

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 24 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

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

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

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 (CAHFSE) and recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), 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.

RESPONSE:

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

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services appreciates the strong support that this resolution expresses for the Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) work conducted by the three agencies. Each agency has been using existing funding by redirecting and reprioritizing funding as much as possible to continue this important work. Recruiting herds that are representative of the livestock populations under study will be linked to National Animal Health Monitoring Systems national studies in order to streamline the process of adding herds to CAHFSE in the future. We also plan to develop pilot studies in those commodities volunteering to participate so we can refine sampling and logistical issues prior to inclusion of a large number of operations.

We are rapidly reaching the point where it is not possible to continue to reprioritize existing funding without scaling back current programs or obtaining new funding.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

ARS understands and appreciates that the Collaboration of Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program 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. ARS will use all available resources to cooperate with other Department of Agriculture agencies to implement the CAHFSE program with all commodities groups that support the program and volunteer to participate.