

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR FOOT AND MOUTH VIRUS DISEASE RESEARCH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) was pleased to see the progress being made in the development of new generation adenovirus vector foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDv) vaccines presented by Drs. Tam Garland and Luis Rodriguez in the plenary session. These vaccines can be safely produced in the United States (US). This Committee was also pleased to see the high quality scientific data presented during the afternoon symposium hosted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS). However, it was clear that major research gaps remain in FMDv detection, surveillance, epidemiology, immunology, and the development of vaccines and biotherapeutics specifically designed for the progressive control of FMDv, all of which are priorities for the US National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) request an increase in the actual net level of bench research funding for foot and mouth disease virus (FMDv) research in the amount of at least \$1 million to the USDA-ARS, Foreign Animal Disease Research unit at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) to specifically address the research gaps to fulfill the needs of the United States National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS).

RESPONSE:

USDA, Agriculture Research Service

USAHA Resolution #34 concerns funding for foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) research at the ARS Plum Island Animal Disease Center. While we are pleased to know of your support for the recent vaccine development work and related progress that has been made by ARS scientists, we agree with your assessment that major research gaps remain in FMDV detection, surveillance, epidemiology, immunology, and vaccine and treatment development. This research represents an important priority for both ARS and APHIS, and we will certainly investigate new funding opportunities, including the possibility of requesting an increase for this work in our future budget requests.