

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: NEW NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE DAIRY HERD PREVALENCE STUDY

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current herd prevalence of Johne's disease in U.S. dairy herds is unknown. The herd infection rate based upon the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) 96 Dairy Study was approximately 22 percent. This figure was based upon ELISA testing of a sub-sample of cows within approximately 1,000 herds, assuming test sensitivity of 50 percent. Based on our knowledge of ELISA sensitivity today, the true prevalence of Johne's disease in U.S. herds is likely to be much higher. It is critical that a new Johne's dairy cattle prevalence study be performed to provide an accurate assessment of the prevalence.

It is proposed that a dairy study to determine and evaluate progress in control programs should be conducted in fiscal year 2006. The survey will be based on environmental sampling of a statistically valid number of dairy herds, in the 20 states with the largest number of dairy cattle. The protocol for environmental sampling will be used to minimize the number of samples and costs per herd. Each sample will be a pool of sub-samples obtained in the assigned area thereby maximizing sampling efficiency.

RESOLUTION:

That the United States Animal Health Association requests United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) conduct a prevalence study during 2006 to guide the National Johne's Disease Control Program. The funding for this survey will be provided by USDA-APHIS-VS.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, is developing a plan for the National Animal Health Monitoring System to conduct a national dairy study in 2007. We anticipate this study will include an objective to estimate the Johne's disease herd prevalence, if sufficient funding is available to support the laboratory work.

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a result of its two years of involvement and leadership in the United States Animal Identification Plan process, the livestock industry believes the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) must be a partnership between animal health officials and private sector entities. The livestock industry recognizes that state animal health officials play the key role in the animal health investigations and surveillance in concert with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For a partnership of industry and animal health officials to effectively implement the NAIS data management component, it must perform several different functions: encourage producer participation at a level that insures integrity of the NAIS and volume of data required; safeguard security and confidentiality; provide a flexible data management architecture responsive to the needs and expectation of producers, livestock marketing system, and animal health officials thereby providing incentives to record, report and/or query information within the system; and utilize significant organizational assets, including media, communications, education, and government affairs resources of established and proven industry experts and advocates.

RESOLUTION:

In order to expedite the development of a data management system to meet all stakeholders' needs and expectations, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Subcommittee of the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases to request the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to facilitate the cooperative development of an appropriate animal traceability database system through the joint leadership of the species and segment working groups, issue-based working groups, and state animal health officials.

RESPONSE:

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) – NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NEED FOR TIMELY PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES ON CURRENT DISEASE SITUATIONS AFFECTING HORSES.

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND:

In recent years, the U.S. horse industry has had to deal with the occurrence of a number of important infectious diseases, including West Nile virus (WNV) and, most recently, Vesicular Stomatitis (VS).

Currently, anyone seeking up-to-date information regarding an infectious disease occurrence in horses will find it difficult to obtain. It requires an extensive effort via the internet and/or by phone contact with affected states. The existing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website provides little information on any equine disease of concern.

In addition, information on international trade restrictions is virtually impossible to find. While the countries with restrictions on the import of horses because of WNV are few, some, such as Brazil, are important trading partners of the United States. Limitations in available information is even more glaring with regard to the current VS situation in Texas, Colorado and New Mexico. The USDA website includes trade restriction information for only three countries: Korea, Canada and the European Union, and in fact, posted requirements for Korea are out of date. The International Regulation Retrieval System (IRRS) lists the latest update for horses for export to Korea as January 2004. There were no more recent updates available through the USDA website. Currently, USDA does not list any state requirements for movement of animals from VS-affected states, although several states have imposed movement restrictions.

In the past, the USDA has played a key role in providing extensive and timely reports to the horse industry and to state animal health officials regarding important disease outbreaks in the United States. These reports have always included what information was available on the epidemiological findings in such outbreaks as well as information on domestic and international movement restrictions. The USDA is the appropriate agency to compile this information accurately and to make it readily available. This committee strongly recommends that the agency give consideration to ways and means of enhancing what is currently being provided.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to enhance its current program of gathering data on outbreaks of infectious diseases with the cooperation of the states in order to provide up-to-date information on such outbreaks, as well as state and international movement restrictions and other pertinent information to stakeholders and state animal health officials on a regular and timely basis.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), is currently developing a user-friendly website for equine disease information and surveillance data. This web site will provide extensive and timely updates for use by industry and State animal health officials. Included on this website will be VS situation reports (epidemiological findings), maps, information on

State movement restrictions (both interstate and international), information for international trade restrictions, contact points, and links to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. In addition, Emergency Management Operation Center notices and warnings will also be distributed via this website when any new State is involved in an outbreak and for each new species affected.

Under the direction of the VS National Surveillance Unit, several productive meetings were held to develop this user-friendly website. Future meetings are scheduled with representatives of the equine industry and sponsors of the resolution to finalize plans for the website design. We anticipate having a working website by August 2005.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: ELECTRONIC EIA FORMS

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses has carefully compared the VS Form 10-11 used for submission of blood samples for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing in approved laboratories to the use of electronic EIA submission forms (eEIA) and find that the eEIA submissions as developed by Global Vet Link (GVL) have the following advantages:

- Provide clients with instant results through online application
- Have direct veterinary practice connectivity – plan for submissions before they are received
- Save administrative time, labor and money with online system
- Able to identify submission errors before tests are run
- Electronically access EIA laboratory test forms and Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that utilize results posted by the laboratory
- Access a web-based animal health regulatory management system 24 / 7
- Access submissions from any computer with an Internet connection
- Secure system ensures that you only do business with accredited veterinarians
- Documents are automatically submitted to the appropriate animal health authorities
- Run real-time, secured reports and historical data queries
- No software to load, no forms to inventory, reorder, stamp, separate or shuffle
- Customer service assists with regulatory authorities, veterinary practice conflicts, and GVL application training and support
- Allow error free identification through digital imaging

The availability of eEIA has been welcomed by practitioners in the states of Florida, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa and Texas, the first states to implement eEIA on a test basis. It would be appropriate to install eEIA capabilities at the same time as Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) installation and to those states that already have ICVI as soon as possible after requests are received.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in consultation with USAHA, provide laboratory connectivity to all states that wish to utilize or develop the electronic Equine Infectious Anemia (eEIA) application with digital identification. Through this system, states and other entities may either use the Equine Infectious Anemia application alone or in conjunction with Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection developed by GlobalVetLink under contract with USDA-APHIS-VS.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is currently implementing an electronic method of creating an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI). This electronic solution targets implementation in all 50 States within the 24-month period, as stated in USAHA Resolution #28. Phase I of this program started in 2003. Phase II is in progress and integrates the ICVI with VS import and export electronic systems, including the Equine Infectious Anemia (eEIA) form.

Concurrent with implementation of this electronic method, APHIS, VS is pursuing the development of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network as a solution to provide a common structure and vehicle for the electronic exchange of animal health laboratory data. This development will provide the State lab connectivity for implementation of the eEIA form as proposed in USAHA Resolution #4. With the Department's strong Information Technology leadership, VS is also committed to integrating its various information systems, as appropriate, to ensure that the national animal health needs are efficiently and effectively addressed.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND
OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: SALMONELLA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued the Pathogen reduction: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) Systems final rule on July 25, 1996. To verify that industry PR/HACCP systems are effective in controlling the contamination of raw meat and poultry products with disease-causing bacteria, the PR/HACCP rule sets *Salmonella* performance standards (SPS) that slaughter establishments and establishments that produce raw ground products should meet.

The SPS have been in effect for large establishments since January 26, 1998, and the results of this testing were published in the Progress Report on *Salmonella* testing of Raw Meat and Poultry Products, 1998-2003. The data reported for 2003 showed that *Salmonella* prevalence in all product categories, for all sizes of establishments combined, was lower than agency baseline studies and surveys conducted before PR/HACCP implementation. In addition, most categories showed marked improvements over the six-year period in both the percentage of samples testing positive and the percentage of sample sets meeting the performance standard criteria.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published Preliminary FoodNet Data on the Incidence of Infection with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food --- Selected Sites, United States, 2003 on April 30, 2004. This report detailed the surveillance results for nine FoodNet sites representing approximately 41.5 million persons. *Salmonella* cases represented 38.6 percent of laboratory-diagnosed cases of foodborne illness. Among the 5,455 *Salmonella* isolates serotyped, five serotypes accounted for 59 percent of infections: 20 percent Typhimurium, 14 percent Enteritidis, 12 percent Newport, 6 percent Heidelberg, and 6 percent Javiana.

During 1996—2003, the estimated incidence of several infections declined significantly. The estimated incidence of *Salmonella* decreased 17 percent (95 percent CI = 26 percent to 7 percent decrease); incidence of *S. typhimurium*, typically associated with meat and poultry, decreased 38 percent (95 percent CI = 47 percent to 27 percent decrease). The decline in human *Salmonella* infections during 1996—2003 accompanies a decline in the isolation of *Salmonella* from meat and poultry by FSIS.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and The United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue efforts to improve the safety of U.S. meat, poultry, and egg products and protect public health.

These efforts should be based on rigorous science-based initiatives that are proven effective in reducing pathogen contamination and should include adequate funding for research and development of new and innovative control strategies.

The USAHA also recommends that USDA-FSIS establish informal performance standards, rather than regulatory standards, using these as “benchmarks” to determine whether establishments are appropriately controlling pathogens in their operations. In addition, the establishment of any new performance standards or changes to existing performance standards should be tied to scientifically

supportable measures of human health outcome directly related to that standard.

Finally, the USAHA recommends that government and industry strive to work cooperatively toward the common goal of improving food safety related to meat, poultry, and egg products. The establishment of a confidential third-party data repository intended to collect and store government, industry, academic, and other pertinent food safety data that would be accessible to all affected parties should be pursued. Communication between industry and government should be improved with additional opportunities for combined training developed.

RESPONSE:

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

FDA supports the USAHA'S recommendation that U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), FDA continue to use science-based measures to enhance the safety of the U.S. meat, poultry, and egg production, and to protect public health. The agency also agrees with the USAHA recommendation for a third party database. Both FDA and USDA currently support the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's Food Safety Risk Analysis Clearinghouse. The purpose of this clearinghouse and Web site is to assist those professionals involved with the many aspects of risk analysis as it pertains to the safety of our food supply. The clearinghouse provides data, tutorials, tools, and links to many sources of information. In addition to providing resources for the food safety risk analysis professional, the clearinghouse provides consumer-oriented links. The agency has a brief introduction to the field of food safety risk analysis, which is available at: <http://www.foodrisk.org/index.cfm>.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICES (FSIS)

Food Safety Inspection Services(FSIS) wholeheartedly agrees with the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) observations about the encouraging data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet). We can now add to that body of evidence that foodborne illnesses due to common bacteria are continuing to decline. On April 15, CDC released its 2005 FoodNet report that continues to show significant declines in foodborne illnesses. The new data show reductions from the 1996 to 1998 baseline in illnesses caused by *E. coli* 0157 (42%), *Listeria monocytogenes* (40%), *Yersinia* (45%), *Campylobacter* (31 %), and *Salmonella* (8%). CDC attributes the changes in the incidence of these infections in part to the control measures implemented by government and industry leaders, enhanced food-safety education efforts, and increased attention by consumer groups and the media. We believe that continuing on our current course will result in more reductions in illnesses caused by these pathogens. It should be noted that 2004 marked the second year in a row that we did not have a multi-million pound recall of meat or poultry in the United States. The decline in the number of recalls is another indicator that highlights the improvements that can be achieved in our food safety system when government, industry, and all interested parties work together and use science as a guide.

FSIS recognizes, however, that there are areas of concern in our progress to control foodborne pathogens. One of these is the challenge of *Salmonella*. If we look at the percentage of regulatory samples positive for *Salmonella* from our Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) verification testing program, we see an overall aggregate downward trend, but even though the prevalence of *Salmonella* has declined in many of the raw products we regulate, human illness caused by *Salmonella* remains far above the Healthy People 2010 objective of 6.8 cases per 100,000 people. In 2003, there were 14.5 cases of *Salmonella* infections per 100,000. We still have quite a way to go to reach the 2010 goal. There is a substantial reduction in *Salmonella* prevalence to be achieved in ground chicken and turkey. In addition, we are giving further emphasis to fresh broilers because this category has seen a gradual upward trend of *Salmonella* prevalence over recent years. Careful consideration needs to be given to what is causing this

upward trend in order to improve existing interventions and implement new technologies to reverse it. The FSIS performance standard for fresh broilers is 20 percent; however, we still expect a downward trend in prevalence. We encourage USAHA to fully participate in reaching our goals in this *Salmonella* challenge.

FSIS agrees with your resolution that FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should continue efforts to improve the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products and protect public health through science-based initiatives, development of new control strategies, and improved communication. One way to better protect public health is to anticipate and predict food safety risks. A significant way to accomplish this is through the analysis of FSIS regulatory sampling data, as well as other sources of data, including baseline studies, in order to detect trends and identify connections among persistence, prevalence, and other factors such as practices employed by plants, seasonal variations, and establishment size. Including data collected by the establishment would add to FSIS' information and improve the quality and validity of decisions that are made. Ensuring the availability of data to FSIS from industry, academia, States, consumers, and others will be necessary to help us to protect against food safety risks. We are examining the establishment of a repository to provide data integrity and confidentiality. We will have more details on this initiative available in the near future. USAHA' s support for achieving this goal would be appreciated.

Another FSIS initiative we believe addresses the above resolution is to improve the association of program outcomes to public health surveillance data. We are working closely with FDA and CDC to improve our ability to link foodborne illness estimates with different food groups. Data on foodborne illnesses due to specific pathogens needs to be connected with prevalence data for different pathogens in specific foods. FoodNet allows FSIS and our Federal, State, and local food safety partners to integrate this data by determining the burden of foodborne disease, monitoring foodborne disease trends, and determining the extent of foodborne diseases attributable to specific foods. By comparing and contrasting the characteristics of pathogens recovered from food samples with those recovered from foodborne illness patients, we are able to estimate the risk of foodborne illness attributable to specific foods. We continue to significantly support FoodNet as a full-pledged partner.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED
SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
SUBJECT MATTER: A NATIONAL PLAN FOR RABIES CONTROL IN WILDLIFE
DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The epizootic of raccoon rabies continues to spread into uninfected areas of North America. The natural barriers that previously restricted the raccoon rabies variant to the Atlantic coast states have been compromised. Barriers have been breached in Ohio and Cape Cod, Massachusetts with a first time occurrence of raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York. Translocation of raccoons with incubating rabies infection may have contributed in these instances. This creates the potential for a large portion of the nation to be affected by raccoon rabies. The cost of living with raccoon rabies cannot accurately be determined, but is substantial according to numerous local, state, and federal studies. This epidemic has reached national proportions and control efforts require coordination at the national level.

Rabies vaccine, licensed for use in raccoons and coyotes by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is available for delivery to wildlife through bait distribution. The use of oral rabies vaccination has been successful in the control of raccoon rabies in urban and rural environments, limiting the spread of raccoon rabies to uninfected areas, and dramatically controlling and eliminating rabies in coyotes in south Texas. Large-scale control efforts must continue to be developed and implemented over large areas of the epizootic front to prevent the spread of rabies in raccoons throughout the continent. The USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS), has provided substantial leadership, funding and program support to assist states with oral rabies vaccination programs which include raccoon, coyote, gray fox and skunk rabies. The USDA-APHIS-WS has also facilitated numerous meetings involving federal, state and provincial agencies to address the potential for coordinated, regional rabies control efforts, with the goal of developing a national rabies control program that would complement rabies control programs in Canada and Mexico. The National Working Group on Rabies Prevention, coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the American Veterinary Medical Association have developed recommendations for enhancing rabies control including wildlife vaccination.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) to continue to seek additional funding for terrestrial wildlife rabies control programs. The USAHA further encourages state and local governments and regional alliances to support this activity through appropriate funding channels. The USAHA also strongly encourages the USDA-APHIS-WS, the United States Public Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to allocate appropriated funding and resources to assist states and local agencies in the development, maintenance and expansion of coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs.

RESPONSE:

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

CDC's rabies program continues to contribute significantly to assisting state and local governments in the control of rabies in wildlife. The program's accomplishments include the following:

- The provision of laboratory reference diagnostics.
- The development of diagnostics for rabies in formalin fixed tissues.
- The development of a new confirmatory diagnostic test for rabies.
- The development of a new serological method for determination of rabies virus antibody.
- The genetic sequencing of current and historical raccoon rabies virus to establish spatial temporal relationships to formulate a predictive model of disease variation and spread.
- The investigation of rabies virus host shifts from bats to skunks.
- The investigation of the ecology of virus transmission in bat colonies.
- The examination of rabies virus variants in livestock and non-reservoir species.
- The development of novel therapeutic approaches to rabies.
- The implementation of oral vaccination of animals against rabies.
- The establishment of real time wildlife rabies case mapping.
- The prediction of costs associated with a raccoon rabies epizootic.

In addition, on a daily basis, the Rabies team contributes to state-based rabies response through telephone consultations with veterinarians, laboratorians, physicians, and other public and animal health professionals to provide answers to complex problems. CDC works closely with its partner, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Wildlife Services, in direct logistical, laboratory, and research activities, in federal-sponsored programs of animal rabies prevention and control throughout the United States and its borders. We anticipate our future responsibilities in continuing this cooperation and look forward to additional opportunities to enhance our involvement in this important veterinary public health endeavor.

WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), agrees with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) regarding Resolution 6. As rabies in raccoons, coyotes and gray foxes continue to challenge oral rabies vaccination barriers and threatens to spread to uninfected areas, the need to seek additional funding for control programs is paramount. We accept the charge of cooperating with the U.S. Public Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and local/regional governments. Without the continued cooperative efforts from all entities, successfully eliminating raccoon rabies will be unachievable. USDA/APHIS/WS' National Rabies Program is committed to supporting Resolution 6.

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY AND VETERINARY
WORKFORCE INITIATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH
LABORATORY NETWORK

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is part of a national strategy to coordinate the Nation's Federal, State, and University laboratory resources to allow authorities to better respond to any type of animal health emergency, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases, and foreign animal disease (FAD) agents that threaten the Nation's food supply and public health.

In fiscal year 2002, 12 State and University diagnostic laboratories, were selected by Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to receive Homeland Security grants to formally initiate the network. In order to insure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any animal health emergency, funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment. In addition, it is essential that annual allocations be provided for the maintenance and long-term sustainment of the network.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees immediately provide \$85 million to fully fund the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Furthermore, the USAHA urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request line item funding in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget in the amount of \$30 million per year for ongoing support for the NAHLN.

RESPONSE:

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) – NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05

HOUSE AG
SENATE AG FORRESTRY
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **8** **COMBINED WITH 7**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH
LABORATORY NETWORK

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: COLLABORATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND
EPIDEMIOLOGY (CAHFSE)

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) is a stakeholder-driven, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) multi-agency Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) collaboration to address issues that may affect animal health and food safety. It has been under development for three years with input and support from multiple industries, key stakeholders, and by all three relevant USDA undersecretaries.

The CAHFSE is based on longitudinal sample and data collection on farms and at commodity processing facilities over time. The CAHFSE will provide a flexible platform to evaluate management factors that may be related to animal health, production practices and food safety outcomes, including antimicrobial resistance issues.

USDA will maintain confidentiality of data in a similar manner to the National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS), which has proven to be excellent over many years. The CAHFSE will complement the NAHMS by conducting quarterly sampling and collection of production practices over time. Currently, data and samples are being collected on swine farms and will soon be collected in swine slaughter/processing plants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the continued Collaboration in Animal Health Food Safety and Epidemiology and recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) reprioritize funding in order to implement the program with all commodities that support the program and volunteer to participate.

RESONSE:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

ARS fully supports the continued Collaboration In Animal Health, Food Safety And Epidemiology (CAHFSE) collaboration and has given this program the highest priority for expanded food safety support. We will continue to support CAHFSE to the extent our resources allow.

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

Three Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies that include the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Food Safety and Inspection Service have reprioritized internal funding to initiate the Collaboration in Animal Health and Food Safety Epidemiology (CAHFSE) and have completed 2 years of data collection on swine operations in five states. The CAHFSE is addressing animal health and food safety issues of importance for the pork industry including ileitis, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, food safety pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance. In the 3rd year of operation, the CAHFSE collaborators have elected to continue to expand participation from within the pork industry (additional herds in new geographic areas), while continuing discussions with other commodities to identify future participants in the effort. Reports from the project are posted on the CAHFSE website. Specific new funding for CAHFSE has been requested for fiscal year 2006 and beyond.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICES (FSIS)

Regarding Resolution 9 that the Food Safety Inspection Services(FSIS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continue the Collaboration in Animal Health, Food Safety and Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program, we have the following information. FSIS has contracted with the Research Triangle Institute (R TI) to conduct a pilot study of in-plant sampling for CAHFSE. The in-plant sampling pilot will likely commence this summer and be completed this calendar year. During the pilot, R TI plans to conduct a questionnaire on management practices and collect a variety of samples from approximately six swine processing plants to project what types of samples would be best to collect for ongoing surveillance for zoonotic pathogens. FSIS has not committed funds for CAHFSE beyond this pilot project.

United States Animal Health Association - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

SOURCE: UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL VETERINARY
MEDICAL SERVICE ACT (PUBLIC LAW 108-161)

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States is experiencing a shortage of veterinarians in rural agricultural and inner-city areas, in certain population groups, and in various veterinary disciplines, such as public health, epidemiology and food safety. Veterinarians are the nation's first line of defense against disease outbreaks. Veterinarians are critically needed by federal and state governments to preserve our nation's biosecurity and food safety.

Mean educational debt for 2003 graduates was \$76,558, an increase of 5.3 percent over 2002 graduates. Mean starting salary, across all types of practice, was \$41,602 (JAVMA January 15, 2004). Loan repayment consumes almost one-third of the income of recent graduates; by comparison, a greater percentage than for other health professions. This disparity between salary and debt precludes recent veterinary graduates from accepting lower-paying positions in rural agricultural, inner-city and governmental areas, where they are needed most.

The National Veterinary Medical Service Act was signed into law in December 2003, but has not received any funding appropriations. It authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with veterinarians who provide services in veterinary shortage situations in exchange for veterinary education loan repayment. If funded, it will also provide veterinarians with additional loan repayments in exchange for service in federal emergency situations. \$60 million in federal appropriations, over three years (\$20 million per annum), would permit 400 veterinarians to participate in the program over that period of time.

RESOLUTION:

That the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees immediately provide \$20 million per annum to fund the National Veterinary Medical Service Act, P.L. 108-161.

Furthermore, the USAHA urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request line item funding for the National Veterinary Medical Service Act beginning in the FY06 executive budget.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)– NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05

HOUSE AG
SENATE AG FORRESTRY
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABANK (FARAD) AND THE NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE MONITORING SYSTEM (NARMS)

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Antimicrobial compounds play an essential role in ensuring the health and well being of livestock. Protecting the health of livestock is also an important contributor to providing consumers an abundant supply of safe, wholesome and affordable food. In order to maintain the human safety, animal safety and continued efficacy of these important products animal health professionals need prompt access to data relating to prudent use, including complex pharmacokinetic data. This data is an important contributor to prudent use decisions as well as to aid in preventing violative residues in animal products. Since its inception in 1982 the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) has developed and maintained a unique and valuable pharmacokinetic food safety database for veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory agencies and extension specialists. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has established the Guidance for Industry #152 framework for evaluating the safety of antibiotics relative to their potential to contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. It is important that such resistance patterns, if present, are addressed so as not to jeopardize public health as a potential indirect consequence of antibiotic use in livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have jointly funded the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) for many years. The NARMS program is the post approval monitoring system for new and existing antibiotics and the data are a central element in the decision-making process employed by the FDA Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee as they implement the Guidance for Industry #152 evaluation process.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the continued funding of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) and full funding of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support these important programs.

RESPONSE:

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

The need for surveillance for antimicrobial resistance is widely recognized, and is a central part of the interagency "Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance" issued by CDC, the National Institutes of Health, and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in January 2001. This plan endorses monitoring organisms in both human and animal reservoirs. In 1995, the FDA Joint Advisory Committee recommended specifically that surveillance be conducted in foodborne pathogens for resistance to flouroquinolones as a condition for their licensure for use in food animals. As a result, the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine coordinated development of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System with both CDC and USDA. The CDC are of NARMS conducts surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria isolated from humans. NARMS has grown from 14 sites in 1996 to 54 sites (all 50 states) in 2003 and continues to be an important system to monitor emerging trends in antimicrobial resistance. NARMS data are used as an important part of the decision-making process on antibiotic use for FDA within the Guidance for Industry #152. CDC recognizes the importance

of NARMS and fully supports the continued monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria through NARMS.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

The National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) has made great strides in ensuring that antimicrobials are used in food-producing animals without harming public health. FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine has funded NARMS since its development in 1996 and is committed to continued funding of the program. For Fiscal Year 2005, FDA plans to maintain funding at the 2004 level for each of the antimicrobial resistance monitoring systems. The agency appreciates USAHA's support of this vital work.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: ADEQUATE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE STATE-FEDERAL INFECTIOUS SALMON ANEMIA PROGRAM AND INDEMNIFICATION IN THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Salmon aquaculture is a multi-million dollar agricultural industry in the United States. An October 2004 study¹ indicated that the farm gate value of Maine salmon aquaculture was about \$50 million. The Maine industry is rebuilding after an economically-devastating outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), a disease caused by Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAV), in 2001-2002. In 2000, the reported farm gate value of Maine salmon farms was \$100 million annually. The current epizootic has caused losses totaling millions of dollars. ISA is recognized as a foreign animal disease and has been diagnosed on Maine salmonid fish farms again recently.

In November 2001, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) 2001 Resolution No. 04, called upon the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to, among other things, develop a USDA-APHIS ISA program which supports an ISA surveillance and monitoring plan component and an indemnity plan component. The final USDA-APHIS ISA program draft was approved on April 30, 2002. In December 2002, following the USDA's determination that Federal assistance was necessary to effectively control this disease, which posed a threat to animal health and the U.S. economy, \$8.3 million was released from the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to be used for indemnity payments, program activities such as: depopulation and disposal; clean up and disinfection; establishment of surveillance programs; epidemiology and diagnostic support; and training for producers and veterinarians.

The USDA-APHIS ISA protocol has been universally implemented on Maine salmonids farms, and until recently, no significant outbreak of ISA has occurred in U.S. waters although the pathogen was detected at several sites in the Cobscook Bay area in 2003 and early 2004. Among the likely reasons that ISAV loads in the marine environment have increased are disparities between U.S. and Canadian disease management protocols. While standardization of approach is being actively pursued on both sides of the international border, the situation in recent months has resulted in limited depopulation and disposal of pre-market fish from several Maine farms. An outbreak of ISA again appears imminent in Cobscook Bay.

Although some amount of indemnification is anticipated from the USDA for the most recent losses of young fish at Maine salmonid farms, the CCC funds are nearly exhausted. ISA is neither a simple nor transient phenomenon. The administrative and surveillance components of the ISA program have been funded by USDA for the near term but continuity of indemnity funding is also needed for the important purpose of encouraging farmers to swiftly eliminate infected stock before the appearance of clinical disease occurs and dramatically increases losses. USDA-APHIS must therefore act quickly to provide long-term financial support for surveillance, monitoring and indemnification to assist Maine salmonid growers in effectively implementing the ISA program standards.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to begin to work immediately to

¹ Economic Impact of Aquaculture in Maine, Planning Decisions Research & Planning (www.planningdecisions.com), October 14, 2004, O'Hara, Lawton and York

establish sufficient, annual funding for the long-term maintenance of the USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) Infectious Salmon Anemia program including indemnification for losses incurred by U.S. salmonid growers in the implementation of the program.

RESPONSE:

The President's budget proposals and the Congressional appropriations for fiscal years (FY) 2005 and 2006 did not include funding for an Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) program. The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), has continued to operate the ISA program in FY 2005 using the remaining Commodity Credit Corporation funds received to combat ISA in 2002. By the end of FY 2005, we will deplete this emergency funding. VS continues to support and will continue to seek appropriated and/or emergency funds, including reinstating indemnity, for the ISA program.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION-2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORTATION OF FETAL BOVINE SERUM

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has the responsibility of ensuring that fetal bovine serum (FBS) imported from other countries is free of pathogens which do not exist in the United States and pose a risk to the U.S. livestock population.

Since Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has become the main disease limiting the trade of live cattle, meats and bovine products throughout the world, the limited supply of USDA approved FBS has not been able to keep up with the demand, resulting in price differences that make USDA approved FBS as much as 10 times higher than non USDA approved FBS. This price difference rewards smuggling and misrepresentation of FBS between origins, thus putting at risk the traceability and safety of "USDA approved FBS", throughout the world.

Gamma irradiation has been used by USDA-APHIS-VS for several decades, as a method to inactivate potential pathogens in ruminant serum imported from countries known to have livestock diseases that do not occur in the United States. Importations of ruminant serum have been authorized by USDA-APHIS-VS in limited quantities for developmental research and diagnostic purposes by both governmental and private institutions.

Gamma irradiation is currently being used as approved treatments to eliminate potential pathogens in medical products used for both human and animal medical applications. Gamma irradiation is also authorized by USDA for the treatment of many food products of animal and plant origin.

Many research laboratories and biologics manufacturers can use gamma irradiated serum from BSE free countries, especially in those applications where the absence of BSE is most critical.

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) to re-propose the concept and feasibility of authorizing the use of gamma irradiation for the importation of commercial shipments of Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) from countries and/or regions that are free of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), but have restrictions because of other pathogens that can be eliminated by gamma irradiation, thus helping assure a reliable, affordable, safe and continuous supply of pathogen-free FBS to research laboratories and biologics manufacturers.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), has in place a mechanism by which commercial quantities of fetal bovine serum (FBS) may be imported into the United States from countries considered by the USDA to be free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The provisions for this type of importation are provided in VS Notice 98-05 and include gamma irradiation at USDA inspected and approved private irradiation facilities to inactivate other diseases of concern that include exotic Bluetongue and Akabane.

USDA has received a proposal from private industry to irradiate FBS sourced from FMD countries. Currently, APHIS is evaluating the proposal for efficacy and feasibility. If APHIS finds the proposal addresses all of USDA's concerns, USDA would consider proposing a rule to incorporate the proposal into the import regulations.

On February 25, 1994, USDA, APHIS, published a proposed rule "Importation of Fetal Bovine Serum" [Docket No. 89-174-1]. That proposed rule removed the prohibitions on the importation into the United States of FBS from countries in which FMD and Rinderpest exist. It required, among other things, that the FBS:

- originate from a BSE-free country;
- be collected from dams that have passed ante- and -postmortem inspection;
- be collected from slaughterhouses inspected and approved by FSIS;
- be filtered through 0.45 micron or smaller filter;
- not be commingled with any other ruminant serum;
- be imported to the US via import permit;
- be quarantined at a USDA, APHIS inspected and approved irradiation facility, and
- undergo 2.2 megarads of gamma irradiation at dry ice temperature.

This proposed rule was withdrawn, after an extension of the comment period, due to extensive industry opposition. However, due to the interest expressed in recent years, USDA-APHIS is considering re-proposing (with amendments) this previously proposed rule.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: RISK ASSESSMENT IN AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The life-cycles and survival parameters of exotic finfish viruses are not well understood. This makes the application of risk assessment to even the most studied models difficult. Risk analysis is a tool to help decision makers. There will always be a need for supportive actions to help solve the problems generated by the process of risk analysis. There have been reports of difficulties in carrying out existing risk analysis methods.

The stability of infectious agents in different media and under different physical and chemical environments has been extensively studied for some viruses and virtually ignored for others. Gaps in the knowledge are due in part to difficulties in reproducing life cycles and determining whether the agent is inactive or otherwise unable to cause significant fish health problems. Isolation of the agent under certain conditions can present significant challenges. Studies on the susceptibility of viruses to different physical or chemical parameters have often been conducted under artificial conditions and quantitative data on the rate of inactivation are lacking for many agents. To assess the potential risk for the introduction and establishment of an exotic finfish virus in an aquatic ecosystem, several factors associated with the agent must be determined. These factors include the liability of the agent to pH, cooling, freezing, heating, and the ability of the agent to survive freely in the environment.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) determine if these data needed to perform credible risk assessments exist and identify information gaps. Appropriate steps should be taken to fill in these gaps for the prevention of the introduction and the potential establishment of finfish viruses of economic significance into the U.S. commercial farmed fish industry.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services is currently in the process of identifying key pathogens of economic significance for all sectors of the U.S. commercial farmed aquatic animal industries. These pathogens are identified through working groups that are held for the various aquaculture commodity groups, as part of the development of a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP). Additionally, the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), Center for Emerging Issues (CEI) is completing a methods development project to forecast disease emergence in the food fish industry. CEI has described characteristics of disease emergence factors. CEI is in the process of finalizing a matrix for scoring disease emergence potential in a qualitative risk assessment process.

At this time, APHIS is not in a position to conduct gap analyses or risk assessments for specific viral pathogens of economic significance to the farmed food fish industry. However, once a draft NAAHP is complete, and should Agency funding and personnel be adequate to implement and support the program, APHIS will conduct the gap assessments for viruses identified through the NAAHP developmental processes.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: *BRUCELLA OVIS* TESTING STANDARDIZATION

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Laboratories that are conducting *Brucella ovis* ELISA testing report that there are problems with both control sera and antigens produced and provided by National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). There have been many false-positive test results due to inconsistent quality of the control sera and antigens. While NVSL has been made aware of the problem regarding the quality of the reagents, staff has not communicated consistently with all of the laboratories that are affected. The false-positive test results have resulted in a lack of consumer confidence in testing which is a critical part of control programs. These testing problems pose risks to many major sheep-producing states that rely on valid test results for interstate movement.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) provide a standardized *Brucella ovis* ELISA test. NVSL should also provide laboratory testing for this process.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has confirmed, through immunoblotting techniques, that there is a potency problem with the antigen used in the *B. ovis* ELISA, which is resulting in poor discrimination between positive and negative animals. A search of the literature indicates that newer methods of antigen production have led to acceptable antigens for other species of rough brucella. Preliminary ELISA work has verified that antigens produced by these newer methods perform better in tests with known positive and negative *B. ovis* antisera.

The OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines also contains a well-tested, recommended *B. ovis* reference isolate for antigen production and one method for its use. NVSL is in the process of importing the reference strain from the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) reference laboratory in Nouzilly, France. In the meantime, NVSL has begun the production of small lots of antigen from other antigenically similar rough brucella using several different extraction methods. We will evaluate the performance of the resulting antigens to determine which method is the most satisfactory. In addition to a change in antigen, there will probably be several other ELISA-specific technical changes to the *B. ovis* ELISA procedure.

Although the standardization and validation of the new system will not be completed for several months, a new and more functional antigen will be produced and function-tested, hopefully, within 90 days. Once a working antigen is produced, NVSL control sera can be better scrutinized to determine whether they are satisfactory or whether new ones will need to be produced to augment the anticipated increased sensitivity and specificity of the assay.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA CONTROL PROGRAM

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses has studied, developed and now proposes a National State-Federal Cooperative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Control Program. The goals of this program are to, without the burden of additional regulations, (a) reduce the overall national prevalence of EIA and (b) reduce the imposition of required EIA testing. Under this plan, EIA test requirements for equine movement will be standardized, simplified and, in some cases, eliminated; allowing greater freedom of movement while reducing the risk of being exposed to equidae of unknown EIA status. These proposed changes will reduce the overall cost of EIA control.

The Program proposal calls for a three-phase implementation with an open time frame. Phase One establishes EIA Risk Zones within the U.S. based on incidence levels derived from historical EIA testing records; Phase Two refines the Risk Zones and risk management as improved equine census and disease prevalence information becomes available; and Phase Three further develops the program, and its utility to the industry, through the development of a voluntary EIA Certification Program partially supported by Federal funding. This Program will reward equine owners who test and have historically tested their animals with reduced costs, increased ease of movement, and protection from punishment for the untested and non-commingled EIA reservoir equidae in their region.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in collaboration with the USAHA, develop and annually update a National State-Federal Cooperative Program for the Control of Equine Infectious Anemia. It is further requested that USDA-APHIS-VS and states begin implementation of this control program as soon as possible

RESPONSE:

The United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses, Equine Infectious Anemia Subcommittee is currently implementing Phase One, as noted in the resolution above. Therefore, the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, is not anticipating any direct involvement with this control program this year.

United States Animal Health Association - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PSEUDORABIES
COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS AND PSEUDORABIES IN FERAL SWINE

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Feral swine continue to pose an increasing threat of acquiring, harboring and transmitting diseases with significant animal and human health importance and trade impact. There continues to be a crucial need for additional research and field studies that address threats related to feral swine.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association thanks the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and Veterinary Services (VS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service (CSREES) for recognizing the feral swine threat as a high priority and encourages them to continue to provide long-range funding for research, program support and field studies.

In particular, funding is necessary to:

1. Provide continuing support for conducting population studies that support the development of disease risk management strategies.
2. Pursue the goal of developing Brucella strain VTRS-1 for use as a dual vaccine and conduct field trials to demonstrate its efficacy.
3. Conduct further field trials and studies of swine brucellosis and pseudorabies infection in feral swine the methods of their transmission to domestic swine.

RESONSE:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

1. Support for conducting population studies on feral swine.

Although beneficial for implementation of control programs by regulatory personnel, population studies usually do not follow hypothesis-based research and current funding is not sufficient at the present time to conduct additional population studies outside the ongoing brucellosis studies. At the present time, ARS scientists are conducting or planning brucellosis studies in feral swine in several States. As designed, these studies will provide only limited knowledge of feral swine population in very defined areas.

2. Pursue the goal of developing VTRS-1

Data presented at USAHA and other scientific meetings have suggested that VTRS-1 is only marginally more efficacious in swine than RB51. Current data suggest that more research will be needed before a brucellosis vaccine for feral swine is available that is efficacious and deliverable under field conditions. ARS scientists at the National Animal Disease Center are conducting studies to discover and develop a viable brucellosis vaccine for feral swine. By characterizing cell-mediated

immune responses after brucellosis vaccination, and developing a standardized challenge model for swine, ARS scientists are working to address the brucellosis issues in feral swine. Current data suggest that swine do not readily develop protective cell-mediated responses after brucellosis vaccination. In ongoing research trials, ARS scientists are evaluating potential vaccine strains, as available, for their ability to induce protective immunity.

3. Conduct field trials on swine brucellosis

ARS scientists are currently conducting, or implementing, field studies of feral swine brucellosis in two States. The feasibility of a study in a third State is being evaluated. In a field study in South Carolina, ARS scientists have demonstrated that RB51 vaccination did not provide significant long-term protection in feral swine, and documented that feral swine can be reservoirs of *B. abortus*. ARS will continue to devote significant resources toward ongoing studies that will characterize brucellosis infections in feral swine, and evaluate delivery methods and efficacy of new vaccines, as available, in wildlife populations.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION SERVICE (CSREES):

CSREES agrees with this resolution that feral swine and the brucellosis and pseudorabies infections in these herds continue to pose an increasing threat. Over the past four years, CSREES has funded through competitive and formula funds 11 project in six states relating to this issue. By leveraging available dollars with other funding streams, partnering states have also added substantially to this effort. In total, \$1,167,846 has been invested by CSREES and partners in feral swine research and extension programs during this time period. Our agency will continue to support merit-reviewed, science-based investigations that promote a better understanding of this issue as well as offer promising solutions.

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

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services, has developed an algorithm for monitoring changes in feral swine population abundance and spatial distribution. We are using this algorithm to evaluate the estimates of population and management strategies. Having completed the mapping of the distribution of feral swine and the status of pseudorabies virus (PRV) and *Brucella suis* in 2003 and 2004, the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia is now increasing these activities to include the mapping and assessment of transitional swine. APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) renewed the grant for financial assistance to the University of Georgia to continue updating the distribution of feral and transitional swine and determining the status of PRV and *B. suis* throughout the southeast part of the United States. These USDA-APHIS-VS funded studies conducted by SCWDS are documented in research papers which are peer-reviewed and published.

In 2004, VS awarded two grants for financial assistance to Louisiana State University: (1) to conduct trials necessary to determine the pathogenesis, safety and efficacy of the VTRS1-PRV vaccine, a vaccine with the potential to protect against both brucellosis and pseudorabies; and (2) to conduct the necessary trials to assess the viability of the VTRS1 vaccine to protect cattle against *Brucella suis* in areas where *Brucella suis* is endemic in the feral swine population and can therefore be transmitted to cattle. Funding is being continued in 2005.

In 2004, VS renewed the grant for financial assistance to the University of Illinois to continue the determination of molecular markers to differentiate between PRV isolates from domestic and feral swine and to establish a contemporary library of feral swine PRV isolates and associate genotypic markers with markers for pathogenesis and virulence. Illinois is also continuing to explore the significance of sero-negative feral swine that harbor PRV DNA. Funding is being continued in 2005.

In FY 2005, USDA-APHIS-VS entered into an interagency agreement with USDA-ARS National Animal Disease Center to conduct an assessment of feral swine *Brucella* isolates. This project involves a field sampling of feral swine to evaluate which species of *Brucella* are infecting feral swine and will provide information to assess the potential of feral swine to be a reservoir for multiple species of *Brucella*.

And finally, in 2004 and 2005, VS renewed the grant for financial assistance to the National Wildlife

Research Center (NWRC) for an ongoing project in the development of an immunocontraceptive vaccine as a tool for the management of PRV and brucellosis. NWRC, in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University, continues working to develop an orally administered preparation of the single injected dose of GnRH vaccine which demonstrated efficacy in feral swine.

WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), recognizes the threat feral/wild swine pose by acquiring, harboring, and transmitting diseases to humans and livestock. These threats are considered significant, and we have charged our personnel with addressing pseudorabies and brucellosis surveillance and monitoring in feral/wild swine and supporting this Resolution through the National Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Emergency Response System. In addition, WS' National Wildlife Research Center is currently conducting research to develop new virus strains for wildlife vaccination programs and conducting field studies of disease infection in feral/wild swine.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 **WITHDRAWN BY COMMITTEE**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SALMONELLA

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING TO EXPAND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF
GROUP D SALMONELLA FIELD ISOLATES RELATED TO THE
NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The determination of the source of field salmonella outbreaks in poultry can be an arduous task and field epidemiology many times can lead to a dead end. Molecular characterization of salmonella isolates can be a very valuable tool in field epidemiology when other means of identifying the source are not available.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) to continue to provide molecular characterization of group D salmonella field isolates for samples related to the National Poultry Improvement Plan and to seek the necessary funds to expand this service.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE
LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 9

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) of January 2004 establishes a national policy to defend agriculture and the food system from attack, major disasters, and other emergencies. In HSPD 9, the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate federal departments and agencies were directed to expand current programs to develop comprehensive and fully coordinated surveillance and monitoring systems for animal disease, plant disease, wildlife disease, food, and public health. The Food and Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council recently was chartered to provide effective coordination of agriculture and food security strategies, policy, and communication across government and between the government and the sector to support the nation's homeland security mission.

State fish and wildlife management agencies have the primary authority and responsibility to manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the United States and are represented on a national basis by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA); however, the state fish and wildlife management agencies have not been actively engaged to date by the federal agencies directed to implement the policy established in HSPD 9. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes the potential role of wildlife in the epidemiology of human and domestic animal diseases, the susceptibility of wildlife species to a large number of foreign animal disease agents and other instruments of bioterrorism, and the importance of state wildlife agency involvement in preventing, detecting, monitoring, and responding to animal disease outbreaks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the Departments of Homeland Security, Agriculture, Interior, Health and Human Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency involve the state fish and wildlife management agencies, via the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), in the activities described in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9). Furthermore, the USAHA requests membership and representation of the IAFWA on the Food and Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council. Finally, the USAHA requests that funding and other resources be provided to the state wildlife management agencies to assist them in fulfilling their responsibility for conserving U.S. fish and wildlife resources consistent with the goals of HSPD 9.

RESPONSE:

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN HEALTH SERVICES (DHHS) FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

The Food and Agriculture Sector is made up of government and industry representatives. The Government Coordination Council includes and is led by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through FDA. Other federal agencies participate as ex officio members such as the Departments of Treasury, Commerce, and Interior (Fish and Wildlife). These and other agencies are recognized to have some programmatic contribution but at a far lower level than DHS,

USDA, and DHHS. Also, state associations are represented by National Associations of Departments of Agriculture Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Assembly of State Chief Livestock Health Officials, and the National Association of City and Country Health Officials.

Since FDA received your letter, the Food and Agriculture Sector, through DHS, was approached by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requesting membership. We consulted with the Department of Interior who advised that the issue was adequately addressed through current federal, state, and industry representation to protect the food and agriculture supply of the United States. DHS, USDA, and DHHS agreed and then notified the requesting association.

USAHA's Resolution 19 is addressed conscientiously by the Food and Agriculture Sector, recognizing that wildlife management has a role and one that is adequately covered through existing representation at federal, state, and local levels.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (USDI) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

While I will mention a few of the collaborative efforts to address animal health that the NPS has ongoing with IAFWA, I need to clarify that the NPS also looks to other Federal Departments for the lead in implementation of HSPD 9. The NPS will cooperate with those departments as appropriate but NPS is not a regulatory agency. Rather, NPS is a land management agency with a responsibility, like states, to manage wildlife when it is under our jurisdiction.

The NPS respects the role that IAFWA plays in conserving our national wildlife resources. NPS is a federal agency member of IAFWA and holds a seat on the Federal and Tribal Relations Committee as well as several other committees. NPS has consulted or collaborated with the IAFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee on issues including the NPS Interim Foot-and-Mouth Disease Prevention and Response Plans and the National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild and Captive Cervids, as well as the associated Implementation Plan and Progress report. Most recently NPS and United States Department of Agriculture co-chairs invited IAFWA participation on the Federal Interagency Committee on Invasive Terrestrial Animals and Pathogens (ITAP), Animal Pathogens Subcommittee. Although these collaborative efforts are not directly linked to HSPD 9, they are mutually beneficial to state wildlife agencies and the NPS in managing wildlife health and contribute to protecting the agriculture and food system.

HSPD 9 calls for the development of robust, comprehensive, and fully coordinated surveillance and monitoring systems. NPS units are encouraged to submit samples for zoonotic disease testing (e.g., West Nile virus, rabies) to state or local authorities. If this testing is not available, or for routine diagnostic testing, NPS provides other alternatives to support diagnostics testing on samples from parks. The NPS is working with the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Discipline, National Wildlife Health Center (USGS, BRD, NWHC) in a plan to contribute wildlife disease surveillance information to a database that is under development. According to the NWHC, the database would serve as a common wildlife disease monitoring tool that could be used by a range of natural resources agencies.

I fully appreciate the importance of IAFWA and other wildlife professionals' involvement in animal health issues to protect the viability of the livestock industries while also preserving free-ranging wildlife. We commend the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in promoting and strengthening the relationship between groups representing these two important national resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) – No response as of 5-26-05

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) looks forward to providing more detailed consideration of this resolution in the near future. They have forward the Resolution to EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), which will provide a response.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) – No response as of 5-26-05

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF SAFE AND EFFECTIVE
VACCINES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF E. COLI O157:H7

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are various emerging biological products that immunize and treat animals to reduce infection, shedding, colonization and/or bioburden in the intended animal. For example it is well documented that E. coli O157:H7 in improperly cooked ground beef or cross contamination of other food items is a significant public health threat. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared E. coli O157:H7 an adulterant in ground beef in 1994 and in 1996 developed the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) regulatory framework that establishes a science and risk-based approach to reducing food safety risks. Since the implementation of HACCP and the development and adoption of in-plant interventions that improve the microbiological profiles of meat products, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has documented very significant declines in the rates of food borne illness in the United States. Despite the recognition that reducing food borne illness requires interventions at each step from the farm to the table and after over 12 years since E. coli O157:H7 was declared an adulterant, no viable or effective preharvest interventions have been developed and approved to reduce the risk of E. coli O157:H7. One reason for this is the existence of uncertain regulatory approval procedures, processes and authorities. Recent research indicates that there is an opportunity to develop safe and efficacious vaccines to reduce the risk of E. coli O157:H7 shedding in cattle. However, the regulatory process necessary for review and potential licensing of a safe and efficacious vaccine is uncertain and an impediment to reducing the risk of E. coli O157:H7 at the preharvest level and subsequently reducing food safety risks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work closely with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) to assume the review, approval and licensing process for vaccines used in animals that have a benefit in reducing food safety risks. The USDA has extensive expertise, experience, the test facilities, inspection unit, and existing framework to regulate vaccines of this type. In addition, USDA has the authority to regulate vaccines for use in animals pursuant to the Virus Serum Toxin Act, in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the FDA dated June 18, 1982, which indicates that the agreements to play this role have long been in place. The USAHA urges the USDA to work with FDA to quickly establish the clear regulatory path at the USDA for these important contributors to food safety.

RESPONSE:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will use agency expertise, experience, and testing and research facilities to work with APHIS, CVB and FDA to the extent possible to secure the necessary data to facilitate approval of biological products that immunize and treat animals to reduce infection, shedding, colonization and/or bioburden of food safety pathogens in food producing animals.

ARS has considerable expertise in the areas of basic and applied immunology and the use of antivirals used in conjunction with vaccination to reduce animal disease and mortality. ARS will continue to work with appropriate regulatory agencies and the drug industry to reduce pathogens in the food supply and protect this Nation's animal industries.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

FDA recognizes that the development of animal vaccines for certain disease may have significant human health benefits as well. As you know, FDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with USDA on cross-jurisdictional products. FDA is currently working with USDA on these vaccine issues. The agency appreciates USAHA's support of this work.

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

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, have agreed that the jurisdiction for animal vaccines, targeted at the reduction or elimination of a carrier state of organisms that can infect other animals (even if that infection is only rarely associated with significant clinical disease in animals), will lie with APHIS as long as certain criteria are met. On March 4, 2005, APHIS announced this policy change and published guidelines (which includes required criteria) in Center for Veterinary Biologics Notice 05-07, which can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb/notices/2005/07.pdf>

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE'S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: UPDATED NATIONAL JOHNE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the 107th Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in San Diego, California, October 9 – 16, 2003 a recommendation passed the USAHA Committee on Johne's Disease directing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to host a meeting of the strategic planning subcommittee of the Committee on Johne's Disease. This subcommittee met June 15-17, 2004 in Riverdale, Maryland. The charge of this subcommittee was to update the National Johne's Disease Control Program Strategic Plan. The subcommittee presented their report to the USAHA Committee on Johne's Disease at the 2004 annual meeting.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) submits the National Johne's Disease Control Program Strategic Plan dated July 2004 (attached) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to guide the National Johne's Disease Control Program.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services will use the strategic plan submitted by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) as guidelines for the National Johne's Disease Control Program. Veterinary Services is evaluating the recommended program performance measures to see where they fit in relation to Veterinary Services' proposed fiscal year 2006 budget.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERINARY STUDENTS

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Public Practice white paper identified a developing shortage of future veterinarians with interests and expertise needed to meet existing societal needs in population medicine, public practice and public health. Many colleges and schools of veterinary medicine are making efforts to increase the professional student pool interested in research, population medicine, and food animal medicine, to help meet societal needs in the future. The educational experiences of veterinary students participating in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) externships in the past have proven very successful in introducing and motivating students to continue their pursuit of professional opportunities in the area of diagnostics, prevention, control and eradication of animal and zoonotic diseases. Veterinary students participating in USDA externship programs have further stimulated interest in public practice among their classmates. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases (FED) proposes that USDA and USAHA (Committee on FED) work together to contribute to future veterinary staffing needs in public health by facilitating the efforts of veterinary faculty and expanding the USDA externship program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges:

1. the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to increase the externship opportunities for veterinary students.
2. the USDA-APHIS-VS to develop externship application information to facilitate finding externship opportunities, facilitate liaison contact, wherever possible, with members of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases and college deans.
3. the USDA-APHIS-VS recruit a pool of applicants for externship and obtain funding. Opportunities need to be identified by December 15 and acceptance notified by February 15 of each year; thereby students can consider these opportunities when planning for summer jobs.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), agrees with the USAHA resolution calling for VS to increase the externship opportunities for veterinary students. APHIS-VS annually sponsor summer internships for students at headquarters and in the field. VS central funds support the summer student interns' transportation, housing, and salary. There are eight VS centrally funded summer internships available at multiple VS offices for the summer 2005. In addition to these centrally funded internships, some VS offices use individual program funds to hire students through the Student Education Employment Programs' Student Career Experience Program and the Student Temporary Employment Program.

USDA-APHIS-VS also agrees with the USAHA resolution calling for VS to develop externship application information that would facilitate finding externship opportunities, and to facilitate liaison contact with USAHA's Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases members and college deans. VS is investigating the expansion of current liaison services by the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. This entity, through an existing memorandum with APHIS, brings information about existing APHIS-VS externship opportunities at headquarters and in the field to U.S. veterinary students. In addition, APHIS-VS representatives attend

major veterinary conferences in the United States and distribute resource information about APHIS employment opportunities.

Finally, the USDA-APHIS-VS agrees with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolution calling for VS to seek funding to advertise available summer externship by December 15 and to notify selected applicants by February 15. APHIS-VS is reviewing this resolution, and is exploring possible funding and logistics options to bring this resolution to fruition.

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 **COMBINED WITH 7**

SOURCE: JOINT AAVLD/USAHA COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH
LABORATORY NETWORK (NAHLN)

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 1) In 2000 all states were tuberculosis free except Michigan; however, Texas lost free status in 2002 and California and New Mexico lost free status in 2003.
- 2) The situation in Michigan seems to be holding as status quo.
- 3) Tuberculosis cases are being discovered that trace to large dairy calf development units.
- 4) A previously infected elk herd in Kansas was found to be infected.
- 5) Nineteen of the top 40 adult cattle slaughter plants are not submitting granuloma samples at an acceptable rate.
- 6) Individual states are initiating entry test requirements for dairy cattle.
- 7) The goal of tuberculosis eradication by 2003 was not achieved.
- 8) Mexican origin feeder cattle with tuberculosis continue to be discovered in U.S. slaughter plants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to adopt the Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and incorporate the recommendations contained in the Strategic Plan into the national Bovine Tuberculosis eradication plan (see attachment).

The USAHA requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and related agencies appropriations subcommittees immediately provide \$35.84 million per annum to fund the recommendations of the Strategic Plan for the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis. Furthermore, the USAHA urges the secretary of agriculture to request line item funding of \$35.84 million in the USDA budget for fiscal year 2007 for the ongoing support of the recommendations in the Strategic Plan for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

The USAHA urges the livestock industry organizations, state animal health agencies and state wildlife agencies to support the USDA funding requests so that the recommendations of the strategic plan can be fully implemented.

RESPONSE:

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

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), is waiting receipt of the final 2004 Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis. Once received, VS will make every effort to incorporate the recommendations of the strategic plan into the national Bovine Tuberculosis eradication plan, provided we receive approved funding.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) – NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05
HOUSE AG
SENATE AG FORRESTRY
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: EMERGING SWINE DISEASE RESPONSE MECHANISM

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The need for a coordinated, comprehensive and real-time surveillance system for domestic and emerging swine diseases in the United States has been recognized for some time. The Swine Futures Project (SFP), a multi-year government-industry partnership, developed recommendations for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that would meet the needs of the pork industry. The final report, issued in 1999, provided key recommendations to develop and implement a comprehensive surveillance plan for the prevention and control of diseases affecting the U.S. pork industry and to establish a system to rapidly detect and respond to emerging animal diseases.

Today there is no defined, coordinated response mechanism for assisting industry with emerging disease investigations. Emerging diseases may go undiagnosed due to the lack of epidemiological resources as well as financial resources to further the investigation beyond a certain battery of tests reported only to the attending veterinarian and producer. The only current mechanism for coordinated assistance is to initiate a foreign animal disease (FAD) investigation, which evokes an emergency response.

Veterinary Services' Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH)/Center for Emerging Issues has taken the lead in developing an Emerging Animal Health Issues System which provided guidelines for handling emerging diseases within Veterinary Services (VS). Recently, VS has created the National Center for Animal Health Surveillance at CEAH to coordinate surveillance activities and develop a national surveillance system.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) calls on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the efforts of the National Center for Animal Health Surveillance (NCAHS) and the Center for Emerging Issues (CEI), to work with industry and state animal health officials to develop a defined mechanism to detect, investigate, evaluate and respond to emerging diseases in swine and provide the necessary resources (monetary and non-monetary) to support these activities.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Animal Health Surveillance (NCAHS), in collaboration with the National Pork Board (NPB) and State animal health officials, has developed a model State swine health advisory committee charter. State swine health advisory committees anticipate providing State level grassroots leadership on swine health issues including emerging diseases. Nine swine producing States were involved in the charter development (AR, IA, IL, IN, MN, NC, NE, OH, and SD). The VS Center for Emerging Issues (CEI) is developing a proposal for a VS response mechanism for emerging/non-foreign animal disease investigations. A collaborative effort underway between CEI and NPB, to develop the emerging disease response plan, is temporarily on hold, due to changes in NPB staffing. However, we expect this effort to resume by June 2005.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 **COMBINED WITH 19**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 9

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLECTED DATA

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are significant numbers of scientific databases containing information regarding characterization of microbial isolates that are held by industry, government and academia that are inaccessible to each other. This inaccessibility is attributed to concerns that the information is subject to the Freedom of Information Act which, may result in punitive consequences, disrupting the scientific and economic integrity of the scientific community.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) take steps to protect the confidentiality of scientific data in order to foster collaborative research efforts and exchange of information between USDA agencies, industry, and academia.

RESPONSE:

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)– NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05

United States Animal Health Association – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: WEB BASED INTERSTATE CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) were developed from the 2001 resolution wherein the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requested that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) provide a web based electronic certificate of veterinary inspection that utilizes a USDA web-based computer database to document intrastate, interstate and international movement of livestock and poultry.

An electronic ICVI would comply with the Government Paper Elimination Act (GPEA) 2003 initiative focused on federal forms.

The USAHA resolution was also supported by the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA) Resolution 25, Animal Health - Int'l Trade, 2002.

Since its inception in 2003, the ICVI has proven to be a successful application and provides a substantial role in safeguarding animal health as a major component to the National Animal Identification System related to premises identification, animal identification and disease risk management.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) should commit to bring all 50 states onto electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) and provides the necessary support within the next 18-24 months. In addition, ICVI should be referenced through the Code of Federal Regulations.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is currently implementing an electronic method of creating an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) that is consistent with other VS electronic processes supporting the importation and exportation of livestock and poultry. The implementation of this electronic certificate requires outreach to and training of State veterinarians and accredited veterinarians in all 50 states, necessitating the need for additional funding in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to assure its success. The electronic ICVI is being integrated with other VS related functions where we are dependent on automated interaction with our State and private collaborators to simplify their interaction with the USDA and in accordance with USDA recommendations. This integrated system also meets the strict information security requirements and software standards and processes recently promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget. At this time, APHIS is reluctant to reference a software application through the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR). However, when the CFR is updated to address other components of the National Animal Identification System, we will include a preference for receiving interstate livestock movement information electronically.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION-2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: PRIORITY PASSAGE FOR LIVE ANIMAL CARGO AT BORDER CROSSING

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

With the usage of x-ray technology to screen cargo at border crossings, the waiting time has increased significantly.

There is inconsistency in the priority given to live animal cargo between ports of entry. Some allow more rapid passage for live animal transports, while at others the wait is for hours with all other cargo conveyances. In cases of weather extremes, the resultant long wait times can prove to be cruel and/or fatal to the animals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not have a consistent protocol for live animal cargo. A process to allow vehicles with live animal cargo to move ahead of inanimate cargo should be developed to avoid suffering of animals.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) communicate to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the need to develop a process to allow vehicles with live animals on board to advance ahead of other vehicles in line that are carrying inanimate cargo to enhance the well being of the animals and avoid suffering.

RESPONSE:

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) – NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05

United States Animal Health Association - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF BRUCELLOSIS IN WILDLIFE
IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Greater Yellowstone Area in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho is one of the last reservoirs of *Brucella abortus* infection in the United States.

Government and the livestock industry have spent several billions of dollars on the eradication of brucellosis.

The latest infections of cattle in the state of Wyoming have great impact on the state's communities and livestock producers. The cost to the federal government will be several millions of dollars.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) request that all appropriate agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Interior (USDI), working in close collaboration with the state fish and wildlife management agencies, the state veterinarians, the state departments of agriculture, and the state livestock agencies, immediately initiate an aggressive program to reduce and eventually eliminate brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. In this effort, all available, scientifically credible technologies and multidisciplinary management practices should be employed.

RESPONSE:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (USDI) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

The National Park Service fully recognizes the highly successful national brucellosis eradication program among domestic livestock and captive wildlife, and the fact that GYA elk and bison are now recognized as one of the last reservoirs of *Brucella abortus* infection in the United States. The disease in wildlife and its regional and national importance continues to be recognized by the responsible agencies. These same agencies have implemented a variety of livestock, wildlife, and disease management strategies that have been extensively reviewed by the National Research Council, Government Accountability Office, USAHA, and the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC). Our commitment to interagency cooperation on brucellosis management continues through work to renew the GYIBC Memorandum of Understanding and collaborative efforts to develop, test, and ultimately implement all scientifically credible technologies and multidisciplinary management practices.

The Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Bison Management Plan for the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park and the draft Bison and Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park include wildlife vaccination as an alternative for brucellosis management. In 1998, the National Research Council reported that "Vaccination in bison and elk is one part of an overall strategy that could be used to control or eliminate *B. abortus* in the GYA, but much research is needed before current vaccines can be judged adequate for use in those species." In 2002, GYIBC reviewed the existing technical and

management capacity to address brucellosis elimination from the GYA and came to the same general conclusion. We too recognize that there are some very important gaps in the technical capacity to conduct highly effective elk and bison brucellosis vaccination and surveillance. Specifically, there are widely acknowledged and critical gaps regarding vaccine safety and efficacy, delivery system safety and efficacy, and surveillance diagnostics.

Therefore, it was with great anticipation that the Department of the Interior recently entered into a cooperative effort with the USAHA and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to take additional steps to identify and address research requirements through the formulation of a Strategic Action Plan for an "Initiative to Enhance Brucellosis Vaccines, Vaccine Delivery, and Surveillance Diagnostics for Bison and Elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area." As you probably know, the intent of the Strategic Action Plan is to describe the overarching framework and level of agency support required to expedite the research required to achieve the mutual goal of eventual elimination of brucellosis from the GYA.

I fully appreciate the concern that the presence of brucellosis in the GYA generates but this issue is also complex and will require continued and dedicated efforts of all concerned to resolve. Please be assured that the National Park Service working with other agencies within the Department of the Interior will continue to fully coordinate with the USDA, USAHA, GYIBC, and states to advance this initiative and move forward with appropriate brucellosis management and elimination strategies that will protect the viability of the tri-state livestock industries while also preserving free-ranging wildlife.

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked with the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) to revise the GYIBC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU, in general, provides the direction and format for the Federal and State agencies of the committee to work toward the elimination of brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). The revised MOU is focused on the elimination of brucellosis from the GYA and calls for the development of draft initial management plans for each brucellosis affected herd unit, both wildlife and domestic, in the GYA by the end of 2006. USDA and DOI are also working with Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to finalize the MOU.

As the lead USDA agency involved, it is the intent of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, working closely, cooperatively, and collaboratively with State and Federal agencies to assist and guide the process of developing aggressive plans to eliminate brucellosis from the GYA. All available, scientifically credible technologies and multidisciplinary management practices will be employed to hasten the elimination effort.

A USAHA-USDA-DOI sponsored scientific workshop is scheduled for August 2005. The workshop is charged with evaluating vaccines, vaccine delivery systems and diagnostics, determining what associated research should be done, and assigning priorities for that research.

United States Animal Health Association - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOLS TO ALLOW CONDUCT OF
CRITICAL RESEARCH RELATED TO BRUCELLA SPECIES

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state and federal governments and the livestock industry have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* infection in cattle. These efforts are leading to a national herd that is nearly free of the disease. The only significant reservoir of field strains of *Brucella abortus* is in free ranging elk and bison within the Greater Yellowstone Area, an area that includes portions of the states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho and consists largely of federally managed lands. Significant research is essential to manage and eventually eliminate *Brucella abortus* infection in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Brucella abortus has been listed by the United States government as a select agent because of its potential to be used as a weapon of mass destruction. The listing of *Brucella abortus* as a select agent has halted essential research on the disease and agent.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) impanel a working group to develop a protocol that addresses biosafety and security concerns related to outdoor research with the Brucella species affecting livestock and wildlife as quickly as possible. The protocol should address all facets to be considered in a decision to permit outdoor research to be conducted by qualified researchers.

RESPONSE:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

ARS supports efforts by APHIS-VS and the CDC to ensure the safety of all experiments with live cultures of Brucellosis.

ARS has extensive research efforts to address Brucella Abortus in free ranging elk and bison. ARS scientists have evaluated the RB51 Brucella vaccine in buffalo and found that it does provide protection against Brucella Abortus but not as well as in cattle. ARS is also evaluating different methods of delivery of the brucellosis vaccine and the biobullet appears to work well. A new type of biobullet (hydrogel bullet) is being evaluated and is expected to be superior to the current biobullet. ARS is also evaluating the RB51 and Strain 19 vaccine in elk and found they provided very little protection because only a humoral response was observed and not a cell mediated immunity response. ARS is also evaluating additional methods of vaccine delivery and new vaccine adjuvants in buffalo and elk.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

Because this resolution also regards animal health research activities, we consulted with USDA to formulate the response to this resolution. CDC and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, recognize and are supportive of the need to develop this protocol. Protocol development will require the input of the CDC and APHIS Select Agent Programs, as well as USDA's Brucellosis control program. The protocol must be developed in such a manner that concerns from the state involved in the research or Brucellosis program in that state are adequately addressed. The final

protocol will be a consensus document between CDC and APHSI Veterinary Services; however, due to program issues, USDA Veterinary Services will need to take the lead. CDC will be please to provide subject matter expertise for issues related to Brucellosis laboratory identification, biosafety, and Select Agents that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety.

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

The Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Infection, have initiated efforts to develop a protocol that addresses biosafety and security concerns associated with outdoor research in large animals inoculated with *Brucella abortus*. The protocol will focus on insuring compliance with Select Agent regulations and will be consistent with Brucellosis program requirements. We will work with all relevant stakeholder groups, such as the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), to ensure that we incorporate all public comments as fully as possible.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 **COMBINED WITH 5**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF
POULTRY

SUBJECT MATTER: *SALMONELLA* PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

United States Animal Health Association - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 **COMBINED WITH 17**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS AND PSEUDORABIES IN FERAL SWINE

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: AGRICULTURE AS A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Congress created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to take the lead on coordinating border security and law enforcement efforts to guard against future terrorist events. During preliminary discussions on the creation of the new department, The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) expressed concerns to the President and Congress regarding the proposed transfer of portions of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to the newly created agency. State departments of agriculture work closely with and rely greatly on USDA-APHIS and its Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program to insure that cargo and passengers entering this country through legal access routes are screened for harmful animal pests and diseases. They have also long relied on USDA-APHIS state-federal cooperative programs to provide the resources needed to protect plant and animal health.

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection is now a part of the Customs and Border Protection Directorate of the DHS that serves as the front line of defense at U.S. ports against agricultural products without the required phytosanitary documentation. The new "One Face at the Border" will create Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers (GS-11) with the primary mission of preventing terrorists and their weapons from entering the United States and with a secondary mission of performing traditional inspections of customs, immigration and agriculture. Furthermore, CBP Agriculture Specialists (GS-11) are to be stationed only at ports with large volumes of cargo and only to support the CBP Officers. Legacy agriculture inspectors, who have a minimum of two years formal education in science, may "apply and compete" for the CBP Agriculture Specialists positions.

Documents discovered in Afghanistan have identified food and agriculture as potential targets for terrorist attacks.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recognizes that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is charged with the responsibility of protecting the security of our nation's food and agriculture by preventing the entrance of plant and animal pests and diseases.

The USAHA recommends that DHS recognize that prevention of animal and plant diseases through purposeful or accidental introduction of disease agents must be considered a critical priority of the agency.

The USAHA urges the DHS to reconsider the de-emphasis of agriculture inspections at medium and large ports of entry and the elimination of agriculture inspections at small ports of entry.

The USAHA requests that legacy agriculture inspectors, with the proven education, skills and experience in cargo and baggage agriculture inspection, be immediately reassigned as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Specialists and that CBP Officers positions be open to all legacy customs, immigration and agriculture inspectors.

RESPONSE:

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Boarder Patrol (CBP), recognizes and affirms that the mission of the CBP Agriculture Inspection program is to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the United States. The mission also includes protecting U.S. agricultural resources, maintaining the marketability of agricultural products, and facilitating the movement of people and commodities across the borders.

Inspecting travelers and cargo are vitally important port of entry activities in keeping prohibited items out of the U. S., monitoring for significant agricultural health threats, encouraging compliance with regulations, and educating the public and importers concerning agricultural quarantine regulations. There is no plan to reduce the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists. To the contrary, CBP is aggressively filling vacancies nationwide and expects to be fully staffed by January 2006.

Legacy agriculture inspectors were reassigned as CBP Agriculture Specialists shortly after the formation of CBP. Since the transition CBP has created an outstanding training program for new CBP Agriculture Specialist officers in cooperation with USDA-APHIS-PPQ. Furthermore, the plan includes training our current force of 18,000 CBP Officers in basic agricultural border inspection functions to identify potential harmful introductions into our agricultural economy. Clearly a force multiplier effect will be realized from this infusion of additional assets in this aspect of the mission.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: DEVELOPMENT OF CONSENSUS ON ANIMAL CARE GUIDELINES

DATE: October 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In recent years the issues of animal welfare, animal well-being and animal rights have generated significant discussion, actions on the part of livestock producers, legislative and regulatory debates and, in some cases, prohibitions of certain livestock production practices in specific states. These issues have also generated concern and requests for action within the food processing, marketing, and service sectors. While not part of the existing World Trade Organization framework for trade, the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) had convened working groups to develop general animal care guidelines relating to land and sea transport and humane slaughter. Recent surveys indicate that consumers in the United States continue to strongly support the notion that raising livestock for food production is appropriate so long as the animals are treated humanely. The vast majority of consumers currently hold the opinion that livestock producers are treating animals humanely. However, it is clear that livestock producers need to continue to take responsibility to ensure the animals they manage are treated humanely or consumers may see the need to support legislative or other action to assure that such practices are in place. In response to this reality and consistent with requests from the food processing, marketing and service sectors, virtually all livestock production systems have or will soon have developed and implemented science-based animal care guidelines.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and encourages the animal agriculture sector in the United States to continue their efforts to develop and implement science-based animal care guidelines that will help ensure the humane treatment of animals. The USAHA Committee on Animal Welfare will continue to provide a forum to enhance the dialogue regarding guidelines development and implementation and will encourage and facilitate efforts to reach consensus regarding controversial animal welfare issues. In addition to encouraging the consensus building process, USAHA discourages attempts to resolve these controversial issues through legislative and regulatory mandates. This position is consistent with policy resolutions developed by the National Council of State Governments and other organizations.

RESPONSE:

NO RESPONSE – 5-27-05

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36 **COMBINED WITH 19**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 9

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: TROPICAL BONT TICK ERADICATION PROGRAMS IN THE
CARIBBEAN

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Tropical Bont Tick (TBT), *Amblyomma variegatum*, and the associated disease heartwater were first introduced into the Caribbean region in 1828 when infested cattle were imported from Senegal into Guadeloupe. The tick remained confined to only a few Caribbean islands until the mid-1970s when it began to rapidly spread to other islands in the Caribbean, reaching Puerto Rico to the north and St. Vincent to the south. This rapid spread appears to have been coincident with the expansion of the range of cattle egrets in the Caribbean.

In affected countries, TBT and its associated diseases heartwater and dermatophilosis limit the potential for increased livestock production. In TBT-infested countries, control activities continue to be a drain on limited financial and human resources. Furthermore, there is a high risk of introduction of TBT and its associated diseases into the Americas and subsequent spread in the region due to the presence of wildlife and domestic animal hosts for the tick and its associated diseases, and native tick species capable of serving as vectors for heartwater. Spread of TBT and its associated diseases in the southern United States, Mexico, Central America, the Greater Antilles, and South America could result in \$655 thousand to \$3 billion potential annual losses.

Animal industry groups, state animal health officials, and federal officials have been concerned about the spread of TBT and its associated diseases to the United States since the mid-1980s. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS) have actively supported our involvement in a program to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean since the mid-1990s. USDA, APHIS support has been by means of financial contributions and technical assistance to a multi-national program known as the Caribbean *Amblyomma* Program (CAP) since 1994. Under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), CAP operates in nine English or Dutch-speaking islands in the Lesser Antilles.

The CAP also liaises with complimentary programs in the French West Indies administered by the Government of France, as well as a USDA, APHIS, VS program on St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, where TBT was discovered in the year 2000. Over the past decade, CAP has developed a proven methodology to eradicate TBT from the Caribbean. As a result, by February 2003, six of the nine CAP islands had achieved the status of "Provisional Freedom from TBT;" however, two of these have experienced significant re-infestations of TBT in the past year. Additional funds are urgently needed to not only address the presence of TBT on Antigua and St. Croix, but also to continue TBT eradication and surveillance throughout the CAP islands until the entire Caribbean region is declared TBT free.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests continued and increased funding from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services (IS) for the Caribbean *Amblyomma* Program (CAP), administered under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as funding for the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) program on St. Croix, to eradicate the Tropical Bont Tick (TBT) and its associated diseases of heartwater and dermatophilosis. USAHA also requests USDA, APHIS, IS and VS, by means of their membership in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to encourage their French counterparts to place greater emphasis on eradication of TBT from the French West Indies. We further request this funding be sought and allocated as soon as possible to mitigate the risk of spread of TBT to Puerto Rico and the United States mainland and to continue on-going surveillance efforts in the region against TBT until the Caribbean as a whole is free from TBT and its associated diseases.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, agrees with USAHA's Committee on Parasitic Diseases. International Services and Veterinary Services have developed a 5-year strategic plan that addresses long-term and short-term approaches to securing funding for this program. The strategic plan also lays out actionable items to continue to work with the French to support the French eradication efforts against the tropical bont tick. VS is actively engaged in an eradication program on St. Croix in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture of the U.S. Virgin Islands and is actively supporting involvement by the USDA, Agriculture Research Service to transfer new tick control technology to APHIS. This new technology will reduce eradication costs and improve APHIS' methodology for eradicating invasive pests, such as the tropical bont tick.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: REPLACEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE KNIPLING BUSHLAND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK INSECTS RESEARCH LABORATORY

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The continuing pressures of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus)* sp. ticks along the Texas-Mexican border is a real and measurable threat to the health of United States cattle. Practical scientific investigations have been completed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Research Laboratory in Kerrville, Texas to assist in the control and eradication of Texas Fever ticks in the United States.

Resolution:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture to request adequate funds to construct a replacement United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratory in the area of Kerrville, Texas.

RESPONSE:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) shares the concern of the Committee that the work of the Knipling-Bushland Livestock Insects Research Laboratory, at Kerrville, Texas, not be impeded. Cattle fever remains a serious threat and the research done at Kerrville by ARS scientists is world renowned. The facilities at Kerrville are aging, and options for improving or replacing them have been limited by a lack of funds for new construction. The 108th Congress acknowledged the pressing need for ARS to update its facilities and requested the Secretary of Agriculture to formulate a comprehensive building plan for its consideration. ARS will analyze the feasibility of replacing the Kerrville facilities for potential inclusion in the Secretary's response.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) – NO RESPONSE – 5-26-05

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 **COMBINED WITH 20**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: USDA JURISDICTION FOR ANIMAL DISEASE VACCINES THAT ALSO
HAVE A PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION-2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 **COMBINED WITH 13**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOLOGICS

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORTATION OF FETAL BOVINE SERUM

DATES: OCTOBER 27, 2004

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 41 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE FLOCK CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There have been significant changes in the scrapie program since implementation of the accelerated scrapie eradication program.

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) to thoroughly review the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) and determine the best method to bring the SFCP into consistent status with current World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), standards. The changes proposed should be subjected to public review prior to implementation.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services, in consultation with the National Scrapie Oversight Committee, has been, reviewing the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). APHIS, along with the committee, supports the adoption by USDA of an export certification level within the SFCP that would meet OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) requirements. Since the OIE requirements place a significant increase in the cost of participation on enrolled producers, participants who are not interested in enhanced export opportunities will be allowed to continue to participate with the current standards. USDA will provide a draft this year of the proposed changes for comment.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 42 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: CONSISTENT STATE COMPLIANCE

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The codified deadline for states to be in compliance as a “consistent state” was August 21, 2003, two years after the regulation became effective.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges State Animal Health Officials to submit their Consistent State status pre-review checklist immediately and the states take appropriate measures to be in full compliance. USAHA further urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and State Animal Health Officials to take action immediately to enforce compliance with the interstate movement and consistent state regulations.

RESPONSE:

The Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services is committed to enforcing the interstate movement and consistent State regulations. Forty nine States have submitted a complete pre-review check list. Twenty states have put the required intrastate regulations into place, and 29 States have submitted work plans for doing so; 11 of these are expected to have regulations in place by the end of fiscal year 2005. The remaining State has been challenged by personnel changes and should have the work plan and timeline for implementing the required regulation in place shortly. USDA is actively investigating reports of violations of the interstate movement requirements and has taken compliance action against several dealers for infractions resulting in significant fines.

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 43 **COMBINED WITH 19**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 9

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004