance. In addition, RabID is a modern GIS-based surveillance system that utilizes both public health and field submission data, for real-time decisions related to oral vaccine deployment. Besides our heightened research endeavors focused upon the development of new vaccines, CDC rabies staff serve as major collaborators with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services in the national program of wildlife rabies control.

Office of the Surgeon General – NO RESPONSE

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 30 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: PUBLIC HEALTH CONTINUING EDUCATION MODULE FOR VETERINARY ACCREDITATION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the medical professions, veterinary medicine is unique in that the veterinary oath contains a reference to promoting public health. With increased concern about emerging zoonotic diseases, there is a critical need to promote public health education. In the one medicine concept, veterinarians play a vital role in protecting and promoting public health, and their professional education provides them with a unique skill set to address many emerging issues. Public health education should be part of work force development to meet the needs of society. Additionally, by providing this information, practitioners will be better equipped to answer questions asked by their clients and their communities. Public health needs to be part of the accreditation process to maintain its relevance today and into the future.

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 include a public health module in the veterinary accreditation program.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) supports the development of a public health module and in promoting public health education as part of the core training for the new veterinary accreditation program. The public health module we propose will provide a general knowledge of public health issues and an understanding of how to minimize the risk of zoonotic diseases for clients and veterinary staff. The module will provide basic information on a number of important zoonotic diseases and provide links to various public health resources. In addition, it will cover how to report a

zoonotic disease and prevention practices that veterinarians can share with clients, staff and colleagues. The importance of interaction and communication between veterinarians, public health specialists, and medical doctors will also be addressed.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 and 45 combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CHANGES, SWINE
BRUCELLOSIS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The restriction of swine infected with *Brucella suis* from slaughter because of the human health risk has been a valid move. Slaughter plant workers should not work with that risk. The restriction of these animals from slaughter places an undue burden on the producer of a *B. suis* infected herd. The animals that are epidemiologically traced from *B. suis* infected herds can also be a risk to slaughter plant workers.

The presence of *B. suis* exposed feeder and breeder animals in non-infected herds poses the same human health risk as animals in infected herds. Animals from *B. suis* infected herds can not be slaughtered for human consumption and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) does not provide for disposal and/or transportation funds for the removal and destruction of *B. suis* infected swine herds.

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 the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to provide indemnity funds for purchase of any and all *Brucella suis* exposed animals in non infected herds and to provide funds for disposal and transportation of *B. suis* infected swine herds.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the suggestion from the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine and Committee on Brucellosis to provide indemnity funds for purchase of *Brucella suis* exposed animals in non-infected herds, and to provide funds

for disposal and transportation of *B. suis* infected swine herds. During the past fiscal year, several VS staff members and program managers participated in a management control review of the APHIS-VS indemnity process. The review revealed that there is "an overwhelming consensus that the current 9 CFR regulations are valuable but limited in their scope." VS agrees with the USAHA Committees' suggestion that amendments to 9 CFR part 51 are needed for several issues—including those identified in this resolution. VS will continue its efforts to develop appropriate amendments to this regulation that will provide a consistent, fair, and equitable indemnity process and meet current program indemnity needs to support eradication of brucellosis from U.S. livestock.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 1, 2003, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assumed control of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since that time, DHS has served as the "landlord" of the island and its facilities and has been in charge of daily operations and facility maintenance. USDA, specifically the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), has continued to carry out its mission of protecting animal agriculture from the threat of foreign animal diseases by directing research projects aimed at improving diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines as well as training animal health specialists to recognize diseases of concern.

The Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) is housed at PIADC and is responsible for the diagnosis of foreign animal diseases, reagent production and vaccine testing, and training. Being on an island means that PIADC is very costly to maintain and increases the difficulty of attracting and retaining employees and researchers. In addition, the facilities are in need of significant maintenance, upgrading, expansion and renovation. For these reasons, DHS has begun the process of evaluating options for the future of PIADC, including moving the facility to a new location.

In March 2006, DHS began evaluating applications to house a facility, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), to replace much, if not all, of the current activities conducted at PIADC. This proposed \$451 million 520,000 square foot facility will address biological and agricultural national security risks by co-locating scientists from several federal agencies in a state-of-the-art bio-safety containment facility. The DHS plans to equip the NBAF with numerous laboratories that will conduct research in high-consequence biological threats involving foreign animal, zoonotic, and human diseases. As a key part of this, DHS plans to house laboratories that will provide high security spaces for agricultural and animal studies and training. In addition, DHS plans for the NBAF to develop vaccine countermeasures for foreign animal diseases, and provide advanced test and evaluation capability for threat detection, vulnerability, and countermeasure assessment for animal and zoonotic diseases.

According to information on the DHS website, the NBAF project will integrate those aspects of public and animal health research that have been determined to be central to national security. Meet the related and synergistic homeland defense research, development, test and evaluation responsibilities, NBAF will provide essential animal model test and evaluation capacity to support licensure of vaccine countermeasures. Provide a unique biosafety level (BSL3/Ag and BSL4) livestock capable laboratory for developing countermeasures for foreign animal diseases, and advanced test and evaluation capability for threat detection, vulnerability and countermeasure assessment for animal and zoonotic diseases.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), while supporting the desire to enhance and expand the resources available to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address the concerns of animal agriculture with respect to detection, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of foreign animal diseases and to provide foreign animal disease (FAD) training for veterinarians and animal health officials, expresses concern with the current lack of direct stakeholder input into the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) process.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests information from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the specifics of facility development and future management to include facility design, development of the scope of work, allocation of funds and resources, definition of funding requirements from collaborating agencies, and a description of oversight to insure adequate access to the available resources.

USAHA urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DHS to develop a forum through which stakeholders can have ongoing meaningful input into the planning, management and oversight of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and that facilitates the agencies outreach to its constituency, and that DHS develop a management plan to address the issues of funding; resource allocation and research direction that insures the USDA mandate regarding foreign animal disease (FAD) issues are adequately addressed.

RESPONSE:

United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate

The Department of Homeland Security is pleased to provide a response concerning the development of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility. The proposed National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) will enable DHS to fulfill its mission of detecting, preventing, protecting against and responding to bioterrorist attacks within the United States. The process to develop NBAF is a multi-phase, multi-year effort that involves site selection, environmental assessment, planning, design, construction, and commissioning. The NBAF project brings together several cooperating agencies with mission critical objectives in an effort to share resources in a state of the art building designed and built to facilitate integration and collaboration.

The Science and Technology Directorate's, Office of National Labs is leading a team of researchers, scientists, technicians, and other skilled professionals from various agencies in the specifics of facility development. While future management and resource allocation planning are being handled at the highest levels of DHS and its collaborating agencies, the NBAF project management team remains committed to providing an open, inclusive, and iterative process that considers the input of all interested stakeholders during every phase of the project.

The NBAF project management team will oversee the entire development process. All program and technical requirements, budgetary planning, resource allocation planning and coordination, schedule tracking, and status reporting will be managed by these team leaders with necessary agency input at the most senior levels. The NBAF project management team will manage the development and posting of public information to stakeholders throughout the project and specifically for the small number of sites that will be selected for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development. The Notice of Intent (NOI) will be the vehicle to notify interested parties and the public of the selected sites.

Copies of the NOI will be posted in the Federal Register and will announce the selection of sites for which an EIS will be performed. Postcards will be mailed to stakeholders announcing public scoping meetings, and other significant milestone events affording the opportunity for meaningful input for all sites where an EIS will be conducted.

Following the scoping meetings, stakeholders can continue to monitor and provide input to the design and development of the NBAF and associated activities via the NBAF website (www.dhs.gov/nbaf). Stakeholders are encouraged to engage the program manager to provide input, assessments, and commentary of a technical or programmatic nature that will assist the government in developing a program that properly engages the varied and combined missions of the agencies involved in the NBAF project.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTROL OF FERAL SWINE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Feral swine continue to spread throughout the United States. Some of this spread is migration from established populations but much of the spread is from relocation of animals without regard to interstate movement regulations or health status of the animals being relocated.

Feral swine:

- are present in numerous states within the United States
- damage fences, forest stands, natural communities, row and forage crops, parks, cemeteries, and lawns and gardens
- harbor diseases that affect people, pets, livestock, and wildlife
- kill young lambs, goats, calves, and deer, harass adult cattle and horses, and destroy bird nests and other wildlife
- causes an estimated damage of \$800 million annually in the United States

There is a standing Presidential Directive to control the spread of invasive species. Further, the National Governors' Association has called for joint federal/state programs to help prevent the spread of invasive species and adequate federal financial support to enable states to control or eradicate invasive species.

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 seek funding to adequately fund coordinated feral swine control and educational outreach efforts in the United States.

RESPONSE:

United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA), Animal And Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) , Wildlife Services(WS)

We concur and agree that feral swine issues continue to be a serious concern across the United States due to livestock predation, potential disease impacts, and environmental damage. I'm glad that we have been invited in the past to deliver presentations to the Feral Swine Disease Committee at past United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) conferences and we look forward to continued reporting.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 combined with 6

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO
IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED NATIONAL AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD/CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS ALL HAZARD
PLAN (NAF/COBP)

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

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO
COMBAT DISEASE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The ever growing and diverse nature of government, non-government, and international organizations operating in the international theater with regard to foreign and emerging diseases, the challenge to coordinate and/or collaborate in planning, development and delivery of direct technical assistance as well as capacity building efforts continues to be of concern to the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA).

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), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and United States Health and Human Services (USHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to actively pursue the means and avenues to develop and establish visible and sustainable collaborative efforts in the international search for foreign and emerging diseases, including those diseases of zoonotic importance.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently is working collaboratively with other Federal Agencies to ensure that foreign and emerging animal diseases, including those with zoonotic potential, present a minimal risk to animal and human health. Although each Federal agency operates under a different mandate, the current framework has been responsive to national animal and human health events.

USDA is continuing to work at strengthening its collaboration with international public health and animal health officials to safeguard the United States from animal and human disease threats. Our agencies serve as World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centers, working alongside other national and international

agencies such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which became an OIE Collaborating Center for Emerging and Reemerging Zoonoses this year. This allows the CDC to provide their competence and expertise internationally on foreign and emerging disease issues.

In July 2006, USDA joined the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in launching a new crisis management center to enhance worldwide response to animal disease. The Crisis Management Center, located in Rome, Italy, and run by the FAO in close collaboration with the OIE, uses international resources to prevent and contain dangerous animal diseases.

Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has integrated its agricultural border activities into its primary charge of preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the US, including prevention of agro/bio-terrorism. Agricultural inspections have traditionally focused on unintentional introduction of pests or diseases. CBP actively prevents the introduction of harmful exotic plant and animal pests and diseases. CBP also seeks to prevent the intentional introduction of harmful organisms, or Agro-terrorism, to protect our agricultural resources and the food supply. The role of the CBP Agriculture Specialists at ports of entry is crucial.

CBP formed an Agro-bio terrorism countermeasures subgroup to place an emphasis on critical preparation and planning for prevention and countermeasures. Agriculture Programs and Liaison (APL) has developed a CBP agro-bio terrorism strategy and countermeasures action plan and coordinating further development with the CBP Office of Policy and Planning. APL has made contacts and provided key experts for DHS Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection working groups.

CBP worked with partners to researched risk, science, technology, and other government agencies plans and to develop operational procedures at ports of entry to address the threat of an avian influenza pandemic. CBP participated in an inter-agency agro-terrorism exercise and are working cooperatively with USDA to plan joint test exercises for future dates

CBP has provided oversight to the field to mitigate risk and safeguard potential agro threats such as the Mediterranean fruit fly outbreak in Mexico, smuggled exotic hatching eggs and fresh Asian poultry that could carry exotic avian diseases, Exotic New Castle Disease (END), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), infested/diseased fruits, vegetables, plants, and prohibited meat products in commercial shipments and passenger baggage at all of US ports of entry.

CBPAS has increased efforts to look for containers and trucks with smuggled agricultural products and/or prohibited packaging materials. These shipments could also contain harmful pest, pathogens, or invasive species that could harm our agriculture and environment.

CBP has initiated joint special operations and “blitzes” with USDA based on trend analysis data. CBP utilizes analysis to develop targeting information and focus inspections on high risk products and pathways. This allows us to utilize our resources effectively to protect United States agriculture.

CBP has established interagency working groups, called Port Pest Risk Committees, to identify and discuss high risk pathways, assist with development of special initiatives and operations to target prohibited agricultural products, evaluate procedures, and share information. They also help identify plant pest training initiatives. The committees consist of CBP and USDA managers and specialists, APHIS and state veterinarians, identifiers, investigators, State Plant Regulatory Officers, and other government entities (county). All field office and major ports have active committees. Other related state entities, such as USAHA are welcome to contact, and or join, these groups.

National Biosurveillance Integration System

The DHS led National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS) is being established to provide early recognition and enhanced situational awareness of biological hazards of potential national significance. The NBIS Vision is to provide a global integrated biosurveillance common operating picture (BCOP) to partner organizations and agencies. In order to achieve this vision, NBIS recognizes the need to develop cooperative relationships with international organizations working in the areas of human, plant, animal, and environmental health. Zoonotic diseases are one of four initial NBIS focus areas. As an integrator of surveillance products across domains, the inherent multi-domain nature of zoonotic diseases makes them especially relevant to NBIS. A second focus area is highly contagious foreign animal disease. NBIS is committed to improving the biosurveillance community’s situational awareness and early recognition of emerging infectious disease and will be pursuing increased interaction with relevant international organizations.

DHS OHA is the lead for the DHS planning for Pandemic Influenza and High Path Avian Influenza. DHS OHA continues to work closely with the Department of State and Department of Agriculture in plans for and international prevention strategies per the National Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC strongly supports the need for collaboration in the area of international research, surveillance and outbreak response to emerging, re-emerging diseases particularly those that are zoonotic among federal agencies (HHS-CDC; USDA-APHIS-VS-FSIS-FAS; DHS). In an effort to accomplish this goal several measures are in place; CDC is working closely with USDA to develop combined outbreak response teams to be deployed internationally should an outbreak of a zoonotic nature occur, this effort will be done under the CDC OIE Collaborating Center; CDC and USDA have entered into

discussions regarding combined training of veterinary personnel for zoonotic diseases, CDC and USDA are discussing the use of CDC Epidemic Intelligence Officers for a combined project on a selected zoonotic disease to design a surveillance system to be used internationally, which has the potential to become a template for other zoonotic diseases.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

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

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

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.

There has been considerable progress in the eradication of FMD from South America, with some resistant foci remaining. It is imperative that control procedures continue in these areas for the overall success of the program. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes the continuing support of the USDA.

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:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services (IS)

USDA remains vigorously engaged in, and supportive of, the GIEFA process through (1) dialogue with partner governments in the North American public sector, and (2) through the GIEFA representative for the public sector of North America – an APHIS employee nominated by the APHIS Administrator and confirmed by his counterparts in Canada and Mexico. APHIS IS field staff, in particular the IS attaché in Sao Paulo, Brazil, are actively involved with the GIEFA office at the PAHO/PANAFTOSA office in Rio de Janeiro. The IS attaché, along with others in the region, is active in outbreak attention, planning, and execution of pilot initiatives, particularly in Bolivia and Paraguay.

Most recently, on November 7, 2006, the GIEFA representative for the North American private sector called for a GIEFA meeting in Washington, DC, which was hosted in the FAO offices. The Deputy Administrators of VS and IS attended on behalf of USDA. These officials restated the parameters established by the APHIS Administrator under which USDA would continue to be active in the GIEFA initiative. Principal among these parameters are the concepts of (1) multilateralism of the management and (2) a nonappropriated source of eradication funding supported by the host country private industries. Many multilateral organizations were present (FAO, IICA, PAHO, IDB), as were the GIEFA representatives for North America, for both the public and private sectors. The only other GIEFA member present was the public sector representative for the Southern Cone (South America) countries.

Many issues were discussed, including the administrative form that a hemispheric eradication program would take. The multilateral organizations could not address some issues. Only three members of GIEFA were present, and no focus country (Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Venezuela) had a representative present. USDA called for a meeting of all GIEFA representatives to be convened in South America early in 2007 (January 29-30) where most GIEFA members would be present from all regions of the hemisphere, to make definitive recommendations prior to the March COSALFA meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. The USDA employee serving as the GIEFA North American Public Sector representative will attend this meeting, and the APHIS IS attaché in Brazil is actively supporting the logistics of that meeting.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37 – 41 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE RESEARCH ALLIANCE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Global Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA) was launched in 2003 as an international consortium to facilitate strategic research collaboration between five institutions; Institute of Animal Health Laboratory, (UK), Plum Island Animal Disease Center, (USA), National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (Canada), The Australian Animal Health Laboratory and the International Livestock Research Institute. The goal of GFRA is to respond to the increasing threat and the lack of countermeasures to prevent foot and mouth disease (FMD) and provide alternatives to mass animal destruction through accelerated development of new tools and measures such as innovative vaccines and biotherapeutics specifically designed for control and eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture to seek the necessary funding for the participation of the United States in the development of new tools for foot and mouth disease (FMD) control and eradication identified by the Global Foot and Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA).

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION ADVISORY
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Species working groups, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, Animal Identification and Information Committee, and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Livestock Identification have provided recommendations to the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee, which in turn were provided to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases has discussed the recommendations of the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee (NAIS Advisory Subcommittee), which included recommendations relative to the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Strategic Plan, NAIS Information System, Outreach and Species Working Group Reports, and supports the adoption of these recommendations by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages USDA to adopt these recommendations, which have been submitted to the Agency as part of the report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR STATE ANIMAL TRACKING DATABASES

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Identification Plan and the National Animal Identification Strategic Plan were designed primarily to assist with animal health emergencies. Animal health programs have historically been state, industry, and federal cooperative programs.

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 allow the use of National Animal Identification System (NAIS) cooperative agreement funds for the development, maintenance, and supporting infrastructure for state animal tracking databases, to be administered by state animal health officials.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary

We welcome the input of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and we appreciate the opportunity to respond. I have asked officials with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to carefully consider the Association's recommendations.

As you indicate, NAIS is a voluntary program at the Federal level, and USDA has no plans to make participation in any NAIS component—including animal identification—mandatory. We believe that the best approach to NAIS is a voluntary system actively shaped by the States, industry, and producers, in partnership with USDA. We respect States' rights, and we recognize that individual States may choose to make participation mandatory, based on local needs. While the Federal NAIS will be voluntary, we are emphasizing the very real benefits to producers of participating in the program. We believe that the marketplace will respond to the animal health benefits and marketing opportunities that NAIS offers, and that we can accomplish our goals through a voluntary program.

At the same time, we believe that authorities and programs already in place can provide valuable support as NAIS moves forward. We are committed to working with you and others to

capitalize on existing brand infrastructure and disease control and eradication programs as we implement NAIS. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these issues.

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the opportunity to address collaboration efforts regarding the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The animal tracing component of NAIS is a public/private partnership. Both industry—through private systems—and States will operate and maintain animal identification number (AIN) device distribution databases and animal tracking databases (ATDs), that will contain the animal location and movement records needed to help safeguard animal health.

USDA will operate a portal system (the Animal Trace Processing System [ATPS]) that will enable animal health officials to submit requests for information to the AIN device distribution databases and ATDs when investigating an animal disease event. State and Federal animal health officials will only use this system under the following circumstances:

- An indication (suspect, presumptive positive, etc.) or confirmed positive test of a foreign animal disease;
- An animal disease emergency as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and/or State Departments of Agriculture; or
- A need to conduct a trace-back or trace-forward to determine the origin of infection for a program disease (brucellosis, tuberculosis, etc.).

This infrastructure supports the USDA's position on maintaining only essential data within the Federal government, thereby avoiding information disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

Funding ATDs through cooperative agreements would compromise USDA's positions and objectives on the successful implementation of the NAIS since Federal funding for ATD development would make the information in the ATDs subject to FOIA, even if held outside the government; therefore we are unable to support this resolution.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: INTERMEDIATE STEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is an urgent need to move forward expeditiously with implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in order to be better prepared to respond to an animal disease emergency.

The livestock industry has voiced concerns about the costs of implementing the NAIS as currently proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Implementation of data collection infrastructure and information systems to collect animal movement data and submission of the data to animal tracking databases will constitute a major part of the NAIS, and is the most difficult and expensive to implement.

An alternate animal identification system, often described as the bookend approach, collects animal identification information at the point of origin and the point of termination. Such a system has been recommended by the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee and endorsed by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to proceed to implement premises identification and animal identification, and utilize the current Animal Identification Numbering system to collect the animal identification information at the point of origin and the point of termination, which is often described as the "bookend approach."

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the Secretary

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 41 combined with 37 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FUNDING FOR THE ACCELERATED
DEVELOPMENT OF FMD COUNTERMEASURES

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

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 42 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT'S SCRAPIE PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Surveillance Unit (NSU) was formed to develop a comprehensive integrated national animal health surveillance system. They have recently reviewed the scrapie surveillance program and have identified some shortcomings. VS has determined that a change in scrapie surveillance is warranted.

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) charge the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) with leading the effort and work with state and VS national, regional and field staff to improve the plan for the nationwide scrapie surveillance system to achieve eradication on schedule by 2010 and provide the necessary resources.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Surveillance Unit (NSU) looks forward to working with State and VS national, regional, and field staff on the planning effort to improve the nationwide scrapie surveillance system, and integrate it with the overall surveillance plan. The NSU will focus on this planning effort as soon as resources are available. Barring unforeseen occurrences, this is likely to happen in the last quarter of 2007. Until the FY 2007 budget is passed, and only if it includes adequate resources, will a significant expansion of surveillance be possible. While we

remain committed to improved surveillance, changes requiring substantially greater resources will not be possible before FY 2009 because of the budget cycle.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 43 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION COMPLIANCE IN THE SCRAPIE PROGRAM

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Scrapie Eradication Program, which includes mandatory identification and record keeping, has been in existence for 5 years. Animal identification compliance is in need of improvement in some states and can be enhanced in all states. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Area Veterinarians-in-Charge and State Veterinarians.

Resolution:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the state and federal animal health officials in each state to follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) VS Memo 557.11. Regulatory action is expected to be taken to address lack of compliance with identification requirements. Quarterly animal identification compliance reports will be provided by each state to the APHIS-VS, Regional and National Scrapie Eradication Program staff. These reports will be used to provide ongoing assessment of Consistent State status.

RESPONSE:

New Jersey - Approved

Missouri – In close collaboration with our local USDA-VS Office in making every attempt to meet the specifications of VS memo 557.11.

Louisiana - Although we feel this is a needed program, at this time we are facing a shortage of manpower and can not commit to quarterly reporting.

South Dakota - South Dakota's animal health officials and sheep industry support and follow this resolution on identification and sampling for the Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Program

Utah - We feel that at this point we not only accept Resolution 43 but are in full compliance with not only identification requirements but also quarterly animal identification compliance reports to APHIS-VS, Regional and National Scrapie Eradication Program staff.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 44 APPROVED AS AMENDED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: WATER-BASED FOAM FOR MASS DEPOPULATION OF
POULTRY

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Water-based foam provides an efficient, rapid, reliable, and safe means for mass depopulation of poultry. Research and field applications have shown that it has many advantages over existing technologies, including decreased bird stress, decreased human exposure to diseased animals which may carry zoonotic diseases, and decreased risk of disease spread.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Animal Welfare Committee recognized the difference between euthanasia and depopulation in its July 7, 2006 report. Specifically, "Euthanasia involves transitioning an animal to death wherein the experience is made as painless and stress-free as possible. In depopulation, large numbers of animals are killed efficiently and quickly. As much consideration is given to the welfare of the animals as practicable, but the circumstances and tasks facing those doing the depopulation are understood to be extenuating. Use of CO₂ has previously been considered by the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia to meet the definition of euthanasia when properly applied. *At this point in time, Committee members have not been able to reconcile the use of foam with the definition of euthanasia.*" The AVMA Animal Welfare Committee, however, did suggest that foam "be seriously considered as a rational approach to depopulation, specifically in cases of public health risk (disease or injury) and when conventional methods are not sufficient to adequately control disease."

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), has given conditional approval to the use of water-based foam that meets USDA, APHIS performance standards as a means of mass depopulation of appropriate species of domestic poultry in cases of potentially zoonotic diseases, rapidly spreading diseases that cannot be contained by conventional means, or for animals housed in structurally unsound buildings that are hazardous for human entry.

The AVMA is widely regarded as an authority on animal welfare and humane depopulation. The lack of clear AVMA support of water-based foam as a method of mass depopulation of poultry may impede the efforts of federal and state authorities to prepare for disease outbreaks and disaster responses.

RESOLUTION:

Recognizing the importance of immediate action to manage an outbreak of a highly contagious or zoonotic disease, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to fully endorse water-based foam as an acceptable option for mass depopulation of poultry. Foam should be considered an appropriate method for mass depopulation of poultry when there is a need to limit human exposure or risk of human injury or a requirement to accomplish the task quickly due to epizootic considerations.

RESPONSE**AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AVMA)**

The AVMA Executive Board has approved a Policy on the Use of Water-Based Foam for Depopulation of Poultry

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 45 Combined with 31 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CHANGES

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

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 46 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: INTERPRETATION OF IMPORT-EXPORT PROTOCOL

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There has been significant reduction in the export of live animals due to the finding of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States.

Workable documents are essential as new protocols are developed when new markets open. To get such protocols that are operable and to have uniform interpretation of the protocols, a meeting of Import-Export staff veterinarians and representatives from the livestock export industry would aid in regaining United States competitiveness in the world market.

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) establish a committee of their staff and representation of livestock exporters to meet and work on producing workable documents and obtaining uniform interpretation of such protocols to further the exportation of livestock.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) is currently working, as appropriate, with the livestock industry to facilitate exports of live animals and germplasm. NCIE regularly consults with the industry to obtain technical input and support during negotiations of export protocols. NCIE meets on a regular basis with industry groups to discuss current issues related to export of live animals and germplasm. APHIS-VS is actively working to reopen export markets lost as a result of the diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the United States, and will continue to work with the livestock export industry to facilitate this objective.