



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **8** **APPROVED**

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

SUBJECT MATTER: **Assess Johne's Disease Fecal Check Test Performance**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Services Laboratory's Johne's Disease fecal check test is a valuable resource to cattle producers, veterinarians, diagnostic laboratories, and animal health agencies. Most samples included in the Johne's Disease fecal check test are characterized as high fecal shedders and non-infected cattle, but most fecal shedders in infected herds shed low numbers of organisms. Variation in precision of results from the Johne's Disease fecal check test from laboratories passing fecal check tests has been observed, in addition to variation in sensitivity of fecal tests used. This has led to concerns about interpretation of results from Johne's Disease fecal testing among laboratories passing the Johne's Disease fecal check test.

The Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals - Multistate Initiative brings together leading scientists, industry representatives, and regulatory officials with a shared vision of improving food security through a reduction in losses from two of the most important diseases of livestock-bovine tuberculosis and Johne's Disease. This group would provide the appropriate expertise for leading a review of the current evaluation and reporting processes.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sponsor the Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multi-State Initiative to create a working group to evaluate the current Johne's Disease fecal check test and propose a plan by the 2015 USAHA Committee on Johne's Disease meeting to improve and report assessment of laboratory performance.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

VS will reach out to the Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals - Multistate Initiative to create the working group by March 31, 2015. Support for conference calls and webinars to initiate the working group will be provided and, once initiated, consideration will be given on how and where to host a meeting based on the agenda and objectives outlined.