UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: **4**   **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: RELEASE OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

After premises registration, animal identification is the second step in implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The administration of official individual identification numbers is the responsibility of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and state animal health authorities.

USDA-APHIS-VS announced at a public hearing on October 12, 2005, that the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN) system is built, tested, and could be implemented within 90 days.

Industry groups and state animal health officials are ready to proceed with implementation of the second step of NAIS.

AIN Radio Frequency (RF) tags, as defined in the draft NAIS program standards, have received overwhelming support from cattle producers thru public comments supporting implementation of RF tags for cattle.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) make available the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN) system for use on the recommended ID devices and/or technology, as outlined in the species working group reports, with administration and oversight conducted by USDA-APHIS-VS. Implementation should be no later than 90 days after the October 12, 2005, public hearing.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

Since the October 2005 public hearing, substantial progress has been made in the development and implementation of the Animal Identification Numbering (AIN) Management System. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has implemented the system to support the implementation of the AIN for certain disease program tags and has scheduled a tentative launch date of early 2006 for public use of the AIN Management System. In addition, we will be releasing a document through a Federal Register notice of availability that will provide stakeholders with necessary information on how the authorization and distribution of official identification devices with the AIN will work. At the same time, user manuals and training tools to support the system's users will be available. Completion of the remaining task in each area is critical to the successful implementation of this phase of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). At this time, we expect to meet our target date for roll out of the new AIN Management System. The availability of AIN Tags remains contingent on the manufacturers submitting applications for devices along with tag sample that meet the specifications described in the AIN Tag document. Also, managers and resellers will need to have completed their participation requirements.