



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**2012 Resolution**

116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

October 18-24, 2012 ~ Greensboro, NC

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2**

**APPROVED**

**SOURCE:**

**USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**

**SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-  
DEFENSE FACILITY**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

If the United States incurs a foreign animal disease outbreak from a significant livestock pathogen, it will have a major impact on the entire country, could negatively affect animal and public health, may pose environmental risks if disposal of mass mortalities of livestock occurs, and could dramatically affect food security and the United States (US) economy.

In January 2009, the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Agriculture completed an extensive site selection process for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), a new animal disease research and diagnostic facility to replace the aging Plum Island Animal Disease Center. Manhattan, Kansas was selected as the site for the NBAF.

In July 2012, the National Academy of Sciences affirmed the vital need for the NBAF and determined that the Plum Island Animal Disease Center cannot meet US agro-security needs due to size limitations and inability to meet zoonotic disease and biosafety level-4 (BSL-4) needs.

NBAF will improve the nation's ability to study foreign animal diseases and emerging and zoonotic pathogens. It will aid in the improvement of diagnostic testing and the development of effective vaccines and other countermeasures for responding to highly significant livestock diseases. Further delay in initiation of NBAF construction will result in higher construction costs and critical gaps in national security from threats to animal agriculture and the public's health and well-being.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians affirm the decision for National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) construction and urge Congress to fully appropriate funds in the next funding cycle to enable the United States Department of Homeland Security to move forward in the planned construction and continued maintenance of the NBAF to ensure protection of animal agriculture and the public from potentially devastating diseases.