

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

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2005 NOMINATIONS

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2004 RESOLUTIONS

108th Annual Meeting

October 21-27, 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

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

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 sur-

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vey 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:

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) conduct a Johne's 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.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK
IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION
SYSTEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a result of its two years of involvement and leadership in the United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) process, the livestock industry believes the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) must be a partnership between animal health officials and private sector entities. The livestock industry recognizes that state animal health officials play the key role in the animal health investigations and surveillance in concert with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For a partnership of industry and animal health officials to effectively implement the NAIS data management component, it must perform several different functions: encourage producer participation at a level that insures integrity of the NAIS and volume of data required; safeguard security and confidentiality; provide a flexible data management architecture responsive to the needs and expectation of producers, livestock marketing system, and animal health officials thereby providing incentives to record, report and/or query information within the system; and utilize significant organizational assets, including media, communications, education, and government affairs resources of established and proven industry experts and advocates.

RESOLUTION:

To expedite the development of a data management system to meet all stakeholders' needs and expectations, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Subcommittee of the Secretary of Agriculture's Advi-

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sory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases to request the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to facilitate the cooperative development of an appropriate animal traceability database system through the joint leadership of the species and segment working groups, issue-based working groups, and state animal health officials.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NEED FOR TIMELY PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES ON CURRENT DISEASE SITUATIONS AFFECTING HORSES.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In recent years, the U.S. horse industry has had to deal with the occurrence of a number of important infectious diseases, including West Nile virus (WNV) and, most recently, Vesicular Stomatitis (VS).

Currently, anyone seeking up-to-date information regarding an infectious disease occurrence in horses will find it difficult to obtain. It requires an extensive effort via the internet and/or by phone contact with affected states. The existing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website provides little information on any equine disease of concern.

In addition, information on international trade restrictions is virtually impossible to find. While the countries with restrictions on the import of horses because of WNV are few, some, such as Brazil, are important trading partners of the United States. Limitations in available information is even more glaring with regard to the current VS situation in Texas, Colorado and New Mexico. The USDA website includes trade restriction information for only three countries: Korea, Canada and the European Union, and in fact, posted requirements for Korea are out of date. The International Regulation Retrieval System (IRRS) lists the latest update for horses for export to Korea as January 2004. There were no recent updates available through the USDA website. Currently, USDA does not list any state requirements for movement of animals from VS-affected states, although several states have imposed movement restrictions.

In the past, the USDA has played a key role in providing extensive and timely reports to the horse industry and to state animal health officials regarding important disease outbreaks in the United States.

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These reports have always included what information was available on the epidemiological findings in such outbreaks as well as information on domestic and international movement restrictions. The USDA is the appropriate agency to compile this information accurately and to make it readily available.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to enhance its current program of gathering data on outbreaks of infectious diseases with the cooperation of the states in order to provide up-to-date information on such outbreaks, as well as state and international movement restrictions and other pertinent information to stakeholders and state animal health officials on a regular and timely basis.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES
OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: ELECTRONIC EIA FORMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses has carefully compared the VS Form 10-11 used for submission of blood samples for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing in approved laboratories to the use of electronic EIA submission forms (eEIA) and find that the eEIA submissions as developed by Global Vet Link (GVL) have the following advantages:

- Provide clients with instant results through online application
- Have direct veterinary practice connectivity – plan for submissions before they are received
- Save administrative time, labor and money with online system
- Able to identify submission errors before tests are run
- Electronically access EIA laboratory test forms and Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that utilize results posted by the laboratory
- Access a web-based animal health regulatory management system 24 / 7
- Access submissions from any computer with an Internet connection
- Secure system ensures that you only do business with accredited veterinarians
- Documents are automatically submitted to the appropriate ani-

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mal health authorities

- Run real-time, secured reports and historical data queries
- No software to load, no forms to inventory, reorder, stamp, separate or shuffle
- Customer service assists with regulatory authorities, veterinary practice conflicts, and GVL application training and support
- Allow error free identification through digital imaging

The availability of eEIA has been welcomed by practitioners in the states of Florida, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa and Texas, the first states to implement eEIA on a test basis. It would be appropriate to install eEIA capabilities at the same time as Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) installation and to those states that already have ICVI as soon as possible after requests are received.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in consultation with USAHA, provide laboratory connectivity to all states that wish to utilize or develop the electronic Equine Infectious Anemia (eEIA) application with digital identification. Through this system, states and other entities may either use the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) application alone or in conjunction with Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) developed by GlobalVetLink under contract with USDA-APHIS-VS.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 – 32 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE
DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER
AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: SALMONELLA PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued the *Pathogen reduction: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) Systems* final rule on July 25, 1996. To verify that industry PR/HACCP systems are effective in controlling the contamination of raw meat and poultry products with disease-causing bacteria, the PR/HACCP rule sets *Salmonella* performance standards (SPS) that slaughter establishments and establishments that produce raw ground products should meet.

The SPS have been in effect for large establishments since January 26, 1998, and the results of this testing were published in the

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Progress Report on Salmonella testing of Raw Meat and Poultry Products, 1998-2003. The data reported for 2003 showed that *Salmonella* prevalence in all product categories, for all sizes of establishments combined, was lower than agency baseline studies and surveys conducted before PR/HACCP implementation. In addition, most categories showed marked improvements over the six-year period in both the percentage of samples testing positive and the percentage of sample sets meeting the performance standard criteria.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published *Preliminary FoodNet Data on the Incidence of Infection with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food — Selected Sites, United States, 2003* on April 30, 2004. This report detailed the surveillance results for nine FoodNet sites representing approximately 41.5 million persons. *Salmonella* cases represented 38.6 percent of laboratory-diagnosed cases of foodborne illness. Among the 5,455 *Salmonella* isolates serotyped, five serotypes accounted for 59 percent of infections: 20 percent Typhimurium, 14 percent Enteritidis, 12 percent Newport, 6 percent Heidelberg, and 6 percent Javiana.

During 1996—2003, the estimated incidence of several infections declined significantly. The estimated incidence of *Salmonella* decreased 17 percent (95 percent CI = 26 percent to 7 percent decrease); incidence of *S. typhimurium*, typically associated with meat and poultry, decreased 38 percent (95 percent CI = 47 percent to 27 percent decrease). The decline in human *Salmonella* infections during 1996—2003 accompanies a decline in the isolation of *Salmonella* from meat and poultry by FSIS.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and The United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue efforts to improve the safety of U.S. meat, poultry, and egg products and protect public health.

These efforts should be based on rigorous science-based initiatives that are proven effective in reducing pathogen contamination and should include adequate funding for research and development of new and innovative control strategies.

The USAHA also recommends that USDA-FSIS establish informal performance standards, rather than regulatory standards, using these as “benchmarks” to determine whether establishments are appropriately controlling pathogens in their operations. In addition, the establishment of any new performance standards or changes to existing performance standards should be tied to scientifically supportable measures of human health outcome directly related to that standard.

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Finally, the USAHA recommends that government and industry strive to work cooperatively toward the common goal of improving food safety related to meat, poultry, and egg products. The establishment of a confidential third-party data repository intended to collect and store government, industry, academic, and other pertinent food safety data that would be accessible to all affected parties should be pursued. Communication between industry and government should be improved with additional opportunities for combined training developed.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND
RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: A NATIONAL PLAN FOR RABIES
CONTROL IN WILDLIFE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The epizootic of raccoon rabies continues to spread into uninfected areas of North America. The natural barriers that previously restricted the raccoon rabies variant to the Atlantic coast states have been compromised. Barriers have been breached in Ohio and Cape Cod, Massachusetts with a first time occurrence of raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York. Translocation of raccoons with incubating rabies infection may have contributed in these instances. This creates the potential for a large portion of the nation to be affected by raccoon rabies. The cost of living with raccoon rabies cannot accurately be determined, but is substantial according to numerous local, state, and federal studies. This epidemic has reached national proportions and control efforts require coordination at the national level.

Rabies vaccine, licensed for use in raccoons and coyotes by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is available for delivery to wildlife through bait distribution. The use of oral rabies vaccination has been successful in the control of raccoon rabies in urban and rural environments, limiting the spread of raccoon rabies to uninfected areas, and dramatically controlling and eliminating rabies in coyotes in south Texas. Large-scale control efforts must continue to be developed and implemented over large areas of the epizootic front to prevent the spread of rabies in raccoons throughout the continent. The USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS), has provided substantial leadership, funding and program support to assist states with oral rabies vaccination programs which include raccoon, coyote, gray fox and skunk rabies. The USDA-APHIS-WS has also facilitated numerous meetings involving federal, state and provincial agencies to address the potential for coordinated, regional rabies control efforts, with the goal of developing a national rabies control program that would complement rabies control programs in Canada and Mexico. The Na-

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tional Working Group on Rabies Prevention, coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the American Veterinary Medical Association have developed recommendations for enhancing rabies control including wildlife vaccination.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) to continue to seek additional funding for terrestrial wildlife rabies control programs. The USAHA further encourages state and local governments and regional alliances to support this activity through appropriate funding channels. The USAHA also strongly encourages the USDA-APHIS-WS, the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to allocate appropriated funding and resources to assist states and local agencies in the development, maintenance and expansion of coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 – 8 – 23 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORK FORCE INITIATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND
EMERGING DISEASES
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL
HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL
ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY
NETWORK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is part of a national strategy to coordinate and network Federal laboratory capacity with the capacity and extensive infrastructure (facilities, professional expertise, support) of State and University laboratories to better respond to animal health emergencies, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases and foreign animal disease (FAD) agents that threaten the Nation's food supply and public health.

In fiscal year 2002, 12 State and University diagnostic laboratories were selected by the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter into Cooperative Agreements funded by Homeland Security appropriations to formally initiate the network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN provides optimum geographic coverage and the capacity to

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be fully capable of responding to any animal health emergency, funding will be required for facilities, training and equipment. It is also essential that annual allocations be provided for maintaining the high level of preparedness that is required for the network laboratories to be capable of responding in a crisis situation.

RESOLUTION:

The United State Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry Committee, the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and the House Agriculture Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to immediately provide \$85 million to fully fund the establishment and enhancement of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Furthermore, the USAHA urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request annual recurring line item funding in the United States Department of Agriculture budget in the amount of \$30 million for ongoing support of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 - Combined with 7

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) is a stakeholder-driven, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) multi-agency Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) collaboration to address issues that may affect animal health and food safety. It has been under development for three years with input and support from multiple industries, key stakeholders, and by all three relevant USDA undersecretaries.

The CAHFSE is based on longitudinal sample and data collection on farms and at commodity processing facilities over time. The CAHFSE will provide a flexible platform to evaluate management factors that

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may be related to animal health, production practices and food safety outcomes, including antimicrobial resistance issues.

USDA will maintain confidentiality of data in a similar manner to the National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS), which has proven to be excellent over many years. The CAHFSE will complement the NAHMS by conducting quarterly sampling and collection of production practices over time. Currently, data and samples are being collected on swine farms and will soon be collected in swine slaughter/processing plants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the continued Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) and recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) reprioritize funding in order to implement the program with all commodities that support the program and volunteer to participate.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

SOURCE: UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL
VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICE ACT
(PUBLIC LAW 108-161)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States is experiencing a shortage of veterinarians in rural agricultural and inner-city areas, in certain population groups, and in various veterinary disciplines, such as public health, epidemiology and food safety. Veterinarians are the nation's first line of defense against disease outbreaks. Veterinarians are critically needed by federal and state governments to preserve our nation's biosecurity and food safety.

Mean educational debt for 2003 graduates was \$76,558, an increase of 5.3 percent over 2002 graduates. Mean starting salary, across all types of practice, was \$41,602 (JAVMA January 15, 2004). Loan repayment consumes almost one-third of the income of recent graduates; by comparison, a greater percentage than for other health professions. This disparity between salary and debt precludes recent veterinary graduates from accepting lower-paying positions in rural agricultural, inner-city and governmental areas, where they are needed most.

The National Veterinary Medical Service Act was signed into law in December 2003, but has not received any funding appropriations. It authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with

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veterinarians who provide services in veterinary shortage situations in exchange for veterinary education loan repayment. If funded, it will also provide veterinarians with additional loan repayments in exchange for service in federal emergency situations. \$60 million in federal appropriations, over three years (\$20 million per annum), would permit 400 veterinarians to participate in the program over that period of time.

RESOLUTION:

That the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry Committee, the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and the House Agriculture Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to immediately provide \$20 million per annum to fund the National Veterinary Medical Service Act, P.L. 108-161.

Furthermore, the USAHA urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request line item funding for the National Veterinary Medical Service Act beginning in the FY06 executive budget.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY
SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FOOD
ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE
DATABANK (FARAD) AND THE NATIONAL
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
MONITORING SYSTEM (NARMS)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Antimicrobial compounds play an essential role in ensuring the health and well being of livestock. Protecting the health of livestock is also an important contributor to providing consumers an abundant supply of safe, wholesome and affordable food. In order to maintain the human safety, animal safety and continued efficacy of these important products animal health professionals need prompt access to data relating to prudent use, including complex pharmacokinetic data. This data is an important contributor to prudent use decisions as well as to aid in preventing violative residues in animal products. Since its inception in 1982 the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) has developed and maintained a unique and valuable pharmacokinetic food safety database for veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory agencies and extension specialists. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established the Guidance for Industry #152 framework for evaluating the safety of antibiotics relative to their potential to contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. It is important that such resistance patterns, if

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present, are addressed so as not to jeopardize public health as a potential indirect consequence of antibiotic use in livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have jointly funded the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) for many years. The NARMS program is the post approval monitoring system for new and existing antibiotics and the data are a central element in the decision-making process employed by the FDA Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee as they implement the Guidance for Industry #152 evaluation process.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the continued funding of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) and full funding of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support these important programs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
SUBJECT MATTER: ADEQUATE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR THE STATE-FEDERAL
INFECTIOUS SALMON ANEMIA
PROGRAM AND INDEMNIFICATION IN
THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Salmon aquaculture is a multi-million dollar agricultural industry in the United States. An October 2004 study^{1[1]} indicated that the farm gate value of Maine salmon aquaculture was about \$50 million. The Maine industry is rebuilding after an economically-devastating outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), a disease caused by Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAV), in 2001-2002. In 2000, the reported farm gate value of Maine salmon farms was \$100 million annually. The current epizootic has caused losses totaling millions of dollars. ISA is recognized as a foreign animal disease and has been diagnosed on Maine salmonid fish farms again recently.

The United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) 2001 Resolution No. 04, called upon the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary

1[1] Economic Impact of Aquaculture in Maine, Planning Decisions Research & Planning (www.planningdecisions.com), October 14, 2004, O'Hara, Lawton and York

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Services (VS), to, among other things, develop a USDA-APHIS-VS, ISA program which supports an ISA surveillance and monitoring plan component and an indemnity plan component. The final USDA-APHIS-VS, ISA program draft was approved on April 30, 2002. In December 2002, following the USDA's determination that Federal assistance was necessary to effectively control this disease, which posed a threat to animal health and the U.S. economy, \$8.3 million was released from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to be used for indemnity payments, program activities such as: depopulation and disposal; clean up and disinfection; establishment of surveillance programs; epidemiology and diagnostic support; and training for producers and veterinarians.

The USDA-APHIS-VS, ISA protocol has been universally implemented on Maine salmonids farms, and until recently, no significant outbreak of ISA has occurred in U.S. waters although the pathogen was detected at several sites in the Cobscook Bay area in 2003 and early 2004. Among the likely reasons that ISAV loads in the marine environment have increased are disparities between U.S. and Canadian disease management protocols. While standardization of approach is being actively pursued on both sides of the international border, the situation in recent months has resulted in limited depopulation and disposal of pre-market fish from several Maine farms. An outbreak of ISA again appears imminent in Cobscook Bay.

Although some amount of indemnification is anticipated from the USDA for the most recent losses of young fish at Maine salmonid farms, the CCC funds are nearly exhausted. ISA is neither a simple nor transient phenomenon. The administrative and surveillance components of the ISA program have been funded by USDA for the near term but continuity of indemnity funding is also needed for the important purpose of encouraging farmers to swiftly eliminate infected stock before the appearance of clinical disease occurs and dramatically increases losses. USDA-APHIS must therefore act quickly to provide long-term financial support for surveillance, monitoring and indemnification to assist Maine salmonid growers in effectively implementing the ISA program standards.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS), to begin work immediately to establish sufficient, annual funding for the long-term maintenance of the USDA-APHIS-VS Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) program including indemnification for losses incurred by U.S. salmonid growers in the implementation of the program.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 – 40 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORTATION OF FETAL BOVINE
SERUM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has the responsibility of ensuring that fetal bovine serum (FBS) imported from other countries is free of pathogens which do not exist in the United States and pose a risk to the U.S. livestock population.

Since Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has become the main disease limiting the trade of live cattle, meats and bovine products throughout the world, the limited supply of USDA approved FBS has not been able to keep up with the demand, resulting in price differences that make USDA approved FBS as much as 10 times higher than non USDA approved FBS. This price difference rewards smuggling and misrepresentation of FBS between origins, thus putting at risk the traceability and safety of "USDA approved FBS", throughout the world.

Gamma irradiation has been used by USDA-APHIS-VS for several decades, as a method to inactivate potential pathogens in ruminant serum imported from countries known to have livestock diseases that do not occur in the United States. Importations of ruminant serum have been authorized by USDA-APHIS-VS in limited quantities for developmental research and diagnostic purposes by both governmental and private institutions.

Gamma irradiation is currently being used as an approved treatment to eliminate potential pathogens in medical products used for both human and animal medical applications. Gamma irradiation is also authorized by USDA for the treatment of many food products of animal and plant origin.

Many research laboratories and biologics manufacturers can use gamma irradiated serum from BSE free countries, especially in those applications where the absence of BSE is most critical.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to re-propose the concept and feasibility of authorizing the use of gamma irradiation for the importation of commercial shipments of Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) from countries and/or regions that are free of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), but have restrictions because of

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other pathogens that can be eliminated by gamma irradiation, thus helping assure a reliable, affordable, safe and continuous supply of pathogen-free FBS to research laboratories and biologics manufacturers.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: RISK ASSESSMENT IN AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The life-cycles and survival parameters of exotic finfish viruses are not well understood. This makes the application of risk assessment to even the most studied models difficult. Risk analysis is a tool to help decision makers. There will always be a need for supportive actions to help solve the problems generated by the process of risk analysis. There have been reports of difficulties in carrying out existing risk analysis methods.

The stability of infectious agents in different media and under different physical and chemical environments has been extensively studied for some viruses and virtually ignored for others. Gaps in the knowledge are due in part to difficulties in reproducing life cycles and determining whether the agent is inactive or otherwise unable to cause significant fish health problems. Isolation of the agent under certain conditions can present significant challenges. Studies on the susceptibility of viruses to different physical or chemical parameters have often been conducted under artificial conditions and quantitative data on the rate of inactivation are lacking for many agents. To assess the potential risk for the introduction and establishment of an exotic finfish virus in an aquatic ecosystem, several factors associated with the agent must be determined. These factors include the liability of the agent to pH, cooling, freezing, heating, and the ability of the agent to survive freely in the environment.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) determine if these data needed to perform credible risk assessments exist and identify information gaps. Appropriate steps should be taken to fill in these gaps for the prevention of the introduction and the potential establishment of finfish viruses of economic significance into the U.S. commercial farmed fish industry.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: *BRUCELLA OVIS* TESTING
STANDARDIZATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Laboratories that are conducting *Brucella ovis* ELISA testing report that there are problems with both control sera and antigens produced and provided by National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). There have been many false-positive test results due to inconsistent quality of the control sera and antigens. While NVSL has been made aware of the problem regarding the quality of the reagents, staff has not communicated consistently with all of the laboratories that are affected. The false-positive test results have resulted in a lack of consumer confidence in testing which is a critical part of control programs. These testing problems pose risks to many major sheep-producing states that rely on valid test results for interstate movement.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) provide a standardized *Brucella ovis* ELISA test. NVSL should also provide laboratory testing for this process.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES
OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA CONTROL
PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses has studied, developed and now proposes a National State-Federal Cooperative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Control Program. The goals of this program are to, without the burden of additional regulations, (a) reduce the overall national prevalence of EIA and (b) reduce the imposition of required EIA testing. Under this plan, EIA test requirements for equine movement will be standardized, simplified and, in some cases, eliminated; allowing greater freedom of movement while reducing the risk of being exposed to equidae of unknown EIA status. These proposed changes will reduce the overall cost of EIA control.

The Program proposal calls for a three-phase implementation with an open time frame. Phase One establishes EIA Risk Zones within the U.S. based on incidence levels derived from historical EIA testing

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records; Phase Two refines the Risk Zones and risk management as improved equine census and disease prevalence information becomes available; and Phase Three further develops the program, and its utility to the industry, through the development of a voluntary EIA Certification Program partially supported by Federal funding. This Program will reward equine owners who test and have historically tested their animals with reduced costs, increased ease of movement, and protection from punishment for the untested and non-commingled EIA reservoir equidae in their region.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in collaboration with the USAHA, develop and annually update a National State-Federal Cooperative Program for the Control of Equine Infectious Anemia. It is further requested that USDA-APHIS-VS and states begin implementation of this control program as soon as possible

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 – 33 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PSEUDORABIES

COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS AND PSEUDORABIES IN
FERAL SWINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Feral swine continue to pose an increasing threat of acquiring, harboring and transmitting diseases with significant animal and human health importance and trade impact. There continues to be a crucial need for additional research and field studies that address threats related to feral swine.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) thanks the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service (CSREES) for recognizing the feral swine threat as a high priority and encourages them to continue to provide long-range funding for research, program support and field studies.

In particular, funding is necessary to:

1. Provide continuing support for conducting population studies that support the development of disease risk management strategies.
2. Pursue the goal of developing Brucella strain VTRS-1 for use

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as a dual vaccine and conduct field trials to demonstrate its efficacy.

3. Conduct further field trials and studies of swine brucellosis and pseudorabies infection in feral swine the methods of their transmission to domestic swine.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 WITHDRAWN BY COMMITTEE

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING TO EXPAND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF GROUP D SALMONELLA FIELD ISOLATES RELATED TO THE NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The determination of the source of field salmonella outbreaks in poultry can be an arduous task and field epidemiology many times can lead to a dead end. Molecular characterization of salmonella isolates can be a very valuable tool in field epidemiology when other means of identifying the source are not available.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) continue to provide molecular characterization of group D salmonella field isolates for samples related to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and to seek the necessary funds to expand this service.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19–26–36–43 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES, COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES, COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK
SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 9

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) of January 2004 establishes a national policy to defend agriculture and the food system from attack, major disasters, and other emergencies. In HSPD 9, the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate federal departments and agencies were directed to

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expand current programs to develop comprehensive and fully coordinated surveillance and monitoring systems for animal disease, plant disease, wildlife disease, food, and public health. The Food and Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council recently was chartered to provide effective coordination of agriculture and food security strategies, policy, and communication across government and between the government and the sector to support the nation's homeland security mission.

State fish and wildlife management agencies have the primary authority and responsibility to manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the United States and are represented on a national basis by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA); however, the state fish and wildlife management agencies have not been actively engaged to date by the federal agencies directed to implement the policy established in HSPD 9. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes the potential role of wildlife in the epidemiology of human and domestic animal diseases, the susceptibility of wildlife species to a large number of foreign animal disease agents and other instruments of bioterrorism, and the importance of state wildlife agency involvement in preventing, detecting, monitoring, and responding to animal disease outbreaks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the Departments of Homeland Security, Agriculture, Interior, Health and Human Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency involve the state fish and wildlife management agencies, via the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), in the activities described in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9). Furthermore, the USAHA requests membership and representation of the IAFWA on the Food and Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council. Finally, the USAHA requests that funding and other resources be provided to the state wildlife management agencies to assist them in fulfilling their responsibility for conserving U.S. fish and wildlife resources consistent with the goals of HSPD 9.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 – 39 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: USDA JURISDICTION FOR ANIMAL
DISEASE VACCINES THAT ALSO HAVE A
PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are various emerging biological products that immunize and

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treat animals to reduce infection, shedding, colonization and/or bioburden in the intended animal. For example it is well documented that *E. coli* O157:H7 in improperly cooked ground beef or cross contamination of other food items is a significant public health threat. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared *E. coli* O157:H7 an adulterant in ground beef in 1994 and in 1996 developed the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) regulatory framework that establishes a science and risk-based approach to reducing food safety risks. Since the implementation of HACCP and the development and adoption of in-plant interventions that improve the microbiological profiles of meat products, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has documented very significant declines in the rates of food borne illness in the United States. Despite the recognition that reducing food borne illness requires interventions at each step from the farm to the table and after over 12 years since *E. coli* O157:H7 was declared an adulterant, no viable or effective preharvest interventions have been developed and approved to reduce the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7. One reason for this is the existence of uncertain regulatory approval procedures, processes and authorities. Recent research indicates that there is an opportunity to develop safe and efficacious vaccines to reduce the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7 shedding in cattle. However, the regulatory process necessary for review and potential licensing of a safe and efficacious vaccine is uncertain and an impediment to reducing the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7 at the preharvest level and subsequently reducing food safety risks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work closely with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) to assume the review, approval and licensing process for vaccines used in animals that have a benefit in reducing food safety risks. The USDA has extensive expertise, experience, the test facilities, inspection unit, and existing framework to regulate vaccines of this type. In addition, USDA has the authority to regulate vaccines for use in animals pursuant to the Virus Serum Toxin Act, in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the FDA dated June 18, 1982, which indicates that the agreements to play this role have long been in place. The USAHA urges the USDA to work with FDA to quickly establish the clear regulatory path at the USDA for these important contributors to food safety.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: UPDATED NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE
CONTROL PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the 107th Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in San Diego, California, October 9 – 16, 2003 a recommendation was approved by the Committee on Johne's Disease requesting the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to host a meeting of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Committee on Johne's Disease. This subcommittee met June 15-17, 2004 in Riverdale, Maryland. The charge of this subcommittee was to update the National Johne's Disease Control Program Strategic Plan. The subcommittee presented their report to the Committee on Johne's Disease at the 2004 annual meeting and it was approved by the committee.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) submits the National Johne's Disease Control Program Strategic Plan dated July 2004 (attached) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), and recommends that it be used to guide the National Johne's Disease Control Program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND
EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
VETERINARY STUDENTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Public Practice white paper identified a developing shortage of future veterinarians with interests and expertise needed to meet existing societal needs in population medicine, public practice and public health. Many colleges and schools of veterinary medicine are making efforts to increase the professional student pool interested in research, population medicine, and food animal medicine, to help meet societal needs in the future. The educational experiences of veterinary students participating in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) externships in the past have proven very successful in introducing and motivating students to continue their pursuit of professional opportunities in the area of diagnostics, prevention, control and eradication of animal and zoonotic diseases. Veterinary students participating in USDA externship

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programs have further stimulated interest in public practice among their classmates. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases (FED) proposes that USDA and USAHA (Committee on FED) work together to contribute to future veterinary staffing needs in public health by facilitating the efforts of veterinary faculty and expanding the USDA externship program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to increase the externship opportunities for veterinary students.
2. The USDA-APHIS-VS to develop externship application information to facilitate finding externship opportunities, facilitate liaison contact, wherever possible, with members of the USAHA's Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases and college deans.
3. The USDA-APHIS-VS recruit a pool of applicants for externship and obtain funding. Opportunities need to be identified by December 15 and acceptance notified by February 15 of each year; thereby students can consider these opportunities when planning for summer jobs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 Combined with 7

SOURCE: AAVLD/USAHA COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS
SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK (NAHLN)

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 1) In 2000 all states were tuberculosis free except Michigan; however, Texas lost its free status in 2002 and California and New Mexico lost their free status in 2003.
- 2) The tuberculosis situation in Michigan seems to be holding as status quo.
- 3) Tuberculosis cases are being discovered that trace to large dairy calf development units.

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- 4) A previously infected elk herd in Kansas was found to be infected.
- 5) Nineteen of the top 40 adult cattle slaughter plants are not submitting granuloma samples at an acceptable rate.
- 6) Individual states are initiating entry test requirements for dairy cattle.
- 7) The goal of tuberculosis eradication by 2003 was not achieved.
- 8) Mexican origin feeder cattle with tuberculosis continue to be discovered in U.S. slaughter plants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to adopt the 2004 Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and incorporate the recommendations contained in the Strategic Plan into the national Bovine Tuberculosis eradication plan (see attachment).

The USAHA requests the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and the Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee immediately provide \$35.84 million per annum to fund the recommendations of the Strategic Plan for the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis. Furthermore, the USAHA urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request line item funding of \$35.84 million in the USDA budget for fiscal year 2007 for the ongoing support of the recommendations in the Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis.

The USAHA urges the livestock industry organizations, state animal health agencies and state wildlife agencies to support the USDA funding requests for the national tuberculosis eradication program, so that the recommendations of the strategic plan can be fully implemented.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE
DISEASES OF SWINE**

**SUBJECT MATTER: EMERGING SWINE DISEASE
RESPONSE MECHANISM**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The need for a coordinated, comprehensive and real-time surveillance system for domestic and emerging swine diseases in the United States has been recognized for some time. The Swine Futures Project (SFP), a multi-year government-industry partnership, developed recommendations for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that would meet the needs of the pork industry. The final report, issued

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in 1999, provided key recommendations to develop and implement a comprehensive surveillance plan for the prevention and control of diseases affecting the U.S. pork industry and to establish a system to rapidly detect and respond to emerging animal diseases.

Today there is no defined, coordinated response mechanism for assisting industry with emerging disease investigations. Emerging diseases may go undiagnosed due to the lack of epidemiological resources as well as financial resources to further the investigation beyond a certain battery of tests reported only to the attending veterinarian and producer. The only current mechanism for coordinated assistance is to initiate a foreign animal disease (FAD) investigation, which evokes an emergency response.

Veterinary Services' Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH)/Center for Emerging Issues has taken the lead in developing an Emerging Animal Health Issues System which provided guidelines for handling emerging diseases within Veterinary Services (VS). Recently, VS has created the National Center for Animal Health Surveillance at CEAH to coordinate surveillance activities and develop a national surveillance system.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) through the efforts of the National Center for Animal Health Surveillance (NCAHS) and the Center for Emerging Issues (CEI), work with industry and state animal health officials to develop a defined mechanism to detect, investigate, evaluate and respond to emerging diseases in swine and provide the necessary resources (monetary and non-monetary) to support these activities.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 - Combined with 19

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND
EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL
DIRECTIVE 9

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE
DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLECTED DATA
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are significant numbers of scientific databases containing information regarding characterization of microbial isolates that are held by industry, government and academia that are inaccessible to each

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other. This inaccessibility is attributed to concerns that the information is subject to the Freedom of Information Act which, may result in punitive consequences, disrupting the scientific and economic integrity of the scientific community.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) take steps to protect the confidentiality of scientific data in order to foster collaborative research efforts and exchange of information between USDA agencies, industry, and academia.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK
IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: WEB BASED INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE
OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) have been developed as requested in the 2001 United States Animal Health Association's Resolution 12. This resolution requested that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) provide a web based electronic certificate of veterinary inspection that utilizes a USDA web-based computer database to document intrastate, interstate and international movement of livestock and poultry.

An electronic ICVI would comply with the Government Paper Elimination Act (GPEA) 2003 initiative focused on federal forms.

The USAHA resolution was also supported by the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA) Resolution 25, Animal Health - Int'l Trade, 2002.

Since its inception in 2003, the ICVI has proven to be a successful application and provides a substantial role in safeguarding animal health as a major component to the National Animal Identification System related to premises identification, animal identification and disease risk management.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) commit to bring all 50 states onto electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) and provides the necessary support within the next 18-24 months. In addition, ICVI should be referenced through the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER: PRIORITY PASSAGE FOR LIVE ANIMAL
CARGO AT BORDER CROSSING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The use of x-ray technology to screen cargo at border crossings, the waiting time has increased significantly.

There is inconsistency in the priority given to live animal cargo between ports of entry. Some allow more rapid passage for live animal transports, while at others the wait is for hours with all other cargo conveyances. In cases of weather extremes, the resultant long wait times can prove to be cruel and/or fatal to the animals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not have a consistent protocol for live animal cargo. A process to allow vehicles with live animal cargo to move ahead of inanimate cargo should be developed to avoid suffering of animals.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) communicate to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the need to develop a process to allow vehicles with live animals on board to advance ahead of other vehicles in line that are carrying inanimate cargo to enhance the well being of the animals and avoid suffering.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF
BRUCELLOSIS IN WILDLIFE IN THE
GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho is one of the last reservoirs of *Brucella abortus* infection in the United States.

Government and the livestock industry have spent several billions of dollars on the eradication of brucellosis.

The latest infections of cattle in the state of Wyoming have a great impact on the state's communities and livestock producers. The cost to the federal government will be several millions of dollars.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) request that all appropriate agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Interior (USDI), working in close collaboration with the state fish and wildlife management

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agencies, the state veterinarians, the state departments of agriculture, and the state livestock agencies, immediately initiate an aggressive program to reduce and eventually eliminate brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. In this effort, all available, scientifically credible technologies and multidisciplinary management practices should be employed.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOLS TO
ALLOW CONDUCT OF CRITICAL
RESEARCH RELATED TO BRUCELLA
SPECIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state and federal governments and the livestock industry have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* infection in cattle. These efforts are leading to a national herd that is nearly free of the disease. The only significant reservoir of field strains of *Brucella abortus* is in free ranging elk and bison within the Greater Yellowstone Area, an area that includes portions of the states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho and consists largely of federally managed lands. Significant research is essential to manage and eventually eliminate *Brucella abortus* infection in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Brucella abortus has been listed by the United States government as a select agent because of its potential to be used as a weapon of mass destruction. The listing of *Brucella abortus* as a select agent has halted essential research on the disease and agent.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) impanel a working group to develop a protocol that addresses biosafety and security concerns related to outdoor research with the *Brucella* species affecting livestock and wildlife as quickly as possible. The protocol should address all facets to be considered in a decision to permit outdoor research to be conducted by qualified researchers.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 - Combined with 5

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE
DISEASES OF POULTRY
SUBJECT MATTER: *SALMONELLA* PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 - Combined with 17

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS AND PSEUDORABIES IN
FERAL SWINE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER: AGRICULTURE AS A PRIORITY OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Congress created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to take the lead on coordinating border security and law enforcement efforts to guard against future terrorist events. During preliminary discussions on the creation of the new department, The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) expressed concerns to the President and Congress regarding the proposed transfer of portions of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to the newly created agency. State departments of agriculture work closely with and rely greatly on USDA-APHIS and its Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program to insure that cargo and passengers entering this country through legal access routes are screened for harmful animal pests and diseases. They have also long relied on USDA-APHIS state-federal cooperative programs to provide the resources needed to protect plant and animal health.

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) is now a part of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Directorate of the DHS that serves as the front line of defense at U.S. ports against agricultural products without the required phytosanitary documentation. The new "One Face at the Border" will create Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers (GS-11) with the primary mission of preventing terrorists and their weapons from entering the United States and with a secondary mission of performing traditional inspections of customs, immigration and agriculture. Furthermore, CBP Agriculture Specialists (GS-11) are to be stationed only at ports with large volumes of cargo and only to support the CBP Officers. Legacy agriculture inspectors, who have a minimum of two years formal education in science, may "apply and compete" for the CBP Agriculture Specialists positions.

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Documents discovered in Afghanistan have identified food and agriculture as potential targets for terrorist attacks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is charged with the responsibility of protecting the security of our nation's food and agriculture by preventing the entrance of plant and animal pests and diseases.

The USAHA recommends that DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recognize that prevention of animal and plant diseases through purposeful or accidental introduction of disease agents must be considered a critical priority of the agency.

The USAHA urges the DHS-CBP to reconsider the de-emphasis of agriculture inspections at medium and large ports of entry and the elimination of agriculture inspections at small ports of entry.

The USAHA requests that legacy agriculture inspectors, with the proven education, skills and experience in cargo and baggage agriculture inspection, be immediately reassigned as (CBP) Agriculture Specialists and that CBP Officers positions be open to all legacy customs, immigration and agriculture inspectors.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: DEVELOPMENT OF CONSENSUS ON ANIMAL CARE GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In recent years the issues of animal welfare, animal well-being and animal rights have generated significant discussions, actions on the part of livestock producers, legislative and regulatory debates and, in some cases, prohibitions of certain livestock production practices in specific states. These issues have also generated concern and requests for action within the food processing, marketing, and service sectors. While not part of the existing World Trade Organization framework for trade, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) had convened working groups to develop general animal care guidelines relating to land and sea transport and humane slaughter. Recent surveys indicate that consumers in the United States continue to strongly support the notion that raising livestock for food production is appropriate so long as the animals are treated humanely. The vast majority of consumers currently hold the opinion that livestock producers are treating animals humanely. However, it is clear that livestock producers need to continue to take responsibility to ensure the animals they manage are treated humanely or consumers may see the need to support legislative or other action to assure that such practices are in place. In

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response to this reality and consistent with requests from the food processing, marketing and service sectors, virtually all livestock production systems have or will soon have developed and implemented science-based animal care guidelines.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and encourages the animal agriculture sector in the United States to continue their efforts to develop and implement science-based animal care guidelines that will help ensure the humane treatment of animals. The USAHA Committee on Animal Welfare will continue to provide a forum to enhance the dialogue regarding guidelines development and implementation and will encourage and facilitate efforts to reach consensus regarding controversial animal welfare issues. In addition to encouraging the consensus building process, USAHA discourages attempts to resolve these controversial issues through legislative and regulatory mandates. This position is consistent with policy resolutions developed by the National Council of State Governments and other organizations.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 - Combined with 19

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL
DIRECTIVE 9

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: TROPICAL BONT TICK ERADICATION
PROGRAMS IN THE CARIBBEAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Tropical Bont Tick (TBT), *Amblyomma variegatum*, and the associated disease heartwater were first introduced into the Caribbean region in 1828 when infested cattle were imported from Senegal into Guadeloupe. The tick remained confined to only a few Caribbean islands until the mid-1970s when it began to rapidly spread to other islands in the Caribbean, reaching Puerto Rico to the north and St. Vincent to the south. This rapid spread appears to have been coincident with the expansion of the range of cattle egrets in the Caribbean.

In affected countries, TBT and its associated diseases heartwater and dermatophilosis limit the potential for increased livestock production. In TBT-infested countries, control activities continue to be a drain on limited financial and human resources. Furthermore, there is a high risk of introduction of TBT and its associated diseases into the Americas and subsequent spread in the region due to the presence of wild-life and domestic animal hosts for the tick and its associated diseases,

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and native tick species capable of serving as vectors for heartwater. Spread of TBT and its associated diseases in the southern United States, Mexico, Central America, the Greater Antilles, and South America could result in \$655 thousand to \$3 billion potential annual losses.

Animal industry groups, state animal health officials, and federal officials have been concerned about the spread of TBT and its associated diseases to the United States since the mid-1980s. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS) have actively supported our involvement in a program to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean since the mid-1990s. USDA, APHIS support has been by means of financial contributions and technical assistance to a multi-national program known as the Caribbean *Amblyomma* Program (CAP) since 1994. Under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), CAP operates in nine English or Dutch-speaking islands in the Lesser Antilles.

The CAP also liaises with complimentary programs in the French West Indies administered by the Government of France, as well as a USDA, APHIS, VS program on St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, where TBT was discovered in the year 2000. Over the past decade, CAP has developed a proven methodology to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean. As a result, by February 2003, six of the nine CAP islands had achieved the status of "Provisional Freedom from TBT;" however, two of these have experienced significant re-infestations of TBT in the past year. Additional funds are urgently needed to not only address the presence of TBT on Antigua and St. Croix, but also to continue TBT eradication and surveillance throughout the CAP islands until the entire Caribbean region is declared TBT free.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests continued and increased funding from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services (IS) for the Caribbean *Amblyomma* Program (CAP), administered under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as funding for the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) program on St. Croix, to eradicate the Tropical Bont Tick (TBT) and its associated diseases of heartwater and dermatophilosis. USAHA also requests USDA, APHIS, IS and VS, by means of their membership in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to encourage their French counterparts to place greater emphasis on eradication of TBT from the French West Indies. We further request this funding be sought and allocated as soon as possible to mitigate the risk of spread of TBT to Puerto Rico and the United States mainland and to continue on-going surveillance efforts in the region against

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TBT until the Caribbean as a whole is free from TBT and its associated diseases.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: REPLACEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
KNIPLING BUSHLAND UNITED STATES
LIVESTOCK INSECTS RESEARCH
LABORATORY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The continuing pressures of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus)* sp. ticks along the Texas-Mexican border is a real and measurable threat to the health of United States cattle. Practical scientific investigations have been completed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Knippling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Research Laboratory in Kerrville, Texas to assist in the control and eradication of Texas Fever ticks in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request adequate funds to construct a replacement United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratory in the area of Kerrville, Texas.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 - Combined with 20

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY
SUBJECT MATTER: USDA JURISDICTION FOR ANIMAL
DISEASE VACCINES THAT ALSO HAVE A
PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 - Combined with 13

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND
BIOLOGICS
SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORTATION OF FETAL BOVINE
SERUM

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 41 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE FLOCK CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There have been significant changes in the scrapie program since

NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

implementation of the accelerated scrapie eradication program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to thoroughly review the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) and determine the best method to bring the SFCP into consistent status with current World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards. The changes proposed should be subjected to public review prior to implementation.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 42 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONSISTENT STATE COMPLIANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The codified deadline for states to be in compliance as a “consistent state” was August 21, 2003, two years after the regulation became effective.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges State Animal Health Officials to submit their Consistent State status pre-review checklist immediately and the states take appropriate measures to be in full compliance. USAHA further urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and State Animal Health Officials to take action immediately to enforce compliance with the interstate movement and consistent state regulations.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 43 - Combined with 19

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 9