



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

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:

1. 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;

2. 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.
3. 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.

RESPONSE:

APHIS and NIFA

USDA is committed to continue building its partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in support of a collaborative, unified approach to Federal pre-harvest food safety efforts. Drawing on its expertise in veterinary medicine, epidemiology, pathology, microbial biology, and other areas, APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) works closely with its partners, including HHS' Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to develop strategies to effectively address pre-harvest issues. In addition, Secretary Vilsack has created the USDA One Health Multiagency Coordination Group to ensure that APHIS VS and other USDA agencies with relevant responsibilities are working together on food safety issues and other issues where animal and human health are linked.



December 7, 2011

David T. Marshall
President, USAHA
4221 Mitchell Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Marshall:

Thank you very much for your letter dated November 8, 2011, sharing Resolution Number 30 from your Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and other avian species.

In your Resolution you request that the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) develop a collaborative, unified approach to federal pre-harvest food safety efforts utilizing the expertise of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Your Resolution recommends three specific actions.

We appreciate you sharing your Resolution with us. Please be assured that USDA and HHS through the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) work very closely on pre-harvest food safety efforts. Both agencies have a number of ongoing, joint initiatives including those you reference in your letter to identify food safety hazards and encourage the development and approval of effective intervention strategies.

Thank you again for sharing this information with us and we appreciate your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,

Tracey H. Forfa, J.D.

Deputy Director

Center for Veterinary Medicine