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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As United States (US) 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 US can mount a swift and thorough response once FMD is detected within our borders. Delay in detection of FMD or any other regulatory foreign animal disease risks a fatal delay in response.

On April 12-13, 2017, more than twenty-six representatives from the US 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 US 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.

<u>Some Across-species Key Elements of an Optimal Risk-Based Comprehensive Disease Preparedness System</u>

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 US 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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