UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Resolution
114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010
Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SWINE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IMPLEMENTATION

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 due 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 make the implementation of industry surveillance priorities, through appropriate surveillance streams and the communication of the results, a high priority to be completed in the first quarter of calendar year 2011. A progress report from USDA-APHIS-VS should be provided to the Swine Species Committee at the 2011 National Institute of Animal Agriculture annual meeting and to USAHA Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine.

INTERIM RESPONSE:
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association over the Comprehensive and Integrated Surveillance System (CISS) for swine diseases and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has been developing plans for, and implementing portions of, a comprehensive surveillance system for swine since 2004.

The Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health's National Surveillance Unit and the National Centers for Animal Health Programs staff have implemented segments of a comprehensive and integrated surveillance infrastructure, based on surveillance streams. Surveillance streams are defined as discrete points of accessibility for gathering information and samples for one or more swine diseases or conditions of interest.

VS has made progress developing new surveillance programs for classical swine fever (CSF) and swine influenza virus (SIV). These programs use valuable streams, including using diagnostic laboratory submissions via the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and high-risk herd sample selection for CSF and pseudorabies virus (PRV). In fiscal year 2010, VS advanced comprehensive surveillance by implementing stream-based PRV surveillance protocols and implementing SIV surveillance in diagnostic laboratories.

Funding, data sharing, and current traceability initiatives are affecting CISS implementation. We are discussing with stakeholders the importance of voluntarily sharing data and other traceability concerns that are instrumental for successful CISS implementation. We welcome USAHA's input. VS will provide an interim report outlining current surveillance activities, including CISS-related surveillance, at the National Institute for Animal Agriculture annual meeting.

FINAL RESPONSE:
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

USDA APHIS VS recognizes the concerns of the USAHA regarding the comprehensive and integrated surveillance system (CISS) for swine diseases and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has been developing plans for, and implementing portions of, a comprehensive surveillance system for swine since 2004.

VS made further progress on CISS in fiscal year 2011. We met with industry representatives in December 2010 to discuss their priorities for surveillance, and in response have begun developing a surveillance plan for African swine fever (ASF). We have explored using alternate tissues for ASF testing; preliminary results suggest that tonsil submitted for classical swine fever (CSF) surveillance is suitable for ASF testing, potentially reducing costs while achieving an expanded surveillance goal. VS has also completed negative cohort laboratory studies in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network system for foot-and-mouth disease, ASF, and rinderpest. Comprehensive surveillance also includes non-disease specific surveillance. We have developed national protocols to monitor slaughter condemn data for health anomalies.

VS purchased off-the-shelf software for surveillance and disease management, and we are integrating it into our information system. Until the new software is fully implemented, we are standardizing and improving data quality for pseudorabies virus and swine influenza virus.

The development of comprehensive swine surveillance is an ongoing effort, and we are striving to communicate fully with stakeholders as we proceed. Staff delivered a status report at the National Institute of Animal Agriculture meeting in April. We have been discussing increased data sharing with stakeholders, and we are consulting with our legal unit regarding data confidentiality. VS has been working with industry to indentify and rectify issues related to the industry pink premises tag system for targeted surveillance.