

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE,
BISON AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER: ERADICATION OF BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS
FROM NORTH AMERICA

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA – OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The beef and dairy industries suffer enormous losses due to bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection. Losses have also been noted in other livestock industries. The highly mutable nature of BVDV and the emergence of highly virulent strains of BVDV contribute to limited success of present control programs. Also, BVDV persistently infected (PI) cattle are the primary source of infection and effective testing procedures are available to identify those infected carriers. Resolutions supporting eventual BVDV eradication from North America have been put forward by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Academy of Veterinary Consultants and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Further, the livestock industry has a moral, ethical and potentially legal obligation not to sell known diseased or damaged animals to other parties without full disclosure. Responsible disposition of BVDV PI animals will be an important component of BVDV control.

A BVDV PI animal is defective. The dilemma of how to deal with known BVDV PI animals becomes more critical as BVDV testing becomes more widespread. Appropriate disposition programs for known BVDV PI animals must take into account the adverse impact these animals have on the health and welfare of the herds, and the economic return of livestock operations impacted by BVDV.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the livestock industries in adopting measures to control and target eventual eradication of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) from North America.