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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15      APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:        A Nationally-Coordinated Bio-Surveillance System that Rapidly  
Delivers Real-Time Data for Analysis to Improve Foreign Animal  
Disease Detection**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As United States animal agriculture has become increasingly dependent on exports, it is imperative that there are adequate resources in place to prevent, diagnose, and respond to Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks. For example, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) would immediately close all export markets. The cumulative impact of an outbreak on the beef and pork sectors over a 10-year period would be more than \$128 billion. The annual jobs impact of such reduction in industry revenue is 58,066 in direct employment and 153,876 in total employment. Corn and soybean farmers would lose \$44 billion and nearly \$25 billion, respectively, making the impact on these four industries alone almost \$200 billion.

These costs can only be mitigated if the United States can mount a swift and thorough response once FMD is detected within our borders. Delay in the detection of FMD or any other regulatory FAD risks a fatal delay in response.

On April 12-13, 2017, more than twenty-six representatives from the U.S. swine industry, State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs), Federal Animal Health Officials, and academia came together for a common priority to discuss protecting swine health and developing a national bio-surveillance system for the U.S. swine industry. Specific key elements and recommendations captured in the final report from the discussions at the workshop can apply to all animal protein species. The group agreed that a national surveillance vision should be risk-based, real-time, reliable (accurate information), efficient, representative, and integrate data in a timely manner so disease events can be identified quickly.

Some Across-species Key Elements of an Optimal Risk-Based Comprehensive Disease Preparedness System

1. Supports prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery from foreign and emerging animal diseases of concern.
2. Includes a process for prioritizing, evaluating, implementing, and revising surveillance objectives.
3. Includes feed and other common production inputs.

4. Utilizes standardized, electronic, real-time data capture for data that will support risk-based preparedness.
5. Facilitates communication between existing industry, State, and federal disparate response and database systems.
6. Produces timely action-oriented executive summary information for “rapidly digestible situational awareness.”

FADs, including FMD, classical swine fever and African swine fever, are often clinically (visually) indistinguishable from other endemic, non-regulatory diseases. A twenty-first-century approach to FAD surveillance is needed to quickly identify an outbreak and achieve meaningful disease response and business continuity capabilities that will drive sustainable production in the U.S. animal protein industries in the event of a foreign animal disease that threatens to disrupt trade and commerce.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture to collaborate with stakeholders to organize and facilitate a meeting of animal protein commodity organizations, State Animal Health Officials, and other critical stakeholders to discuss the following key elements to help achieve progress in developing an optimal nationally-coordinated bio-surveillance system that rapidly delivers real-time data for analysis to improve foreign animal disease detection.

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### **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the U.S. Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS is committed to a comprehensive and integrated surveillance (CIS) approach to animal disease surveillance that connects and engages VS and other partners involved in animal health. A full CIS system will allow us to efficiently assess animal health in the United States, including emerging and foreign animal diseases.

Although many foundational pieces for CIS are in place, much work remains for VS to establish fully functioning CIS for all commodities.

VS also notes that different animal commodities have accomplished CIS to different degrees of success, and animal commodities have different needs. One of our priority projects is developing commodity-based communication plans to coordinate outreach with external stakeholders to develop strategies and implementation for CIS. These draft communication plans align with the ideas and incorporate many of the key elements expressed in this resolution. Therefore, we support the resolution to collaborate with stakeholders to organize and facilitate a meeting of commodity organizations, State Animal Health Officials, and other critical stakeholders to discuss CIS and the key elements outlined in the resolution.

VS has additional high priority projects which support the elements of preparedness system prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery from foreign and emerging animal diseases of concern. This includes continuing to move the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) forward through the rule-making process and planning for implementation. VS is striving to improve various aspects of surveillance data capture, quality, management, analysis, and reporting. This includes laboratory submissions and Avian Influenza surveillance reporting. VS will deploy improved surveillance reporting this year, through comprehensive surveillance reports. VS has completed evaluations of national surveillance systems for pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and scrapie. VS plans to begin evaluations for cattle brucellosis, tuberculosis, and the swine foreign animal diseases in FY18.

Finally, CIS for the swine commodity group has been a long-standing goal, with intermittent progress. VS has identified many aspects of “next steps” for CIS in swine. Those aspects are significant projects or build-outs. If Farm Bill funding becomes a reality, it may be time to address what priorities parties concur on to achieve CIS strategically.