REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

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2008 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA
SUBJECT MATTER: PROMOTING THE USE OF STANDARDIZED BACTERIAL FINGERPRINTING STRATEGIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States needs to continuously generate baseline studies that discover bacterial fingerprints (bacterial genotypes) in order to discern the emergence of new *Salmonella* strains that if introduced into our human and animal populations may spread throughout the food chain. We need to coordinate the currently used pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) data with other microbial typing methods as they are discovered in addition to improving the cost effectiveness of genotyping.

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) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase support for effective *Salmonella* surveillance to protect public health, food safety, and international trade by the use of standardized bacterial fingerprinting strategies and the centralized storage, management and interpretation of collected data**.**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 and 35 Combined APPROVED
SOURCE: USAHA /AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: REGIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is a significant need to expand federal funding for state animal health agencies to proactively work with state emergency management agencies and other existing regional agriculture emergency

management groups. This much needed funding will be utilized to regionalize animal health emergency management preparedness and response capabilities and to demonstrate effectiveness of regional operation plans that will coordinate and integrate both the public and private sectors to prevent, respond and recover from any major foreign animal disease(s) which may threaten the public health and/or the health and safety of the United States livestock population. This important undertaking will be done in concert with recommendations contained in Homeland Security Presidential Directives 5, 7, 8 and most importantly 9.

Much has been accomplished since September 11, 2001 to focus attention at the local, state and national levels to better prepare the nation to address potential acts of terrorism. However, the food and agricultural community (both public and private sectors) remain unprepared to effectively prevent, respond and recover from major animal health emergencies that could result from the introduction of one or more foreign animal diseases at different locations throughout the nation. To be better prepared to address such worse-case scenarios, there is a critical need to operationalize emergency preparedness and response capabilities at the regional level so that both the public and private sectors are coordinated and fully integrated into such planning as called for in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9. This represents a critical national security need to protect the food chain, public health and the environment in the event of a major animal health related emergency. Through regionalization or compartmentalization of the nation, a more rigorous and effective animal health emergency management system can be developed and quickly implemented to prevent the spread of disease agents and better manage foreign animal disease related threats which will know no state boundaries. Such regional animal health emergency management planning will provide greater assurance for critical coordination between both the public and private sectors as well as better coordination within the public sector between federal agencies, state animal health agencies, state emergency management agencies, state and federally funded diagnostic laboratories and state and local extension agents.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to each request $5 million within the President's 2011 budget to adequately fund an initiative to engage state animal health agencies to work cooperatively at the regional level to establish or expand existing regional animal health emergency management planning groups. The goal of this initiative is to form food and agriculture Regional Emergency Management Alliances (REMAs) for the purpose of developing Regional Emergency Management Operations Plans (REOPs) to implement the provisions in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD9). Such funding should encourage regional demonstration projects to develop REMA's and implement REOPs which meet the specific need to operationalize the provisions outlined in HSPD9 and provide the capability to quickly regionalize or compartmentalize the nation against a potential introduction of a highly transmissible and contagious foreign animal disease.

USDHS and USDA-APHIS-VS also are urged to assist state animal health agencies and state emergency management agencies in actively supporting REMAs and REOPs to operationalize effective animal health emergency management planning at the regional level in both the public and private sectors, so as to better protect the nation's food supply and public health. Such planning should develop coordinated policy and implementation of:

- Vaccination procedures;
- Euthanasia and carcass disposal procedures;
- Milk and disinfection waste disposal protocols;
- Risk assessments of public health, industry and regulatory perspectives;
- Prevention education efforts and risk communications;
- Command, control and emergency management operations;
- Recovery management;
- Continuity of business planning;
- Community-based emergency planning—local, state and regional partnerships and participation encouraged; and
- Credentialing of veterinarians between states within each region.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **3 and 41 Combined APPROVED**

SOURCE: USAHA /AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONSISTENCY IN GUIDELINES AND APPLICATIONS OF METHODOLOGY FOR LARGE-SCALE EUTHANASIA OR DEPOPULATION OF ANIMALS TO ENSURE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO AN ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since large-scale euthanasia or depopulation of animals may be necessary to control or eradicate emergency and program animal diseases or to remove animals from a compromised biosecurity situation (e.g., poultry flocks after tornado damage to houses), or to depopulate and dispose of animals with minimal handling to decrease the risk of a zoonotic disease to humans, it is important to have guidelines and approved large-scale euthanasia methodologies for each livestock species and poultry. This would ensure that animal health authorities responsible for activating and implementing animal emergency response plans are provided clear and un-reproachable direction to facilitate large-scale euthanasia or depopulation.

The American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) *Guidelines on Euthanasia* (2007) primarily addresses euthanasia methods for individual animals. Introductory statements in that document include "there should be an attempt to balance the ideal of minimal pain and distress with the reality of the many environments in which euthanasia is performed". The *Guidelines on Euthanasia* also state that "selection of the most appropriate method of euthanasia in any given situation depends on [several things, such as] the number of animals and other considerations."

A paragraph in the Special Considerations section of the *Guidelines on Euthanasia* states "euthanasia options may be limited in unusual conditions, such as disease eradication…and the most appropriate technique that minimizes human and animal health concerns must be used." Options listed for mass euthanasia are "CO_2, and physical methods such as gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, and cervical dislocation."

Currently, inconsistencies exist between available euthanasia guidelines used by AVMA, livestock species groups and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that describe approved methodologies for large-scale euthanasia or depopulation of animals. Additionally, state and local animal health authorities may not be aware of existing guidelines, approved methodologies and the resources necessary to accomplish large-scale euthanasia or depopulation of animals. These factors contribute to misinterpretation, confusion, and delays in operations at the state and local levels.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the following actions regarding the large-scale euthanasia or depopulation of animals:

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management (NCAHEM) work with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and livestock species groups to revise euthanasia guidelines and methodologies specifically for large-scale euthanasia or depopulation of animals and identify those practices which pose the least risk to animals and humans. Further, this information shall then be incorporated into the National Animal Health Emergency Management System Operational Guidelines for Euthanasia as well as into the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (formerly the Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia).
- USDA-APHIS-VS-NCAHEM increase awareness of accepted guidelines, methodologies and resources within USDA-APHIS-VS to ensure consistency between program areas.
- USDA-APHIS-VS-NCAHEM increase awareness through outreach and education of state and local animal health authorities of accepted guidelines, methodologies and available resources to ensure consistency between states and enable a safe, timely and effective eradication or control process in case of an animal health emergency.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **4** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE DEMONSTRATION HERD PROJECT
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Johne's Disease Demonstration Herd Project was initiated in 2003 as a long-term project (at least 5 years) with the objective of validating management tools needed for a science-based National Johne's Disease Control Program.

Preliminary evidence indicates a reduction in prevalence and incidence of Johne's disease in the demonstration herds to date, but additional time is needed to complete the project.

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) continue to prioritize funding for the National Johne's Disease Demonstration Herd Project to complete the collection of 8 years of data from cooperating herds.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 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 last updated by the National Johne's Working Group (NJWG) in 2003 to guide the work and efforts of the NJWG and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Johne's Disease through 2008. A new 5 year plan is needed to incorporate significant changes that have occurred in our understanding of Johne's Disease, its management, availability and performance of diagnostic testing, state and federal funding and awareness of Johne's Disease among ruminant producers within the ruminant industries.

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) accept the updated Strategic plan as approved by the USAHA Committee on Johne's Disease on October 26, 2008.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6, 36, 39 and 46 Combined APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND RELATED ORBIVIRUSES
COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER: SURVEILLANCE FOR BLUETONGUE AND EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 1999, the discovery of nine new serotypes of bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease viruses in the United States (U.S.) indicate that previously exotic viruses now are entering the U.S.

The emergence of seven serotypes of bluetongue virus into Europe since 1998 has been associated with extensive clinical disease in sheep and cattle, and serotype 8, in particular, is associated with a high incidence of vertical transmission.

Climate change in the Mediterranean is generally accepted to have played a role in the spread of bluetongue viruses into Europe by creating suitable environments for colonization by competent vectors.

A similar climate change has occurred in the Caribbean region and might possibly have contributed to the introduction of new serotypes of bluetongue viruses into the U.S.

There is no coordinated surveillance for bluetongue virus or epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus in the U.S. to detect potential introductions of new serotypes.

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), working with universities and other agencies, establish a bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease surveillance program throughout the United States (U.S.) and the Caribbean region to:

a) establish the current regional distribution and activity of the established and newly recognized viruses in the U.S.,
b) detect the presence of introduced viruses in the U.S. and the Caribbean Region,
c) identify all species of insect vectors associated with the transmission of bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic viruses.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), the United States Department of Interior (USDOI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the United States Department of Commerce (USDOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-Fisheries to provide line item funding in future budgets to implement and maintain their respective portions of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED AS AMENDED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AN AQUATIC ANIMAL LABORATORY NETWORK
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2006, aquaculture within the United States produced an estimated 360,305 metric tons of product generating approximately $1.2 billion with over half of the production being utilized for human consumption (*Current Fisheries Statistics No. 2007, NOAA-Fisheries statistics division; U.S. Department of Commerce*). Thus, disruption in aquaculture production, either via natural or intentional disease outbreaks, could impact a portion of the food supply as well as lead to a direct economic impact on the United States. A recent example of this is the outbreak of infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV) in Maine. Similar situations could occur in any region within the United States from catfish and shrimp production in the southeast to trout, salmon and oyster production in the northwest. Due to this concern, representatives from federal, state, university and private aquatic diagnostic laboratories have been in discussions regarding the need for the development of an Aquatic Animal Laboratory Network which could be utilized for the detection of aquaculture disease outbreaks as well as disease surveillance. Such a network would be expected to limit disease outbreaks and economic impact associated with the outbreaks as well as to provide confidence in the quality of United States aquaculture products on the world market and thus enhance foreign trade. In addition, such a network would be highly compatible with the 2007 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-Fisheries 10-year Plan for

Marine Aquaculture in regards to expansion of aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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 initial funding of $2 million for a pilot Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network in FY2009 and $3 million in FY2010 and in FY2011.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: USE AND INTERPRETATION OF POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) RESULTS FOR VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA VIRUS (VHSV)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSv), an emerging fish pathogen, has led to unprecedented regulatory action by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to prevent the transfer to/from aquaculture. Given the nature of the aquaculture industry, the risk of spread is great and surveillance is necessary. In response, the USDA funded a $2.5 million, multi-state VHSv surveillance program (2007-present) and has also required susceptible fish moving interstate from any Great Lakes state to be tested for the VHSv. In addition, some states have begun to require VHSv testing for intrastate movement. Current laboratory testing protocols require virus isolation as the gold-standard. Compared to available molecular methods, the drawbacks to this technique include increased cost of labor and turn around time, and lower sensitivity. Two quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays have been developed for the detection of VHSv, including one for all known strains (Canadian VHSv assay) and one specifically for the Great Lakes strain IVb (Cornell VHSv assay). Laboratory trials have shown these assays to be 1,000-10,000 times more sensitive than virus isolation and reduces the turn-around time from 28 days to 1 day. In addition, demonstrating confidence in the Cornell VHSv assay, over 6,000 samples have been tested without a PCR false positive. The Canadian assay is currently undergoing complete World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) validation (expected completion 2009), but already is being used as the gold standard in the Canadian VHSv surveillance program.

The use of PCR for surveillance is not a novel idea and is widely accepted for other animal pathogens in the United States. Programs currently using PCR include avian influenza, classical swine fever, bacterial meningitis, Johne's disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and others. For these surveillance programs, PCR positive results indicate a "population in need of further study." Additional testing of the original material or population to confirm the PCR result is required to eliminate the possibility of a false positive result. Depending on the pathogen, these methods may include isolating the bacteria or virus, serological tests, or additional PCR tests. During confirmatory testing, movement of the animals is controlled based on the regulatory status of the disease and demonstration of clinical signs. For example, movement restrictions for low-path avian influenza are minimal based on an initial PCR positive in apparently healthy poultry, since this disease would be clinically apparent. This same standard can not be applied to all animals, including fish, where the VHSv has been shown to be present asymptomatically. To prevent the unknowing spread of VHSv, it would be appropriate to monitor or restrict the movement of fish undergoing additional testing. Using these PCR assays for VHSv surveillance and farm inspections would benefit all parties involved. In particular, regulatory agencies and private aquaculturists demand the most sensitive, accurate, and fastest test available to prevent the potential spread of the VHSv.

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) evaluate and validate the Canadian (all strains) and/or Cornell (strain IVb) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay for the detection of viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSv). The test will be used to

monitor the spread of VHSv in wild fish and to satisfy VHSv interstate movement requirements for regulated species of fish as determined by USDA-APHIS-VS.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS
SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASES WORKING GROUP

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 2007 the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requested 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 (U.S.) National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD). The NLRAD 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 U.S. NLRAD.

A NLRAD will provide one standardized national reportable animal diseases list, demonstrate to trading partners and other countries that the U.S. has a uniform national list of reportable diseases, assist in meeting international reporting obligations and validate the U.S.' required international reporting to the OIE as well as required export certifications, and improve zoonotic and endemic animal disease reporting in the U.S.

USDA-APHIS-VS has recognized the USAHA's concerns. The National Surveillance Unit (NSU) is drafting a list of diseases that may be considered nationally reportable, using the list of diseases notifiable to the OIE as a starting point. The NSU has conducted background research on required disease reporting guidelines in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and in other pertinent agreements and memorandums.

After consulting with USDA-APHIS' legal counsel, the NSU determined that USDA-APHIS-VS does not have the authority to implement a mandatory list, but does have authority to develop voluntary guidelines. The NSU will continue developing the list, form a working group of stakeholders, and explore the possibility of rulemaking that would formalize the list and authority. The working group will provide periodic progress reports to the VS Management Team and the USAHA/American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) joint Committee on Animal Health Information Systems (AHISC).

The National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) is a joint effort of the USAHA, AAVLD and USDA to establish a nationwide reporting system for the occurrence of clinical cases of certain monitored diseases in order to meet national and international needs and obligations for animal health surveillance and disease monitoring. The NAHRS subcommittee of the AHISC includes many stakeholders (state and federal regulatory agencies, veterinary diagnostic laboratories and commodity working groups) and has developed specific methods and rules, including diagnostic and reporting criteria, which may be leveraged to create the NLRAD.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that USDA-APHIS-VS task the existing National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) subcommittee of the USAHA/American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) joint committee on Animal Health Information Systems, with support from the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), with developing the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD). This list should include identification of the diseases to be included on the NLRAD as well as the case definitions and reporting criteria for each disease on the list.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 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 the establishment of BSL-4 laboratory space for livestock is vital to our nation's 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, regulators, veterinarians, pet owners, wildlife managers, food and feed systems specialists and public health professionals in every state on a daily basis by providing surveillance and diagnostic services for these diseases. There is collaboration between the high containment laboratories in Canada, United States and Mexico that provides international defense against animal and zoonotic diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports continuing operation of existing, and construction of new, high-containment biosafety laboratories and maintaining the current system for regulatory oversight of these laboratories.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (PL 108-161)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) was created in 2003 by the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA) and 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 and state 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 VMLRP also creates a reserve corps of veterinarians available for mobilization in the event of an animal disease emergency or disaster. Adequate funding for VMLRP is $20 million annually.

NVMSA was enacted in December 2003 and has received modest appropriations beginning with the 2006 fiscal year. Until recently the regulations governing the VMLRP remained unwritten by USDA rendering the program non-functional. Language in the 2008 Farm Bill helped to expedite that process and USDA now reports it is on schedule to have the program running by March 2009. In the past, the Bush Administration has not included funding for NVMSA in the President's budget.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Congress fully fund the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) (PL 108-161) for $5 million in the Agriculture Appropriations bill and requests that the administration budget $20 million for the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA).

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 diagnostic laboratory personnel because of urgent national security concerns for public health, bioterrorism preparedness, and food supply security.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND

VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASING THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE BY EXPANDING VETERINARY MEDICAL SCHOOL CAPACITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health, food safety, and national security. There is a critical shortage of veterinarians in certain key public practice areas such as bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, environmental health, food safety and food security, regulatory medicine, diagnostic laboratory medicine, and biomedical research. The nation's veterinary medical colleges are at capacity and can enroll only 2,600 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. 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.

In 2007 and 2008, two new programs were signed into law to address the lack of capacity within veterinary schools; the School of Veterinary Medicine Competitive Grant Program (authorized in the United States Department of Health and Human Services) and the Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program (authorized in the United States Department of Agriculture). While these two new programs were inspired by past efforts to pass workforce expansion bills for academic veterinary medicine, they lack authorization language providing for more comprehensive construction in lieu of "minor renovations and improvements". It has not been determined how effective these new grants will be at alleviating the shortage of veterinarians in the workforce and the lack of capacity at veterinary schools.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests USDA develop regulations and implementation plans for the School of Veterinary Medicine Competitive Grant Program (SVMCGP) and the Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program (ABGP).

USAHA also requests the newly elected President of the United States include funding for SVMCGP and ABGP in the President's Annual Budget request.

USAHA requests the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees fund SVMCGP and ABGP at $15 million each per year.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR SECTION 1433 FORMULA FUNDS FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND RESEARCH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) have been in existence since 1977 and provide an extremely valuable source of funds for fundamental research on diseases of food producing animals. These funds are important funds for the colleges of veterinary medicine and the veterinary science departments in the United States. In addition, some of the states with veterinary colleges have in the past provided some monies for faculty wishing to conduct food animal related research on local and emerging diseases; however these funds have been essentially eliminated in many of the states. As a result, college faculties are shifting to National Institutes of Health research which will not support research on agricultural animals, nor on food safety at the farm level. These funds have also supported training graduate students in most colleges and veterinary science departments. There are no other funds available at this time to provide this much needed support.

Historically, the President's budget has not requested any money for Sec.1433 Formula Funds, but Congress has provided an average of about $5 million annually. There are indications that Congress may choose to cease funding the program if enough stakeholder support for the program is not conveyed to congressional appropriators.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the newly elected President of the United States include funding for Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) in the President's Annual

Budget request. USAHA also requests the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees fund Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) at $10 million per year.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **15 and 25 Combined APPROVED AS AMENDED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), in existence since 1982, develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory and extension specialists on avoiding both animal drug residues and environmental contaminants in meat, milk and eggs. FARAD's databank provides information regarding the time-course of drug and chemical depletion in the blood and tissues of animals following the routine use of drugs in animal agriculture, for the extra-label use of drugs in animal agriculture, and during food contamination emergencies which might arise from exposure to environmental toxins, particularly pesticides, either accidentally or intentionally introduced into the food supply. Additionally, FARAD provides rapid response assistance, through both its telephone hotline and web access, for inquiries concerning residue issues that affect food animal health and food product contamination. FARAD provides assistance in trade matters by maintaining databanks of foreign drug approvals, and it trains veterinary students and veterinary medical residents in the principles of residue avoidance.

The loss of an earmark for funding of FARAD in 2007 clearly demonstrates the dilemma that has existed throughout FARAD's existence. FARAD shut down all public access on September 30, 2008, and with remaining funds, will maintain the existing databank for an additional month. Without permanent multi-year funding ($2.5M/yr for 3-5 years), FARAD will discontinue all activities by the start of 2009.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the newly elected President of the United States include funding for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) in the President’s Annual Budget.

USAHA requests the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees fund FARAD at $2.5 million per year.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **16 APPROVED AS AMENDED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS VETERINARY MEDICINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2008 Farm Bill included the establishment of new regional centers of excellence in food systems veterinary medicine. A regional center of excellence shall be composed of one or more colleges and universities (including land-grant institutions, schools of forestry, schools of veterinary medicine) to focus on species specific diseases.

The criteria for consideration to be a regional center of excellence shall include efforts to ensure coordination and cost-effectiveness, leverage available resources, implement teaching initiatives, increase the economic returns to rural communities, and improve teaching capacity and infrastructure at colleges and universities. USDA has not reported how they intend to implement this new program, either as a new stand-alone grant or part of the larger reorganization of USDA’s extramural research programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) develop regulations and implementation plans for the Regional Centers of Excellence

(Centers) and the newly elected President of the United States include funding for the Centers in the President's Annual Budget request.

USAHA requests that the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees fund the Centers at $15 million per year.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FUNDING FOR EXPANDED RESEARCH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY NATIONAL CENTER FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL AND ZOONOTIC DISEASE DEFENSE (FAZD CENTER)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center) is a coalition of seven academic institutions cooperating with the Department of Energy's national laboratories and other federal institutions to address the priority needs of the United States (U.S.) related to natural or intentional introduction of exotic animal diseases into this country. The FAZD Center is currently developing vaccines and diagnostics for foot-and–mouth disease, avian influenza and Rift Valley fever and is moving toward future validation and licensing of these products. It has developed the capacity to address a substantially broader agenda. The FAZD Center is developing analytic tools that inform decision makers assessing the consequences of alternative policy and regulatory decisions to protect, intervene, and recover from outbreaks of exotic disease, including a focus on methods to enhance continuity of business during and after outbreaks of these diseases. The FAZD Center provides education and outreach programs for 100 graduate students and hundreds of private sector operators and government officials on these diseases at both regional and national levels.

In the four years of its existence, the FAZD Center has brought together an integrated team of scientists and educators that uses an integrated approach to produce knowledge, analytic tools and specific products contributing to the solution of the most pressing problems related to the prevention, intervention, and recovery from the introduction of exotic animal diseases in the U.S. The ability to exploit the previous investment and current capacity of the FAZD Center team is threatened by a projection of serious erosion of funding in future years.

Funding for the FAZD Center has been reduced from an earlier $6 million per year to $4.2 million for FY2009. The indicative budget for the FAZD Center from FY2010 through FY2013 is $4 million per year. This level of core funding for the FAZD Center is insufficient to maintain the integrity and momentum of the multi-institutional team that has been established.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Congress to appropriate funds to restore support for the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center) to $6 million per year for FY2010 – FY2014. USAHA requests the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) to maintain the integrity and momentum of the FAZD Center to meet the pressing needs for protection against intentional or accidental introduction of exotic animal disease into the United States.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES, NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER'S NEW BIOSAFETY LEVEL-3 AGRICULTURE (BSL-3AG) WILDLIFE DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Because of the important impact wildlife diseases have on human and domestic animal health, it is critical to ensure there is adequate laboratory space to address national wildlife disease problems. The construction and operation of a Biosafety Level-3 Agriculture (BSL-3Ag) 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-3Ag facility, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed Resolution 8 at its 2005 Annual Meeting, and in support of the operation and maintenance of the facility the USAHA passed Resolution 32 at its 2007 Annual Meeting. A delay for construction of the facility occurred in the spring of 2008 due to an inability to come to terms with the developer and negotiations were cancelled. Currently, a renewed effort to secure a developer is under negotiation. The 30% design phase of the NWRC Wildlife Disease Research Building (WDRB) is complete and "Solicitation for Offerers" for development and construction is underway. Functional operation of the facility is scheduled for fall 2011. This resolution reaffirms USAHA support for the staffing and operation of a 70,000 square foot BSL-3Ag 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-3Ag 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 24 months USDA-APHIS-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 150,000 wild bird samples and 75,000 environmental samples were collected in collaboration with 50 state agencies. The wild bird samples were analyzed under stringent requirements laid out in the Interagency Strategic Plan by multiple laboratories in the National Animal Laboratory Health Network (NAHLN) in multiple states. The environmental samples were 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 WDRB 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 9 (HSPD9), the USDA Strategic Plan and the APHIS Strategic Plan by providing APHIS with BSL-3 laboratory and BSL-3Ag 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 NAHLN.

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 United States Secretary of Agriculture and the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriation committees to

secure funding for the staffing and operation of a 70,000 square foot Biosafety Level 3-Agriculture (BSL-3Ag) laboratory at the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), Fort Collins, Colorado at an estimated annual cost of $3.5 million so that research and methods development on wildlife diseases that are transmissible to humans and domestic animals can be conducted.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY READINESS FOR ARTHROPOD-BORNE DISEASES
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The inability of the United States (U.S.) to detect the introduction of West Nile virus and control the spread of the disease across the nation has highlighted the lack of U.S. veterinary workforce readiness for arthropod-borne diseases. The recent outbreaks of bluetongue virus in Europe and Rift Valley fever virus in Africa further support the need for veterinary capacity in the diagnosis, control and epidemiology of arthropod-borne diseases. Development of diagnostic and control strategies, and regulatory statutes to reduce the economic impact on U.S. livestock requires an interdisciplinary approach including entomology, microbiology, immunology, veterinary medicine and epidemiology.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) develop an interagency strategy and coordination for development of diagnostic and control strategies for arthropod-borne animal diseases, support either development or maintenance of the necessary high bio-containment laboratories and large animal isolation facilities and provide opportunities for training of National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories and veterinarians as to the clinical presentations and detection of high threat arthropod-borne diseases.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT MATTER: REVIEW OF COMPENSATION FOR RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC VETERINARIANS
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinarians with advanced scientific training, including advanced degrees and board certification credentials, are critically needed for the prevention of animal diseases, as the first line responders for many human health issues and as a workforce for ensuring a safe global food supply. The research and diagnostic testing they conduct ensures animal diseases are rapidly identified and vaccines developed. In order to attract and retain these scientists additional compensation is required.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that in order to appropriately compensate and retain veterinary scientists with advanced degrees or board certification in high priority research and diagnostic fields that state and federal agencies review veterinarian salaries for parity with other health professional salaries, especially those established by Title 42 for the National Institute of Health (NIH), to retain scientific staff.

In addition, Title 42 pay adjustments should be available for use by all state and federal agencies employing these critical veterinary scientists.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: REVIEW OF SELECT AGENT STATUS FOR *BRUCELLA ABORTUS*
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2005, the *United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Laramie Agenda* identified the need for improved brucellosis vaccines, vaccine delivery systems, and diagnostics for wild bison and elk in

order to advance the elimination of brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) has been designated as a select agent by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS). The select agent rule makes it significantly more difficult to expand this body of knowledge by imposing restrictions that prevent further research on *B. abortus* because of increased expense and limitations on approved laboratory space needed for live animal trials and vaccine studies.

The Federal Select Agent Program is planning to publish an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) within the next year to allow the public to comment on the entire list of select agents, and based on public comments, decisions can be made to add or remove select agents.

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) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to review the criteria used to designate *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) as a select agent. USDA-APHIS-VS should participate in and support the publication of the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR), and include in the ANPR the rationale for removing *B. abortus* from the select agent list.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REVISE THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR BRUCELLOSIS AND PROVIDE FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION FROM WILDLIFE IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wild elk and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) are infected with *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) and represent the last focus of infection of *B. abortus* in the United States. There is an increased risk of wild elk and bison transmitting brucellosis to livestock when they occupy the same habitat geographically and temporally. However, areas of the GYA states with no brucellosis infected wildlife are not at increased risk of transmission of brucellosis from wildlife.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for brucellosis does not adequately address the risk of transmission of *B. abortus* from infected wildlife to livestock and the subsequent variable risk of transmission within state boundaries. Further, the Brucellosis Class Free designation as directed by the CFR, does not adequately address the ongoing risk of transmission in GYA states where brucellosis infected wildlife and livestock share habitat.

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 revise the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to further the goal of eliminating brucellosis from the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), and address the ongoing risk of brucellosis transmission from infected bison and elk.

The key concepts of an amended CFR for brucellosis should:

- Recognize that the risk of brucellosis transmission from wild elk and bison to livestock in the GYA is geographically and temporally variable within a state based on proximity to infected wildlife; and
- Implement enhanced traceability, more rigorous testing, and standardization of movement controls for livestock as determined by risk within a regionalized area that satisfies the criteria of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); and
- Allow for additional cases of brucellosis in livestock, within a regionalized area, that satisfies the criteria of the OIE, without a downgrade to a state's brucellosis status; and
- Advance the elimination of *Brucella abortus* from the GYA through coordinated multi-state and multi-jurisdictional strategies for brucellosis in wildlife.

The USAHA further urges that the USDA-APHIS-VS fund ongoing and enhanced efforts for surveillance in the GYA, with the goal of elimination of *Brucella abortus* from the region.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS
SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS TO HARMONIZE INTERNATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING METHODS OF DETECTING RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOOD TO REDUCE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Global trade of meat and poultry products is essential to financial health of the livestock and poultry producers in the United States. Use of veterinary drugs when necessary is essential to treat and control disease. In order to maintain the safety of the food supply when these drugs are used, a pre-slaughter withdrawal period is established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow drugs to clear from the edible tissues to a level not exceeding the tolerance level. The FDA established withdrawal periods, based on sound science, sometimes differ substantially from those necessary to meet global (or specific country) maximum residue limits. These differences are based on different interpretations of residue risk with no real difference in food safety. This can result in an American farmer using an FDA approved veterinary drug according to label sending livestock to market with potentially detectable residues that would be violative in certain markets. A violation or repeated violations may lead to disruption of trade with that market. FDA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) along with representatives of the Animal Health Institute are in on-going negotiations with the applicable non-government organizations (NGOs) (International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH), Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF)) to harmonize the processes and reduce this technical barrier to trade.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the continued funding of activities of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) related to negotiations to harmonize the requirements surrounding residues of veterinary drugs in food based on sound science and risk analysis.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS
SUBJECT MATTER: INTERIM FUNDING FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), in existence since 1982, develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory and extension specialists on avoiding both animal drug residues and environmental contaminants in meat, milk and eggs. FARAD's databank provides information regarding the time-course of drug and chemical depletion in the blood and tissues of animals following the routine use of drugs in animal agriculture, for the extra-label use of drugs in animal agriculture, and during food contamination emergencies which might arise from exposure to environmental toxins, particularly pesticides, either accidentally or intentionally introduced into the food supply. Additionally, FARAD provides rapid response assistance, through both its telephone hotline and web access, for inquiries concerning residue issues that affect food animal health and food product contamination. FARAD provides assistance in trade matters by maintaining databanks of foreign drug approvals, and it trains veterinary students and veterinary medical residents in the principles of residue avoidance.

The loss of an earmark for funding of FARAD in 2007 clearly demonstrates the dilemma that has existed throughout FARAD's existence. FARAD shut down all public access on September 30, 2008, and with remaining funds, will maintain the existing databank for an additional month. Without permanent multi-year funding ($2.5M/yr for 3-5 years), FARAD will discontinue all activities by the start of 2009. Once FARAD activities are discontinued, FARAD will be unable to reactivate FARAD activities and the databank will be permanently disabled. In the absence of the valuable scientific information provided by FARAD, food safety and international trade will be compromised.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urgently requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CREES) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) provide immediate interim funding to sustain the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) until the $2.5 million multi-year funding authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill is appropriated by Congress.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **25 Combined with 15**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS
SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD)

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **26 APPROVED AS AMENDED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: ENHANCED EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA PROGRAM FUNDING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) has been controlled in the United States because individual states with support of their equine industries have instituted regulations which require testing for entry, movement and/or congregation, as well as quarantine of test-positive equids. Testing for EIA has been widely accepted, and today includes both the agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID or Coggins) and enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test formats. Each year, approximately 2 million equid samples are tested for EIA, and over the last 3 years, 0.01% of the samples were reported as positive. The true prevalence of the infection is not known. In recent years, many of the reported cases have been from states with historically low numbers of cases, and a substantial proportion of those positives were in equids not previously tested for EIA. It is assumed that a population of untested equids exists in the United States. The rate of EIA infection is expected to be higher for that population in those states with historically higher reported numbers of positive tests, such as Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Mississippi.

In the considered opinion of experts and regulators, active surveillance should not be reduced but should be improved. The changes are needed because the traditional methods have reached their plateau, and testing in the mobile tested population greatly exceeds the actual risk. The changes deemed most appropriate are those directed toward: 1) identifying the true prevalence of the infection, 2) reducing the interval of testing where appropriate, 3) devising methods to address the untested population, with a focus on states with historically higher rates of test-positive equids, and 4) implementing a three tiered testing system utilizing sensitivity and specificity of tests in appropriate sequence for maximum efficiency.

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 states and the equine industry; such as the American Horse Council, state horse councils, American Association of Equine Practitioners and breed registries, request funding to support an enhanced Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) control/eradication program. Three (3) basic components encompass:

Section A: Fund Program

1. USDA-APHIS-VS to incorporate specific elements of the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, part 75, Communicable diseases in horses, asses, ponies, mules, and zebras, in order to assure that only equines having negative EIA testing status are moved interstate except as described under section 6,
2. Requests funding for an enhanced EIA control program leading to eradication with new money,
    - "At Risk" states are to receive focused federal funds in an eradication program; the initial

funding emphasis should be in the states with historically higher rates of infection (Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi),

- "At Risk" states must meet certain minimum standards including: change of ownership testing, minimum 12 month negative test for interstate movement, required euthanasia of reactors (grandfather existing reactors that are isolated), individual permanent identification of tested horses, utilization of a 3-tiered testing system.

Section B: Prevalence Working Group

1. USDA-APHIS-VS` should create a national EIA prevalence working group that includes representatives from all "At Risk" states.
2. The EIA prevalence working group would continue collaboration with the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) existing equine prevalence model for:
    - Identification of industry stakeholders,
    - Accurate equine census,
    - Accurate prevalence data,
    - Consistent case definition – herd vs. head
    - Address other issues as appropriate.

Section C: Diagnostic Laboratory Component

1. USDA-APHIS-VS should adopt national laboratory reporting system for accurate electronic test data,
2. Re-evaluate laboratory certification (moratorium) policy with input from state/federal regulatory authorities and National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), and
3. Utilize and request funding for a 3-tiered laboratory testing system (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID), immunoblot).
4. USDA-APHIS-VS should request funding for the NVSL laboratory system to fully support an expanded program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORTED EQUIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

With increased global livestock movement the disease risk is greater to the United States (U.S.) horse population. Horse diseases considered high risk include, but are not exclusive to, equine piroplasmosis, contagious equine metritis, dourine, glanders, equine infectious anemia, African horse sickness, equine viral arteritis and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis.

Eradication efforts in the early 1900's eliminated the presence of diseases such as dourine and glanders in the U.S. To protect the U.S. horse population, required importation testing and quarantine were implemented to minimize potential disease introduction into the U.S. Through national disease control programs, testing of both domestic and imported animals has limited the spread of diseases such as equine infectious anemia. Horses being imported to the U.S. represent a risk of importation of various diseases. Therefore, traceability of these animals is a critical element in the protection of the U.S. horse population.

A lack of a reliable and traceable permanent identification system for horses imported into the United States makes it difficult to conduct trace back of animals that are potentially positive or exposed to an infectious disease. There is an immediate need 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) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to revise the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to require all equids imported into, or returning to, the United States be identified with an implanted radio frequency identification (RFID) microchip as recommended by the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Equine Species Working Group that complies with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11784 and 11785 standards (134.2

kHz), unless already implanted with a readable 125 kHz microchip. Universal RFID readers should be present at all import centers and border stations to read both 125 and 134.2 kHz microchips.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 APPROVED AS AMENDED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS RESEARCH FUNDING
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a foreign animal disease to the United States (U.S.). However, there is an unknown prevalence of EP in the resident horse population. Prior to February 1, 2004, the official test for importation was the complement fixation (CF) test that occasionally yielded false negative results. The problem was compounded because known seropositive horses could purposely be treated with immunosuppressive medications to produce an upcoming transient negative import test. An upgraded competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C ELISA) test was specified as the official test on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield false negative results on adult horses.

Therefore, seropositive horses exist in the resident U.S. horse population at an unknown level and have the potential to infect multiple competent resident tick vectors and possibly establish the disease as endemic. There is no conclusive evidence that treatment of a bona fide carrier of either of the two strains of EP (*Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*) is a fail-proof viable option.

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) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to request expanded funding for research into finding an effective and safe treatment for elimination of the carrier state for *Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: TROPICAL BONT TICK
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The tropical bont tick (TBT) *Amblyomma variegatum* and *Cowdria ruminantium*, the causative agent of heartwater disease, were introduced into the Western Hemisphere on cattle imported from Senegal in western Africa to Guadeloupe, French West Indies in the late 1700's to early 1800's. The tick remained on three islands, Guadeloupe, Antigua, and Marie Galante from the mid-1800's to 1949, but since 1949 has been found on numerous islands from Puerto Rico in the north to St. Vincent in the south. Heartwater occurs in Guadeloupe, Antigua and Marie Galante, and acute bovine dermatophilosis, another disease associated with the TBT, is found on all of the islands where the TBT now occurs.

The TBT, heartwater and acute bovine dermatophilosis limit the potential for livestock production in the affected countries. Furthermore, the presence of the tick and its associated diseases in the Caribbean region presents a risk for introduction of the TBT and these diseases into the Americas. The introduction of heartwater into the United States could result in a cycle of transmission involving the TBT and native ticks, domestic livestock, and exotic and native wildlife. Spread of the TBT and its associated diseases could result in annual losses estimated at $655,000 to $3 billion annually.

Until 2007, efforts to control and/or eradicate the TBT were underway through the Caribbean Amblyomma Program (CAP) in the eastern Caribbean nations, the POSEIDON Program in the French West Indies, and through the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands. The CAP ended in 2008 and has been followed by projects of the national epidemiologists of eastern Caribbean nations under the strategy of the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services (IS) and/or Veterinary Services (VS) establish a working group to review successes and failures of the previous tropical bont tick (TBT) control/eradication programs, to review the current status of the TBT in

the region, and to develop a strategic plan to address support for and participation in programs for control and/or eradication of the TBT in St. Croix and the Caribbean region over the next 5-10 years.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
SUBJECT MATTER: CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR USE OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM PREMISES IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS IN PROGRAM DISEASES AND EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recognizing premises identification numbers (PINs) as a primary component of disease eradication efforts, and realizing that many states have statutory language that requires the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to be a voluntary program, many states must have a clear mandate from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) that this component of NAIS must be mandatory in order for some states to move forward.

Stakeholders of NAIS through the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) have long encouraged USDA-APHIS-VS to prioritize NAIS efforts on animal health. Previous resolutions from the USAHA Committee on Livestock Identification indeed requested USDA-APHIS-VS implement mandatory use of NAIS components in animal health programs. The final Business Plan of NAIS is consistent with these principles. USDA-APHIS-VS is commended for the basic NAIS Business Plan and for VS Memorandum 575.19, which specifies assignment of PINs for animal health program activities.

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) provide a letter clarifying the legality of VS Memorandum 575.19, and comparing the legal authority of a VS Memorandum to Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) requirements for assignment of premises identification numbers (PIN). Additionally, this letter must address whether USDA-APHIS-VS will respond and defend challenges to the assignment of a PIN and to the confidentiality of such.

USAHA also requests that USDA-APHIS-VS respond in a timely fashion to this request and issue a letter of findings directly to all state animal health officials.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM FUNDING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress toward scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. The Accelerated Scrapie Eradication Program began in 2001 and has made excellent progress as demonstrated by an 80% reduction of scrapie in black-faced sheep diagnosed positive at slaughter. At this time the best available epidemiological analysis suggests that, with adequate funding, eradication is possible by 2017. However, as described in the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan, funding is currently inadequate to meet surveillance goals. Specifically, funding is needed to insure that sampling goals are met for both sheep and goats and that the information system is designed to maximize the value of the data collected. Also, the number of positive animals that can be traced from slaughter is only 80%. Surveillance, identification compliance, and producer education must be significantly increased in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-infected flocks/herds. Funding requests are currently inadequate to effectively eradicate scrapie 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 annually adjusted for inflation.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR NEW FACILITY OPERATIONS AT THE NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Currently, there is inadequate funding to provide for operational expenses for the new facilities at National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH), Ames, Iowa. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has spent over $430 million in construction of facilities but will be forced to use mandated program budget money to pay for facility operations. This transfer of money jeopardizes and negatively impacts critical programs needed to regulate the veterinary biologics industry and to safeguard animal health in 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) request sufficient money for facility operations, outside of program funding, at the new National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
SUBJECT MATTER: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR VALIDATION OF GENOMICS-BASED PATHOGEN DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Validation of the tests used to detect dangerous pathogens in animals or animal products requires significant resources that have not been available to regulatory agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a consequence, vast improvements in pathogen detection technologies have had limited application to the biosecurity of United States agriculture and the food supply. New tests can quickly provide information on multiple pathogen strains and subtypes in a single sample with virtually no risk of error. A new annual appropriation of $10 million will allow the receiving agencies to conduct preliminary comparisons of new multiplex sequencing technologies and select the most worthy methods for official validation and permitting.

The new challenges posed by the threat of biological attacks on agriculture and the food supply require that the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) must also have access to validated, multiplexed detection technologies to defend against unprecedented combinations of livestock, wildlife, and even zoonotic diseases that could be used against the agricultural economy or the American people.

In order to achieve these advances, which are based upon existing but not yet adopted detection methods, a new approach to validation that will result in expedited evaluation of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)/ribonucleic acid (RNA) sequencing-based identification of complex mixtures of pathogens simultaneously in a variety of sample types is necessary.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges Congress to appropriate financial resources to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS), working in close cooperation with the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), Directorate for Science and Technology (DS&T), specifically for validation of rapid, reliable tests that will detect pathogens in complex mixtures of species, strains and sub-types. This program will initially require an annual appropriation of $10 million. This effort should focus on the objective of moving from the discovery of a potential “index case” to the issuance of an official conclusion and an appropriate response within days rather than weeks.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 APPROVED AS AMENDED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR FOOT AND MOUTH VIRUS DISEASE RESEARCH
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) was pleased to see the progress being made in the development of new generation adenovirus vector foot and mouth virus disease (FMDv) vaccines presented by Drs. Tam Garland and Luis Rodriguez in the plenary session. These vaccines can be safely produced in the United States (U.S.). This committee was also pleased to see the high quality scientific data presented during the afternoon symposium hosted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS). However, it was clear that major research gaps remain in FMDv detection, surveillance, epidemiology, immunology, and the development of vaccines and biotherapeutics specifically designed for the progressive control of FMDv, all of which are priorities for the U.S. National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) request an increase in the actual net level of bench research funding for foot and mouth disease virus (FMDv) research in the amount of at least $1 million to the USDA-ARS, Foreign Animal Disease Research unit at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) to specifically address the research gaps to fulfill the needs of the United States National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 Combined with 2
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: REGIONAL AND OPERATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 Combined with 6
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
SUBJECT MATTER: SURVEILLANCE FOR BLUETONGUE AND EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37 TABLED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER GONACON™ GONADOTROPIN RELEASING HORMONE (GnRH) IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION VACCINE.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Population management of wildlife and feral species is a valuable tool to address disease management and eradication. Currently available population management methodologies are often prohibitively expensive, sometimes unacceptable to the public and difficult to effectively apply to wildlife and feral species.

Effective immunocontraception would provide an additional tool for wildlife and feral species population management where lethal control is either difficult or prohibited.

Additionally, success in management and elimination of terrestrial rabies is dependent upon reducing the susceptible populations. The use of immunocontraception in rabies management would also be a valuable tool in reducing the risk of rabies in humans, especially in those countries where veterinary service is limited for feral and companion animals.

The preliminary positive results of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) GonaCon™ gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) vaccine in both wildlife and feral species and the critical role this vaccine could play in wildlife and

feral species management and rabies management, warrants making GonaCon™ research a priority of the USDA-APHIS-WS and the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), make it a high priority to expedite research, investigations, and field trials toward licensing of USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (WS), National Wildlife Research Center's (NWRC) immunocontraception vaccine GonaCon™ for use in wildlife and feral species for population management in the control of rabies and other diseases.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: THE NORTH AMERICAN RABIES MANAGEMENT PLAN
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the recent 19th Annual Rabies in the Americas Conference held at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the North American Rabies Management Plan was officially signed by agencies of the United States (U.S.), Canada, and Mexico and Navajo (Tribal) Nation. This historic event will enhance coordination and support the control of terrestrial rabies in North America which has led to the successful eradication of canine variant in the U.S. as proclaimed by CDC at the World Rabies Day in 2007. It also continues to support the control of canine rabies variant in coyotes in Mexico as well as gray fox rabies variants in Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border as well as the eastern seaboard raccoon rabies vaccine program in the U.S.-Canadian border utilizing RABORAL VRG® (Merial) and other approved vaccines. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources also continues control programs with the ultimate goal of elimination of arctic fox rabies in western Ontario utilizing a new human adenovirus recombinant DNA oral rabies vaccine, ONRAB® (Artemis).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), 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 CDC to allocate appropriated funding and resources to cooperate and collaborate with state and local agencies in maintaining this canine-free rabies status and expand the coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs for raccoon rabies on the U.S. eastern seaboard and gray fox rabies in Texas, and expand the preliminary research into the control of skunk variant rabies and control programs targeting skunks and feral dogs in the U.S., utilizing oral vaccination. USAHA encourages WS and CDC to fully implement and support the recently signed North American Rabies Management Plan, which will provide a dynamic framework for enhancement of rabies control in North America with the ultimate goal of eliminating terrestrial strains of rabies regionally, nationally and throughout the North American continent.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 Combined with 6, 36 and 46
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS
SUBJECT MATTER: SURVEILLANCE FOR BLUETONGUE AND EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE
SUBJECT MATTER: SORING OF TENNESSEE WALKING AND OTHER SHOW HORSES
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Soring of horses is the practice of purposely and deliberately causing pain to a horse's front legs and hoofs that result in the exaggeration of the horses natural gait in show competition.

Soring is prohibited by the Horse Protection Act of 1970.

During the 2008 Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued 187 violations of the Horse Protection Act.

Calling this practice “one of the most significant welfare issues affecting any breed or discipline”, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) issued a White Paper recommending the elimination of the abusive practice of soring.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) call for the elimination of the abusive practice of soring and requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care (AC), in cooperation with industry, continue their vigilant monitoring of the Horse Protection Act of 1970.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **41 Combined with 3**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE
SUBJECT MATTER: CONSISTENCY IN GUIDELINES AND APPLICATIONS OF METHODOLOGY FOR LARGE-SCALE EUTHANASIA OR DEPOPULATION OF ANIMALS TO ENSURE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO AN ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **42 NOT APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE
SUBJECT MATTER: BAN ON DOUBLE-DECK TRAILERS OF EQUINES
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals clearly document that the number of horses injured in double-deck trucks (29%) is three times greater than those travelling in straight-deck (8%) trailers. These data contributed to the Federal Regulation 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 88 in 2002 to provide humane and safe conditions to horses transported to slaughter facilities, and included the prohibition of double-deck trailers for transportation. However six years later (2008), there are numerous reports that horses are being transported in double-deck trailers to feedlots, assembly points, stockyards, or other destinations. Thus, there is a need on a federal basis to promulgate regulations to prohibit using double-deck trailers for the transport of horses in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) opposes transport of horses in double-deck trailers and supports legislation or regulatory actions to prohibit this practice.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **43 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER: ENZYME LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT ASSAY (ELISA) TESTING OF GOAT MILK FOR *BRUCELLA MELITENSIS*
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 herds, however, no herd 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.

The 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.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Assoction (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) develop and validate the *Brucella melitensis* indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for bulk tank sampling of goat milk through the production and standardization of a *Brucella melitensis* ELISA antigen as soon as practical.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 44 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER: APPROVAL OF CIDRs®
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 (U.S.). Legal and ethical availability of these types of drugs and hormones would facilitate productivity and genetic progress of U.S. 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.

CIDRs® (a progesterone-impregnated plastic device for intra-vaginal delivery to synchronize estrus) are labeled and available in many sheep and goat producing countries outside the U.S. Availability here would level the playing field for U.S. producers.

CIDRs® 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 2008 breeding season.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) respectfully requests that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) complete the label approval process of CIDRs® so that they may be marketed in the U.S.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 45 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER: BAN ON EXTRA-LABEL USE OF CEPHALOSPORIN ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS IN FOOD PRODUCING ANIMALS
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On July 3, 2008 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an order prohibiting the extralabel use of cephalosporin drugs in food producing animals (*Fed. Reg.* Vol. 73, No. 129). The comment period (Docket Number FDA-2008-N-0326, New Animal Drugs; Cephalosporin Drugs; Extralabel Animal Drug Use; Order of Prohibition) was extended to November 1, 2008. The effective date of the final rule was extended to November 30, 2008.

The extralabel use of cephalosporin drugs for use in sheep and goats is critical to the appropriate treatment of disease and relief of suffering in sheep and goats. Ceftiofur is one of the few antimicrobials approved for respiratory disease sheep and the only antimicrobial approved for such use in goats. Extralabel use of this drug for other indications (e.g. retained placenta, metritis, septicemia, soft tissue infections), at a higher dose or for duration of treatment exceeding the 3-day labeled course of therapy may be medically necessary to prevent animal suffering and appropriately treat disease. Further, there are no antimicrobials currently labeled intramammary for use in sheep and goats. Extralabel use of intramammary cephalosporins labeled use in cattle are medically necessary for the intramammary treatment of mastitis in small ruminant species; no other classes of intramammary preparations have label claims against gram negative mastitis organisms.

The Order of Prohibition is based on "evidence that extralabel use of these drugs in food-producing animals will likely cause an adverse event in humans and, as such, presents a risk to human health." No evidence is provided to demonstrate that the use of cephalosporin drugs in small ruminants has

contributed to the emergence of cephalosporin-resistant food-borne pathogens, the concern stated in the supporting documents for the Order of Prohibition.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) opposes the FDA Order of Prohibition on extralabel use of cephalosporin antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals as it applies to small ruminant species. No evidence has been presented that the extralabel use of these drugs in small ruminants presents a risk to public health. The Order of Prohibition will prevent veterinarians from using medically necessary treatments for disease to relieve animal suffering in small ruminant species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to indefinitely delay the effective date of the Order of Prohibition on the Extralabel Use of Cephalosporin Drugs in Food-Producing Animals. USAHA requests that any such ban should be considered on a species-by-species basis and based on evidence generated for each species.

Further, the USAHA requests FDA to conduct slaughter surveillance and collect and share data on the antimicrobial resistance of pathogens of sheep and goats before applying any such prohibition to these species in the future.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **46 Combined with 6, 36 and 39**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
SUBJECT MATTER: SURVEILLANCE FOR BLUETONGUE AND EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **47 APPROVED**
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: FUND EXPANDED COLLECTION OF WELL-CHARACTERIZED SERUM FROM CATTLE AND CERVIDS ROUTINELY TESTED TO SUPPORT THE EVALUATION OF NEW RAPID TESTS FOR TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE AND CERVIDS TO ENHANCE BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The need for gathering quality samples for new Tuberculosis (TB) test validation work has been supported by multiple recent United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolutions. This has lead to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) working hard to implement a sera bank during the last two years. The initial work focused on cervid sample collection, which has been followed by cattle sample collection. The estimated number of total samples at the NVSL from these efforts is 2,500 cervid samples and 380 cattle samples. Only 53 cervid and fewer than 10 cattle samples are well-characterized positives which are the samples needed for sensitivity validation of any new test. This resolution seeks to overcome the significant limitation of the current sera bank and ask for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the work of collecting up to 1,000 new well-characterized positive cattle and Cervid samples, along with added negative cattle samples from TB Accredited Free States. From the draft report of a recent USAHA TB Committee Sub-committee updating the criteria for evaluating TB test performance for “official test” status, the number of positive samples needed per species is estimated to be 500 or more. This is far above the fewer than 10 and 53 positive samples that are available respectively for cattle and cervid test validation in the NVSL sera bank today. Without these samples being collected, no new test will be validated.

At the 2006 USAHA Annual Meeting the following resolution was approved as Resolution 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-PakTM rapid test for one year. Serum should be banked for evaluation of a future serology test. Results of this evaluation should be submitted for review by the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee on Tuberculosis”.

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.”

At the 2007 USAHA Annual Meeting the following resolution was approved as Resolution 26: “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.”

This Resolution had the following response: “The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Serology Section of the Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is currently working with various cervid producer associations to obtain serum samples from a variety of cervid species. A cervid serum bank has been established; the number of species and the number of samples for each species are increasing. As of January 1, 2008, there were 1,273 serum samples in the bank. The NVSL continues to create panels of blind samples to assist in the evaluation of cervid TB serological tests being developed.”

There are promising tests awaiting these additional samples to complete their validation work. At the 2007 USAHA Annual Meeting the following resolution was approved as Resolution 27: “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.” These tests are being developed for cervid TB testing as well.

The Resolution had the following response: “The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Official use of specific test kits is determined by VS National Animal Health Program and Policy staff, with input from the TB Scientific Advisory Committee. Due to confidential business information constraints, the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) cannot comment on the licensure status of these three kits, but it is the CVB’s opinion that these products should follow the standard process for licensure.”

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to request funding and establish specific goals and timelines to gather the required numbers of well-characterized samples that will allow new and promising tests for tuberculosis (TB) to be scientifically validated.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 48 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CHANGE IN HOW TEST AND REMOVAL HERDS AFFECTS THE CALCULATION OF THE NUMBER OF TUBERCULOSIS AFFECTED HERDS WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINING STATE/ZONE STATUS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A study of the bovine tuberculosis (bTB) infected United States (U.S.) dairy herds that have undergone test and remove (T&R) protocols since 1985 provides evidence that T&R is a cost effective and efficacious method to eliminate bTB while minimizing risk to other herds, wildlife and humans. In low prevalence herds, current testing protocols and quarantine provide a significant margin of safety. Meanwhile, the cost to depopulate all bTB infected herds has, in some cases, increased beyond what governments can afford. The loss of herds through depopulation also has great impact on community economic conditions.

While T&R is scientifically, socially and economically a good option for low bTB prevalence herds, current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy (Veterinary Services (VS) memorandum 552.38, March, 2008) on the equal count of affected herd years throughout the quarantine period make T&R unattractive as an option because of the potential downgrade of a state's bTB status. In modified accredited advanced (MAA) states/zones with less than 30,000 herds and in modified accredited (MA) states/zones with less than 10,000 herds, an affected herd going through T&R will count fully throughout the approximately 4.5 year quarantine even as confidence in the herd's elimination of bTB increases with each subsequent negative whole herd test over time. The requirement for an additional two to five years (dependent on the current status of the state/zone) of being bTB free after the end of the quarantine period is overly burdensome to a state to advance to the next higher status, when there have been no identified infected cattle for four years. Since 42 states currently have less than 30,000 cattle herds, the USDA policy memorandum has potentially widespread impact.

There is now enough evidence of the effectiveness of T&R in low prevalence herds to change the counting of affected herds that meet specific criteria of prevalence rate, approved herd plan development, epidemiological investigation and regular review. Meeting the criteria would define a herd as an "Approved" T&R herd and, therefore, qualify it for the benefit of a change in affected herd year counting. The counting can be changed by a multiplication factor that decreases with increasing years and negative testing results in a T&R program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to adopt changes to veterinary services (VS) Memorandum 552.38 in the counting of affected herd years for "Approved" T&R herds by reducing the value to 75% of an affected herd in year two, 50% in year three, and 25% thereafter when no additional infected animals are found.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 49 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER: ELEPHANT TUBERCULOSIS GUIDELINES
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The emergence of tuberculosis (TB) in elephants in 1996 prompted the formation of an advisory panel to draft guidelines for the control of TB in elephants. Since that time various modifications of the guidelines have been drafted. The proposed 2008 guidelines incorporate several changes including the addition of serological testing using Chembio's Elephant TB Stat-Pak® Assay and additional options for culturing positive elephants.

Proposed guidelines would require annual testing by the triple culture method (3 trunk wash samples) and a single sample of serum collected for analysis by the Elephant TB Stat-Pak® Assay. The Elephant TB Stat-Pak® Assay was approved and licensed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) in 2007. The proposed guidelines require that blood from Elephant TB Stat-Pak® Assay positive elephants be submitted to Chembio for confirmatory testing with the Multi-Antigen Print ImmunoAssay (MAPIA).

Guidelines for treatment and movement restrictions would be based on culture and serological results. A Subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Tuberculosis was formed at the 2007 USAHA annual conference to review and comment on proposed guidelines.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care (AC) adopt and implement the "Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants 2008" which were reviewed and approved by the USAHA tuberculosis subcommittee on elephants.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 50 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: RESTRICTING IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mexican origin steers and spayed heifers meeting United States (U.S.) import requirements are allowed to enter the U.S. without restriction and little consideration for risk to commingled or adjacent livestock that may be exposed to Mexican origin cattle that may be incubating tuberculosis (TB).

Cases of TB continue to be found in Mexican origin steers and spayed heifers, and genetic fingerprinting suggests epidemiologic links and their involvement in transmitting tuberculosis to native U.S. cattle. This has been determined to be a major deterrent in successfully completing the national tuberculosis eradication program in the U.S.

To adequately address this significant impediment to the successful completion of the U.S. TB Eradication Program, cattle import regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) must be modified to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from non accredited free states or zones in Mexico or from any other zone which historically has not achieved accredited tuberculosis free status meet import testing requirements and be restricted to facilities which contain no breeding cattle.

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 modify title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 93.427 to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from states or zones which have never historically achieved Accredited-free status only be allowed importation into the United States if import requirements are met and transported directly from the port of entry or first point of assembly to feedlots, pastures or pens which do not contain breeding cattle.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 51 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: PREVENTION OF INTRODUCTION OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF) AND OTHER FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES (FADs) INTO THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mitigations that prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases (FADs) into the United States (U.S.) from international travelers disembarking from countries at risk for classical swine fever (CSF) and other FADs are essential to protecting the health and viability of the U.S. pork industry.

The Passenger Pre-inspection Program (PPIP), funded by Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) user fees, the Dominican Republic provides an excellent example of a risk-based, cost-effective program that successfully reduces the risk of introduction of CSF and other FADs through the interception of prohibited meat and meat products before they enter the U.S.

The PPIP is the only pre-inspection program of its kind focusing on preventing the entry of prohibited products prior to international passengers arriving in the U.S. The emphasis of the PPIP on disease prevention meets the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services 2015 strategic vision and the success of the program suggests it should be used as a model to expand other similar initiatives in other countries.

Currently, the PPIP has the potential to be expanded to include Haiti, which would further reduce the risk of introduction of CSF and other FADs to the U.S. by international travelers provided adequate funding from AQI user fees.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ), with support from Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS), to:

- Continue to utilize Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) user fees to adequately fund the Passenger Pre-inspection Program (PPIP) in the Dominican Republic;
- Acquire the necessary funding from AQI user fees to expand the PPIP to include Haiti; and
- Explore opportunities to use AQI user fees to develop similar, prioritized passenger inspection programs for other countries that have been determined to pose significant risks to the United States for the introduction of Classical Swine Fever and other Foreign Animal Diseases through international travel.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 52 APPROVED
SOURCE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUBJECT MATTER: URGENCY OF PROGRAM COMPLETION
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

We are blessed with a great infrastructure for animal health and production in our country and enjoy an abundance of quality, safe animal protein products and the livestock that produces those products. Too many times, and with increasing frequency, we find ourselves urgently going to Congress and State legislatures to seek emergency assistance for control of diseases that have been nearly eradicated from the United States through prudent cooperative federal, state and industry animal health and disease control programs. This sporadic response to animal health issues will inevitably lead to a crisis. Today, some states total animal health budgets are less in actual dollars than they were fifty years ago for specific diseases.

Of greater importance is the failure of the National system to safeguard animal health. Congress fails to recognize the importance of implementing a multi-year core funding for animal disease programs and fails to timely enact annual budgets, thus placing disease control programs in jeopardy due to the intermittency and uncertainty of even marginal funding.

If this issue is not addressed soon by responsible people in industry, federal and state governments, we will be negligent in our responsibilities to the American public in protecting this vital part of our food system infrastructure. Re-emergence and exacerbation of diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, cattle tick fever and equally threatening intentional or unintentional introduction of a highly contagious foreign disease affecting both animal and public health present real and inevitable risk.

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, cooperating with state animal health agencies and industry, has done, truly, a commendable job of safeguarding our livestock industry with the limited resources provided. However, success in controlling diseases has led to complacency while freedom of disease has created larger, yet more susceptible populations, and globalization of people, products and animals has created a whole new world for animal health safeguarding. Our disease control programs must be finalized.

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 continually support and advocate for the ongoing support, both program wise and financially, by the Secretary of Agriculture, the United States Congress and the President of the United States. Resources must be available, in adequate amounts and in timely manners, to finish disease control programs. The USAHA urges USDA to establish priorities, within budgetary functions, to bring existing programs and goals to finalization. We also urge USDA to adequately support initiatives to safeguard our livestock industries.