



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: Brucellosis Eradication Program Goals, Objectives, and Priorities

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Even though the Brucellosis Eradication Program has succeeded in eradicating brucellosis from the United States (US) domestic cattle and bison herds, eradication has not been achieved in all species and continued surveillance and response is needed to detect any resurgence or reintroduction of the disease and to prove to our trading partners that the US is free.

In 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) issued a concept paper outlining a new direction for the Bovine Brucellosis Program. Associated new regulations have not yet been delivered. In addition to rulemaking, the concept paper stated that federal animal health officials would be responsible for developing program standards, surveillance plans, and other policy documents to meet the performance standards stated in the regulations. Many of these federal activities, including rulemaking, have not been accomplished because in part there have been no goals established for completion of these objectives.

The USDA-APHIS-VS implemented its reorganization in early November 2013. Under this new USDA-APHIS-VS organization it is unclear as to what the USDA-APHIS-VS brucellosis program objectives and priorities are for 2015 and beyond and how USDA-APHIS-VS will accomplish its activities as outlined in the 2009 brucellosis plan. The United States Animal Health Association supports the cattle commodity concept because it provides the flexibility to work on multiple issues more easily than before. Existing animal disease eradication programs, including brucellosis eradication, must have clearly stated annual goals that provide cooperators with the methods to complete the eradication efforts and enter into a surveillance mode as has been done with the other 16 animal diseases that are now foreign to the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States to publish the proposed Brucellosis rule to provide stakeholders with annual program goals, objectives, and priorities for the brucellosis eradication program so the original program goal of eradication can be achieved and the eradication program completed.