

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 44      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:**                      COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

**SUBJECT MATTER:**        INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE SWINE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PLANNING

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in the United States (US) commercial swine compartment are crucial for swine health protection, maintenance and restoration, for assurance of food security, and for documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Surveillance planning and funding for implementation have traditionally been tied to specific 'program' diseases. This mechanism of funding prevents flexibility resulting in a lack of harmonization of surveillance planning and implementation. The difficulty within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to allocate existing resources to the development of an integrated and comprehensive surveillance system hampers the advancement of the program. In addition, the lack of funding and insufficient human resources will continue to further delay development and implementation of this surveillance system. Without a comprehensive and integrated animal health surveillance system, animal agriculture will continue to be unnecessarily placed at risk of undetected introduction and / or spread of animal diseases, including foreign and emerging swine diseases.

The US pork industry supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated surveillance system and recognizes this system as essential for the continued health of US livestock. In addition, the industry supports leveraging resources to maximize surveillance efficiency to detect and monitor endemic, emerging and foreign animal diseases that significantly impact US livestock.

In an effort to support comprehensive surveillance, the pork industry worked directly with the USDA's National Surveillance Unit (NSU) to develop and

implement a swine business plan for integrated and comprehensive swine surveillance. As a result, the swine industry has prioritized industry surveillance objectives and communicated those objectives to the NSU for planning purposes.

## **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 make integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning a high priority and to provide the funding and human resources necessary to the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) to complete the planning process for integrated and comprehensive surveillance for the commercial swine compartment by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## **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 has been developing a more integrated and comprehensive swine surveillance scheme since 2004. The classical swine fever surveillance plan was implemented in early 2006 and the pseudorabies virus (PRV) surveillance plan is undergoing internal review and is expected to be implemented in fiscal year 2009. Swine brucellosis surveillance will closely follow the PRV plan. Vesicular disease surveillance planning is also nearly completed.

The Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health's National Surveillance Unit, in conjunction with the National Centers for Animal Health Programs, will turn resources towards integrating the various surveillance plans. Together, the separate plans comprise a "comprehensive system." These plans may use common surveillance streams and targeted sampling strategies to produce a cost-effective scheme. The plans will be designed to allow flexible and responsive surveillance strategies for multiple foreign, emerging, and endemic swine pathogens.

While concepts and elements of the plans will be in place by June 30, 2008, we envision that full completion and implementation of the surveillance plans may carry into fiscal year 2010. VS and our cooperative partners must gain experience with program premises identification, abattoir sample data collection, interstate movement information, and associated database development to allow full implementation of targeted surveillance for multiple pathogens. Lessons learned in early implementation will guide revisions as we improve the efficacy of the multiple surveillance programs nested in the comprehensive and integrated plan.

