

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

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The 2011-2012 Nominations for USAHA officers and District Delegates as put forth by the Committee are as follows:

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SOUTH.....L. "Gene" Lollis, Florida; A. Gregario Rosales, Alabama
WEST.....Bill Sauble, New Mexico; H. M. Richards, III, Hawaii

2011 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1, 11, and 17 Combined -- APPROVED
SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

SUBJECT MATTER: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC
CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION FOR LIVESTOCK
MOVEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (e-CVIs) have proven advantages over certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) that are issued via paper form. Electronic CVIs have demonstrated a greater capability to trace, control, and contain livestock diseases. International livestock movements documented via e-CVIs would help to decrease the negative economic impacts that a significant livestock disease outbreak would have

on the United States economy and the nation's livestock industry by decreasing the time to trace movements and identify exposed animals. The use of e-CVIs for livestock in cross-border movements was listed as an action item of the Border Solutions Council and the Cross-border Livestock Health group at the 2010 and 2011 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) meetings. Participants are concerned that extensive paperwork requirements impose significant costs on livestock buyers and sellers and may cause unnecessary stressful welfare conditions to animals in transit.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to collaborate in designing their Information Technology Systems so they are compatible in order to implement electronic certification to expedite movement of livestock across the United States-Canada border.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 Combined with 4

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FUNDING

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3, 19 and 31 Combined -- APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) will be one uniform, science and policy based, nationally supported standard list of animal diseases. Standard uniform case finding and case reporting criteria will provide the basis for uniform reporting. The list will facilitate national and international commerce; assist in meeting international reporting obligations to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and trading partners; support generation of export certifications; and contribute to the assessment and reporting of the listed zoonotic and endemic animal diseases in the United States.

In 2006, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) formally identified the need for a unified national list of reportable animal diseases. USAHA previously recommended that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Centers for Epidemiology and

Animal Health (CEAH) compile and evaluate current state reporting and notification requirements. Although all states have a required reportable diseases list, there is large variability in these lists. Requirements for federal reporting are related only to program diseases or foreign animal diseases.

In 2007, USAHA and AAVLD formally requested that USDA-APHIS-VS, in cooperation with state animal health officials and industry, develop a United States NLRAD. The NLRAD should include appropriate reporting criteria. The USDA-APHIS-VS supported drafting a list of diseases that may be considered national reportable diseases.

In 2008, USAHA and AAVLD requested that USDA-APHIS-VS task the existing National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) subcommittee of the USAHA/AAVLD Joint Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems, with support from the USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH-National Surveillance Unit (NSU), with developing the NLRAD as well as the case definitions and reporting criteria for each disease on the list. The USDA-APHIS-VS supported this request.

From 2008-2010, the NAHRS Steering Committee in conjunction with the NSU has developed a NLRAD overview draft white paper and a proposed NLRAD. The NLRAD white paper describes the NLRAD reporting structure, the standard operating procedures for the approval and maintenance of the NLRAD, and case definitions and reporting criteria development.

USDA-APHIS-VS and the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) subcommittee of the USAHA/AAVLD Joint Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems continue to move forward with implementing a United States NLRAD.

The NLRAD is under review by National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and VS Area Veterinarians in Charge with comments requested by September 23, 2011. The NLRAD has also been distributed to USAHA animal disease commodity committees with a request for discussion in Buffalo at the USAHA meeting and comments by October 30. After considering the current round of stakeholder comments with concurrence of the NAHRS subcommittee and final approval by VS management, it will be published as a cooperative State-Federal set of guidelines for reportable disease. In addition, once the NLRAD is finalized, VS will be requested to initiate the regulatory process to establish and maintain the NLRAD and associated reporting requirements.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians request that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, finalize the United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) and related NLRAD white paper and initiate the regulatory process to establish and maintain the NLRAD and associated reporting requirements.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4, 2, 5, 20 and 23 Combined -- APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: National Animal Health Laboratory Network FUNDING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is our nation's early warning system guarding against emerging and foreign animal diseases that threaten the nation's food supply. The NAHLN also plays a large role in zoonotic disease surveillance and the protection of public health. The NAHLN has proven itself to be an effective way to expand and strengthen veterinary diagnostic capabilities in a coordinated network across the United States. Diagnostic capacity is a critical asset in case of major animal disease events, and any reduction in the NAHLN budget places our animal industries, the security of our food supply, and consequently our citizens' health and the United States (US) economy at enormous risk.

Federal support of the NAHLN allows veterinary diagnostic laboratories to perform high-consequence disease surveillance to protect against several foreign animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and avian influenza. Response to recent FMD outbreaks in Asia cost billions of dollars resulting in millions of cattle and swine destroyed and reducing food security. According to estimates by federal agencies, the cost to the US for a similar outbreak in our country could be as much as \$100 billion. Results from several studies show that for every hour FMD goes undetected, the cost of response increases by as much as \$10 million. Surge capacity (increased sustained testing in case of a disease outbreak) in the network has been built to a level that will help offset disease-related economic losses to industry, states and the federal government through rapid diagnostic deployment and efficient and secure communication. However, limited funding of the NAHLN to date has not allowed expansion of the NAHLN to achieve a level projected to more fully diminish losses from disease outbreaks.

At the FY 2010 funding level from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative and from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to support the NAHLN and the NAHLN laboratory infrastructure, economic losses associated with response and recovery from a serious disease event, and possible human losses, will far exceed this figure if NAHLN capability is not increased. To sufficiently meet US food security, and animal and public health needs, \$30 million is needed annually to support a fully functional laboratory infrastructure and to continue enhancements for network capacity and information technology capabilities. Further, since the annual appropriations process creates challenges for

laboratories in sustaining the federal investment into NAHLN infrastructure capacity and capability, a more stable funding mechanism on a multi-year basis is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians request that the Secretary of Agriculture support and that Congress authorize \$30 million in annual funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). We further request that in order to adequately sustain the network to ensure food safety and security, animal and public health, and the United States economy, Congress fund the NAHLN through a stable funding mechanism.

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians urge Congress to fully fund the authorized amount to ensure that NAHLN infrastructure, capacity, and capability are maintained and enhanced.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 Combined with 4

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FUNDING

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: MAINTAINING A WELL-TRAINED FEDERAL VETERINARY FIELD WORKFORCE AND DEVELOPING A SYSTEM FOR CONTINUALLY IMPROVING ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AT THE FIELD LEVEL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Because of budget cutbacks, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reorganizing the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS reports that it can no longer operate as it has in the past, as current and projected funding streams will not support the agency's existing operations and organizational structure. APHIS proposes to centralize its infrastructure by streamlining and consolidating its management to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources provided. APHIS is considering actions that will eliminate programs not specifically funded in the budget; pursuing lower operating cost initiatives; reducing funding of selective cooperative agreements; and restricting hiring, training, travel, and services.

This causes concern that USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services (VS) field programs will be underfunded or eliminated and the maintenance of well-

trained USDA-APHIS employees in field locations will not be able to continue as they have in the past, which will negatively impact USDA-APHIS' role in the protection of animal health. One of the primary reasons that USDA-APHIS-VS has been so successful in the past is that it has a veterinary field force that can effectively and efficiently work with states, industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to prevent, control and eliminate animal diseases and pests. While many of the USDA-APHIS-VS field programs have been successfully completed, maintaining animal health is a continual process that requires a well-trained veterinary field workforce. Existing programs need to be monitored, and new diseases and pests will need to be addressed and eliminated. With USDA-APHIS budgets continually being reduced, there may be serious consideration given to reducing and/or eliminating federal animal disease prevention/control activities in the field. USDA-APHIS may become an advisory agency with no field workforce or hands-on experience to prevent, recognize, or respond to an animal or public health emergency.

The United States Animal Health Association should inform Congress of the importance of maintaining a well-trained federal veterinary field workforce to continue protecting animal health by controlling diseases and pests through comprehensive surveillance and response programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to maintain and improve the current federal veterinary field workforce to protect the nation's animal and public health. Any significant reorganization in the veterinary workforce should be carried out in collaboration with state animal health authorities, animal industries and non-governmental organizations to ensure an adequate animal and public health infrastructure.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY SERVICES INVESTMENT ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Veterinary Services Investment Act (VSIA) (SS1053, May 23, 2011) will help ensure a stable and safe food supply for citizens in the United States.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) reports that 60 percent of the veterinary school graduates in 2009 entered private practice of which only five percent opted to practice large-animal medicine. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has predicted a veterinarian shortage in the coming years. This shortage already exists in parts of rural America and shows signs of worsening unless current trends are reversed. There are urgent unmet needs for veterinary services within rural areas

jeopardizing both animal and public health and the ability to trade animals and animal products interstate and internationally.

This legislation will establish a new competitive grant program to relieve veterinary shortage situations and support veterinary services. It will help address the challenges faced by America's farmers and rural communities which rely heavily on large animal veterinarians. Grants awarded under the program may be used for a variety of purposes including:

Promoting recruitment, placement, and retention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students of veterinary medicine and students of veterinary technology.

Assisting veterinarians with establishing or expanding practices for the purpose of equipping veterinary offices, sharing in the overhead costs of such practices, or for the establishment of mobile veterinary facilities where at least a portion of such facilities will address education or extension needs.

Providing financial assistance for veterinary students, veterinary interns and externs, fellows and residents, and veterinary technician students to attend training programs in food safety or food animal medicine, to cover expenses other than tuition.

Establishing or expanding accredited veterinary education programs, veterinary residency and fellowship programs or veterinary internship programs, or veterinary internship and externship programs in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

Programs for tele-veterinary medicine where such practices shall at least in part contribute to veterinary extension, education, or research.

Assisting the office or position of a state veterinarian or animal health official to coordinate veterinary services and food protection issues.

Assessments of veterinarian shortage situations and preparation of applications for designation as a shortage situation.

Continuing education and extension, including distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety.

Recruiting and retaining faculty at accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

Programs, in coordination with universities or local educational agencies, to encourage students in secondary schools to pursue careers in veterinary medical or science professions.

VSIA will be administered by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture shall award a preference to applications that document coordination between or with the state, national allied or regional veterinary organizations, or specialty boards recognized by AVMA; the applicable accredited veterinary education institution, accredited department of veterinary science, or department of comparative medicine; or the applicable state veterinarian or animal health official (or its equivalent); and will use the grant funds to help meet veterinary workforce or food protection needs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Congress pass and fund the Veterinary Services Investment Act.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinarians interested in pursuing a career in public health face additional financial burdens due to additional education requirements. Eighty nine percent of today's veterinary students have debt upon graduation of which 90.4% was incurred while in veterinary school. According to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the mean educational debt for today's veterinary medical graduate is approximately \$142,000, with approximately 37% of students graduating in 2010 reporting debt exceeding \$150,000.

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Enhancement Act (PHSA) will increase the number of veterinarians working in public health in two ways. It establishes that "veterinary public health" professionals are intended to be included among the health professionals for purposes of two PHSA authorities: section 765, which provides for grants for expanding America's public health workforce, and section 766, which establishes a loan repayment program for public health professionals.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association supports the Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act and urges the United States Congress to pass and fund this legislation.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD 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 for the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Science departments in the United States. In the past, these funds allowed food animal related research on local and emerging diseases; however, these funds have been steadily dwindling and eroded by inflation. As a result, college faculties are shifting efforts to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research which will not support research on agricultural animals or on

food safety at the farm level. Section 1433 Formula 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.

For a number of years the President's budget had not included any money for Section 1433 Formula Funds, but Congress has provided less annually. In FY11, \$2.95 million was appropriated to the fund.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the President include the authorized level of \$10 million for Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) in his Annual Budget request.

USAHA also requests the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees to fund Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) at the authorized level of \$10 million per year.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), in existence since 1982, provides scientifically valid information on how to avoid drug, environmental and pesticide contaminant residues in food animals and it helps to avert food safety crises. No other federal or private entity duplicates FARAD. FARAD develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, and 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 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.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the President to request and the United States Congress to fund the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank at \$2.5 million annually.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 Combined with 1

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC
CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION FOR LIVESTOCK
MOVEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES
LABORATORY CERTIFICATION FOR DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT
LABORATORIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Evaluation of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) has shown that milk ELISA is comparable in accuracy to currently available serum ELISA kits. Previous resolutions from the Committee on Johne's Disease to include milk ELISA testing of Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) samples as official screening tests for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) have been approved by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). The national Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), through efforts of Quality Certification Services (QCS), has developed and implemented a laboratory milk ELISA proficiency program that meets the standards of proficiency for DHI laboratories and exceeds the standards of proficiency required by the milk ELISA proficiency program administered by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). The availability of two milk ELISA proficiency programs increases the costs of participation and testing for DHI laboratories. In an effort to reduce costs to DHI testing laboratories and to increase testing infrastructure for milk ELISA testing, a consolidation of the two proficiency systems is recommended that would meet the requirements of each of the individual proficiency programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association, recognizing the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program is a voluntary program, requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) implement the protocol for Dairy Herd Improvement laboratory certification through the USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL Johne's milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) proficiency test program using the Quality Certification Services ELISA Proficiency Program test data.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 and 39 Combined –
APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE
COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: A MULTI-STATE INITIATIVE FOR MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASES IN ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Maintaining research and outreach programs is imperative to continued advancement of diagnostics, vaccines, and methods to prevent Johne's disease from devastating dairy cattle herds. The Johne's Disease Integrated Program (JDIP) has developed an excellent research and outreach infrastructure that is effectively addressing these issues. This same infrastructure is well positioned to help address other mycobacterial diseases including bovine tuberculosis. The JDIP is currently in its final year of United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture Coordinated Agricultural Project funding and is seeking ways to maintain parts of the existing infrastructure such as that used for the mastitis multi-state initiative.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food Agriculture, and Experiment Station Directors support the establishment of a multi-state initiative for mycobacterial diseases of animals.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE FUNDING FOR CAPTIVE CERVIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The proposed rule for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification and Interstate Movement of Captive Cervids in farmed cervidae requires that all farmed cervidae greater than 12 months of age that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD. Farmed cervidae producers across the nation have complied with testing requirements, in large part because laboratory costs for CWD testing have traditionally been paid with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds.

The CWD testing protocol that is recommended for farmed cervidae is the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test using formalin fixed samples of brain stem and retropharyngeal lymph node from each animal. It is the most sensitive and specific test for detecting CWD. The test is expensive and costs at least \$25.00 per slide to perform at USDA approved laboratories.

There is an urgency to maintain USDA funding to cover the costs of CWD testing for farmed cervidae. If USDA funding for CWD tests ends and

farmed cervidae producers are forced to cover the cost of such tests, there is a real possibility that producer compliance with CWD testing requirements will decrease. Without producer cooperation, the national CWD control program for farmed cervidae could collapse.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to continue to provide funding to cover the laboratory costs of testing farmed cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease by immunohistochemistry at all approved laboratories.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HERD CERTIFICATION AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENT FINAL RULE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Implementation of rules for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) that define the CWD herd certification program (9 CFR 55 Subpart B) and requirements for interstate movement of farmed cervidae (9 CFR 81) has been delayed since 2006.

There is an urgency to finalize these rules to ensure that CWD certification programs are uniformly administered in all states and that all farmed cervidae that move from state to state meet the same requirements. These rules are critically important to the survival of the farmed cervidae industry. These rules are needed to preserve the ability of producers to move farmed cervidae and their products interstate and internationally without unnecessary restrictions.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to finalize rules for Chronic Wasting Disease herd certification programs (9 CFR 55 Subpart B) and interstate movement of farmed cervidae (9 CFR 81).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: LIVE ANIMAL TESTING FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in live animals is an important component of CWD Prevention and Control Programs.

With the funding decrease for CWD indemnification, the need has increased for additional diagnostic tools to monitor CWD positive herds and epidemiologically linked herds that may be maintained in quarantine rather than depopulated. The use of recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) has been approved as a live animal test for Scrapie. There have been numerous studies evaluating the sensitivity and specificity of RAMALT in cervids.

There are several additional advantages to RAMALT sampling. There is a large amount of suitable tissue to sample and multiple sites can be sampled allowing repeat sampling over time.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services evaluate live animal tests, including the rectal biopsy (RAMALT), as a live animal test for Chronic Wasting Disease.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 Combined with 1

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

SUBJECT MATTER: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION FOR LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SWINE SURVEILLANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States pork industry have made significant progress in the development of the infrastructure necessary for implementing a comprehensive and integrated surveillance system (CISS) for swine diseases. The United States pork industry continues to implement the Swine Identification Plan which will support risk-based surveillance and statistically significant sampling from swine populations. The industry has also continued to prioritize and communicate surveillance objectives for inclusion in a CISS for swine diseases.

Critical for implementation of CISS is the role of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Surveillance Unit to balance surveillance objectives with available surveillance streams, estimate costs and provide analysis back to the US pork industry. For various reasons related to issues with infrastructure and resources, which have

recently been addressed with targeted funding for CISS, this process has not occurred for previously identified surveillance objectives thus limiting CISS implementation.

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), National Surveillance Unit to continue the implementation of industry surveillance priorities, through appropriate risk-based surveillance streams and communicate the results. A progress report from USDA-APHIS-VS should be provided to the Swine Species Committee at the 2012 National Institute of Animal Agriculture annual meeting and to the USAHA Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 Combined with 3

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 Combined with 4

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FUNDING

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 -- APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS – RELEASE OF TEST NEGATIVE TREATED HORSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the past two years, approximately 170 Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) affected horses in the United States were enrolled in an approved treatment plan for *Theileria equi* (*T. equi*) designed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service. Preliminary reports on the treatment outcome are very encouraging. A high percentage of the horses tested negative on polymerase chain reaction testing soon after completion of treatment. Twenty-five (25) post treatment animals tested negative via transfusion into splenectomized horses with all recipient animals remaining serologically negative providing clear evidence of the effectiveness of the

treatment plan. While most post treatment horses remain positive on competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA), a significant number test negative on both cELISA and Complement Fixation and therefore no longer meet the case definition for EP.

A national guideline for state quarantine release of cELISA test negative post treatment horses enrolled in an approved treatment plan would promote understanding and cooperation among states, preventing unnecessary test requirements being placed on such horses moving interstate.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) develop and publish guidelines for Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP) *Theileria equi* test negative horses after completion of an approved EP treatment plan and that have met the following conditions to be considered for state quarantine release:

- Enrolled in the USDA-APHIS-VS/USDA, Agriculture Research Service (ARS) treatment research program as per VS Memo 555.20; **AND**
- Treated using the USDA-ARS published imidocarb treatment protocol under state or federal supervision; **AND**
- Be identified with ISO-compliant microchip and that the identification number be held in a repository accessible by states; **AND**
- Nested real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and complement fixation test negative on post-treatment testing; **AND**
- Negative by transfusion to a splenectomized horse **OR** negative by the USDA-ARS Western Blot clearance test; **AND**
- Competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA) negative at USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory;

Additionally, annual cELISA tests should be conducted for the first three years after release as added assurance of disease freedom.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: Equine Piroplasmiasis - Importation Testing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP) is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease to the United States. However, it is assumed that the disease exists at some unknown prevalence level in horses that are native to the United States or horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the "official test" for Piroplasmiasis, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States was the Complement Fixation (CF) test. An upgraded competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) test was specified as the "official test" on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield "false negative" results on chronically EP infected adult horses.

While the cELISA has a significantly higher sensitivity in detecting the chronically infected EP horse, the sensitivity to detection of the acutely infected horse is much lower when compared to the CF test. Recently,

through research and EP disease investigations, there have been cases where acutely EP infected horses have tested negative on the cELISA test but positive on the CF test. As a result, the Equine Piroplasmosis Working Group recommended that the definition of a confirmed case of EP be defined as, "an equid that has tested positive by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) with either a complement fixation (CF) test or a competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA)." This definition was incorporated into domestic policy in Veterinary Services Memorandum 555.20.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, to require a negative Complement Fixation test **and** a negative competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test for Equine Piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*) prior to importation of equids into the United States.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 Combined with 4

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FUNDING

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: USE OF BUFFERED ACID PLATE ANTIGEN AND FLOURESCENT POLARIZATION ASSAY IN CERVIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluated data presented by Ryan Clarke on the use of buffered acid plate antigen (BAPA) and fluorescent polarization assay (FPA) for the diagnosis of *Brucella abortus* in elk. The subcommittee found that these tests offer sensitivities and specificities similar to currently approved tests for cervids. Additionally, these tests are cheaper, easier and faster for many laboratories to perform. The scientific advisory subcommittee of the Committee on Brucellosis recommended the BAPA be approved as a screening test for brucellosis in cervids, and that the FPA be approved as a confirmatory test for brucellosis in cervids.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services include buffered acid plate antigen as a presumptive test and fluorescent polarization assay as a presumptive or a confirmatory test for the use of brucellosis diagnosis in cervids.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 -- APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CENTERS FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Herd depopulation of brucellosis affected herds has been an important component of the Emergency Action Brucellosis Eradication Program. Depopulation with associated indemnification may be needed intermittently in the three Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) states that face the continual threat of brucellosis transmission from infected wildlife.

With the federal brucellosis eradication program taking a new direction per the Interim Brucellosis Rule [APHIS–2009–0083], and Tuberculosis/Brucellosis Framework [APHIS-2011-0044], depopulation of brucellosis affected herds is no longer mandatory, but rather the decision to depopulate or proceed with a test and removal program is made based on the epidemiological investigation and other factors. It would be beneficial to have a transparent system that defines the decision criteria used by Veterinary Services to determine if a herd qualifies for depopulation.

In 2010, the Subcommittee on Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (SBGYA) drafted a Depopulation Decision Matrix that attempts to provide a quantitative assessment of various criteria which should be assessed prior to decision making on the disposition of affected herds. While recognizing the potential benefit of the matrix in herd management, an epidemiological and statistical review may improve its utility. The SBGYA prefers to focus on improving this depopulation matrix and opposes utilizing a depopulation model originally developed for the Tuberculosis Eradication Program. Application of any model should be based on brucellosis epidemiology and input from state and tribal animal health officials.

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/Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health provide technical assistance to the Committee on Brucellosis of the USAHA in an epidemiologic analysis of the depopulation matrix components to improve its utility and applicability to herds affected with brucellosis. Further, the USAHA requests USDA-APHIS to implement the updated matrix as part of a transparent decision process before the next USAHA meeting.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 -- APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CALFHOOD VACCINATION OF BISON UP TO TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS OF AGE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services requested that United States Animal Health Association's Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate the use of *Brucella abortus* "Strain RB 51 vaccine" in bison between the age of 12 and 18 months due to the later maturity of bison as compared to cattle. Data was previously presented by Dr. Steven Olsen regarding serological responses in bison calves vaccinated with RB 51 between the ages of 12 and 24 months. Bison calves vaccinated during this time frame remained seronegative after vaccination. The scientific advisory subcommittee of the Brucellosis committee recommended the use of this vaccine in this age of animal.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services adjust the allowable age of RB51 official calfhood vaccination of bison through 24 months of age.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REPORTING OF FOLLOW UP ON TRACE INVESTIGATIONS FROM SUSPECT ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The success of disease eradication programs relies on successful epidemiological investigations and follow-up. Investigations which are timely and complete provide the greatest opportunity for isolating and/or removing infected animals and subsequent control and eradication of livestock diseases. While protecting the privacy of individual producers, it is imperative that outcomes of investigations be available to other animal health officials, and withstands peer review. This allows animal health officials to make informed, reasoned, and effective decisions to protect the nation's and state's animal health industries.

Recognizing this need, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) compiled and distributed comprehensive summaries during a number of recent disease outbreaks including contagious equine metritis, piroplasmosis and equine herpesvirus.

With the recent departure from state disease status classification systems for tuberculosis and brucellosis in favor of a regional or local response, dissemination of this type of information on these diseases significantly increased in importance. Indeed, USDA-APHIS-VS has responded to requests from the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials by compiling and distributing investigation reports to animal health

officials on tuberculosis and brucellosis. These reports, while useful, need to also include the status of epidemiological traces on a periodic basis to be most beneficial.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) continue to compile and distribute, to state and tribal animal health officials, investigation reports on brucellosis on a monthly basis and provide immediate reporting and frequent updating of emerging disease events. Further the USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS, the states and tribes to include status of trace investigations, including a summary of unsuccessful brucellosis trace investigations in these reports.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 -- APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: SEPARATE SHEEP AND GOAT COMMODITY HEALTH LINE ITEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In FY2011, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) primarily addressed sheep and goat health/disease issues through the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) and National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) studies. For FY2012, USDA-APHIS-VS has requested that Congress approve commodity-based funding which would include horses, cervids, sheep, and goats in a single line item where funding could be transferred between the commodities based on priorities identified by USDA-APHIS-VS and its partners. The proposed grouping of these species is reminiscent of the failed Miscellaneous Diseases line item in the USDA-APHIS-VS budget of over 20 years ago.

The United States Animal Health Association is concerned that sheep and goat funding may be diverted to address needs of other species, which could jeopardize the eradication of scrapie from the United States and the health and well-being of sheep and goats.

The currently proposed species grouping of Equines, Cervids, and Small Ruminants (sheep and goats) is not appropriate to serve the health and disease needs of such a diverse group of animals. Equines and Cervids have very few common health and disease issues with Sheep and Goats. Emerging diseases in each of the species in the proposed grouping will most likely result in even less commonality in disease/health priorities among these species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to establish a separate line item for Sheep and Goat Health.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 and 33 Combined -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM –
SURVEILLANCE LEVELS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress toward scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) began in 2001 and has made excellent progress as demonstrated by a 96 percent reduction of scrapie in sheep diagnosed positive at slaughter as adjusted for face color. 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 scrapie-positive animals that could be traced from slaughter was only 80 percent in FY 2011. Surveillance, identification compliance, and producer education must be significantly increased in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-infected flocks/herds.

As the NSEP nears success, maximum surveillance is needed to achieve the final goal of eradication. We are concerned that federal budget constraints may jeopardize the ability to carry out the targeted surveillance needed for final scrapie eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to maintain or increase scrapie surveillance levels for sheep, and increase surveillance levels for goats.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 -- APPROVED AS AMENDED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE'S
ROLE IN PRE-HARVEST FOOD SAFETY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Human foodborne illness associated with poultry meat consumption continues to be a significant public health concern within the United States as evidenced by The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent

FY 2011 – 2016 FSIS Strategic Plan which identifies the following Strategic Theme:

Strategic Theme: Understand and Influence the Farm-to-Table Continuum

Goal 5: Effectively use science to understand foodborne illness and emerging trends

Goal 6: Implement effective policies to respond to existing and emerging risks

We believe that USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services' (VS) mission is to partner with, support, and assist other Agencies that have regulatory authority in this area.

USDA-APHIS-VS, through the National Poultry Improvement Plan, National Anti-Microbial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) and the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), has extensive knowledge of on-farm practices in animal agriculture along with the core competencies necessary for pre-harvest food safety outbreak investigations. This expertise makes USDA-APHIS-VS the obvious candidate-agency for undertaking the pre-harvest food safety effort consistent with USDA-APHIS-VS 2015 vision. One Health and pre-harvest food safety are 2 of the 4 documented core pillars of this vision. Additionally, USDA-APHIS-VS mission supports the Center for Disease Control's *One Health Strategic Plan* and the Food Safety Inspection Service Strategic Plan for 2011-2016.

Recommended activities for USDA-APHIS-VS include:

- Direct the National Animal Health Monitoring System program to perform baseline prevalence studies for salmonella and campylobacter at the turkey and chicken breeder and progeny farm and hatchery level, determine antimicrobial resistance profiles at each stage of production, and identify effective intervention strategies;
- Approach the Center for Veterinary Medicine to return authority for evaluation and approval of food safety vaccines and competitive exclusion products to the Center for Veterinary Biologics.
- Continue to fully fund the ongoing efforts of the USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL and support for the NARMS program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the Secretaries of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Department of Health and Human Services develop a collaborative, unified approach to federal pre-harvest food safety efforts, utilizing the expertise of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 Combined with 3

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 Combined with 34
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: Q-FEVER (*COXIELLA BURNETTI*) VACCINE FOR SHEEP AND GOATS AND FOR HUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 Combined with 29
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP & GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM – SURVEILLANCE LEVELS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 and 32 Combined -- APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: Q-FEVER (*COXIELLA BURNETTI*) VACCINE FOR SHEEP AND GOATS AND FOR HUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Q-Fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetti*. *Coxiella* infection is found in many species in many countries of the world, including the United States. The disease is a major cause of abortion in sheep and goats, which results in significant economic losses to producers, but also results in significant risk of transmission to human beings. Exposure to the products of abortion (or raw milk products) either directly or through environmental contamination poses a significant public health risk, as demonstrated by the recent Q-fever epidemic (human and goat) in the Netherlands.

Currently there is no vaccine available in the United States to prevent *Coxiella burnetti* infection or abortion in sheep and goats. Such a vaccine is available in Europe. The availability/approval of a safe and effective sheep and goat vaccine for *Coxiella burnetti* in the United States would serve to safeguard human health and prevent production losses due to this potentially devastating disease. Humans not in direct contact with aborting animals also face some risk of indirect environmental exposure, so effective vaccination of sheep and goats could play a key role in minimizing human exposure. Additionally, the availability and approval of a safe and effective human vaccine would provide protection for those with occupational risk of exposure to *Coxiella burnetti*.

RESOLUTION:
In priority order:

First, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for sheep and goats.

Second, the USAHA encourages the Food and Drug Administration to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for humans.

Third, the USAHA encourages USDA-APHIS-VS, Center for Veterinary Biologics to facilitate the importation, for investigation and research, of available animal Q-fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccines from the European Union and Australia.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FY2013 FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES ORAL RABIES VACCINATION (ORV) PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wildlife rabies is a serious public health concern. The veterinary community, both public and private, has as a fundamental obligation, the 'responsibility to apply their knowledge and skills to ensure control of rabies at the animal source'. This was a conclusion of the 2011 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) conference on rabies control. Rabies control is the embodiment of a One Health initiative. In fact, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now believes that rabies and foot-and-mouth disease should be the next two global disease targets for eradication now that rinderpest has been eradicated.

Globally, the OIE now estimates that 70,000 people worldwide die each year from rabies. ProMED (September 28, 2011) states that rabies is one of the world's most lethal zoonotic diseases, killing more people than severe acute respiratory syndrome, H5N1 and dengue fever combined. Domestically, according to the 2010 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rabies Surveillance Report, wildlife rabies is still responsible for 92% of all reported rabies cases in the United States (Blanton, et al. JAVMA, 2011). The use of licensed oral rabies vaccine (ORV) programs has been effective in controlling rabies in certain terrestrial wildlife reservoir species since the early 1990's.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services ORV program is designed to reduce transmission of wildlife rabies to domestic pets, livestock and humans. It is estimated that there are over 40,000 administrations of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) against rabies in humans in the United States (US) annually at an average cost of \$4,042 per treatment (Meltzer, et al. Vaccine, 2008) resulting in over \$160,000,000 per year in associated human

health care costs. These costs do not include indirect impacts on the population from anxiety, fear and trauma associated with rabies threats to people, their pets and livestock. In spite of a public health strategy that is effective in preventing human rabies deaths in the US, the financial cost of coexistence with wildlife rabies is high, exceeding \$300,000,000 annually (Slate, et al. Proceedings 20th Vertebrate Pest Conference, 2002). According to Shwiff (Shwiff, et al., unpublished 2011), if ORV programs are allowed to lapse the annual negative economic impact could be approximately \$45 million per year in the US.

The ORV campaigns in conjunction with other rabies control measures, such as mandatory dog and cat vaccination and recommended livestock and equine vaccination programs, are effective and are part of the veterinary community's One Health initiative responsibility. Regular distribution of oral rabies vaccines to immunize specific wildlife species increases the percentage of rabies immune animals living within the ORV baiting zones. Creating a sustained reservoir population of individual immune animals results in an overall decrease of wildlife rabies cases.

The level of ORV programs' success in the US can be quantified as follows: transmission of the canine strain of rabies in south Texas coyote populations has been eliminated; the westward expansion of raccoon rabies strain has been halted at the Appalachian Mountains; the gray fox strain of rabies has been confined in the Southwest and the epizootic area is being consolidated and reduced; and, strategies have been developed to address wildlife rabies outbreaks in urban environments, especially in the Northeastern US. Today, federal and state sponsored ORV programs, supported by the CDC, continue to monitor areas cleared of wildlife rabies while addressing new challenges. Due to the level of success achieved to date, the federal government has signed a tri-national agreement with Canada and Mexico called the North American Rabies Plan. A critical component of this plan is to control wildlife rabies.

Because of the economic downturn in the US economy, all ORV programs (state and federal) are now faced with rapidly declining levels of governmental funding and resources while public support remains high. Ironically, as funding levels for US ORV programs decline societal changes have led to increasing numbers of interactions between humans and wild animals in urban habitats. Today and in the future, wildlife rabies prevention is, and will continue to be, a key factor in maintaining the integrity of rabies control in the U.S.

The United States Animal Health Association agrees with OIE that the best place to address rabies control is at the animal source. Wildlife species are the rabies reservoir in the United States. The funding level requested would allow the USDA to maintain ongoing logistical support and rabies case surveillance necessary for the program, while maintaining and/or increasing existing rabies-immune target wildlife populations. The maintenance of sufficient levels of immunity in the existing wildlife ORV zones is essential to assure program integrity. This funding level would also allow the ORV Program to be less dependent on emergency funding each year for program integrity and would advance research and development of new vaccines, baits and control strategies. Funding at this level will have the additional benefit of job maintenance and creation, especially in rural locales. The ORV

Program, a One Health initiative, promotes animal and human health and alleviates the burden of additional health care costs associated with rabies including disparities between rural, suburban and urban communities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 113th Congress to appropriate at least \$28 million in the FY2013 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, Oral Rabies Vaccine Program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR DEFENSE OF UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States agriculture and food systems are vulnerable to diseases, pests, or poisonous agents that occur naturally, are unintentionally introduced, or are intentionally delivered by acts of terrorism. America's agriculture and food system is an extensive, open, interconnected, diverse, and complex structure providing potential targets for terrorist attacks. We should provide the best protection possible against an attack on the United States agriculture and food system, which could have catastrophic health and economic effects. Animal agriculture in the United States was estimated to have a \$252 billion impact on total output in the economy in 2009.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9), issued on January 30, 2004, established national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Section 18 of HSPD9 states:

"The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall work with State and local governments and the private sector to develop:

(a) A National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) containing sufficient amounts of animal vaccine, antiviral, or therapeutic products to appropriately respond to the most damaging animal diseases affecting human health and the economy and that will be capable of deployment within 24 hours of an outbreak. The NVS shall leverage where appropriate the mechanisms and infrastructure that have been developed for the management, storage, and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile."

It is crucial to national defense that the National Veterinary Stockpile be funded at an adequate level to carry out its mandate in HSPD9 to protect human health and the economy.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the President include in his budget, the Secretary of Agriculture support, and that Congress appropriate, funding of the National Veterinary Stockpile sufficient to carry

out Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD-9) in protecting human health and the economy.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: AMENDMENT TO TUBERCULOSIS UNIFORM METHODS AND RULES IN RELATION TO QUARANTINE RELEASE PROCEDURES FOR TB-INFECTED HERDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Tuberculosis Uniform Methods and Rules (TB UMR) contains sections that provide specific requirements that must be met prior to releasing TB-infected herds from quarantine. These requirements are fairly prescriptive, and do not allow sufficient flexibility in those cases where the initial herd prevalence is low and infection may be removed from the herd using a battery of tests over a shorter period of time than that now provided for in the current TB UMR. Use of a model recently developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service provides an additional tool that can be incorporated into the quarantine-release herd plan for TB-infected herds that will predict the number of negative herd tests that must be completed to reach 95% confidence that no further infection remains in the herd.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services amend the Tuberculosis Uniform Methods and Rules or include language within the Program Standards that will allow state animal health officials the option to use the USDA-APHIS model as part of the herd plan to determine the number of negative herd tests that must be completed prior to releasing the herd quarantine.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: APPROVAL OF THE CERVIDTB STAT-PAK AS AN OFFICIAL TEST FOR THE CERVID TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Infection with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) continues to plague the United States cattle and cervid industries with a significant number of tuberculosis (TB) infected herds detected annually. During 2009-2011, TB strains were detected in cattle and captive cervid herds that were similar to strains from TB outbreaks in captive cervid herds found during the 1990's. In

all of these cases the approved Single Cervical Test has proven to be inadequate.

Advances in the science of TB testing have led to the development of antibody tests. The approval of antibody tests for farmed cervids would decrease the need for handling of these species, and would allow for increased interest in TB testing by producers. Blood-based antibody tests for use in cervid species would lead to increased participation of farmed herds in the TB eradication program.

At the 2006 United States Animal Health Association 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..."

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."

The USAHA has recognized in recent years through discussion and these resolutions that many companies are generating promising data on antibody based TB diagnostic tests. Antibody-based tests have the potential to be more widely accepted by producers, due to reduced handling, and subsequent injury and death. Increased acceptance would in turn result in improved surveillance and herd management for bovine TB in captive cervids. Blood-based antibody tests represent viable alternatives to current TB test methods and many such tests have demonstrated promising results.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services approve the CervidTB Stat-Pak as an official test in the Cervid Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 Combined with 13

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: A MULTI-STATE INITIATIVE FOR MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASES IN ANIMALS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 -- APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA

SUBJECT MATTER: IDENTIFICATION OF FARM ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS HOSTILE TO SALMONELLA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States needs to expand on recent field and laboratory observations indicating that the presence and/or introduction of Salmonella organisms on production farms can be significantly suppressed by environmental parameters hostile to them. The further definition of these on-farm Salmonella-suppressive parameters, and development of ways to ensure their presence on a practical basis, represents a promising opportunity for improved on-farm reduction and control of Salmonella.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to establish project teams composed of epidemiologists, microbiologists, poultry and animal scientists and agricultural engineers in order to protect public health and food safety by identifying cost-effective ways to suppress Salmonella multiplication in the food animal environment, a problem that magnifies risk as animal products move forward to processing, distribution, marketing and consumption.