



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CALFHOOD VACCINATION OF BISON UP TO TWENTY-
FOUR MONTHS OF AGE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services requested that United States Animal Health Association's Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate the use of *Brucella abortus* "Strain RB 51 vaccine" in bison between the age of 12 and 18 months due to the later maturity of bison as compared to cattle. Data was previously presented by Dr. Steven Olsen regarding serological responses in bison calves vaccinated with RB 51 between the ages of 12 and 24 months. Bison calves vaccinated during this time frame remained seronegative after vaccination. The scientific advisory subcommittee of the Brucellosis committee recommended the use of this vaccine in this age of animal.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services adjust the allowable age of RB51 official calfhood vaccination of bison through 24 months of age.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) on brucellosis vaccination. We have reviewed the resolution to adjust the allowable age of RB51 official calfhood vaccination of bison to 24 months of age. We recognize that the Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee's evaluation of the serologic responses in bison calves indicated that calfhood vaccination with *Brucella abortus* RB51 stimulated an immune response and, when tested, these bison calves remained sero-negative throughout the study.

We also recognize that the safety and efficacy of the use of the *B. abortus* Strain RB51 vaccine in bison calves of the proposed 4 to 24 month age range must be evaluated before considering changes to regulations and program standards. USDA Agricultural Research



Service is evaluating serologic responses of bison to multiple inoculations with *B. abortus* RB51 and evaluating the safety and efficacy of booster vaccination of bison.

In addition to this work, further evaluation is needed to support this resolution, and we request your assistance. Specifically, we ask that the USAHA Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate relevant data and provide recommendations on the feasibility of adjusting the age for vaccinating bison. If relevant data are not available, we would appreciate input on a plan to scientifically validate the vaccination age for bison. A report from the USAHA Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee at or before the 2012 USAHA meeting would facilitate further discussion and decision-making.

Other issues, such as extra-label use of the *B. abortus* Strain RB51 vaccine in bison, need to be addressed as well. VS will continue to seek appropriate options and resolutions to these issues.

If a change in age of brucellosis vaccination for bison is feasible, we will reflect changes in the new comprehensive regulations and program standards that VS is developing for the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis programs.