

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE DEMONSTRATION HERD PROJECT

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Report of the Ad Hoc Steering Subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Johne's Disease in 2002 indicated that demonstration herds are critical and of the highest priority to provide the validated management tools to implement a science-based National Johne's Disease Program. As a result, the National Johne's Disease Demonstration Herd Project was initiated in 2003 as a long-term project (at least 5 years) with objectives to 1) evaluate the long-term effectiveness and feasibility of management-related disease control on development of Johne's disease on dairy and beef cattle operations, 2) provide information and materials for education and training of public and private practice veterinarians and cattle producers, 3) develop and evaluate management, testing, and monitoring strategies for use in control of Johne's disease in cattle herds, 4) create the opportunity for add-on projects within states to address important research objectives.

The stated objectives of this project are being achieved. Preliminary evidence indicates a reduction in incidence of subclinical Johne's disease in demonstration herds to date. Economic studies are underway but additional time is needed to complete the project. States have effectively used information generated to develop educational materials and to evaluate testing strategies to support the national control program, and several states are implementing additional add-on projects. In addition, the project has provided a large number of well-characterized biologic samples for researchers as part of the Johne's Disease Integrated Project (JDIP), thereby promoting development of new diagnostics and vaccines to control Johne's disease.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continue to prioritize funding for the National Johne's Disease Demonstration Herd Project.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS sees the value in collecting additional years of data, now that calves born under the project management plans are entering the productive phase of their lives. VS will continue to support the project in fiscal year 2008.