

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 **APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: SWINE BRUCELLOSIS IN CATTLE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Swine brucellosis (*Brucella suis*) is an infectious disease of swine that can also affect humans and cattle. Swine brucellosis is considered endemic in the United States (US) feral swine population. Swine brucellosis infection in cattle causes economic losses to the beef and dairy industries and in cattle can interfere with the interpretation of serologic (blood) tests used to diagnose *Brucella abortus* (cattle brucellosis) in the US cattle population.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) take actions to increase research on cattle infected with *Brucella suis*, to include but not limited to transmissibility studies, development and implementation by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) of differentiating serologic tests, development of effective vaccines for cattle, and development of better control mechanisms for the disease.

RESPONSE:

USDA-ARS

With regard to *Brucella* research, we acknowledge that this work is important and plan to continue to take advantage of our broad programmatic expertise and resources in these areas at the NADC in Ames, Iowa. Our current program focuses on diagnostic and vaccine development for *Brucella abortus* and *Brucella suis*, and we will expand our work to address emerging needs as opportunities arise.

INTERIM RESPONSE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continue to collaborate on identifying *Brucella suis* research needs through a yearly APHIS-ARS Research Priorities meeting and working group meetings throughout the year. ARS projects are ongoing and include characterizing pathologic and immunologic responses of cattle to infection with *B. suis*. In addition, efforts are focusing on developing differential serologic tests that can distinguish *B. suis* from *B. abortus* infections in cattle.