

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: MARKET SWINE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) approved Resolution 45 during the 2007 Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada calling for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to continue funding in support of market swine surveillance sampling. The Resolution outlined in detail the importance of market swine surveillance to the swine industry as an efficient and cost-effective means of sample collection to support on-going disease control efforts and as an integral part of any comprehensive swine surveillance program. The Resolution requested USDA-APHIS-VS maintain funding for market swine surveillance in Fiscal Year (FY) 08 and in FY 09 and increase funding in future years to enhance and integrate the program into a comprehensive swine surveillance system.

USDA-APHIS-VS responded to the Resolution and expressed agreement with the industry regarding the importance of maintaining market swine surveillance as "an important surveillance sampling stream that needs to be included in a comprehensive swine surveillance program." The response identified market swine surveillance as important "because of the ability to identify and test large populations on a daily basis" and recognized the program's cost effectiveness and efficiency "compared to time-consuming and costly down-the-road or first-point collection testing regimens." Furthermore, the agency indicated its desire to include market swine surveillance as a component in the developing comprehensive swine surveillance program.

While USDA-APHIS-VS communications would indicate the agency's recognition of the value of market swine surveillance and its desire to continue funding for the program, the swine industry is concerned that future funding may be in question. Loss of this funding could result in a cessation of sample collection and loss of resources and personnel. Discontinuation of this program would jeopardize on-going disease surveillance efforts and future disease elimination and eradication projects. This decision also negates the considerable efforts the industry has undertaken to improve this surveillance stream through premises identification and expanded surveillance objectives beyond pseudorabies and swine brucellosis. The industry strongly supports continued efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive swine surveillance system which would incorporate market swine sampling as one of the critically important surveillance streams.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to maintain funding for market swine disease surveillance and encourages the integration of market swine surveillance as an important sampling stream in a comprehensive swine surveillance program.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) agrees that market swine surveillance is an important surveillance sampling stream that needs to be included in comprehensive swine surveillance program. USDA also appreciates efforts by industry to assist with development of comprehensive swine surveillance objectives and premises identification initiatives that support comprehensive surveillance objectives.

Commercial abattoirs are a sampling point of interest because of the ability to identify and test large populations of finishing swine from many regions of the country on a daily basis. The abattoir is the first point of concentration for a large percentage of market swine under the current industry structure. Producers prefer the passive nature of this process compared to time-consuming and costly down-the-road or first-point collection testing regimens. Packers have been willing to participate in sampling programs as they see this as an opportunity to improve the health status of their supplier herds. State and Federal regulatory agencies have also recognized the efficiency of this sampling stream versus other more traditional sample procurement systems.

VS will endeavor to include market swine surveillance as a component in the developing comprehensive swine surveillance program.