

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 1 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NEW NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE DAIRY HERD PREVALENCE STUDY

**DATES:** OCTOBER 27, 2004

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The current herd prevalence of Johne's disease in U.S. dairy herds is unknown. The herd infection rate based upon the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) 96 Dairy Study was approximately 22 percent. This figure was based upon ELISA testing of a sub-sample of cows within approximately 1,000 herds, assuming test sensitivity of 50 percent. Based on our knowledge of ELISA sensitivity today, the true prevalence of Johne's disease in U.S. herds is likely to be much higher. It is critical that a new Johne's dairy cattle prevalence study be performed to provide an accurate assessment of the prevalence.

It is proposed that a dairy study to determine and evaluate progress in control programs should be conducted in fiscal year 2006. The survey will be based on environmental sampling of a statistically valid number of dairy herds, in the 20 states with the largest number of dairy cattle. The protocol for environmental sampling will be used to minimize the number of samples and costs per herd. Each sample will be a pool of sub-samples obtained in the assigned area thereby maximizing sampling efficiency.

## **RESOLUTION:**

That the United States Animal Health Association requests United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) conduct a prevalence study during 2006 to guide the National Johne's Disease Control Program. The funding for this survey will be provided by USDA-APHIS-VS.

## **RESPONSE:**

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, is developing a plan for the National Animal Health Monitoring System to conduct a national dairy study in 2007. We anticipate this study will include an objective to estimate the Johne's disease herd prevalence, if sufficient funding is available to support the laboratory work.