

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD) AND THE NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE MONITORING SYSTEM (NARMS)

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Antimicrobial compounds play an essential role in ensuring the health and well being of livestock. Protecting the health of livestock is also an important contributor to providing consumers an abundant supply of safe, wholesome and affordable food. In order to maintain the human safety, animal safety and continued efficacy of these important products animal health professionals need prompt access to data relating to prudent use, including complex pharmacokinetic data. This data is an important contributor to prudent use decisions as well as to aid in preventing violative residues in animal products. Since its inception in 1982 the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) has developed and maintained a unique and valuable pharmacokinetic food safety database for veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory agencies and extension specialists. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established the Guidance for Industry #152 framework for evaluating the safety of antibiotics relative to their potential to contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. It is important that such resistance patterns, if present, are addressed so as not to jeopardize public health as a potential indirect consequence of antibiotic use in livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have jointly funded the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) for many years. The NARMS program is the post approval monitoring system for new and existing antibiotics and the data are a central element in the decision-making process employed by the FDA Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee as they implement the Guidance for Industry #152 evaluation process.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the continued funding of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) and full funding of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support these important programs.

RESPONSE:

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

The need for surveillance for antimicrobial resistance is widely recognized, and is a central part of the interagency "Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance" issued by CDC, the National Institutes of Health, and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in January 2001. This plan endorses monitoring organisms in both human and animal reservoirs. In 1995, the FDA Joint Advisory Committee recommended specifically that surveillance be conducted in foodborne pathogens for resistance to flouroquinolones as a condition for their licensure for use in food animals. As a result, the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine coordinated development of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System with bother CDC and USDA. The CDC are of NARMS conducts surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria isolated from humans. NARMS has grown from 14 sites in 1996 to 54 sites (all 50 states) in 2003 and continues to be an important system to monitor emerging trends in antimicrobial resistance. NARMS data are used as an important part of the decision-making process on antibiotic use for FDA within the Guidance for Industry #152. CDC recognizes the importance

of NARMS and fully supports the continued monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria through NARMS.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

The National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) has made great strides in ensuring that antimicrobials are used in food-producing animals without harming public health. FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine has funded NARMS since its development in 1996 and is committed to continued funding of the program. For Fiscal Year 2005, FDA plans to maintain funding at the 2004 level for each of the antimicrobial resistance monitoring systems. The agency appreciates USAHA's support of this vital work.