

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 27 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF  
POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** PROPOSAL TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE POULTRY  
TUMOR VIRUS AND GENETIC DISEASE RESISTANCE  
RESEARCH PROGRAMS

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Service (ARS) programs are critically important for the future of animal agriculture. The Avian Diseases and Oncology Laboratory's (ADOL) research programs and services are vital for the future well-being of the United States (US) and global poultry industry. The need for continuous research related to poultry tumor virus and genetic resistance to disease is and will continue to be at the forefront for enabling the US poultry industry to provide a safe, economic and wholesome protein source for consumers in this country and abroad. Poultry and allied industry stakeholders across the US are very concerned about maintaining and enhancing ADOL's research programs and service capabilities. Although Congress restored the funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, it is not known whether budgets subsequent to FY 2010 will include these USDA-ARS-ADOL programs.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Services (ARS) continue to place a high priority on the Avian Diseases and Oncology Laboratory's (ADOL) tumor virus and genetic resistance to disease programs. Further, the USAHA urges the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriation Committees to provide funding to ensure that the USDA-ARS-ADOL poultry research capabilities are preserved and enhanced to maintain their ability to continue research in these important areas. In particular, the USAHA requests the addition of \$1 million in annual appropriations to USDA-ARS to 1) add a DVM/Ph.D. pathologist to address research in Marek's disease and 2) add additional funding to support the integrated research needed to identify and investigate the genes directly involved in resistance to Marek's disease, all subgroups of Avian Leukosis Viruses and general disease resistance.

## **RESPONSE:**

**USDA-ARS**

Concerning ARS poultry research at the Avian Diseases and Oncology Laboratory, ARS will consider your input as we develop our future budget requests. We plan to continue research on priority poultry diseases and will increase this work as resources permit.