



## **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. The Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) system is a suite of integrated modules that provide data management capabilities for national programs that regulate international animal/animal product movement, veterinary accreditation and interstate animal movement. Production modules include Veterinary Accreditation and Interstate. Legacy systems continue to support import, export and animal quarantine center activities. These legacy systems will be scheduled for redevelopment and become additional VSPS modules.

The VSPS Interstate module enables veterinarians to create certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) and associated diagnostic test documents. In the last 5 months (9/15/2007 – 2/15/2008), CVIs were issued by accredited veterinarians using the VSPS in 27 States, with 39 States identified as the destination State. During this period, 2,467 certificates were issued, representing 952,072 animal movements. Data related to the interstate movement are stored in the VSPS database and accessible by the accredited veterinarian and State and Federal animal health officials. Diagnostic testing data are displayed on the appropriate VS form and not in the Generic Data Base or the Animal Health and Surveillance Management (AHSM) information system.

At this time, mobile information management (MIM) applications have not been developed for the VSPS. AHSM MIM applications have been developed for several of the national disease programs, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy, scrapie, chronic wasting disease, avian influenza (wildlife), and tuberculosis. These applications enable animal health officials to collect data, produce reports and official forms, create lab submissions, and manage animal information in the field, where the program work is being accomplished. Restricted-movement and indemnity forms are supported by some of these MIM applications. The MIM applications produce a data file that can be exchanged with other data bases.

The VSPS will not be fully deployed (i.e., all modules functioning, including replacement of the legacy systems) until fiscal year (FY) 2009, assuming adequate funding. The animal import center reservation and management system will be deployed in FY 2008. The next module scheduled for development is the land border ports module, replacing the legacy Import Tracking System (ITS).

MIM applications, which are designed to support the work of State and Federal animal health officials, are in various stages of deployment and development. A brucellosis MIM application is scheduled to be deployed in the 4th quarter of FY 2008.

Lastly, VS recently hired a Chief Information Officer who is reviewing all information technology (IT) deliverables. A strategic plan addressing IT needs and priorities will be developed. We will solicit input from stakeholders to ensure that the product addresses the needs of field, State, and laboratory personnel and both accredited and private veterinarians, and continues to build upon the VSPS.