



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: State or Regional Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Classification for Sheep and Goats

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established disease classification systems for Program Diseases that help determine the risk of those diseases within states or regions. Brucellosis classifications cover cattle, bison, and swine. Tuberculosis classification covers cattle, bison, and captive cervids. Goats and sheep are susceptible to both brucellosis and tuberculosis but the current disease classification system does not address these species. These diseases rarely occur in sheep or goats in the United States (US). Attempts to determine the prevalence of brucellosis and tuberculosis in US goats and sheep found two reports. In 1999 a South Texas herd of goats and one sheep were diagnosed with *Brucella melitensis*. USDA currently lists the status of the US as "Free" of *B. melitensis* for diseases reportable to the World Health Organization (OIE). Tuberculosis was diagnosed 1991 and 1992 in two pygmy goats housed in zoos.

Despite the lack of any evidence of brucellosis or tuberculosis in dairy sheep or goats, the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) was modified in 1997 to require annual whole herd brucellosis and tuberculosis testing. A resolution from the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in 1998 requested a delay in the 1999 implementation of these requirements. A policy letter from the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners the same year supported no test requirements for sheep and goats. The end result of these concerns was the addition of the "random statistical herd sampling" option to the PMO in 2001 which sets a minimum sample size based on herd or flock size.

Animal health rules from the 2011 PMO exempt cattle and bison from any testing requirements if they are from an area which has a Certified Brucellosis-Free status and a Modified Accredited Advanced Tuberculosis or greater status. Since these classifications do not include sheep and goats the PMO testing requirements for these species remain in effect.

Establishing a brucellosis and tuberculosis classification for sheep and goats would allow State Veterinarians and USDA Assistant District Directors to develop appropriate brucellosis and tuberculosis surveillance and testing requirements for sheep and goats while still protecting public health.

USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services responded with information concerning data of sheep and goats tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis from 2009 through 2013 from 30 States. None of the 30 states reporting detected a case of brucellosis or tuberculosis in a sheep or goat during this time period. On average, 4,850 animals were tested for brucellosis and 2,295 animals were tested for tuberculosis each year. Brucellosis and tuberculosis are both federally reportable diseases, and neither has been reported by any of the 50 states or territories in sheep and goats in the last 15 years at least.

Testing for brucellosis and tuberculosis in sheep and goats is a significant impediment to interstate commerce without establishing a proven health risk.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to officially declare domestic sheep and goats in the

United States to be free of brucellosis and tuberculosis and further asks states that require testing of brucellosis and tuberculosis in sheep and goats to rescind these requirements.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding the brucellosis and tuberculosis status of U.S. sheep and goats and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

In fiscal year 2014, VS collected brucellosis and tuberculosis test data for the last five years from the States. Thirty States provided test data; on average, 6,311 animals (665 sheep; 5,646 goats) were tested for brucellosis and 4,409 animals (76 sheep; 4,333 goats) were tested for tuberculosis in these States each year. These numbers of samples are insufficient to make a status determination based solely on this testing. VS completed a report using this data, which will be made available to the Committee on Sheep and Goats. VS is looking at other options for accurately establishing the brucellosis and tuberculosis status of U.S. sheep and goats.