

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (USAHA) - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5, 14, 16, 24, 41, 58, 61 and 67 Combined **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,
BISON AND CAMELIDS

COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL
DISEASES

COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND
COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in United States (US) livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations are crucial for animal health protection, maintenance and restoration, for assurance of food security, and for documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Animal health surveillance is a central function of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Veterinary Services leads the initiative in building the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS). Guidance is provided by the National Animal Health Safeguarding Review Principles and Recommendations, and resolutions of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians (AAVLD). The NAHSS is to be a 'comprehensive, coordinated and integrated' system that will enhance efficacy and efficiency of surveillance for high impact foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases and endemic diseases.

Surveillance planning and funding for implementation have traditionally been tied to specific 'program' diseases. This mechanism of funding prevents flexibility resulting in a

lack of harmonization of surveillance planning and implementation. Difficulties in resource allocation slow down the planning process, which also has been hampered by insufficient human resources, and delay the implementation of integrated and comprehensive surveillance activities. This places animal agriculture at risk of undetected introduction and / or spread of animal diseases, including high impact foreign animal and emerging diseases.

The USAHA and AAVLD recognize that comprehensive and integrated surveillance is essential for the continued protection of our animal populations from disease. USAHA and AAVLD support identifying and leveraging resources to achieve maximum surveillance efficacy and efficiency for diseases that are currently present in the United States, as well as for those that threaten our animal populations or may arise in the future.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to ensure continued highest priority for integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning and implementation. The USAHA also urges the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to initiate and support a legislative effort to create a system that allows funding for inter-species, multiple disease based comprehensive and integrated surveillance to support continued, effective and efficient protection of the United States' livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations from disease.

RESPONSE

National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials

NASAHO appreciates and supports the needs and goals in establishing a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated surveillance system for enhancing animal health status through detection of disease and verification of health status. While NASAHO continues to support development and implementation of the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS) by USDA, APHIS, VS; NASAHO is not funded nor intended to initiate federal legislation. NASAHO members will be individually supportive in legislative efforts and NASAHO will consider legislation concerning NAHSS and consider support of such legislation on the merits, providing comments appropriately as an organization.

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS considers the continued development of a comprehensive, integrated national animal health surveillance system (NAHSS) to be one of its highest priorities. VS will utilize appropriated funding to continue to explore the most efficient and effective mechanisms in designing, implementing, evaluating, analyzing, and communicating its surveillance programs through collaboration with state and industry partners.

In 2008, VS plans to complete the design and various stages of the implementation planning phase of national surveillance plans for scrapie, pseudorabies, vesicular diseases, viral hemorrhagic septicemia and brucellosis; to develop surveillance guidelines for use in a disease outbreak; to create a blueprint (white paper) for comprehensive, integrated surveillance; and to begin integrating surveillance for swine diseases into a comprehensive integrated system. In addition, we will continue the development of national surveillance plans for major cattle diseases, and in 2009 begin planning integration to build a comprehensive cattle surveillance system.