

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 23 and 48 Combined APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY  
COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** EXPAND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAM COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

**DATES:** Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) represents a high level of coordination among three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies: Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The three agencies have agreed to develop a comprehensive effort to address animal health and food safety issues, including those attributable to antimicrobial resistant bacterial pathogens. The purpose of this collaboration is to produce information regarding use of antibiotics in agriculture, the development of resistance patterns, and interventions to reduce the development and potential transfer of resistance. This collaborative effort is designed to enable USDA to identify and track emerging diseases, whether naturally or intentionally introduced, and implement mitigation strategies. The pork industry has been the major beneficiary of this new program to date. ARS has begun to fund a minor program effort with the dairy industry. CAHFSE will provide the animal industry with objective assessments of food safety risks pertaining to antibiotic resistant bacteria, provide practical means to routinely monitor critical diseases in food animal production and provide producers ultimately with best management practices to minimize antibiotic resistance. The overall CAHFSE budget has been minimal, with USDA requesting \$1.0 million in the President's FY 06 budget request. Congress has appropriated \$0.5 million in FY 06.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to recognize the important impact that this collaborative program effort between USDA and the industry can have with regard to enhancing both food safety and animal health. USAHA urges USDA-ARS, APHIS, FSIS and OMB to increase funding for the Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) by requesting \$2.5 million in the President's FY 07 budget request.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the strong support that this resolution expresses for the Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) work conducted by the three agencies. Each agency has been working to

identify specific budget needs and has submitted those requests through the agency budget process. In the meantime, all of the agencies continue to run the program using existing funds.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

ARS recognizes the important impact that this collaborative program effort between USDA and the industry can have with regard to enhancing both food safety and animal health. ARS will use all available resources to cooperate with other USDA agencies to implement the Collaboration for Animal Health, Food Safety, and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program with all commodities and support the program and volunteer to participate. In addition, ARS will work with APHIS and FSIS to coordinate and develop the joint priority of CAHFSE for the respective agency budgets.