

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,  
BISON AND CAMELIDS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHECK TEST PANEL FOR  
TESTING CATTLE FOR BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS  
PERSISTENT INFECTION

**DATES:** RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Cattle persistently infected (PI) with bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) are a major source of infection for naïve animals. Control, reduction, or eradication of BVDV is dependent on the reduction of exposure of naïve animals by removing PI cattle from herds. Laboratories conducting BVDV PI testing are not required to demonstrate proficiency, and there are no national standards for validation of tests. Licensing of tests by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is only required when tests kits are sold commercially. The claims for accuracy and sensitivity of test kits only apply when the kit is used according to the manufacturers' recommendations, and the manufacturer does not guarantee kit results when laboratories modify test kit protocols. The economic consequences of false positives and false negatives in BVDV PI detection are significant, and therefore, proficiency testing for BVDV PI is needed.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to support efforts by state and industry bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) control programs to evaluate laboratory proficiency in BVDV persistent infection testing of cattle. Pending appropriate funding, this support should include the development of a check test panel available on an ongoing basis to assess laboratory proficiency in BVDV testing. Samples used in panels may include serum, whole blood, buffy coat and skin biopsy.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National

Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) suggests that a working group comprised of representatives of NVSL, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, and USAHA be convened to come up with a framework, similar to that used in the Johne's program that will address standardization of BVD testing protocols and a laboratory approval process. A proficiency panel for BVD cannot be provided during fiscal year 2008 but may be available in 2009.