UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
2014 RESOLUTION
118TH ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **21** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Validation of the Brucella Ring Test for Large Dairies**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

With the increase in average herd size of United States dairies and the loss of the indirect Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay for brucellosis milk surveillance, states that deem it necessary to continue brucellosis milk surveillance testing are faced with logistical and financial challenges to ensure the validity of their surveillance protocol. At present, the Brucella Ring Test (BRT) is the only test available for detection of antibodies to *Brucella sp.* in bulk milk tank samples. It is, however, only validated for samples up to 1500 head.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to direct the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) to pursue validation of the Brucella RingTest (BRT) for *Brucella abortus* and *Brucella suis* for a sample size up to 5000 head in order to accommodate the increasing average herd size of United States dairies. The USAHA further urges USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services, NVSL to investigate other tests should such validation of the BRT not be possible.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

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

VS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) will propose a study design for validation of the Brucella RingTest (BRT) for *Brucella abortus* and *Brucella suis* for bulk milk tank volumes containing collections of up to 5,000 head and give the Brucellosis scientific subcommittee an opportunity to comment prior to initiating. In addition, the NVSL will evaluate current antigen preparations, commercial ELISA's, as well as possible new antigen preparations at the NVSL in an ELISA-based format to potentially improve sensitivity and specificity.