

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: MILK ELISA TESTING FOR JOHNE'S DISEASE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Evaluation of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) has shown that it is comparable in accuracy to currently available serum ELISA kits. Incorporation of USDA-approved milk ELISAs into the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) would allow dairy producers access to additional testing options.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) incorporate the milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing method into the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) by recognizing it as an approved screening test for Johne's disease and require that laboratories performing the milk ELISA test must pass an annual proficiency test under the direction of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS will incorporate the milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing method into the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP). The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is developing a proficiency test that is scheduled for shipment in the summer of 2008. The addition of Milk ELISA as a screening test will be included in the Uniform Program Standards for the VBJDCP during the next revision.