



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: INFORMATION SHARING FOR HERD HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The introduction of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus into the United States swine herd has resulted in the identification of gaps related to securely gathering and sharing premises, herd and laboratory data. The lack of premises identification numbers (PIN) and incomplete herd information on submission forms, along with variability in veterinary diagnostic laboratories' capacity to capture PINs and share herd and diagnostic information between laboratories limits the timeliness and value of the information derived from shared data. A concerted effort to address this gap is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and its membership to enhance the capabilities to capture premises identification numbers (PIN) from laboratory submission forms and require PINs when forms are submitted with swine samples.

USAHA also urges the USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network Coordinator to facilitate working with member laboratories to develop and implement a comprehensive solution for timely and seamless electronic gathering, collation and reporting of premises, herd and laboratory data needed for analysis and disease surveillance.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Animal Health Information Technology Board (NAHITB), which is composed of representatives from VS, State Animal Health Officials, and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), has held initial discussions regarding identifying information needs and gaps from industry's perspective for data captured and reported by veterinary diagnostic laboratories. During these discussions, challenges regarding



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laboratory business functions, information provided to the laboratories from submitting clients (specifically including premises identification), the ability for laboratory information management systems to capture and store certain data fields, and client confidentiality issues were identified. The NAHITB is working to develop key points to facilitate further communication among industry, veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and USDA and develop solutions to address the identified gaps.

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Coordinator, and others across VS, work toward expanding standardized electronic messaging of laboratory test results through the Laboratory Messaging Services (LMS), a modification of the existing NAHLN IT system. Within the upcoming year, LMS will be integrated with other VS animal health data systems to allow laboratory test result data to be electronically linked with foreign animal disease investigation and herd health management. Additionally, efforts are underway to develop and expand the National Veterinary Services Laboratories' capability to electronically message test results and integrate with the State Animal Health Laboratory Messaging Services (SALMS). VS is actively engaged with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Center in the multi-year Enhanced Passive Surveillance Project.

All of these efforts are an important part of a multi-faceted approach required for a comprehensive solution to meet animal health disease surveillance needs.