

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Chair: Richard D. Willer, Phoenix, AZ

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS 2006-2007

PRESIDENT	Lee M. Myers, Atlanta, GA
PRESIDENT-ELECT	James W. Leafstedt, Alcester, SD
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Donald E. Hoenig, Augusta, ME
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	Richard E. Breitmeyer, Sacramento, CA
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT	Steven L. Halstead, Lansing, MI
TREASURER	William L. Hartmann, St. Paul, MN

DISTRICT DELEGATES

NORTHEAST.....	R. J. Eckroade, Pennsylvania E. W. Zirkle, New Jersey
NORTH CENTRAL.....	Velmar Green, Michigan Jay Hawley , Indiana
SOUTH.....	L. W. Godwin, Florida A. G. Rosales, Alabama
WEST.....	Bill Sauble, New Mexico H. M. Richards, III, Hawaii

RESOLUTIONS 110th ANNUAL MEETING

RESOLUTION: **1 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE**
SUBJECT MATTER: **INTERIM EMERGENCY REGULATION**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) has historically been considered to be the most serious viral disease of salmonids reared in freshwater environments in Europe. More recently, VHS has been associated with marine finfish species, and most recently has become an emerging disease of freshwater fish in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia was first detected in the Great Lakes region in the Bay of Quinte, Lake Ontario, in 2005, and was subsequently detected in an archived 2003 sample from Lake St. Clair. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus also was detected in Lake St. Clair in 2005 and in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clare and the St. Lawrence River in 2006 in a variety of fish species. Prior to 2003, isolations of VHS virus were limited in North America to saltwater finfish from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, including Chinook and Coho salmon, Pacific herring, Atlantic herring and cod. Since 2005, the list of species known to be affected by VHS has risen to more than 40, including a number of ecologically and recreationally important fish.

Because of the threat of this emerging disease, regulations should be put in place immediately to minimize potential risks and prevent impacts on aquaculture fish species in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) develop and implement an interim emergency regulation to prevent the movement of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus from positive to negative areas.

RESOLUTION: **2 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
SUBJECT MATTER: RECOMMENDATION TO RE-LIST ONCORHYNCHUS MASU
 VIRUS DISEASE (OMVD)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The finfish team of The Ad Hoc Group on the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) List of Aquatic Animal Diseases issued an interim report regarding their recommendation of OIE-listed fish diseases that did not meet all the listing criteria at the Fish Diseases Commission's meeting of June 23-27, 2003. One of those recommendations was to de-list Oncorhynchus Masu Virus Disease (OMVD). The Commission voted in favor of this recommendation and OMVD was de-listed.

Historically OMVD had only minor impacts on cultured fish; however, the first report on the re-occurrence of OMVD was in the spring of 1998 in rainbow trout cultured in Shizuoka Prefecture on the mainland of Japan. OMVD then spread to rainbow trout cultured in Nagano Prefecture in 2000. A report was published in the journal Fish Pathology (2003, 38:23-26). Currently, OMVD is found in Shizuoka, Nagano, Gifu, Yamanashi, Tochigi and Iwate Prefectures. The infected species of fish are currently only rainbow trout and the size of fish affected is 15 to 1,000 grams. The damage is reported to be very severe and infected fish either die or are not suitable for harvest. The economic impact is estimated to be greater than that of Koi Herpes Virus Disease. The disease has only been observed in cultured rainbow trout. There are reports that OMVD may have spread to rainbow trout cultured in Korea and losses may also be very severe there but this has not been confirmed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) suggest that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) conduct a risk assessment for Oncorhynchus Masu Virus Disease (OMVD) as quickly as possible using a World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recognized risk assessment procedure. If the risk assessment demonstrates that OMVD is a significant risk to the United States fisheries resources, USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS recommend to the OIE that OMVD be urgently considered for re-listing.

RESOLUTION: **3 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARDIZED
 DIAGNOSTIC REAGENTS FOR THE LISTED DISEASES OF
 AQUATIC ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) supplies and distributes reagents for the diagnosis of important terrestrial animal diseases. Currently there is not a single standardized source of reagents available for the diagnosis of important diseases of wild and cultured aquatic animals. A source of standardized diagnostic reagents is extremely important in protecting wild and cultured aquatic animals from foreign aquatic animal diseases as well as surveillance and control of endemic aquatic animal diseases. The Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society is available to assist in prioritizing the diagnostic reagents that are needed.

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), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) develop and make available a standardized source of reagents, that are not readily available from commercial sources, for the diagnosis of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) notifiable diseases or the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan listed diseases.

RESOLUTION: **4 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE**
SUBJECT MATTER: **NATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For the past three years a National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force, composed of representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has been engaged in developing a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) for the United States (US). During multiple stakeholder meetings throughout the country with various aquatic industry and natural resource agency groups as well as state, federal and university personnel, the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force has been soliciting input and drafting chapters for the NAAHP. Key elements of the plan include identification of diseases of regulatory concern, measures to protect US aquatic species from the introduction of exotic diseases, plans for control should an introduction occur, importation standards for aquatic species and wild species/cultured species interface issues. Implementation of the NAAHP will require significant resources.

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), the United States Department of Interior and the United States Department of Commerce to propose line item funding in future budgets to adequately fund the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.

RESOLUTION: **5 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
SUBJECT MATTER: **ROUTINE AND EMERGENCY DISPOSAL OF ANIMAL
CARCASSES AND ANIMAL PARTS TO PREVENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION FROM SPECIFIED RISK
MATERIALS**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Animal agriculture is facing a crisis regarding the disposal of animal parts and carcasses. Two issues have exacerbated this problem. Governmental actions to help prevent transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) diseases now require the removal of certain "specified risk materials" (SRM) from animal feeds. Acceptable alternative uses for SRM's have not yet been identified. Proper disposal is, at a minimum, a short-term responsibility and likely is an ongoing need. In addition, proper disposal of carcasses is a priority when losses occur during emergencies, e.g., including, but not limited to, hurricanes, floods, droughts, other disasters and sacrifices made as a part of dealing with a foreign animal disease incident. Lacking a plan to properly deal with disposal issues poses potential public and animal health, and environmental risks unless a national animal disposal strategy is developed and implemented.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) supports the development of a national coordinated carcass and specified risk materials disposal / utilization plan and guidance that will enable states to better prepare to address routine and emergency livestock disposal needs while protecting both public health and the environment.

USAHA and AAVLD urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture to take a leadership role in this plan development. The Secretary's role should include bringing together federal agencies who have jurisdiction over animal feed, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), disposal of solid wastes, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), animal health, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), meat food safety, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), transportation, Department of Transportation (DOT) and conservation programs, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) with State Departments of Agriculture, State Veterinarians, the livestock industry, the rendering industry and other appropriate stakeholders.

RESOLUTION:

6 and 34 Combined

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER:

SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED NATIONAL AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD— CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS ALL HAZARD PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), other foreign animal diseases or destructive biological incursions that are not quickly controlled and/or eradicated, will have very serious negative impacts on the United States livestock, food and agricultural industries, as well as to the general economy of the nation, including transportation, travel, food processing and distribution, and tourism.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) establishes national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (FASCC) and Government Coordinating Council (GCC) organized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is in the process of considering an expanded version of a proposed National Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Plan (NAF/COBP) developed by the Animal Production Sub council of FASCC. This expanded version of the original NAF/COBP is intended to apply the policy directives embodied in HSPD 9 across the entire food and agriculture sector through the creation of Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Council's (AF/COBC) that would operate within each Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region. The Councils would bring the public and private sectors at all levels together at the regional level to address the recommendations contained in HSPD 9, so as to take full advantage of the FEMA infrastructure support system in the event of a major agriculture or food emergency. A national demonstration project is being proposed to gain understanding and support for implementation of this all hazards type regional approach to emergency preparedness and response utilizing FMD as an emergency disease template.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) urge the Secretaries of Agriculture and Homeland Security, and the Office of Management and Budget to provide adequate funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health

- revise the National Response Plan and supporting documents to address animal emergency management in detail with ESF-11 designated as the lead ESF for all-hazards, all-species animal issues with many other ESFs providing strong support roles.
- incorporate such provisions as needed to support the PETS Act of 2006.
- engage all national key stakeholders in this National Response Plan (NRP) revision process
- fund development of institutional infrastructure and national programmatic activities to assure the national, state and local ability to achieve animal emergency management goals.; and that

Congress

- appropriate funding to states for the development of animal emergency management plans and implementation of sustainable animal emergency response capabilities.

RESOLUTION: 8 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) only regulates the movement of equine infectious anemia (EIA) reactor equines. Requirements for testing prior to movement across state lines vary from state to state, leading to testing inconsistency, industry confusion, and imprecise surveillance. The equine Industry has expressed an interest in standardizing movement regulations as an important step in EIA control in the United States.

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) incorporate specific elements of the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, part 75, Communicable diseases in horses, asses, ponies, mules, and zebras, in order to assure that only equines having negative EIA testing status are moved interstate except as described under section 6.

Specifically, add sections 2 through 5 and 7 through 10 to part 75.4 as follows (sections 1, 6, 11, and 12 are currently part of 75.4):

75.4-Equine Infectious Anemia (Swamp Fever)

1. Definitions
2. General restrictions
3. Certificates and permits for interstate movement of equines
4. Handling in transit of equines moved interstate
5. Restrictions on interstate movement of equines because of EIA
6. EIA reactor equines
7. EIA exposed equines
8. Other interstate movements
9. Testing procedures for EIA in equines
10. Official EIA tests
11. Approval of laboratories, and diagnostic or research facilities
12. Denial and withdrawal of approval of laboratories and diagnostic or research facilities

RESOLUTION: 9 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) to the United States. However, it is assumed that the disease exists at some unknown prevalence in horses indigenous to the United States and in horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the official test for piroplasmosis, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States was the compliment fixation (CF) test, a test that is known to occasionally yield false negative results. Unscrupulous owners, importers or agents have compounded the problem by purposely treating EP infected horses with immunosuppressive medications to create a false negative response to the CF test. An upgraded C-ELISA test was specified as the official test on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield false negative results on adult horses.

EP infected horses may exist in the United States at a sufficient disease prevalence to infect resident tick vectors and possibly result in establishment of the disease as endemic in the United States.

There is no conclusive evidence that treatment of a carrier of either of the two strains of EP (*Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*) is a viable option.

It is crucial to 1) maintain stringent import restrictions that are sufficient to prevent the importation of seropositive horses into the U.S., 2) develop a cohesive policy at both federal and state levels for identifying and dealing with resident EP seropositive horses, and 3) request funding to research effective treatment protocols for EP.

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) in partnership with USDA, Agricultural Research Services (ARS) to expand the funding for research into finding an effective and safe treatment for elimination of the carrier state for *Babesia caballi* and/or *Babesia equi*. Additionally, USAHA encourages USDA-ARS to work with owners of equine piroplasmosis (EP) seropositive horses found in the United States to make their EP horses available for participation in this research.

RESOLUTION: 10 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS (EP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a foreign animal disease (FAD) to the United States. However, it is assumed that the disease exists at some unknown prevalence in horses indigenous to the United States and in horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the "official test" for EP, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States was the compliment fixation (CF) test, a test that is known to occasionally yield false negative results. Unscrupulous owners, importers or agents have compounded the problem by purposely treating EP infected horses with immunosuppressive medications to create a false negative response to the CF test. An upgraded C-ELISA test was specified as the "official test" on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield false negative results on adult horses.

EP infected horses may exist in the United States at a sufficient disease prevalence to infect resident tick vectors and possibly result in establishment of the disease as endemic in the United States.

There is no conclusive evidence that treatment of a carrier of either of the two strains of EP (*Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*) is a viable option.

It is crucial to 1) maintain stringent import restrictions that are sufficient to prevent the importation of seropositive horses into the U.S., 2) develop a cohesive policy at both federal and

state levels for identifying and dealing with resident EP seropositive horses, and 3) request funding to research effective treatment protocols for EP.

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 investigate the prevalence of equine piroplasmiasis (EP) infection in the United States utilizing accepted survey methodology. USAHA recommends that the first component of this incentive is to conduct a national survey of slaughter horses. It is further recommended that USAHA establish a working group consisting of representatives from equine industry groups, the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, researchers and veterinarians knowledgeable about EP to evaluate the survey results, and if indicated, develop recommendations for control of EP positive horses in the United States and/or elimination of EP from the United States.

RESOLUTION: **11 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: INDEMNIFICATION TO ELIMINATE CATTLE CONFIRMED
 POSITIVE FOR *MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM*
 PARATUBERCULOSIS (MAP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Providing indemnification to producers for culling cattle confirmed positive for *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) by an officially recognized test for slaughter when such cattle are clinically normal and a high or moderate MAP shedder, will serve to prevent further transmission of the disease. Indemnification tied to program participation will also enhance identification, testing and confirmation of MAP positive animals, thereby promoting Johne's disease free status herds.

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) request necessary funding to provide limited indemnification of cattle for producers who participate in the National Johne's Control Program, meet all Program Standards and cull to slaughter any animal confirmed positive for *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) by an officially recognized test provided further that the indemnification will apply only to animals determined to be clinically normal and a high or moderate MAP shedder.

The USAHA further requests that Congress recognize the importance of funding a Johne's disease indemnification program to augment, and not subtract from, current minimal funding for the National Johne's Control Program. USAHA recommends that this program remain voluntary.

RESOLUTION: **12 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: QUANTITATIVE BULK TANK MILK TESTS FOR DETECTING
 JOHNE'S DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The routine availability of quantitative bulk tank test levels of *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) would enable producers to know and understand how their level of MAP compared on a national basis and would encourage individual progress to reduce levels of MAP in their herd. Such quantitative results would also reduce the cost of routine testing, help in identifying Johne's positive herds and encourage greater producer participation in the

National Johne's Control Program, particularly if buyers or marketers of milk could provide free or subsidized testing in return for producer participation in the national program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) and the research community have a greater focus on development of quantitative based tests for detecting *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) in bulk tank milk.

RESOLUTION: 13 **APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE
AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK
SUBJECT MATTER: THE USE OF THE ENZYME LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT
ASSAY (ELISA) TEST TO DIAGNOSE CHRONIC WASTING
DISEASE IN CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for chronic wasting disease (CWD) is approved and licensed for free roaming mule deer, white tailed deer and elk. There is ample data indicating essentially equal sensitivity and specificity of ELISA tests compared to immunohistochemistry (IHC). The ELISA test can be done with faster turnaround times and is more efficient for the laboratory and requires fewer personnel than IHC. The ELISA test positives can be confirmed by IHC conducted by laboratory personnel who are experienced in identifying the obex and lymph node tissue to ensure proper tissue submission. More timely laboratory results are needed for producers to move animal product, to verify CWD status and for proper disposal of potentially CWD positive animals.

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) approve the USDA licensed enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test for use on cervid species within the captive wildlife industry

RESOLUTION: 14 **APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON
AND CAMELIDS
SUBJECT MATTER: ERADICATION OF BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS FROM
NORTH AMERICA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The beef and dairy industries suffer enormous losses due to bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) infection. Losses have also been noted in other livestock industries. The highly mutable nature of BVDV and the emergence of highly virulent strains of BVDV contribute to limited success of present control programs. Also, BVDV persistently infected (PI) cattle are the primary source of infection and effective testing procedures are available to identify those infected carriers. Resolutions supporting eventual BVDV eradication from North America have been put forward by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Academy of Veterinary Consultants and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Further, the livestock industry has a moral, ethical and potentially legal obligation not to sell known diseased or damaged animals to other parties without full disclosure. Responsible disposition of BVDV PI animals will be an important component of BVDV control.

A BVDV PI animal is defective. The dilemma of how to deal with known BVDV PI animals becomes more critical as BVDV testing becomes more widespread. Appropriate

disposition programs for known BVDV PI animals must take into account the adverse impact these animals have on the health and welfare of the herds, and the economic return of livestock operations impacted by BVDV.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the livestock industries in adopting measures to control and target eventual eradication of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) from North America.

RESOLUTION: **15 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
 AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION
 SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES, CENTER FOR
 VETERINARY BIOLOGICS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB), has the licensing and enforcement responsibilities for the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (VST Act) to assure that veterinary biological products distributed in the United States are pure, safe, potent, and effective.

In fiscal year 2007, CVB faces increased costs for the operation of new facilities at the National Center for Animal Health (NCAH). Furthermore, in fiscal year 2007, CVB also faces increased costs for shared-service personnel at the NCAH.

Congressional agricultural leaders had the foresight in 2000 to authorize the NCAH, and resulting is a world class facility featuring advanced design and equipment. But we cannot stop when the bricks are in place: the expanded capabilities also bring increased costs. Without adequate funding for personnel and operating costs, the great capabilities of the new facilities cannot be utilized. Availability of CVB services will be limited and international trade negatively impacted without sufficient resources dedicated to the review and approval of new and improved biological products.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States House and Senate Appropriations Committees to support the President's proposed budget of \$19,369,000 for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB).

RESOLUTION: **16 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON
 AND CAMELIDS
SUBJECT MATTER: VACCINE DEVELOPMENT FOR MALIGNANT
 CATARRHAL FEVER IN BISON

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) continues to be a problem in bison. A previous resolution five years ago asked for eventual control of the disease which has not yet been accomplished. While education is improving, it will take more than education to halt the spread of MCF. A vaccine is needed.

RESOLUTION:

agriculture sector through the creation of Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Councils (AF/COBC) that would operate within each Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region. The Councils would bring the public and private sectors at all levels together at the regional level to address the recommendations contained in HSPD 9, so as to take full advantage of the FEMA infrastructure support system in the event of a major agriculture or food emergency.

A national demonstration project is being proposed to gain understanding and support for implementation of this all hazards type regional approach to emergency preparedness and response utilizing FMD as an emergency disease template. The demonstration project would provide funding for cooperative agreements administered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to organize several regional projects to demonstrate the feasibility of organizing AF/COBC and provide direction and guidance for broader future implementation of this approach to emergency management.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretaries of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Interior, and Health and Human Services to provide adequate funding to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to develop regional demonstration projects for the proposed National Agriculture and Food/Continuity of Business Plan. The demonstration projects should be developed in cooperation with appropriate state agencies and land grant universities.

RESOLUTION:

19 APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER:

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL
HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) was created as a national strategy to coordinate the nation's federal, state and university laboratory resources to allow authorities to better respond to animal health emergencies, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases and foreign animal disease agents that threaten the nation's food supply and public health.

In fiscal year 2002, twelve state and university diagnostic laboratories were selected by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to receive Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants to initiate the laboratory network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any and all animal health emergencies, sustained funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment.

It is essential to food safety, animal and public health and the robust economy of the nation that annual appropriations are provided for operational support of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to request annual funding in the USDA budget in the amount of at least \$35 million per year for operational support of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Also, it is necessary that the Secretary ensure annual funding for transfer and implementation of newly developed and validated assays from federal and other laboratories to the NAHLN laboratories.

Furthermore, USAHA requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees to support the Secretary's request for at least \$35 million each year to USDA for operational support of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION: **20 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
 VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT

BACKGORUND INFORMATION:

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health and national security. There is a critical shortage of veterinarians in certain key public practice areas. The nation's veterinary medical colleges are at capacity and can enroll only 2,500 students per year. Although these colleges provide a national resource by training veterinarians, only 27 states provide direct support to the colleges. Federal support is needed to increase capacity in veterinary medical education.

A Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act would authorize a competitive grants program for veterinary medical colleges and other eligible entities to increase capacity in veterinary medical education. At least an additional 400 DVM/VMD students are needed per year and 7,600 new postgraduate positions are needed to meet the current United States population societal needs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the 110th United States Congress enact a Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education. **RESOLUTION**

NUMBER: **21 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: COLLECTION OF SERUM FROM CERVIDS ROUTINELY
 TESTED BY THE SINGLE CERVICAL TEST FOR EVALUATION
 OF THE RAPID TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN CERVIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recent advances in the science of tuberculosis testing has led to the development of serological tests. The availability of serological tests for captive cervids would decrease the need for handling of these species, and would allow for increased interest in tuberculosis testing by producers. In order to provide information needed to assess the sensitivity and specificity of these tests, collection of serum samples during tuberculosis (TB) testing is needed. This serum could be used to evaluate currently available tests, and create a serum bank for use in evaluation of tests which may be developed in the future. Serum-based tests for use in cervid species would lead to increased participation of captive cervid herds in the tuberculosis eradication program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), recommends that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) validate a serological tuberculosis test for captive cervids. USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to take the lead in organizing a pilot project with industry so that prior to each single cervical test injection in captive cervids a blood sample is collected and serum submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for evaluation of the VetTB Stat-PakTM rapid test for one year. Serum should be banked for evaluation of a

future serology test. Results of this evaluation should be submitted for review by the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee on Tuberculosis.

RESOLUTION: **22 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION OF DAIRY ANIMALS IN
INTERSTATE COMMERCE WITH INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS ORGANIZATION APPROVED RADIO FREQUENCY
IDENTIFICATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Board of Directors of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) recognizes the importance of eradicating the last vestiges of bovine tuberculosis (TB) from dairy cattle in the United States. NMPF is concerned that a very low prevalence of TB may still exist, particularly in dairy herds and dairy heifer raising operations which market breeding animals in interstate commerce. The NMPF recommends and supports separate interstate movement requirements for all dairy animals. NMPF supports individual animal identification with radio frequency identification (RFID) International Standards Organization (ISO) approved ear tags so that all interstate dairy movements will be in compliance with the TB movement requirements in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations , Part 77, the January 2005 Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules, as well as the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) requirements for ear tagging individual animals. Uniform federal requirements for movement of dairy animals in interstate commerce will alleviate different individual state entry requirements for dairy animals. The NMPF is aware of at least 34 states now requiring more stringent requirements for entry of dairy cattle than required in federal regulations. Requiring RFID ISO compliant ear tags containing the official animal identification number (AIN) will make it more likely that dairy animals will be properly identified at each change of ownership and location where animals are being commingled. Registry tattoos are hard to read and most dairy animals are not branded to avoid damage to the hide. The button RFID ISO approved ear tags are less likely to be missed as opposed to the official metal ear tags which are easier to remove and more difficult to read.

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 issue uniform federal requirements for movement of dairy animals in interstate commerce. Furthermore, USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to require individual dairy animal identification with USDA approved radio frequency identification (RFID) International Standards Organization (ISO) approved individual identification (ear tags) devices which contain the official animal identification number (AIN), this will provide additional assurance that all dairy animals moving in interstate commerce can be traced back to the herd of origin.

RESOLUTION: **23 NOT APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE
SUBJECT MATTER: TAIL DOCKING OF DAIRY CATTLE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The practice of tail-docking in the dairy industry has developed primarily to avoid physical harm and contamination of workers during milking. A major concern has been the exposure of workers to manure and urine contaminated tail switches, primarily with parallel front exit discharge parlors where the milker must apply the milking machine from directly behind the animal.

The dairy industry appreciates the concerns of some individuals and organizations that raise animal welfare implications regarding tail-docking. The industry also recognizes that

some studies indicate there is no benefit to routine tail-docking in cattle. However, such studies do not provide guidance to dairy producers who feel that tail-docking is necessary in their operations, such as the example cited above involving parallel front exit discharge parlors. Many practicing veterinarians also question if there is any real scientific basis to differentiate tail docking of dairy cattle from the tail-docking of other species of animals such as draft horses, sheep, pigs, and certain breeds of dogs such as Australian Shepherds.

The Animal Health Committee of the National Milk Producers Federation, encourage the United States Animal Health Association to adopt a position regarding tail-docking of dairy animals which accounts for milker safety and health, provides for best management guidance to minimize stress, endorses tail-docking under review and approval of the herd veterinarian, and takes into consideration the proper level of herd management necessary to enhance cow hygiene and sanitation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes that the practice of tail-docking dairy animals may be necessary and desired to provide for human (i.e. milker) wellbeing, health, and safety.

USAHA urges that dairy producers who wish to employ tail-docking as a management tool do so under the oversight of a licensed veterinarian.

RESOLUTION: 24 NOT APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE
SUBJECT MATTER: THE BAN OF DOUBLE-DECK TRAILERS TRANSPORTING EQUINES TO PROCESSING FACILITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

February 2002, Part 88 Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations became effective pertaining to the transport of equines to processing facilities. The regulations were based on data collected from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded studies by Colorado State University, Texas A&M University, and the University of California. These studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals documented that the number of horses injured in double-deck trailers (29%) was greater than straight-deck (8%) trailers. These data led to the specific Federal regulation Part 88.3(4)(b) which was a “grandfather” clause to eliminate the use of two-tiered trailers by December 7, 2006. The 5-year clause was implemented to minimize economic losses by those dependent on the use of the double-deck trailers. Thus, there is a need to enact state regulations banning the use of double-deck trailers following the termination of the Federal five-year phase-out period on the use of double-deck trailers for horses commercially transported to processing facilities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests state animal health officials to work through the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) to enact and enforce a ban on commercially transporting horses in double-deck trailers to processing facilities. USAHA recognizes this joint effort as an effective measure in ensuring the humane and safe transport of horses to processing facilities both domestically and internationally.

RESOLUTION: 25 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: IMPROVING THE RESPONSE TO FOOD-ASSOCIATED DISEASE OUTBREAKS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The slow speed of response to foodborne outbreaks is commonly criticized. In reviewing after-action reports of these events, the need to facilitate communication and coordinate response efforts between agencies and entities has also been identified. Investigations are often hampered by the lack of expertise and resources when a single agency or person does the investigation resulting in critical factors being missed. Many of these issues can be corrected by developing multidisciplinary and interagency teams.

Developing interagency teams also makes the process more efficient by reducing the duplication of effort by various agencies. California has developed such a team, the California Food Emergency Response Team (CALFERT), which is doing an outstanding job. Development of these teams promotes the one medicine concept since these teams need to reach across many disciplines to be effective and efficient.

These teams would be invaluable in food defense events since they would already comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which has been established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 9. They would also fulfill roles in Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 8 and 11 of the National Response Plan (NRP).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work with their respective state counterparts to promote the development of multidisciplinary response teams for food-associated disease outbreaks in humans or animals at the federal, state, and local levels.

RESOLUTION:

26 APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:

STANDARDIZATION OF POINT SOURCE CONTAMINATION
DETECTION, DETERMINATION, AND INVESTIGATION
METHODS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 outbreak associated with fresh spinach in the Fall of 2006 underscores the need for standardized methods to detect, investigate, and attribute point-source contamination. This outbreak follows numerous others where the relationship between foodborne illness and point-source contamination was not completely understood or thoroughly investigated. Past examples are other leafy green vegetable outbreaks since 1995 where the source of contamination was not identified, and the *E. coli* 0157:H7 outbreak that occurred at a county fair in New York where cattle were initially implicated but a faulty septic system was ultimately identified as the source. Additionally, agriculture operations need better scientific information and guidance to enhance environmental protection, animal health and public health

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work together to develop validated standardized methods to detect, investigate, and attribute point source contamination of water, crops, and food stuffs.

USAHA also urges USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to make development of methods of prevention, surveillance, and mitigation of point source contamination a priority.

RESOLUTION: 27 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR ADITIONAL RESEARCH ON USE OF
INFRARED TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT SIGNS OF ANIMAL
DISEASES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Detection, surveillance, and monitoring of animal diseases, especially zoonotic diseases, is of paramount importance in the world today. The development of new technology is being constantly sought. If a remote sensing method could be developed that would detect signs of select animal diseases, millions of dollars could be saved by government and private industry.

Infrared thermography is a non-invasive, non-contact diagnostic or screening technique that measures heat emitted from a target surface and displays the information as a pictorial representation. Infrared radiation, which is detected by thermal cameras, is emitted by all objects proportional to their temperature. Medical imaging makes use of the fact that heat is one of the cardinal signs of inflammation, so an increase in body surface temperature may indicate inflammation of tissues close to that point. While thermography does not reveal specific pathologies, it facilitates the localization of increased (inflammation and/or injury) or decreased heat (reduced blood flow or vasomotor tone). The patterns of a thermograph are affected by activities of the tissues, organs, and vessels inside the animal's body and may be unique for a particular disease (i.e., a "signature").

Currently, infrared thermal imaging is used in many different medical applications. The most prominent of these are oncology, including breast cancer (Anbar, 2002), vascular disorders (Lawson et al, 1993), pain (Graff-Radford, et al., 1995), surgery (Devulder et al., 1996), arthritis (Will et al., 1992), ophthalmology (Montoro, et al., 1991), and dentistry (Biagioni et al., 1996), to mention but a few. This technology has also been used in veterinary science in attempting to detect lameness in horses (Eddy et al., 2001) as well as other diseases in horses, including subluxation of vertebra, abscesses, periostitis, and laminitis (Purohit et al., 1980). To a more limited degree, infrared thermography has also been used to detect infectious disease in animals, including bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection in young cattle (Schaefer et al., 2004).

Studies conducted by scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) have provided data that indicated that infrared thermography can be used in an experimental setting to detect raccoons exhibiting clinical (neurological), and possibly prodromal, signs of rabies. They found that the infrared thermal image and temperature of the nose of raccoons correlated with stages of rabies infection. In studies at the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Animal Disease Center at Plum Island, New York, scientists also found that signs of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in cattle and pronghorn antelope could be detected by infrared cameras. In these studies, scientists found that infrared cameras could detect the signs in feet of pronghorn antelope before visual lesions were evident. Studies are currently underway to attempt to detect bovine tuberculosis in experimentally infected white-tailed deer.

The use of infrared thermography to detect additional diseases and in other animal species may hold promise. Signs of animal diseases, especially those presenting with external signs that may also be detected by infrared, are classical swine fever, African swine fever, rinderpest, screwworm infestations, vesicular stomatitis and anthrax, to mention but a few. The detection of animal diseases by remote infrared thermography would add another tool in the arsenal in combating both domestic and foreign animal diseases. We believe the use of infrared thermography to detect diseases in animals is in its infancy and, after additional research, will prove invaluable in the areas of both human and animal health.

Atlantic coast states were recently compromised. Barriers have been breached in Ohio and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with a first-time occurrence in 2004 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 includes 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 National Working Group on Rabies Prevention, coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), has 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. USAHA further encourages state and local governments and regional alliances to support this activity through appropriate funding channels. USAHA also strongly encourages the USDA-APHIS-WS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) 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 with the ultimate goal of eliminating terrestrial strains of rabies regionally and then nationally.

RESOLUTION:

30 APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:

PUBLIC HEALTH CONTINUING EDUCATION MODULE FOR VETERINARY ACCREDITATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the medical professions, veterinary medicine is unique in that the veterinary oath contains a reference to promoting public health. With increased concern about emerging zoonotic diseases, there is a critical need to promote public health education. In the one medicine concept, veterinarians play a vital role in protecting and promoting public health, and their professional education provides them with a unique skill set to address many

emerging issues. Public health education should be part of work force development to meet the needs of society. Additionally, by providing this information, practitioners will be better equipped to answer questions asked by their clients and their communities. Public health needs to be part of the accreditation process to maintain its relevance today and into the future.

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 include a public health module in the veterinary accreditation program.

RESOLUTION: 31 and 45 combined APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CHANGES, SWINE
BRUCELLOSIS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The restriction of swine infected with *Brucella suis* from slaughter because of the human health risk has been a valid move. Slaughter plant workers should not work with that risk. The restriction of these animals from slaughter places an undue burden on the producer of a *B. suis* infected herd. The animals that are epidemiologically traced from *B. suis* infected herds can also be a risk to slaughter plant workers.

The presence of *B. suis* exposed feeder and breeder animals in non-infected herds poses the same human health risk as animals in infected herds. Animals from *B. suis* infected herds can not be slaughtered for human consumption and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) does not provide for disposal and/or transportation funds for the removal and destruction of *B. suis* infected swine herds.

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 amend the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to provide indemnity funds for purchase of any and all *Brucella suis* exposed animals in non infected herds and to provide funds for disposal and transportation of *B. suis* infected swine herds.

RESOLUTION: 32 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
SUBJECT MATTER: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On June 1, 2003, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assumed control of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since that time, DHS has served as the "landlord" of the island and its facilities and has been in charge of daily operations and facility maintenance. USDA, specifically the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), has continued to carry out its mission of protecting animal agriculture from the threat of foreign animal diseases by directing research projects aimed at improving diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines as well as training animal health specialists to recognize diseases of concern.

The Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) is housed at PIADC and is responsible for the diagnosis of foreign animal diseases, reagent production and vaccine testing, and training. Being on an island means that PIADC is very costly to maintain and increases the difficulty of attracting and retaining employees and researchers. In addition, the facilities are in need of significant maintenance, upgrading, expansion and renovation. For these reasons, DHS has begun the process of evaluating options for the future of PIADC, including moving the facility to a new location.

In March 2006, DHS began evaluating applications to house a facility, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), to replace much, if not all, of the current activities conducted at PIADC. This proposed \$451 million 520,000 square foot facility will address biological and agricultural national security risks by co-locating scientists from several federal agencies in a state-of-the-art bio-safety containment facility. The DHS plans to equip the NBAF with numerous laboratories that will conduct research in high-consequence biological threats involving foreign animal, zoonotic, and human diseases. As a key part of this, DHS plans to house laboratories that will provide high security spaces for agricultural and animal studies and training. In addition, DHS plans for the NBAF to develop vaccine countermeasures for foreign animal diseases, and provide advanced test and evaluation capability for threat detection, vulnerability, and countermeasure assessment for animal and zoonotic diseases.

According to information on the DHS website, the NBAF project will integrate those aspects of public and animal health research that have been determined to be central to national security. Meet the related and synergistic homeland defense research, development, test and evaluation responsibilities, NBAF will provide essential animal model test and evaluation capacity to support licensure of vaccine countermeasures. Provide a unique biosafety level (BSL3/Ag and BSL4) livestock capable laboratory for developing countermeasures for foreign animal diseases, and advanced test and evaluation capability for threat detection, vulnerability and countermeasure assessment for animal and zoonotic diseases.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), while supporting the desire to enhance and expand the resources available to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address the concerns of animal agriculture with respect to detection, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of foreign animal diseases and to provide foreign animal disease (FAD) training for veterinarians and animal health officials, expresses concern with the current lack of direct stakeholder input into the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) process.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests information from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the specifics of facility development and future management to include facility design, development of the scope of work, allocation of funds and resources, definition of funding requirements from collaborating agencies, and a description of oversight to insure adequate access to the available resources.

USAHA urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DHS to develop a forum through which stakeholders can have ongoing meaningful input into the planning, management and oversight of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and that facilitates the agencies outreach to its constituency, and that DHS develop a management plan to address the issues of funding; resource allocation and research direction that insures the USDA mandate regarding foreign animal disease (FAD) issues are adequately addressed.

RESOLUTION:
SOURCE:

33 APPROVED
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTROL OF FERAL SWINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Feral swine continue to spread throughout the United States. Some of this spread is migration from established populations but much of the spread is from relocation of animals without regard to interstate movement regulations or health status of the animals being relocated.

Feral swine:

- are present in numerous states within the United States
- damage fences, forest stands, natural communities, row and forage crops, parks, cemeteries, and lawns and gardens
- harbor diseases that affect people, pets, livestock, and wildlife
- kill young lambs, goats, calves, and deer, harass adult cattle and horses, and destroy bird nests and other wildlife
- causes an estimated damage of \$800 million annually in the United States

There is a standing Presidential Directive to control the spread of invasive species. Further, the National Governors' Association has called for joint federal/state programs to help prevent the spread of invasive species and adequate federal financial support to enable states to control or eradicate invasive species.

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 seek funding to adequately fund coordinated feral swine control and educational outreach efforts in the United States.

RESOLUTION: 34 combined with 6
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD/CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS ALL HAZARD PLAN (NAF/COBP)

RESOLUTION: 35 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The ever growing and diverse nature of government, non-government, and international organizations operating in the international theater with regard to foreign and emerging diseases, the challenge to coordinate and/or collaborate in planning, development and delivery of direct technical assistance as well as capacity building efforts continues to be of concern to the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA).

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), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and United States Health and Human Services (USHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to actively pursue the means and avenues to develop and establish visible and sustainable

collaborative efforts in the international search for foreign and emerging diseases, including those diseases of zoonotic importance.

RESOLUTION: **36 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL
 DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN GROUP FOR THE
 ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) initiated a program in 1951 for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from South America. The program has been successful in eliminating the virus from a large portion of South America. From 1980 to 1990, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and two southern states of Brazil were declared free without vaccination. Parts of Brazil lost FMD-free status in 2001 because of FMD spread from bordering infected countries. This situation has been reversed and those areas are now FMD-free with vaccination.

In March 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and PAHO sponsored a conference in Houston, Texas, with 24 Ministers of Agriculture from the Western Hemisphere, the National Directors of Animal Health Programs, and representatives from the private sector.

One of the outcomes of the Houston Conference was the creation of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa - GIEFA). The GIEFA was tasked with the development of a comprehensive plan to complete the eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere. The group was composed of one representative each from the private sector, the public sector, and each of the six regions identified in the original Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of FMD (PHEFA) approved in 1988.

There has been considerable progress in the eradication of FMD from South America, with some resistant foci remaining. It is imperative that control procedures continue in these areas for the overall success of the program. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes the continuing support of the USDA.

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) and International Services (IS) to continue to support the work of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa (GIEFA) with technical assistance, expertise, and training opportunities to achieve the goal of completing the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2010.

RESOLUTION: **37 and 41 Combined APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL
 DISEASES
 COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL FOOT AND MOUTH
 DISEASE RESEARCH ALLIANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Global Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA) was launched in 2003 as an international consortium to facilitate strategic research collaboration between five institutions; Institute of Animal Health Laboratory, (UK), Plum Island Animal Disease Center, (USA), National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (Canada), The Australian Animal Health Laboratory and the International Livestock Research Institute. The goal of GFRA is to

respond to the increasing threat and the lack of countermeasures to prevent foot and mouth disease (FMD) and provide alternatives to mass animal destruction through accelerated development of new tools and measures such as innovative vaccines and biotherapeutics specifically designed for control and eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture to seek the necessary funding for the participation of the United States in the development of new tools for foot and mouth disease (FMD) control and eradication identified by the Global Foot and Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA).

RESOLUTION: **38 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**
SUBJECT MATTER: **NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION ADVISORY**
 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Species working groups, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, Animal Identification and Information Committee, and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Livestock Identification have provided recommendations to the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee, which in turn were provided to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases has discussed the recommendations of the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee (NAIS Advisory Subcommittee), which included recommendations relative to the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Strategic Plan, NAIS Information System, Outreach and Species Working Group Reports, and supports the adoption of these recommendations by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages USDA to adopt these recommendations, which have been submitted to the Agency as part of the report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESOLUTION: **39 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**
SUBJECT MATTER: **SUPPORT FOR STATE ANIMAL TRACKING DATABASES**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Identification Plan and the National Animal Identification Strategic Plan were designed primarily to assist with animal health emergencies. Animal health programs have historically been state, industry, and federal cooperative programs.

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 allow the use of National Animal Identification System (NAIS) cooperative agreement funds for the development, maintenance, and supporting infrastructure for state animal tracking databases, to be administered by state animal health officials.

RESOLUTION: **40 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**

SUBJECT MATTER: INTERMEDIATE STEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is an urgent need to move forward expeditiously with implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in order to be better prepared to respond to an animal disease emergency.

The livestock industry has voiced concerns about the costs of implementing the NAIS as currently proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Implementation of data collection infrastructure and information systems to collect animal movement data and submission of the data to animal tracking databases will constitute a major part of the NAIS, and is the most difficult and expensive to implement.

An alternate animal identification system, often described as the bookend approach, collects animal identification information at the point of origin and the point of termination. Such a system has been recommended by the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee and endorsed by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to proceed to implement premises identification and animal identification, and utilize the current Animal Identification Numbering system to collect the animal identification information at the point of origin and the point of termination, which is often described as the "bookend approach."

RESOLUTION: 41 combined with 37 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FUNDING FOR THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF FMD COUNTERMEASURES

RESOLUTION: 42 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT'S SCRAPIE PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Surveillance Unit (NSU) was formed to develop a comprehensive integrated national animal health surveillance system. They have recently reviewed the scrapie surveillance program and have identified some shortcomings. VS has determined that a change in scrapie surveillance is warranted.

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) charge the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) with leading the effort and work with state and VS national, regional and field staff to improve the plan for the nationwide scrapie surveillance system to achieve eradication on schedule by 2010 and provide the necessary resources.

RESOLUTION: 43 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION COMPLIANCE IN THE SCRAPIE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Scrapie Eradication Program, which includes mandatory identification and record keeping, has been in existence for 5 years. Animal identification compliance is in need of improvement in some states and can be enhanced in all states. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Area Veterinarians-in-Charge and State Veterinarians.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the state and federal animal health officials in each state to follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) VS Memo 557.11. Regulatory action is expected to be taken to address lack of compliance with identification requirements. Quarterly animal identification compliance reports will be provided by each state to the APHIS-VS, Regional and National Scrapie Eradication Program staff. These reports will be used to provide ongoing assessment of Consistent State status.

RESOLUTION: 44 APPROVED AS AMENDED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
SUBJECT MATTER: WATER-BASED FOAM FOR MASS DEPOPULATION OF POULTRY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Water-based foam provides an efficient, rapid, reliable, and safe means for mass depopulation of poultry. Research and field applications have shown that it has many advantages over existing technologies, including decreased bird stress, decreased human exposure to diseased animals which may carry zoonotic diseases, and decreased risk of disease spread.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Animal Welfare Committee recognized the difference between euthanasia and depopulation in its July 7, 2006 report. Specifically, "Euthanasia involves transitioning an animal to death wherein the experience is made as painless and stress-free as possible. In depopulation, large numbers of animals are killed efficiently and quickly. As much consideration is given to the welfare of the animals as practicable, but the circumstances and tasks facing those doing the depopulation are understood to be extenuating. Use of CO2 has previously been considered by the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia to meet the definition of euthanasia when properly applied. *At this point in time, Committee members have not been able to reconcile the use of foam with the definition of euthanasia.*" The AVMA Animal Welfare Committee, however, did suggest that foam "be seriously considered as a rational approach to depopulation, specifically in cases of public health risk (disease or injury) and when conventional methods are not sufficient to adequately control disease."

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), has given conditional approval to the use of water-based foam that meets USDA, APHIS performance standards as a means of mass depopulation of appropriate species of domestic poultry in cases of potentially zoonotic diseases, rapidly spreading diseases that cannot be contained by conventional means, or for animals housed in structurally unsound buildings that are hazardous for human entry.

The AVMA is widely regarded as an authority on animal welfare and humane depopulation. The lack of clear AVMA support of water-based foam as a method of mass

depopulation of poultry may impede the efforts of federal and state authorities to prepare for disease outbreaks and disaster responses.

RESOLUTION:

Recognizing the importance of immediate action to manage an outbreak of a highly contagious or zoonotic disease, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to fully endorse water-based foam as an acceptable option for mass depopulation of poultry. Foam should be considered an appropriate method for mass depopulation of poultry when there is a need to limit human exposure or risk of human injury or a requirement to accomplish the task quickly due to epizootic considerations.

RESOLUTION: **45 Combined with 31 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS**
SUBJECT MATTER: **CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CHANGES**

RESOLUTION: **46 APPROVED**
SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT**
SUBJECT MATTER: **INTERPRETATION OF IMPORT-EXPORT PROTOCOL**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There has been significant reduction in the export of live animals due to the finding of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States.

Workable documents are essential as new protocols are developed when new markets open. To get such protocols that are operable and to have uniform interpretation of the protocols, a meeting of Import-Export staff veterinarians and representatives from the livestock export industry would aid in regaining United States competitiveness in the world market.

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) establish a committee of their staff and representation of livestock exporters to meet and work on producing workable documents and obtaining uniform interpretation of such protocols to further the exportation of livestock.