

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 74 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CELEBRATE THE ERADICATION OF BRUCELLOSIS IN
LIVESTOCK FROM THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE
COUNTRY IS DECLARED BRUCELLOSIS FREE

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Efforts to eradicate brucellosis caused by *Brucella abortus* in the United States (US) began in 1934 as part of an economic recovery program to reduce the cattle population because of the Great Depression and concurrent severe drought conditions. A number of states saw this as an opportunity to reduce the level of brucellosis, which was the most significant livestock disease problem in the US at the time. In 1934 and 1935, the reactor rate in adult cattle tested was 11.5%.

In 1954, the magnitude of the brucellosis problem in the US in terms of economics to the cattle industry and human health prompted Congress to appropriate funds for a comprehensive national effort to eradicate brucellosis. The brucellosis eradication program was designed as a cooperative effort between the federal government, the states, and livestock producers. As the science and technology of brucellosis has developed over the years through research and experience, the eradication program has been modified as needed.

In December 2000, there were no affected cattle herds in the US. This was the first time in the history of the brucellosis program that the US had no known brucellosis affected herds. The State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program has made tremendous progress since its inception. Only one state has not been recognized as being officially brucellosis free. That state is in the progress of being recognized officially brucellosis free at this time. This successful eradication effort has resulted in the elimination of this disease from a geographically larger area, with more numbers of livestock, than any other country in the world. This effort deserves a celebration to not only recognize the people involved in the effort but to also educate the public on the significance of the effort and how it has improved the economics of livestock production resulting in safer and cheaper food for the nation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) hold a celebration, in conjunction with the USAHA annual meeting, to recognize the tremendous combined efforts of the livestock industry, states, and USDA in eradicating brucellosis from livestock in the United States, once brucellosis has been declared eradicated in livestock.

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 (USAHA) interest and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS will work with USAHA in planning a celebration regarding the eradication of *Brucella abortus* from domestic cattle and bison in the United States.