

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 16 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PROCESS TO RESTORE NORMAL TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA TO ENSURE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) IMPORT REGULATIONS CONFORM TO OIE GUIDELINES

**DATES:** Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has caused extreme hardship to cattle producers, importers and exporters in the United States, Canada and Mexico (for a disease that is not highly contagious and of low prevalence in North America). Furthermore, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has published updated guidelines for the importation of animals and animal products appropriate to the BSE status of the country of origin. Additionally, Canada, Mexico and the United States have signed an agreement to implement common, science-based BSE import policies. The lack of uniform application of these policies not only damages trade among our three countries, it also limits trade with other countries due to the lack of consistency and policy application.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to proceed in the most expeditious manner to complete the rule-making process or processes to restore normal trade in North America and to ensure that Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) import regulations conform to the relative World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) supports this resolution and is in the process of amending the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to accomplish the intent of this regulation. Currently, APHIS is publishing interim rules for importing live cattle and ruminant products and a technical amendment to a final rule for ruminant products. APHIS is also developing a work plan and drafting proposed rule to changes to the CFR for the BSE Minimal Risk Rule regions regulation for ruminants and ruminant products, as well as the Comprehensive BSE Rule. Some issues still need to be resolved with Canada.