

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL CENTERS OF
EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS VETERINARY
MEDICINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2008 Farm Bill created a new regional Centers of Excellence Program in food systems veterinary medicine. Centers of Excellence (Centers) would serve to train more veterinarians to address the needs of contemporary livestock and poultry enterprises in the United States. The Centers would also serve as research units, addressing such areas as production diseases (enterococcal mastitis and lameness in dairy cattle; porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in swine; lameness due to bone and joint disease in poultry, etc.), animal welfare issues, and environmental contamination. The Centers would have faculty supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) or National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) that would be integrated with faculty from colleges of veterinary medicine to train students either regionally or nationally about the needs of contemporary livestock and poultry production units in rural America.

Collaborations with staff veterinarians from USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration's (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) would provide approximately 20 training exercise days per year to veterinary students rotating through the Centers. As many as 10 to 15 students would be at the Centers at any one time for rotations lasting four to 12 weeks for in-depth training during their fourth year of veterinary college. Up to 60 veterinary students would be trained at each Center in any one year. Post-graduate training for residents and graduate students would also be offered.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the President include funding for the Regional Centers of Excellence in food systems veterinary medicine in the Annual Budget and that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) develop regulations and implementation plans for the Centers.

USAHA requests that the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees fund the Centers at \$15 million per year.