

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

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

**SUBJECT MATTER: EVALUATE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE
RESPONSE POLICY AND CAPABILITIES**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

If the United States experiences a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak within its borders, a prepared response will be required for optimum control of the disease and continuity of business for agricultural producers and associated industries. The scope and severity of the outbreak will determine the particular strategy of response, control, and mitigation chosen. The North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB) has limited quantities of vaccine available. Emergency vaccine stocks are far below what would be required to address a livestock-dense state or multi-state outbreak. The public-private-academic partnerships formed as part the Secure Food Supply projects and work that has been conducted have brought the need for additional FMD vaccine and other response strategies and capabilities to a broader audience. In addition, there are other corollary issues that surround the decision to use FMD vaccine in an outbreak that need broad stakeholder input prior to an outbreak.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians urge the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to:

- Expediently evaluate foot-and-mouth (FMD) vaccine quantity and capability, times to delivery, methods of distribution, electronic identification of vaccinates, and other vaccine priority issues to meet FMD response needs.

- Provide a mechanism for broad stakeholder input to enhance FMD vaccine preparedness and response including exercises.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS is constantly evaluating foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) response policy. To this end, APHIS has assembled a project team of subject matter experts to develop a FMD response policy that will take into account the use of vaccine as a viable tool to respond and control an outbreak. APHIS welcomes the opportunity to improve FMD preparedness by working with the United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (USAHA/AAVLD), as well as with other stakeholders, to identify priorities for FMD preparedness. APHIS suggests the formation of a working group to evaluate and provide input on the prospective FMD policy response and capabilities, to establish priorities that align with existing resources, and to explore public-private partnerships to further advance FMD preparedness. APHIS suggests addressing the creation of the working group during the next USAHA Committee on Government Relations Meeting scheduled for February 2013. USAHA/AAVLD Combined Resolutions 1 and 25 (use of 840 radio frequency ear tags) is a closely related issue. Therefore, APHIS suggests combining resolutions 1, 3, and 25 to approach them as a whole with broad stakeholder input.