REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Chair: Bret D. Marsh, Indianapolis, IN

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RESOLUTIONS
111th Annual Meeting

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**1, 13 and 75 Combined APPROVED**
SOURCE**:**	COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER:	PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED CERVID BRUCELLOSIS RULE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To encourage whole herd brucellosis testing of cervids and to promote certified brucellosis-free herds, the committee recommends finalizing the Cervid Brucellosis Rule.

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) publish the proposed Cervid Brucellosis Regulations in the Federal Register for public comment.

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**2 and 11 Combined APPROVED**
SOURCE:	COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER:	FINALIZE THE CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HERD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF FARMED OR CAPTIVE DEER, ELK AND MOOSE RULE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On August 3, 2006, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. On August 4, 2006, USDA-APHIS received a petition from the National Assembly of State Animal Health

Officials, and on August 8, 2006, USDA-APHIS received a petition from the United States Animal Health Association.

The primary issues addressed by all three petitions are the Federal preemption of State laws and regulations and the requirements established for the interstate movement of cervids in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rule.

A comment period has been held to address these concerns.

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) to act on the comments received in the petitions and finalize the Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk and Moose Rule.

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**3 and 10 Combined APPROVED**
SOURCE:	COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER:	VACCINE FOR THE VARIOUS STRAINS OF EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN CERVIDS.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a detrimental threat to the farmed cervid populations, especially whitetail deer. The committee encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to develop a vaccine that will protect against all known strains of this disease.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) initiate research in developing a vaccine that will adequately protect the farmed cervid population from all strains of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (orbiviral hemorrhagic disease).

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**5, 14, 16, 24, 41, 58, 61 and 67 Combined APPROVED**
SOURCE:	COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER:	FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in United States (US) livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations are crucial for animal health protection, maintenance and restoration, for assurance of food security, and for documentation of the U.S. animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Animal health surveillance is a central function of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Veterinary Services leads the initiative in building the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS).

Guidance is provided by the National Animal Health Safeguarding Review Principles and Recommendations, and resolutions of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians (AAVLD). The NAHSS is to be a 'comprehensive, coordinated and integrated' system that will enhance efficacy and efficiency of surveillance for high impact foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases and endemic diseases.

Surveillance planning and funding for implementation have traditionally been tied to specific 'program' diseases. This mechanism of funding prevents flexibility resulting in a lack of harmonization of surveillance planning and implementation. Difficulties in resource allocation slow down the planning process, which also has been hampered by insufficient human resources, and delay the implementation of integrated and comprehensive surveillance activities. This places animal agriculture at risk of undetected introduction and / or spread of animal diseases, including high impact foreign animal and emerging diseases.

The USAHA and AAVLD recognize that comprehensive and integrated surveillance is essential for the continued protection of our animal populations from disease. USAHA and AAVLD support identifying and leveraging resources to achieve maximum surveillance efficacy and efficiency for diseases that are currently present in the United States, as well as for those that threaten our animal populations or may arise in 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 ensure continued highest priority for integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning and implementation. The USAHA also urges the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to initiate and support a legislative effort to create a system that allows funding for inter-species, multiple disease based comprehensive and integrated surveillance to support continued, effective and efficient protection of the United States' livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations from disease.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **6** **APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA SURVEILLANCE

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.

VHS 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. VHS 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. The virus has also been documented from inland waters in New York (Consensus Lake, Skaneateles Lake, Little Salmon River in Mexico, Oswego County, the Seneca - Cayuga Canal, and an isolated farm pond in Ransomville, Niagara County), Wisconsin (Lake Winnebago), and Minnesota (Budd Lake near Harrison, MN). Prior to 2003, isolations of VHS virus (VHSv) 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 VHSv has risen to more than 40, including a number of ecologically and recreationally important fish. In many instances, VHSv has been associated with extensive fish mortality, albeit only in wild fish.

Because of the threat of this emerging disease to farmed species, a surveillance program must be developed, immediately implemented and then maintained to minimize potential risks and help prevent impacts of this disease on aquaculture fish species in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Department of Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) obtain the necessary funding to develop, implement and maintain a national viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSv) surveillance program to determine changes in the geographic distribution of VHSv and the fish species affected. Additionally, the information that is collected through this surveillance program should be disseminated to commercial and public aquaculture managers.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED AS AMENDED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUNDING TO STATES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The effective management of animal health and all hazards emergencies is dependent upon a comprehensive system coordinating and integrating federal, state and local emergency management. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked with other federal agencies to further develop and integrate animal emergency management activities within the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and the National Response Plan (NRP). There have been continued efforts among federal agencies defined through the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and emergency management training and exercises to create a more coordinated and integrated federal level emergency management effort. USDA is working to integrate federal animal emergency efforts with states through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Area Emergency Coordinators, other APHIS personnel, and other USDA entities such as the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service.

Within each state the authority to regulate and respond to livestock disease lies primarily with state animal health officials. It is the responsibility of state animal health officials within each state to coordinate animal emergency management to integrate with their livestock industries, to coordinate with other state government agencies through their state emergency management agency and to coordinate with other states' animal emergency planning and response activities within their respective Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. In order to respond effectively to animal emergency events, planning and response activities must be integrated into each specific livestock species production industry. State animal emergency management planning and response must be further developed within regional, state, and local levels to successfully integrate into animal production systems in order to ensure an acceptable level of business continuity. Failure to adequately support such capabilities may threaten the economic viability of our livestock industries and endanger our nation's critical food supply.

The present level of state emergency management planning and response capabilities varies between individual states and is not adequate to ensure an effective animal emergency management system in many states at this time. Appropriate staffing of state animal health emergency management personnel must be accomplished in order to ensure effective emergency management capabilities to protect the livestock industry from foreign animal disease events, all hazards emergencies and ensure an acceptable level of continuity of business within production agriculture. Adequate state level staffing to address animal health emergency planning and response efforts has broad effects that act to ensure the safety and health of United States citizens, food systems, agriculture infrastructure and the economy.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the development of a system to provide adequate funding for state animal health agencies to enhance the state level emergency management capabilities needed to protect the livestock industries and other appropriate animal-related criteria within each state.

The USAHA urges the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the American Veterinary Medical Association to work collaboratively in a legislative effort involving the Congress and the United

States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create a system of funding that ensures employment of adequate state personnel to develop animal health emergency management capabilities that will prevent, protect, respond to and recover from livestock disease and all hazards animal emergencies.

In addition, USAHA requests DHS and other federal partners, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implement the policies and directives included in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) #9 to secure a successful animal health emergency management system.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS
SUBJECT MATTER: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR SURVEILLANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in United States (US) livestock, poultry and aquatic populations are crucial for the protection, maintenance and restoration of animal and public health, assurance of food safety and security, and documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Animal health surveillance is a central function of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Guided by the National Animal Health Safeguarding Review and resolutions of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), plus the ever greater challenges to the health of our animal populations, VS leads the initiative in building the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS). The NAHSS is to be 'a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated' system that will enhance efficacy and efficiency of surveillance for high impact foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases and endemic diseases.

Central to all disease surveillance activities are the collection, analysis and dissemination of information. All three of these activities are dependent on properly designed and executed information systems. Achieving proper design and execution requires the linkage of high quality technical information technology skills and knowledge with veterinary program expertise which ensures that the designed systems match the purpose and needs of surveillance programs. An effective union that adds value to the information collected is often difficult to achieve but becomes impossible without the deep integration of information technology and veterinary medical specialists. Mixed units of technical specialists ultimately yield more effective systems than separate groups who are conceptually isolated as could be the result of plans for reorganization of USDA information technology systems.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commit the necessary resources and management support to maintain the integration of animal health specialists and information technology specialists in the development of information technology systems capable of linking to State regulatory and laboratory data bases and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. The USAHA also urges USDA to seek input from State regulatory, laboratory and industry stakeholders at all stages of the development of new or revision of existing information systems that support animal health surveillance programs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS
SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASE LIST

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Committee is tasked with evaluating animal disease information systems that provide information to stakeholders for activities and decisions related to maintaining the health of animals and people, controlling and eradicating disease, and assuring the well-being of animals and profitability of animal industries. In 2006, the Committee formally identified the need for a unified national list of notifiable and reportable diseases. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) previously recommended that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) compile and evaluate current state reporting and notification requirements. Although all States have a required reportable diseases list, there exists large variability in these lists. Requirements for federal reporting are related only to program diseases or foreign animal diseases (FADs).

A National List of Reportable Animal Diseases will provide one standardized national reportable animal diseases list, demonstrate to trading partners and other countries that the United States has a uniform national list of reportable diseases, assist in meeting international reporting obligations and validate the United States' required international reporting to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as required export certifications, and improve zoonotic and endemic animal disease reporting in the United States.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) List of Notifiable Diseases currently provides a list of diseases that have implications related to international spread, zoonotic potential, and potential for significant mortality or morbidity. This list can serve as a starting point in the development of a national list of reportable diseases for 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), in cooperation with state animal health officials and industry, develop a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases. The National List of Reportable Animal Diseases should include appropriate reporting criteria. The List of Diseases Notifiable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) should be used as a starting point in developing a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **10 Combined with 3**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: VACCINE FOR THE VARIOUS STRAINS OF EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN CERVIDS.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **11 Combined with 2**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: FINALIZE THE CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HERD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF FARMED OR CAPTIVE DEER, ELK AND MOOSE RULE.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **12 Combined with 4**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: ADDITION OF RETROPHARYNGEAL LYMPH NODES AS AN ACCEPTABLE TISSUE, ALONG WITH THE OBEX, IN STATE CWD MONITORING PROGRAMS.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **13 Combined with 1 and 75**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED CERVID BRUCELLOSIS RULE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **14 Combined with 5, 16, 24, 41, 58, 61 and 67**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **15 Combined with 64**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER: COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE/LIVESTOCK DISEASE INTERACTIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The significance of diseases involving wildlife and livestock has increased opportunities for conflict between natural resource and livestock interests. The concerns are valid for the potential for disease transmission in either direction between wildlife and livestock. Domestic and wild species frequently share the same habitat and may share several pathogens. This interface creates many complex problems. Unfortunately, these problems are not always easily solved scientifically and so remedy is sought through political and/or legal channels.

Agriculture and wildlife interests share common risks and threats such as foreign animal disease introduction, loss of land/habitat to urban sprawl and land developments. It is imperative that we work together to preserve our common interests. Working together will require extensive cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration between several agencies and interest groups. It will also require respect for the responsibilities, authorities, skills, and livelihoods of all partners, and will help to develop trust.

Of immediate concern is domestic sheep/bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis* spp.) disease interactions. Bighorn sheep are currently at just 1-2% of their historical numbers with the majority of them inhabiting public lands in the western United States managed by federal and state agencies. In recent years, some but not all bighorn sheep die-offs and declines have been temporally and spatially associated with domestic sheep contact. The complete range of mechanisms/causal agents that lead to epizootic disease events are not fully understood. Separation of wild and domestic sheep has been practiced to reduce the potential for additional bighorn sheep die-offs. Consequently, bighorn/domestic sheep disease interactions and their management impact the domestic sheep industry as well as bighorn sheep conservation.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committees on Wildlife Diseases and Sheep and Goats are establishing a working group comprised of representatives of state and federal animal health agencies, wildlife and public land managements, the American Sheep Industry and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) to develop best management practices for raising domestic sheep and goats on public lands where contact between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep may occur.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Secretary of the Interior to seek resources through the President's budget to fund research to better elucidate the epidemiology and pathogenesis of bighorn-domestic sheep disease interactions so informed and effective management decisions can be made.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **16 Combined with 5, 14, 24, 41, 58, 61 and 67**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **17 APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS
SUBJECT MATTER: BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS CONTROL COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS IN BEEF AND DAIRY PRODUCTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The control and reduction of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) in the cattle population of the United States is a grass roots effort driven by the dairy and beef cattle industries. The National Cattleman's Beef Association, Academy of Veterinary Consultants, American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) all have BVDV control committees or subcommittees, however, there is not a single entity acting as a coordinator for these activities

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct an analysis to determine if the negative economic impact of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection in both beef and dairy cattle would warrant the development of an organized BVDV control and reduction program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS
SUBJECT MATTER: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHECK TEST PANEL FOR TESTING CATTLE FOR BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS PERSISTENT INFECTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cattle persistently infected (PI) with bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) are a major source of infection for naïve animals. Control, reduction, or eradication of BVDV is dependent on the reduction of exposure of naïve animals by removing PI cattle from herds. Laboratories conducting BVDV PI testing are not required to demonstrate proficiency, and there are no national standards for validation of tests. Licensing of tests by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is only required when tests kits are sold commercially. The claims for accuracy and sensitivity of test kits only apply when the kit is used according to the manufacturers' recommendations, and the manufacturer does not guarantee kit results when laboratories modify test kit protocols. The economic consequences of false positives and false negatives in BVDV PI detection are significant, and therefore, proficiency testing for BVDV PI is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to support efforts by state and industry bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) control programs to evaluate laboratory proficiency in BVDV persistent infection testing of cattle. Pending appropriate funding, this support should include the development of a check test panel available on an ongoing basis to assess laboratory proficiency in BVDV testing. Samples used in panels may include serum, whole blood, buffy coat and skin biopsy.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: REQUEST FOR SERUM FROM THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FOR AN EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS SEROLOGICAL SURVEY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is currently classified as a Foreign Animal Disease to the United States. However, due to past issues with import testing, the causal agents, *Babesia equi* and/or *Babesia* caballi, possibly exist at some undetermined prevalence level in the country's resident horse population.

Concern over this issue was addressed by way of resolutions in 2006 from the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was based upon recommendations from the EP Subcommittee of the USAHA committee on the Infectious Diseases of Horses. The major resolution adopted by USAHA advocated conducting a slaughter horse survey to estimate the prevalence or lack thereof of EP infection in the United States (US) resident horse population.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this is no longer a viable option. The EP Subcommittee met by conference call on July 9, 2007 and discussed alternative strategies for achieving this goal. An alternative discussed and unanimously approved was to make application to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and request that residual sera collected during the 1998 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to EP. The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

The outcome of such a survey would help greatly in resolving the current uncertainty regarding the prevalence of EP in the domestic US horse population. If a significant prevalence of EP infection is found in our horse population, then the issue can be responsibly addressed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories make available and submit residual banked equine serum samples to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for testing by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to equine piroplasmosis (EP). The absolute requirement is that all samples submitted for evaluation carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, date of collection, premises of origin or the laboratory or state from which they originated.

USAHA also requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to determine what constitutes a representative number of samples from the above NAHLN submissions to provide meaningful estimates of the current prevalence of EP in the United States resident horse population or accept the previously statistically recommended number of 15,000 samples and use previously identified funding which was obtained through the slaughter surveillance initiative.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: REQUEST FOR SERUM FROM THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM FOR AN EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS SEROLOGICAL SURVEY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is currently classified as a Foreign Animal Disease to the United States. However, due to past issues with import testing, the causal agents, *Babesia equi* and/or *Babesia caballi*, possibly exist at some undetermined prevalence level in the country's resident horse population.

Concern over this issue was addressed by way of resolutions in 2006 from the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was based upon recommendations from the EP Subcommittee of the USAHA committee on the Infectious Diseases of Horses. The major resolution adopted by USAHA advocated conducting a slaughter horse survey to estimate the prevalence or lack thereof of EP infection in the United States (US) resident horse population.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this is no longer a viable option. The EP Subcommittee met by conference call on July 9, 2007, and discussed alternative strategies for achieving this goal. An alternative discussed and unanimously approved was to make application to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and request that residual sera collected during the 1998

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to EP. The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

The outcome of such a survey would help greatly in resolving the current uncertainty regarding the prevalence of EP in the domestic US horse population. If a significant prevalence of EP infection is found in our horse population, then the issue can be responsibly addressed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) provide residues of sera collected during the 1998 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey to be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to Equine Piroplasmosis (EP). The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AGAINST RABIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (U.S.) is enzootic for wildlife rabies. A single rabid animal may result in mass exposures to the public and the administration of hundreds of courses of human rabies postexposure prophylaxis. Production of Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) is, in particular, time and labor intensive and relies upon a pool of hyperimmune human donors. Supply shortages of rabies biologicals occur with disconcerting frequency. Strategic planning for episodic increases in demand for rabies biologicals, e.g. natural or man-made disaster, or mass exposures, is currently lacking.

Exposure to suspected rabies infected dogs is still the cause of over 90 percent of human exposures to rabies and of over 99 percent of human deaths worldwide. Yet requirements for importation of domestic animals to the U.S. from canine-rabies enzootic countries are the same as from countries that pose a much lower risk of rabies translocation.

The use of a licensed oral rabies vaccine has been effective in controlling rabies in certain wildlife rabies reservoir species. However, there is only a single licensed vaccine available for this endeavor. Its efficacy is not uniform across the range of target species, and unit cost is rising.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) consider creation of strategic federal stockpiles of human rabies biologicals, improved research support for novel alternatives to current human rabies biologicals and encourage investment and innovation in the commercial sector thereby ensuring adequate production and distribution capacity for cost effective and efficacious products.

The USAHA requests HHS, CDC strengthen federal regulations to minimize the opportunity for the importation of rabies infected domestic animals from rabies endemic countries.

The USAHA also requests HHS and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offer financial incentives to small, innovative, biotech business ventures for production of new, cost effective, and efficacious oral wildlife rabies vaccines and delivery systems to better serve current and future program needs and support preparedness efforts.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: THE NORTH AMERICAN RABIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On September 8th, 2007 during world rabies day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the United States (U.S.) had eliminated the canine rabies variant. This was made possible by the success of a collaborative project of Federal, State, Local, and academic partners. This program resulted in elimination of canine rabies variant, endemic in Mexico, in coyotes from South Texas using RABORAL V-RG® (Merial) and the continued surveillance and vaccination barrier of the Texas/Mexico border. Continued progress in the eastern U.S. with Canada to control the raccoon rabies variant and new programs to study the control of skunk rabies variant utilizing oral vaccines are reviewed at the annual United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) Rabies Management Team meeting. At these meetings, the North American Rabies Management Plan has been developed with state, tribal, U.S., Canada, and Mexico agencies to plan the management, control and elimination of terrestrial rabies in North America.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continued surveillance and control of the canine variant of rabies to prevent the reintroduction of this strain into the United States. USAHA also encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and the HHS, CDC to allocate appropriated funding and resources to assist state and local agencies in maintaining this canine-free rabies status and expand the coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs through the newly developed North American Rabies Management Plan with the ultimate goal of eliminating terrestrial strains of rabies regionally, nationally and throughout the North American continent.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 NO ACTION
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE
SUBJECT MATTER: BAN ON DOUBLE-DECK TRAILERS OF EQUINES INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 Combined with 5, 14, 16, 41, 58, 61 and 67
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: TUBERCULOSIS TEST REQUIREMENT FOR RODEO/EVENT CATTLE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2006 discovery of two separate instances of bovine tuberculosis (TB), one case in a bucking bull and the other in a roping steer, has resulted in traces to cattle in several states as well as the destruction of a herd of beef cattle. The relative risk posed by rodeo/event cattle is much greater than the risk from feeder cattle. Compared to feeder cattle, roping and bull dogging steers may remain in the population much longer, are more likely to be commingled with breeding beef cattle, may have multiple owners in a comparatively short time period and are frequently commingled with event/rodeo cattle of various owners at roping events and rodeos. In addition, current events indicate that there is a need for more tuberculosis surveillance in bucking bulls. This is clearly demonstrated by the number of exposed cattle traces related to the positive bucking bull.

Most United States (U.S.) breeders of eventing cattle are cattle producers whose ranches are located in bovine TB Accredited Free states. These cattle producers follow management practices identical to those of other purebred and commercial beef producers and their cattle seldom commingle with Mexican origin cattle or dairy cattle. It should be recognized that these cattle pose a low risk of transmitting TB. Testing these cattle provides little if any benefit to the efforts to control and eradicate bovine TB from the U.S.

It should also be recognized that a testing requirement for native cattle that have never been exposed to Mexican origin cattle or dairy cattle as a condition for interstate movement for cattle shows and for sale as breeding stock may discourage the development of an alternative, low-risk source of eventing cattle.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to implement a regulation requiring that all bucking bulls, roping steers and bulldogging steers be tested negative for tuberculosis (TB) within 12 months prior to any interstate movement. Except that the movement of animals out of the birth herd would be exempt from the TB test provided that an accredited veterinarian places a statement on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that the birth herd has had no exposure to Mexican cattle or dairy cattle.

USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS to implement a regulation requiring that an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection accompany the aforementioned cattle that required a test and the test date of the last negative tuberculosis test for each animal is indicated on the Certificate.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 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 IN CERVIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the 2006 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting the following resolution was approved as Resolution Number 21: “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) 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-Pak™ 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”.

This Resolution had the following response: “The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) maintains interest in enhancing and approving new, reliable tests for tuberculosis. We specifically look forward to testing methods that will exceed the accuracy of our current tests and reduce the impact of testing on producers and their livestock. For these reasons, VS fully supports this recommendation. Implementation of this project will be heavily dependent on the industry for providing samples, providing assistance with the purchase of suspects and reactors for confirmatory testing, assistance during testing, and with the promotion of this effort within the industry. Implementation of this project is also dependent on the availability of time, personnel, and financial resources. VS fully intends to pursue”.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to expedite the validation process for tuberculosis (TB) serological tests for cervids to enhance surveillance for TB.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: DESIGNATION OF TUBERCULOSIS SEROLOGICAL TESTS FOR PROVISIONAL STATUS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Preliminary data presented at the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) on Tuberculosis (TB) on October 20, 2007, indicates that the PriTest SeraLyte-Mbv™, Chembio BovidTB STAT-PAK™, and Chembio Mapia™ *Mycobacterium bovis* test technologies show promise for potential use in the national Bovine TB Eradication Program. Test sensitivity values reported were 81.5%, 70.4% and 70.4% respectively. Additional data is now needed to more critically evaluate these tests according to proposed use in an official capacity. Designation of these tests as provisional, as per applicable United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) memoranda will support the collection of additional data for evaluation by the TB SAS and USDA-APHIS.

This designation will initiate a more formal process allowing USDA-APHIS to work with the test developers in identifying specific uses for these tests in the national Bovine TB Eradication Program and to provide guidance regarding additional test samples needed for further consideration and evaluation as official TB program tests.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to designate the PriTest SeraLyte-Mbv™, Chembio BovidTB STAT-PAK™, and Chembio Mapia™ tests as provisional tests for *Mycobacteria bovis* diagnosis in cattle.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **28 Combined with 47, 60 and 63** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: MINIMUM EXPORT RULES FOR GOATS AND SWINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The livestock industry of the United States has much to offer other countries through the exportation of our livestock genetics. To be competitive with other livestock exporting countries, exporters in the United States need to keep preparation costs as low as possible and the tuberculosis test, in particular, requires two visits by a veterinarian to conduct the test.

Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91, relating to the inspection and handling of livestock for exportation requires certain testing to be eligible for exportation.

Part 91.5 relating to cattle exportation was amended on August 22, 2007 to allow the exportation of cattle without the need for a tuberculosis or brucellosis test unless required by the importing country.

Part 91.6 still requires a tuberculosis and brucellosis test even if not required by the importing country. Part 91.9 requires a brucellosis test for swine even if not required by the importing country.

Most states in the United States are free of both brucellosis and tuberculosis so it should not be a major risk for an importing country. If the importing country believes there is some risk for the two diseases, they can require the tests in their import protocols.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) proposes that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) publish a proposed rule eliminating the requirement for the brucellosis and tuberculosis test for goats intended for exportation, and the brucellosis test for breeding swine intended for exportation unless required by the importing country.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **29** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR HIGH-CONTAINMENT BIOSAFETY LABORATORIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

High containment biosafety level (BSL)-3, BSL-3 Ag, and BSL-4 laboratory space is vital to our ability for early detection and response to any potential emerging and foreign animal disease or bioterrorist event.

Laboratories must be capable of handling disease agents in a manner that allows the safe handling of diagnostic materials and the ability to conduct research to detect and prevent emerging and exotic infectious agents.

These same laboratories assist livestock producers, veterinarians, pet owners, wildlife managers and public health professionals in every state on a daily basis by providing surveillance and diagnostic services for these diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports continuing operation of existing, and construction of new, high-containment biosafety laboratories. Furthermore, USAHA recommends funding and coordination by federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for maintaining regulatory oversight of these laboratories.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 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) is part of a national strategy to coordinate the nation's federal, state and university laboratory resources to allow authorities to better respond to any type of animal health emergency, 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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to receive United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants to initiate the network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any animal health emergency, funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment.

USDA-APHIS-VS and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have established a collaborative relationship to produce, distribute and use proficiency panels and reference materials in order to harmonize the diagnosis of major animal diseases between the United States and Canada.

This initiative is separate from, but integrates with and supports, the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914, H.R. 2206) by providing training opportunities for veterinarians in public health practice.

It is essential that annual appropriations be provided for the full implementation, maintenance and long-term support of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) reiterates the need for the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request line-item funding in the USDA budget in the amount of $35 million per year for ongoing support of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and to ensure that adequate funding is available for transfer and full implementation of newly developed and validated assays from federal and other laboratories to the NAHLN laboratories.

USAHA requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies' Subcommittees on Appropriations provide $35 million annually for the infrastructure support needed to fully implement the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT (PL 108-161)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) is a student loan repayment program for veterinarians who practice in underserved areas. This loan repayment program is to be administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Secretary of Agriculture can determine veterinary shortage areas in rural practice, urban practice, federal government agencies, and discipline areas. Recently highlighted awareness of bioterrorism and foreign animal disease threats to public health and food safety has heightened the urgency of a fully funded and implemented program. The NVMSA also creates a reserve corps of veterinarians available for mobilization in the event of an animal disease emergency or disaster. Adequate funding for NVMSA is $20 million annually.

Enacted in December 2003 and appropriated for both FY06 and FY07, NVMSA's rules remain unwritten by USDA, rendering the program non-functional. The Administration has not included funding for NVMSA in the President's budget, prioritize its rule-making process, or attempt to develop NVMSA's reserve emergency veterinary corps component.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Congress fully fund the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) for $20 million in the FY08 Agriculture Appropriations bill and requests that the administration budget NVMSA for $20 million in FY09.

USAHA requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) promulgate the regulations for NVMSA no later than 270 days after adoption of this resolution. USAHA recommends that the first phase of NVMSA's implementation should prioritize shortages of large and mixed animal practitioners in rural communities and training of veterinary laboratorians because of urgent national security concerns for public health, bioterrorism preparedness, and food supply security.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR STAFFING AND OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER'S NEW BIOSAFETY LEVEL-3 AGRICULTURE WILDLIFE DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It is critical to ensure there is adequate laboratory space to address national wildlife disease problems because of the important impact wildlife diseases have on human and domestic animal health. The construction and operation of a Biosafety Level-3 Agriculture (BSL-3 Ag) laboratory at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), Fort Collins, Colorado will enhance the nation's ability to address significant wildlife disease issues. In support of the construction of the NWRC BSL-3 Ag facility, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed Resolution 8 at its 2005 meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The 30% design phase of the NWRC Wildlife Disease Building (WDB) is complete and "Solicitation for Offerers" for development and construction is underway. Functional operation of the facility is scheduled for spring 2010. This resolution supports efforts for the staffing and operation of a 70,000 square foot Biosafety Level 3-Agriculture laboratory at the NWRC, Fort Collins, Colorado.

The NWRC has unique capabilities to address research, surveillance, diagnostics and disease control efforts in wildlife. These programs are the first line of defense against catastrophic and newly emerging animal diseases, some of which are transmissible to humans. An essential component of an increased capacity for addressing these disease programs is the construction of a BSL-3 Ag research laboratory and wildlife disease diagnostic and research facility at the NWRC. This facility will support expanding research, methods development, and operational efforts to better understand and combat emerging and invasive wildlife diseases.

During the past 18 months USDA, WS has played a critical role in efforts for first detection for Asian subtypes of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Through the WS operational program over 75,000 wild bird samples and 50,000 environmental samples were collected in collaboration with 50 state agencies. The 75,000 wild bird samples were analyzed at a number of different laboratory facilities under stringent requirements laid out in the Interagency Strategic Plan by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The 50,000 environmental samples were all analyzed at the NWRC. While the HPAI screening was conducted under BSL-2 conditions, the effort and capacity of the NWRC for surge wildlife disease diagnostics were demonstrated.

Construction and operation of the WDB will enhance USDA's ability to meet the challenges imposed by newly and re-emerging wildlife disease and to comply with Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 9, the USDA Strategic Plan and the APHIS Strategic Plan by providing APHIS with Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) laboratory and Biosafety Level-3(Ag) wildlife holding/testing facilities in support of: (1) enhancement of operational capacity of federal BSL-3 laboratory diagnostic surge capacity; (2) development of laboratory diagnostic methods for wildlife pathogens and diseases impacting domestic animal and human health; (3) development of field sampling and diagnostic methods to support surveillance and monitoring activities for wildlife pathogens and diseases within and across United States borders; (4) development and efficacy evaluation of methods to prevent/control/contain (e.g. vaccines) wildlife diseases; (5) determination of wildlife host range and reservoir potential for pathogens of program importance toward development of wildlife disease risk assessment models relating to animal and human health and farm biosecurity; (6) development of methods for the protection of animal and public health and protection of the food supply; (7) directed efforts toward methods development for foreign animal diseases.

The NWRC laboratory will be utilized to conduct research on zoonotic wildlife diseases that affect wild and domestic animals, and that may impact human health. The facility will be instrumental in development of methods to identify, monitor, control, eradicate, and prevent the introduction of wildlife diseases into the United States and the North American continent. The BSL-3 laboratory environments will provide for support and surge capacity for other APHIS surveillance activities for domestic and foreign animal diseases during times of emergency.

A fully staffed facility will be able to respond to outbreaks of wildlife diseases and catastrophic emergencies. In addition, the facility could provide emergency surge capacity to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

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), the Secretary of Agriculture, and the House and Senate Subcommittees on Agriculture Appropriations secure funding for the staffing and operation of the 70,000 square foot Biosafety Level 3-Agriculture laboratory at the National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, Colorado, at an estimated annual cost of $3,500,000.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS IN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE QUARANTINE REGIONS OF HIGH DENSITY FOOD ANIMAL POPULATIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are approximately 500,000 dairy cows and calves in a 40 mile radius of Tulare, California. Dairy operations and calf facilities are often located across rural roads from each other or short distances away. California's Highway 99, a heavily used north/south vehicle and trucking corridor runs through the center of the Tulare milk shed. Similar densities of food animal livestock operations are scattered throughout the nation.

In the event of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak within or near the Tulare milk shed, there are United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Homeland Security (DHS) vehicle

restrictions that would affect ingress/egress. Also the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) restrictions may occur until intentional disease introduction is ruled out.

Vehicle quarantine measures as part of the FMD management/eradication program could prove to be more costly within the milk shed than the disease itself. Most of the large Tulare calf ranches, which may consist of up to 80,000 animals per ranch, have only 4-12 hours of feed inventory available, thus making them vulnerable to restricted movement of feed. Dairy farms and most feedlots will be somewhat less susceptible to the feed availability problem, but given enough time, they too will suffer great losses due to nutritional deficits. Moving fresh dairy milk off site will be an issue and the alternative of disposing milk in manure pits creates major waste management problems. Rapid and efficient disposal of dead stock will quickly become a vehicle related issue.

Dairy and calf operations must have the ability to obtain feedstuffs and transport milk and dead stock in a timely manner during FMD quarantines. Disinfection protocols are needed for vehicles to avoid animal health and animal welfare adverse effects.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Service (ARS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Health Affairs and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to jointly develop protocols for vehicle movement in foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak areas with high density populations of food animals.

USAHA urges these agencies to formulate disinfection protocols for transportation modalities of feed, milk and dead stock during an FMD outbreak.

USAHA urges these agencies to evaluate the current status of FMD real-time pen-side diagnostic and milk tanker tests which are needed to ensure vehicles do not further the spread of FMD.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 APPROVED AS AMENDED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT (HR 1232, S. 746)

BACKGROUND 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 26 States provide direct support to the 28 colleges. Federal support is needed to increase capacity in veterinary medical education.

The United States Congress has not directly supported veterinary medical education in over 30 years. According to animal health officials, nearly 6,000 veterinarians would be needed to respond to a major animal health catastrophe. Without a sufficient supply of veterinarians with the unique training needed to respond to an emergency, the nation's public health infrastructure is at risk.

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act (VPHWEA) was introduced in the 110th Congress by Senator Wayne Allard (CO) and Representative Tammy Baldwin (WI-2) in early 2007. The VPHWEA 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 students enrolled in a veterinary medical professional program are needed per year to meet the current United States population societal needs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate enact the Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act (VPHWEA) and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education.

USAHA Executive Committee and Committee on Government Relations members are requested to provide relevant information to Members of Congress regarding the lack of capacity in the nation's veterinary medical colleges and the need to pass the VPHWEA, as introduced, during regular visits to Washington.

USAHA members are requested to formally support the VPHWEA and actively advocate its passage with their individual Members of Congress.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE DEMONSTRATION HERD PROJECT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Report of the Ad Hoc Steering Subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Johne's Disease in 2002 indicated that demonstration herds are critical and of the highest priority to provide the validated management tools to implement a science-based National Johne's Disease Program. As a result, the National Johne's Disease Demonstration Herd Project was initiated in 2003 as a long-term project (at least 5 years) with objectives to 1) evaluate the long-term effectiveness and feasibility of management-related disease control on development of Johne's disease on dairy and beef cattle operations, 2) provide information and materials for education and training of public and private practice veterinarians and cattle producers, 3) develop and evaluate management, testing, and monitoring strategies for use in control of Johne's disease in cattle herds, 4) create the opportunity for add-on projects within states to address important research objectives.

The stated objectives of this project are being achieved. Preliminary evidence indicates a reduction in incidence of subclinical Johne's disease in demonstration herds to date. Economic studies are underway but additional time is needed to complete the project. States have effectively used information generated to develop educational materials and to evaluate testing strategies to support the national control program, and several states are implementing additional add-on projects. In addition, the project has provided a large number of well-characterized biologic samples for researchers as part of the Johne's Disease Integrated Project (JDIP), thereby promoting development of new diagnostics and vaccines to control Johne's disease.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continue to prioritize funding for the National Johne's Disease Demonstration Herd Project.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: MILK ELISA TESTING FOR JOHNE'S DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR JOHNE'S DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Johne's Disease Strategic Plan was developed by the National Johne's Working Group (NJWG) in 2001 to guide the work and efforts of the NJWG and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Johne's Disease through 2008. The USAHA Committee on Johne's Disease at its meeting in 2007 approved a recommendation to develop a new strategic plan for Johne's Disease, due to significant changes that have occurred in such things as the understanding of Johne's Disease, its management, availability and performance of diagnostic testing, state and federal funding and awareness of Johne's Disease within the ruminant industries.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has, and continues to be, substantially involved in the development of national program standards and funding for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program. It continues to have a vested interest in the future of the national Johne's Disease control and management efforts.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) provide financial and personnel support for the development of the new national Strategic Plan for Johne's Disease.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: MILK ELISA TESTING FOR JOHNE'S DISEASE IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Evaluation of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) has shown that it is comparable in accuracy to currently available serum ELISA kits. Incorporation of USDA-approved milk ELISAs into the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) would allow dairy producers access to additional testing options. Dairy operations enrolled in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) typically have individual milk samples tested on a monthly basis for milk components such as somatic cells, protein and fat. These milk samples could also be used for milk ELISA testing for Johne's disease. DHIA field personnel, who collect and submit milk samples for testing, receive training and must be certified by the Quality Certification Services (QCS) division of National DHIA. DHIA laboratories, which are incorporating the milk ELISA for Johne's disease into their current milk testing, are proposing to require labs to complete and pass a monthly proficiency test administered by QCS, in addition to passing an annual proficiency test under the direction of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), to ensure consistent and proper diagnostic procedures.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association, recognizing the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) is a voluntary program, requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to allow the Quality Certification Services (QCS)-certified and Designated Johne's Coordinator (DJC)-approved Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) field personnel to collect and submit milk samples to approved laboratories for milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing for Johne's disease under the direction of the herd's Johne's certified veterinarian.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **39 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
SUBJECT MATTER: INCORPORATING STATE CODES ON ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION NUMERIC DEVICES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Traditional means of rapid visual identification of cattle have utilized the numeric state code on ear tag devices. Many cattle industry members and state animal health officials have identified the need for visual identification continuing into the future.

Cattle producers have requested that state codes continue to be visible on ear tag devices to assist them in rapid visual cattle identification.

Brand inspectors utilize the state code in their daily work of determining animal ownership and state of origin.

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 the standard numeric state code onto animal identification number (AIN) ear tag devices for use in cattle.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **40 Combined with 62 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE IDENTIFICATION: IMPORTED AND RETURNING HORSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease in the United States. However, it is assumed that the infection exists at some undetermined prevalence level 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 Complement Fixation (CF) test, a test that is known to occasionally yield “false negative” results. Some horse owners, importers or agents have compounded the problem by purposely treating EP infected horses with immunosuppressive medications resulting in these animals giving a false negative response to the CF test. An upgraded competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) test was specified as the “official test” for importation of equine into the United States on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield “false negative” results in adult horses.

The lack of a reliable and traceable permanent identification system for horses imported into the United States makes it difficult to trace back potentially serologically-positive animals. An available option to determine the prevalence of EP in the equine population would be to conduct a serological survey. While a serological survey of the equine population may suggest a meaningful prevalence of EP in the resident horse population, it will neither be as effective or efficient as the detailed traceback that would be present with a highly functional traceability system in place. This has underscored the immediate need, as it pertains to dealing with EP and other important equine diseases, to establish a standard method of permanent identification and traceability for all horses imported into 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) implement provisions that require all horses imported into, or returning to, the United States be identified with permanent individual Identification and/or Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) microchips that comply with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11784 and 11785 standards (134.2 kHz). Universal RFID readers should be present at all import centers and border stations to read both 125 and 134.2 kHz microchips.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **41 Combined with 5, 14, 16, 24, 58, 61 and 67 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **42 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE VETERINARY SERVICES PROCESS STREAMLINING SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Veterinary Services Process Streamlining system provides accredited veterinarians the ability to collect and disseminate animal information into health certificates, related test records and permits via functional electronic documents.

These applications are not available to state and federal animal health officials for use in animal disease 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 immediately complete and deploy full functionality of their e-data collection system know as the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) system with full integration into USDA's mobile information technology applications by December 31, 2007.

Failure on the part of USDA to accomplish full deployment of VSPS and mobile information technology applications will result in initiation of the following:

1) USAHA will extend invitation to all State Animal Health Officials or associated information technology staff or company representation to participate in a state e-data management workshop, 2) USAHA will make arrangements for the workshop to be conducted near the Kansas City, MO airport, a central United States location, 3) the purpose of the USAHA workshop / agenda will be to develop and coordinate a state recognized e-data format and delivery of an online interstate movement permit, health certificate or equivalent thereof and related e-test documents.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **43 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
SUBJECT MATTER: 30-DAY HEALTH RULE INTERPRETATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Historically, animal health officials have allowed accredited veterinarians, working within the context of a herd health plan requiring routine herd visits, to issue a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) covering animals born into the herd since the previous herd visit without having to inspect the individual animals. Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has reviewed the statute governing the interstate movement of animals outside a routine production flow and issued an interpretation disallowing this practice. The wording in question is contained in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 161.3(a)(2) and reads as follows:

(2) Following the third and subsequent inspections of a herd or flock in a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal within 30 days prior to issuance.

USDA-APHIS-VS has interpreted this language to mean that the individual animals must be inspected by the accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to the issuance of a CVI. It is not uncommon

in the swine industry today to transport weaned pigs interstate at less than 30 days of age. Similar movements also occur in other species as well (e.g. day-old chicks and dairy calves).

Through the practice of conducting routine herd health visits within the confines of an established herd health program, the accredited veterinarian can establish an understanding of the health status of the herd. It is medically sound to believe that the newborn animal assumes the health status of the herd or flock into which it is born or hatched. Thus by inspecting the herd or flock, the accredited veterinarian can issue a CVI with confidence in the integrity of the health of the animals yet to be born or hatched into the herd or flock. The veterinarian's knowledge of the herd or flock accumulated through a regular health maintenance program exceeds that which could be gained from a one-time inspection of only those animals being shipped.

The current interpretation places veterinarians at risk of violating their accreditation while failing to improve the health status of United States (US) livestock or the safety of interstate movements. The proposed interpretation actually enhances the security of livestock shipped interstate by encouraging producers to establish herd health programs involving routine herd visits by accredited veterinarians. This promotes a much more thorough understanding of the health status of US livestock and poultry and provides for the early recognition of potential disease risks associated with interstate movement.

These proposed changes have the support of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the American Association of Avian Pathologists, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, the National Pork Board's Swine Health Committee and the National Pork Producers Council.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) respectfully requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) change the wording in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 161.3(a)(2) as follows:

(2) Following the third and subsequent inspections of a herd or flock in a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal ***residing in the herd or flock at the time of the last inspection or born into the herd or flock since the last inspection*** *in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that* ~~*animal*~~ ***herd or flock*** *within 30 days prior to issuance.*

USAHA also urges the USDA-APHIS to adopt these proposed changes while awaiting approval of the amended final rule.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 44 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
SUBJECT MATTER INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE SWINE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PLANNING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in the United States (US) commercial swine compartment are crucial for swine health protection, maintenance and restoration, for assurance of food security, and for documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Surveillance planning and funding for implementation have traditionally been tied to specific 'program' diseases. This mechanism of funding prevents flexibility resulting in a lack of harmonization of surveillance planning and implementation. The difficulty within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to allocate existing resources to the development of an integrated and comprehensive surveillance system hampers the advancement of the program. In addition, the lack of funding and insufficient human resources will continue to further delay development and implementation of this surveillance system. Without a comprehensive and integrated animal health surveillance system, animal agriculture will continue to be unnecessarily placed at risk of undetected introduction and / or spread of animal diseases, including foreign and emerging swine diseases.

The US pork industry supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated surveillance system and recognizes this system as essential for the continued health of US livestock. In addition, the industry supports leveraging resources to maximize surveillance efficiency to detect and monitor endemic, emerging and foreign animal diseases that significantly impact US livestock.

In an effort to support comprehensive surveillance, the pork industry worked directly with the USDA's National Surveillance Unit (NSU) to develop and implement a swine business plan for integrated and comprehensive swine surveillance. As a result, the swine industry has prioritized industry surveillance objectives and communicated those objectives to the NSU for planning purposes.

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 make integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning a high priority and to provide the funding and human resources necessary to the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) to complete the planning process for integrated and comprehensive surveillance for the commercial swine compartment by June 30th 2008.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 45 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
SUBJECT MATTER MARKET SWINE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current market swine surveillance program provides a valuable infrastructure for sampling the United States (US) market swine population. Fourteen out of the top 35 swine slaughter plants that are currently collecting samples for market surveillance provide access to 50% of the US market swine population, or approximately 200,000 head out of the 405,000 head harvested daily.

Market swine surveillance has been recognized as a key component of the industry's move to an integrated and comprehensive swine disease surveillance program for the commercial compartment. Market swine surveillance provides access to samples using methods that are more economically feasible and less burdensome to the industry. In order to utilize this surveillance stream more effectively the swine industry has taken significant steps to expand surveillance objectives, enhance traceability, and take advantage of research opportunities to make market swine surveillance more cost-effective and valuable to the industry.

In late 2007, the swine industry prioritized and communicated national surveillance programming objectives to the National Surveillance Unit. This prioritization process yielded a number of economically important diseases that could be included in market swine surveillance as part of a comprehensive swine surveillance program. The list included Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Pseudorabies, Erysipelas, Swine Brucellosis, Trichina and Toxoplasmosis. Currently there are validated tests for detecting Pseudorabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Trichina at harvest. Antibody and antigen tests for detecting Classical Swine Fever are in the process of being validated by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

The program standards for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for swine require reporting and recording of the Premises Identification Number (PIN) of the sending premises for all market swine arriving at the first point of concentration in the harvest chain. The program standards also require the use of official NAIS tags bearing the source premises identification number or official animal identification number (AIN) in market breeding swine moving to the first point of concentration. These two requirements are being implemented by the swine industry as part of the Swine identification (ID) Plan under the NAIS and will support risk-based surveillance and statistically significant sampling from both market swine populations.

Market swine surveillance is being used in a two phase pilot study to determine the prevalence and distribution of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) in high risk swine populations in hog dense areas. PRRS is estimated to cost the pork industry $540-$700 million annually and the results from these studies will be important to the industry as it moves forward with strategies to mitigate the economic effects of this disease. Market swine surveillance can also be beneficial in determining prevalence and distribution of other important diseases to the industry including

*Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae, Actinobacillus suis,*and *Mycoplasma hyopneumonia* in a rapid and cost effective manner. This information on these diseases will assist with decisions on how to deal with these diseases as an industry.

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 maintain funding for market swine surveillance in Fiscal Year (FY) 08 and in FY 09 and in the long term increase funding in future years to expand and integrate market swine surveillance into the swine industry's comprehensive surveillance program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 46 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
SUBJECT MATTER HAZARD ANALYSIS CRITICAL CONTROL POINTS AND SWINE PROGRAM DISEASES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (US) pork industry has worked cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Swine Health Programs (SHP) to explore the use of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles as a methodology to develop and maintain flexible, simple and effective disease programs for the swine industry. The industry supports the utilization of HACCP principles to define program standard guidelines for the control of pseudorabies virus (PRV) and swine brucellosis (SB) in the commercial swine compartment.

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) Swine Health Programs (SHP) to continue to work with industry to adapt and implement the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles to define program standards for the Pseudorabies and Swine Brucellosis Programs. Further, it is requested that USDA-APHIS-VS, SHP present such prototypes to USAHA's Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine during its annual meeting in 2008.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 47 Combined with 28, 60 and 63 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
SUBJECT MATTER MINIMUM EXPORT RULES FOR GOATS AND SWINE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 48 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
SUBJECT MATTER OFFICIAL BRUCELLOSIS VACCINATION '840' RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The ongoing cooperative brucellosis eradication program has made great strides in elimination of the disease. Currently 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are classified as Brucellosis-Free. However, an ongoing potential threat concerns both state animal health officials and cattle producers in the western United States. Private practitioners, producers and state animal health officials have all identified the need for and have voiced support for development of an "Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) Official Brucellosis Vaccination Tag" that visually identifies the state where the animal was vaccinated. Such a tag, if made available for use on a voluntary basis, would offer the choice for the producer and his veterinarian to replace the metal clip tag in current use with an RFID tag. Over a period of time this would allow for the identification of a large number of "momma cows" on producer operations. The use of an Official RFID Brucellosis Vaccination Tag over the next four to five years would have a

significant impact on acceptance of RFID to enhance the brucellosis eradication program as well as identifying 60-70% of adult female cattle on producer operations where calfhood vaccination is practiced. The majority of livestock health officials, brand inspectors and livestock producers are familiar with the "state two digit code" and routinely use this information to identify the state where the cattle were vaccinated.

Benefits of an RFID Official Brucellosis Vaccination Tag would include: maintenance of the familiar state coded tags and the current vaccination reporting system; increase acceptance of RFID technology by accredited veterinarians; aid in transition from metal ear tags to 840 coded RFID tags; enable automated reporting of brucellosis vaccination by accredited veterinarians; increased utilization of electronic identification systems; and enabling transition over time to electronic systems for those who are not inclined to utilize newer technology.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to make available to accredited veterinarians a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) Official Brucellosis Vaccination Tag that is orange in color and carries the two digit state code, as an option, for use as an official identification device for official vaccination of heifer calves.

USAHA also urges that USDA-APHIS-VS subsidize these tags so that they are available through appropriate channels to accredited veterinarians at a reasonable cost, which is estimated to be between twenty-five cents and fifty cents per tag ($0.25-0.50/tag)

Additionally, USAHA urges that USDA-APHIS-VS work with data service providers to expedite integration of disease management systems through the creation of a new brucellosis reporting module which would include online ordering of tags, online printable report forms and online reporting of brucellosis vaccination.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 49 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RECTAL BIOPSY AS AN OFFICIAL LIVE ANIMAL TEST FOR SCRAPIE.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Detection of scrapie in the live animal is an important component of the Scrapie Eradication Program. Biopsy of the third eyelid lymphoid tissue has proven to be beneficial but there are several limitations on its use. Some of the limitations are due to the distribution of the abnormal scrapie prion protein but more commonly it is due to lack of sufficient lymphoid follicles to make a diagnosis.

Studies evaluating the use of recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) have shown sensitivity and specificity roughly equivalent to the third eyelid test. There are several additional advantages to RAMALT sampling. There is a large amount of suitable tissue to sample and multiple sites can be sampled allowing repeat sampling over time. Restraint of the animal is still required but is generally easier and is much less a factor for the person obtaining the sample than with third eyelid sampling.

With proper training and equipment RAMALT sampling is relatively easy for most people and should result in an increase in diagnostic samples. Producers may find this technique more acceptable as well.

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 rectal biopsy (RAMALT) as an additional live animal test for scrapie.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 50 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM FUNDING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress regarding efforts towards scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. Surveillance activities must be doubled in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-positive animals. Funding requests are currently inadequate to effect eradication in a reasonable amount of time.

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 request adequate funding for the National Scrapie Eradication Program's budget to achieve eradication and conduct subsequent surveillance. This amount is equal to $10 million beyond the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation or a total budget of $28.6 million.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 51 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT: GENOTYPE EDUCATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is ample international evidence to demonstrate that no genotype is fully resistant to all types of scrapie in sheep. Recent findings indicate that certain genotypes once thought to be fully resistant are susceptible to other prion types.

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) increase efforts to educate producers about these findings so that they may make informed decisions regarding genetic selection and flock management.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 52 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT: GOAT GENOTYPING RESEARCH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) board passed the following resolution and requests the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) consideration: "ADGA supports research characterizing goat scrapie genotypes. This work could result in tools for breeders to use in selection for goat scrapie-resistant genotypes, and potentially to provide options for conserving animal genetics in infected herds".

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to continue funding research efforts in goat scrapie genotyping. USAHA further encourages agencies within USDA to share data and biological materials in support of this research.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 53 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
SUBJECT MATTER AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM SECTION 205.239, TO MAKE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS OPTIONAL FOR POULTRY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Organic Program (NOP) was formed to provide a mechanism for certification of organic foods and became effective in October 2001. There are many distinctive and unique requirements for the production and processing of organic foods including poultry. Section 205.239, of the NOP requires that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic poultry have "access to the outdoors" during their production life. This outdoor access enhances the likelihood that such poultry will have direct contact with migratory and wild birds as well as other animals, substantially increasing the risk of Avian Influenza (AI), Exotic Newcastle Disease, and other diseases. Disease control is a priority for certified organic poultry as well as conventionally reared poultry. In over 50 years of progress, the poultry industries of this country have moved their flocks inside and this action has contributed significantly to the improvement in health of the nation's chicken and turkey flocks. Avian influenza has been a long-standing threat to the health of our poultry and now takes on new potential public health and media perception identities. Migratory and wild birds are known carriers of AI virus and contact between them and domestic poultry must be prevented.

In 2005, The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed Resolution 46 with similar wording and identical intent to the present Resolution, requesting that the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) “use their good offices to influence the National Organic Program (NOP) to change section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP regulations by eliminating the words ‘Access to the outdoors’ as a requirement for production of USDA certified organic poultry.” USDA-APHIS-VS did indeed forward the resolution to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the responsible agency for the NOP, discussed the concerns with AMS, and at the request of AMS, provided recommendations and guidance on biosecurity and avian disease prevention and control practices for organic poultry operations. Those recommendations included identification of high risk areas such as wetlands, migratory flyways, and other congregating points for waterfowl and shore birds, as well as areas with high densities of poultry production; implementing preventive measures such as indoor confinement or use of outdoor enclosures with solid roofs and netted sides in these areas; providing feed and water indoors; and prohibiting access to surface water.

While these measures are appreciated, the regulation remains unchanged, and continues to **require** access to the outdoors, with no qualification of that requirement. Some producers who desire to confine organic birds for biosecurity reasons have resorted to obtaining a letter from the state veterinarian recommending confinement, in order to obtain temporary or year-to-year approval of confinement from the organic certifier. We are not requesting that access to the outdoors be prohibited, only that outdoor access not be required (i.e., that it be optional except in cases of elevated risk) and that provisions be included to prevent contact with wild birds.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to change section 205.239, a, 1 of the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations by adding a provision allowing poultry producers the option of forgoing the requirement for access to the outdoors. As amended, Section 205.239 would read:

§ 205.239 Livestock Living Conditions.

(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including:

(1) Access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate, and the environment;

(2) Poultry producers are permitted to eliminate access to the outdoors if included as part of a comprehensive disease control program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **54 APPROVED**

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

SUBJECT MATTER MOVEMENT PROTOCOLS FOR EGGS, EGG PRODUCTS, AND DAY-OLD CHICKS WITHIN, OUT OF, AND INTO DISEASE CONTROL AREAS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Incident Commanders (IC) can quarantine any site, area, county and/or state after the Index Case has been determined. The National Response Plan (NRP) includes a 96 hour "no movement" moratorium for non-infected farms in a Control Area which creates a major concern for the egg industry. The egg industry in the United States (US) has developed their production for "just-in-time" basis. Farms are composed of numerous barns with up to six million birds on one site. Egg producing farms can handle eggs by "in line" processing (on site) or "off line" processing where eggs are delivered to a separate grading and/or breaking facility for further processing. Each day, eggs move from production sites to food service distributors, retail stores, and distribution centers of fast-food restaurants and grocery store chains. If an in-line egg production operation cannot move eggs, their fast-food restaurant customers will run out of eggs within 24 hours. Within 48 hours, eggs will disappear from shelves of large retail grocery store chains. In addition, customers nationwide will lose faith in the safety and security of our food supply.

Due to current table egg production methods and limitations on egg storage capacity (48 hours) a protocol has been developed whereby non-infected egg production premises can document on a daily basis the influenza-free status of their chickens, eggs and egg products. Daily documentation will provide assurance to the Incident Commander, State Veterinarian, APHIS, consumers, and customers of the safety of eggs and egg products moving into normal market channels.

Documentation that table egg flocks in a Control Area are free of avian influenza can be achieved by providing the Incident Commander critical information each day from each house at an egg production site, including mortality, water and feed consumption, and reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test results. Testing tracheal swabs from a minimum of five chickens from daily mortality and/or euthanized sick birds from each house at a production site will detect a flock prevalence rate of 10/100,000 or 0.01%. This level of testing would be seven times more rigorous than USDA's 2002-2003 exotic Newcastle disease (END) testing program in California. If a positive is found, the Incident Commander will immediately quarantine the farm.

In addition to daily surveillance, several standard operating procedures have been recommended to reduce the probability for introduction of avian influenza onto a premises. These procedures address potential problems such as manure movement, by-products, pullet movement, and spent hen movement.

Egg companies, the United Egg Association, the United Egg Producers, State Veterinarians, academia, and other regulatory individuals have reviewed and support the Egg Movement Protocol, SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and testing procedures.

The HPAI Movement Control Model Plan from the Egg Industry is available for reference.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolves that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) incorporate business continuity as part of the National Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Response Plans by including movement protocols within, out of, and into a Control Area as exemplified by the protocol developed by the United States Egg Industry.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 55 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER INCLUSION OF SWINE AND POULTRY WORKERS IN PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recent research has demonstrated that swine and poultry workers, especially those who work in large confinement facilities, are at markedly increased risk of zoonotic influenza virus infections. In serving as a bridging population for influenza virus spread between animals and man, these workers

may introduce zoonotic influenza virus into their homes and communities as well as expose domestic swine and poultry to human influenza viruses. Prolonged and intense occupational exposures of humans working in swine or poultry confinement buildings could facilitate the generation of novel influenza viruses, as well as accelerate human influenza epidemics. Because of their potential bridging role, such workers should be recognized as a priority target group for annual influenza vaccines and receive special training to reduce the risk of influenza transmission. They should also be considered for increased surveillance and priority receipt of pandemic vaccines and antivirals.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recognize swine and poultry workers, including farmers, caretakers, processing plant workers, veterinarians, federal, state, and private agricultural emergency response personnel, and agricultural diagnostic laboratory personnel, as a priority target group for annual influenza vaccines, training in use of personal protective equipment, increased surveillance for influenza, and priority receipt of pandemic vaccines and antiviral drugs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**56 APPROVED**
SOURCE:	COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
SUBJECT MATTER	LOW PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA PROGRAM FUNDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) has existed in the Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS) of the Northeast and other locations for 15 years. An extensive campaign has reduced the prevalence and incidence of LPAI within the LBMS in the Northeast. Recent test results demonstrate the effectiveness of this effort.

Current progress within the market system is due, in large part, to the provision of personnel and other resources to establish control at various levels of the supply continuum. The LPAI national effort has expanded to the point that some 30 states are being recruited and funded for LPAI efforts and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) anticipates additional states participating.

Total funding for the LPAI effort program is now limited. The impact of this level of funding in this environment of increased participation is diminished resources for existing program participants. The reduced level of funding threatens to reverse LPAI market system progress made over the past two years.

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 request additional funding to fully support a national low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) program and for Congress to appropriate these monies.

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**57 APPROVED**
SOURCE:	COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
SUBJECT MATTER	NEED FOR ONGOING FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL METHODS FOR DEPOPULATION OF POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) applauds the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)

support over the last year in the development of practical and humane solutions for mass depopulation of poultry in response to disasters and epizootic and zoonotic diseases. However, gaps still exist in our response capability and ongoing funding is needed beyond the current avian influenza response commitment. For example, adequate solutions for depopulation of caged layers have not been developed sufficiently to address both the need for timely disease containment and limiting the exposure of personnel performing the depopulation.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service continue to fund research and implement policy in support of new practical methods and humane solutions for depopulation and disposal of poultry.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 58 Combined with 5, 14, 16, 24, 41, 61 and 67
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 59 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER IMPORT REPTILE TICK CONTROL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Very high numbers reptiles infested with exotic ticks continue to be brought into the United States (US) from countries throughout the world, and these imported exotic ticks may serve as vectors for animal diseases such as heartwater, that threaten the US livestock industry. Program components have been drafted to permit, certify, inspect, and treat, if necessary, such imported reptiles. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Health Protection Act has clear authority and responsibility to prohibit or restrict the importation of animals and to impose post-importation quarantine measures to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any pest or disease into the United States.

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) expedite the implementation of regulations to require permits and inspection certification for reptiles entering the United States. USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS-VS to carry out a program in collaboration with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP); and the United States Department of Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and, in conjunction with affected states, to ensure effective control measures are taken to eliminate any ticks imported on reptiles into the United States.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 60 Combined with 28, 47 and 63
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER MINIMUM EXPORT RULES FOR GOATS AND SWINE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 61 Combined with 5, 14, 16, 24, 41, 58 and 67
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT / EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 62 Combined with 40

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER EQUINE ID: IMPORTED AND RETURNING HORSES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 63 Combined with 28, 47 and 60
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER MINIMUM EXPORT RULES FOR GOATS AND SWINE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **64 Combined with 15**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER FUNDING FOR BIGHORN SHEEP RESPIRATORY DISEASE COMPLEX RESEARCH

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 65 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
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 into the United States (US) is free of pathogens which do not exist in the US and pose a risk to the US livestock population.

Since Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has become the primary 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 encourages 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 exist in the United States. Importations of ruminant serum have been authorized by USDA-APHIS-VS in limited quantities for development research and diagnostic purposes by both governmental and private institutions.

Gamma radiation is currently being used as approved treatments 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 number 13 approved at the 2004 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) annual meeting recommended that USDA-APHIS allow the importation of gamma irradiated commercial shipments of FBS.

At the 2005 USAHA annual meeting, USDA-APHIS responded that a proposed rule for the importation of irradiated FBS was still being prepared for publication. A resolution from both the Committees on Import/Export and Biologics and Biotechnology asking USDA-APHIS to continue the follow up was approved at the 2005 USAHA annual meeting.

At the 2006 USAHA annual meeting, USDA-APHIS responded that the risk assessment had been completed and that a proposed rule was being prepared.

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), publish a proposed rule to allow the importation of fetal bovine serum (FBS) from countries free of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) following

gamma irradiation as provided in Veterinary Services (VS) notice 98-05 in approved private irradiation facilities to inactivate other diseases of concern to the livestock industry.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 66 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT
SUBJECT MATTER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMEN, EMBRYOS AND LIVE ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), National Center for Imports and Exports (NCIE) maintains a website with current negotiated international export health requirements for poultry, live animals, embryos and semen.

The National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) and Certified Semen Services (CSS) have met with and worked with USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE for several years attempting to get the import requirements for live animals, semen and embryos posted on the same website to serve importers as a reference. USDA does not routinely issue the import requirements for these products and animals when import permits are applied for and issued to importers. As businesses involved in the export of live animals and germplasm grow and develop, the import of genetically superior live animals or their germplasm becomes an important aspect of business planning and development. Having a website maintained by USDA, with the most current import requirements posted for reference by importers is important in facilitating efficient information and transparent international import health requirements for both domestic businesses and international trading partners

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), National Center for Imports and Exports (NCIE) to develop and maintain a website with the most current import health requirements for live animals, semen and embryos as well as poultry and hatching eggs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 67 Combined with 5, 14, 16, 24, 41, 58, and 61
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPRENHESIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 68 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER *BRUCELLA OVIS* ELISA TEST

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (US) sheep industry has an urgent need for reliable and consistent results on *Brucella ovis* enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing to detect *Brucella ovis* infection in rams.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) distribute the standard operating protocol (SOP) for performing the *Brucella ovis* enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to laboratories, complete validation (per ISO17025 standards) of the NVSL *Brucella ovis* ELISA before the 2008 spring ram testing season, and develop a national proficiency test program for *Brucella ovis*. These actions will provide for reliable and consistent results on antibody testing for *Brucella ovis* for the United States sheep industry.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 69 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER APPROVAL OF CIDRS® AND PREGNANT MARE SERUM GONADOTROPIN FOR REPRODUCTIVE MANIPULATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Reproductive manipulations of sheep and goats such as artificial insemination, embryo transfer and timed matings require drugs, hormones and delivery devices not currently approved or available in the United States (US). Legal and ethical availability of these types of drugs and hormones would facilitate productivity and genetic progress of US flocks and herds and enhance planned reproduction systems for veterinarians and producers, while providing proper and transparent knowledge of the products in use in food producing breeding animals.

These hormones (progesterone and pregnant mare serum gonadotropin (PMSG), used in combination) are labeled and available in many sheep and goat producing countries outside the US. Availability here would level the playing field for US producers.

CIDRs (a progesterone-impregnated plastic device for intra-vaginal delivery to synchronize estrus) have been "fast tracked" through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) approval process since the summer of 2006, but they are still not available for use for the fall 2007 breeding season.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) respectfully requests that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expedite the completion of the approval of CIDRs. We also request that steps be taken to expedite the approval of pregnant mare serum gonadotropin (PMSG) through the Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) process to allow enhanced reproduction systems in sheep and goats.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 70 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER BULK MILK TEST TO DETECT *BRUCELLA MELITENSIS* IN GOAT FLOCKS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Brucella melitensis infection in goats causes severe systemic disease in humans, who are often infected by consumption of raw goat milk products. It is responsible for more clinical cases of brucellosis and more human suffering worldwide than all other *brucellae*. A bulk milk test for goat brucellosis is needed in the diagnostic battery of brucellosis tests in small ruminants. The Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) requires annual testing of dairy goat flocks, however, no flock level test is available for screening; and goats have to be tested individually by serology. This is time consuming, costly, and stressful for the animals.

National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) and other research partners developed an indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (using *Brucella melitensis* strain 16M antigen) to detect brucella antibodies in goat milk. Initial research on this test using individual milk samples from experimentally-infected goats and laboratory simulated mock-bulk milk suggest this test may be a good bulk milk test for goats, especially in herds segmented in groups of 50 animals or less (N.D. Funk, L.B. Tabatai, P.H. Elzer, S.D. Hagius, B.M. Martin, and L.J. Hoffman. Indirect Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Detection of Brucella melitensis-Specific Antibodies in Goat Milk. J Clin Micro 2005; 43(2):721-5.).

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) support and facilitate the development and validation of the *Brucella melitensis* indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for screening bulk tank goat milk so that it may be considered for use as an official test to fulfill the requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 71 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER MINOR USE ANIMAL DRUG PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The approval of animal drugs for use in minor species is critical to the appropriate treatment of sheep and goat disease and to the maintenance of animal health. The National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) provides much-needed and valuable services to the sheep and goat industries throughout the United States. The continued work of this program will be essential to the sustainability and growth of the industry through the availability of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for use in sheep and goats.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and appreciates the efforts of the NRSP-7. The research conducted under this program will be essential to the sustainability of the small ruminant industries and to the maintenance of sheep and goat health. The USAHA acknowledges the importance of research conducted under the NRSP-7.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges Congress to appropriate continuing funding for the National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) program and urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to include funding for the NRSP-7 in their budget requests at a level that meets the needs of minor uses and minor species requests.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 72 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER CALFHOOD VACCINATION OF BISON

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Brucellosis Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) specify official brucellosis vaccinates as animals vaccinated at 4 – 12 months of age. Bison do not become sexually active until they reach an age which is approximately 12 months greater than the age at which cattle become sexually active. Bison management provides for brucellosis vaccination at an age up to 18 months which would result in increased numbers of bison vaccinated for brucellosis.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to rapidly institute changes in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) for brucellosis that specify official brucellosis vaccinated bison as those vaccinated at 4-18 months of age.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 73 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER BRUCELLOSIS IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state and federal governments and the livestock industries have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* infection from cattle in the United States (US), and the presence of *B. abortus* in the US has significant economic impact upon the livestock industry and may have an impact on international trade. The efforts to eradicate *B. abortus* are contributing to the national herd becoming free of the disease. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the efforts of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) state and federal agencies in their efforts to prevent exposure of livestock to

brucellosis from elk and bison in the GYA and encourages the efforts of the GYA state agencies to control brucellosis in bison and elk in the GYA.

The only known remaining focus of brucellosis caused by *B. abortus* in the United States is the bison and elk in the GYA and all signatory parties (Secretaries of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Department of the Interior (USDI), and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming) to the original Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which created the GYIBC, agreed that the objective is to eliminate *B. abortus* from the GYA. A plan to eliminate *B. abortus* from bison and elk in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and other areas of the GYA, consistent with the objectives of the original GYIBC MOU, is urgently needed. Wyoming lost its Brucellosis Class Free classification in 2004, and Idaho lost its Brucellosis Class Free status in 2006, due to transmission of *B. abortus* from wildlife to cattle. Both states have subsequently regained Class Free status. A brucellosis affected cattle herd, thought to be infected by wildlife, was disclosed in Montana in 2007, and if a second affected cattle herd is disclosed within two years, Montana will lose its Brucellosis Class Free classification as well. The loss of Brucellosis Class Free status in a state is extremely costly to the cattle industry and is a significant setback to the Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Program.

RESOLUTION**:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (USDI) and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to take all steps and actions necessary to eliminate the last known vestiges of *Brucella abortus* from the United States, including, but not limited to: 1) providing necessary fiscal and human resources, and requesting additional funding as needed from Congress; 2) assuring collaboration among all relevant state and federal agencies; 3) utilizing all available, scientifically credible technologies and multidisciplinary management practices to prevent the spread of brucellosis in, between and among cattle, bison and elk; 4) providing strong direction to these agencies to expeditiously develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan to eliminate *Brucella abortus* from the elk and bison herds in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	**74 APPROVED**
SOURCE:	COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER	CELEBRATE THE ERADICATION OF BRUCELLOSIS IN LIVESTOCK FROM THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE COUNTRY IS DECLARED BRUCELLOSIS FREE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Efforts to eradicate brucellosis caused by *Brucella abortus* in the United States (US) began in 1934 as part of an economic recovery program to reduce the cattle population because of the Great Depression and concurrent severe drought conditions. A number of states saw this as an opportunity to reduce the level of brucellosis, which was the most significant livestock disease problem in the US at the time. In 1934 and 1935, the reactor rate in adult cattle tested was 11.5%.

In 1954, the magnitude of the brucellosis problem in the US in terms of economics to the cattle industry and human health prompted Congress to appropriate funds for a comprehensive national effort to eradicate brucellosis. The brucellosis eradication program was designed as a cooperative effort between the federal government, the states, and livestock producers. As the science and technology of brucellosis has developed over the years through research and experience, the eradication program has been modified as needed.

In December 2000, there were no affected cattle herds in the US. This was the first time in the history of the brucellosis program that the US had no known brucellosis affected herds. The State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program has made tremendous progress since its inception. Only one state has not been recognized as being officially brucellosis free. That state is in the progress of being recognized officially brucellosis free at this time. This successful eradication effort has resulted in the elimination of this disease from a geographically larger area, with more numbers of livestock, than any other country in the world. This effort deserves a celebration to not only recognize the people involved in the effort but to also educate the

public on the significance of the effort and how it has improved the economics of livestock production resulting in safer and cheaper food for the nation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) hold a celebration, in conjunction with the USAHA annual meeting, to recognize the tremendous combined efforts of the livestock industry, states, and USDA in eradicating brucellosis from livestock in the United States, once brucellosis has been declared eradicated in livestock.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 75 Combined with 1 and 13
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED CERVID BRUCELLOSIS RULE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 76 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER BRUCELLOSIS LABORATORY CONSOLIDATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the committee meeting, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) presented an overview of proposed laboratory consolidation as part of a suite of adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance to reflect declining budgetary resources, reduce redundancy, and improve program efficiency.

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 expedite the consolidation of brucellosis testing laboratories, moving toward a system of regional laboratories. USDA-APHIS-VS should consider the following as the move to laboratory consolidation is made: 1) establish 12 regional brucellosis laboratories; 2) eliminate USDA funding for 17 laboratories and transfer their samples to regional laboratories; 3) maintain funding for 7 state laboratories that do not serve as regional laboratories; 4) any of the 17 labs that lose USDA funding may decide to continue operating will need to seek alternate funding or charge user fees; 5) include approval of all brucellosis laboratories based on national standards; and 6) those national standards include, but are not limited to, ensuring that state animal health officials receive information on numbers of samples performed on animals that originate from that state, but are slaughtered in packing plants and tested in laboratories in other states, standards for turnaround time, rapid communication of test results, and standardization of tests performed.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 77 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO NATIONAL BRUCELLOSIS SURVEILLANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) presented an overview during the committee meeting of proposed adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance to reflect declining budgetary resources, reduce redundancy, and improve program efficiency. Adjustments to national surveillance occurred in the 1970s with unintended consequences to nationwide brucellosis prevalence.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the concepts of the proposed adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance. It urges caution in adopting the adjustments to prevent the unintended re-occurrence of brucellosis, as has occurred in the past. It also urges that no funding changes be implemented until Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) changes, if needed, are finalized. The proposed adjustments should be made publically available for review and comment. Any changes should receive a risk analysis. The efforts of the working groups that generated the proposed adjustments should be publicly acknowledged. Special attention should be given to the ramifications of reducing Brucellosis Ring Test (BRT) testing. Special attention should also be given to the ramifications of relying on slaughter surveillance until mandatory identification of the breeding herd is in place, which would assure necessary traceability.