

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND
EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) is a stakeholder-driven, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) multi-agency Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) collaboration to address issues that may affect animal health and food safety. It has been under development for three years with input and support from multiple industries, key stakeholders, and by all three relevant USDA undersecretaries.

The CAHFSE is based on longitudinal sample and data collection on farms and at commodity processing facilities over time. The CAHFSE will provide a flexible platform to evaluate management factors that may be related to animal health, production practices and food safety outcomes, including antimicrobial resistance issues.

USDA will maintain confidentiality of data in a similar manner to the National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS), which has proven to be excellent over many years. The CAHFSE will complement the NAHMS by conducting quarterly sampling and collection of production practices over time. Currently, data and samples are being collected on swine farms and will soon be collected in swine slaughter/processing plants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the continued Collaboration in Animal Health Food Safety and Epidemiology and recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) reprioritize funding in order to implement the program with all commodities that support the program and volunteer to participate.

RESONSE:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

ARS fully supports the continued Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) collaboration and has given this program the highest priority for expanded food safety support. We will continue to support CAHFSE to the extent our resources allow.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

Three Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies that include the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Food Safety and Inspection Service have reprioritized internal funding to initiate the Collaboration in Animal Health and Food Safety Epidemiology (CAHFSE) and have completed 2 years of data collection on swine operations in five states. The CAHFSE is addressing animal health and food safety issues of importance for the pork industry including ileitis, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, food safety pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance. In the 3rd year of operation, the CAHFSE collaborators have elected to continue to expand participation from within the pork industry (additional herds in new geographic areas), while continuing discussions with other commodities to identify future participants in the effort. Reports from the project are posted on the CAHFSE website. Specific new funding for CAHFSE has been requested for fiscal year 2006 and beyond.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICES (FSIS)

Regarding Resolution 9 that the Food Safety Inspection Services(FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continue the Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program, we have the following information. FSIS has contracted with the Research Triangle Institute (R TI) to conduct a pilot study of in-plant sampling for CAHFSE. The in-plant sampling pilot will likely commence this summer and be completed this calendar year. During the pilot, R TI plans to conduct a questionnaire on management practices and collect a variety of samples from approximately six swine processing plants to project what types of samples would be best to collect for ongoing surveillance for zoonotic pathogens. FSIS has not committed funds for CAHFSE beyond this pilot project.