



## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

### Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 40 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM SWINE 2012

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is a program through which national studies are conducted by combining the efforts of multiple government agencies, producers and other industry representatives, academic institutions, and public and animal health professionals. These efforts are organized by a multidisciplinary group within the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, a unit within the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. This unit is composed of veterinary epidemiologists, livestock commodity specialists, statisticians, a trade economist, a technical communicator, and technical support staff.

There have been four previous national swine studies (1990, 1995, 2000 and 2006) and each has provided population estimates of critical industry benchmarks through a series of reports. All respondent identification is strictly confidential. These estimates have documented progress in management systems over the years, disease prevalence and factors related to swine health. Both biologic and survey data collected have been responsible for many manuscripts and special runs of data may be requested. These studies have also served to support export markets, focus attention to developing better treatment regimens, and have given researchers the resources for studies aligned with industry priorities. NAHMS data on antimicrobial use has provided scientific information which has been used at Congressional hearings on antimicrobial resistance. These national swine surveys are unique and provide an opportunity for a high level of cooperation between federal and industry sectors.

Benefits that can be derived from past and future NAHMS surveys include: cooperation between the National Surveillance Unit and industry; sound statistical representation of the industry; modeling of surveys to meet industry priorities; clear communication of industry trends; resources for further research; and biological samples to be banked for future study.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Animal Health Monitoring System to coordinate activities with industry organizations, producers, National Agricultural Statistics Service and state animal health officials in the planning, development of key objectives, delivery, reporting and outreach for the 2012 national swine survey.

#### **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) appreciates the endorsement by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) for VS to conduct the fifth national swine study in 2012.

We have held our initial meeting with representatives from the National Pork Board and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians to discuss strategic plans for the NAHMS Swine 2012 study.

Throughout the year, NAHMS will assess the needs of the pork industry by gathering input from producers, producer groups, animal health officials, researchers, and others. We will take advantage of existing meetings to conduct focus groups with stakeholders and make use of electronic surveys to prioritize issues. Results of the needs assessment phase ultimately guide the focus of survey questions and biologic sampling and should be an accurate representation of the input garnered from the stakeholders listed in the USAHA resolution. By September 2011, we will have developed the key objectives for the NAHMS Swine 2012 study.

**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 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) appreciates the endorsement by the USAHA for VS to conduct the fifth national swine study in 2012.

VS held several meetings with representatives from the National Pork Board, the National Pork Producers Council, and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians to discuss strategic plans for the NAHMS Swine 2012 study. NAHMS has assessed the needs of the pork industry by gathering input from producers, producer groups, veterinary practitioners, animal health officials, researchers, and other entities. Additionally, VS conducted focus groups with stakeholders at various meetings and conferences and used electronic surveys to help prioritize issues. Results of the needs assessment phase ultimately guide the focus of survey questions and biologic sampling. The data should be an accurate representation of the input provided by the stakeholders listed in the USAHA resolution. The key objectives for the NAHMS Swine 2012 study have been released. Work has begun on the design of the study and will continue through 2011 with review and input from industry stakeholders.