

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION 2007

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 55 APPROVED

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:** INCLUSION OF SWINE AND POULTRY WORKERS IN  
PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Recent research has demonstrated that swine and poultry workers, especially those who work in large confinement facilities, are at markedly increased risk of zoonotic influenza virus infections. In serving as a bridging population for influenza virus spread between animals and man, these workers may introduce zoonotic influenza virus into their homes and communities as well as expose domestic swine and poultry to human influenza viruses. Prolonged and intense occupational exposures of humans working in swine or poultry confinement buildings could facilitate the generation of novel influenza viruses, as well as accelerate human influenza epidemics. Because of their potential bridging role, such workers should be recognized as a priority target group for annual influenza vaccines and receive special training to reduce the risk of influenza transmission. They should also be considered for increased surveillance and priority receipt of pandemic vaccines and antivirals.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recognize swine and poultry workers, including farmers, caretakers, processing plant workers, veterinarians, federal, state, and private agricultural emergency response personnel, and agricultural diagnostic laboratory personnel, as a priority target group for annual influenza vaccines, training in use of personal protective equipment, increased surveillance for influenza, and priority receipt of pandemic vaccines and antiviral drugs.