RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1, 13 and 75 Combined  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED CERVID BRUCELLOSIS RULE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18-24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To encourage whole herd brucellosis testing of cervids and to promote certified brucellosis-free herds, the committee recommends finalizing the Cervid Brucellosis Rule.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) publish the proposed Cervid Brucellosis Regulations in the Federal Register for public comment.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s interest in brucellosis testing and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is drafting proposed regulations regarding brucellosis in cervids for inclusion in title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 78. We expect to publish this proposal in the Federal Register in calendar year 2008.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 and 11 Combined  APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER:  FINALIZE THE CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HERD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF FARMED OR CAPTIVE DEER, ELK AND MOOSE RULE

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18-24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On August 3, 2006, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. On August 4, 2006, USDA-APHIS received a petition from the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, and on August 8, 2006, USDA-APHIS received a petition from the United States Animal Health Association.

The primary issues addressed by all three petitions are the Federal preemption of State laws and regulations and the requirements established for the interstate movement of cervids in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rule.

A comment period has been held to address these concerns.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to act on the comments received in the petitions and finalize the Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk and Moose Rule.

RESPONSE:
USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS published a final rule, Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose, on July 21, 2006. As noted in the resolution background information, APHIS subsequently received the three referenced petitions, including one from USAHA, challenging the Federal preemption and interstate movement provisions in the final rule. The petitions also requested a stay in the implementation of the rule.

Based on the issues raised in the petitions, APHIS published a delay in the implementation of the rule on September 8, 2006. The petitions were published for public comment on November 3, 2006. After reviewing the responses, APHIS requested additional information from the States in late June 2007 regarding restrictions for the movement of cervids into their States and why restrictions were needed.

APHIS has determined that addressing the issues raised by the States will require substantive changes to the rule. A new supplemental proposed rule focusing primarily on interstate movement issues but also addressing some herd certification program concerns is being drafted and circulated for internal review. APHIS appreciates USAHA’s support for the issuance of this new rule. We intend to publish the new proposed rule for comment in calendar year 2008.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (USAHA) - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 and 10 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: VACCINE FOR THE VARIOUS STRAINS OF EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN CERVIDS.

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18-24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a detrimental threat to the farmed cervid populations, especially whitetail deer. The committee encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to develop a vaccine that will protect against all known strains of this disease.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) initiate research in developing a vaccine that will adequately protect the farmed cervid population from all strains of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (orbiviral hemorrhagic disease).

RESPONSE

USDA, Agriculture Research Service

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has allocated resources to support EHD research, focusing on understanding the pathogenesis of the disease, at the Arthropod-Borne, Animal Dieases Research Laboratory in Laramie, Wyoming. This research will facilitate the future development of EHD vaccines, however, we do not currently have any projects on EHD vaccination development. As we formulate future budge initiatives, we will consider an expansion of our research in this area.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (USAHA) - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 and 12 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: ADDITION OF RETROPHARYNGEAL LYMPH NODES AS AN ACCEPTABLE TISSUE, ALONG WITH THE OBEX, IN STATE CWD MONITORING PROGRAMS.

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Research has indicated that in some cases the retropharyngeal lymph nodes may be positive on immunohistochemistry even before the obex.

If the obex is not suitable for testing, a retropharyngeal lymph node may assist in helping to support the test status of an individual animal being tested and the herd of origin.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) approve retropharyngeal lymph nodes as an acceptable Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring tissue for Odocoileus spp. The USAHA also requests the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials add retropharyngeal lymph nodes in all State CWD monitoring programs.

RESPONSE

National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials

Members of NASAHO have been made aware of this resolution. Recognizing CWD control is an individual state program at this time, those NASAHO members who administer CWD programs are encouraged by NASAHO membership to include
Retropharyngeal Lymph Node exams in CWD control programs for deer species (odocoileus).

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) supports chronic wasting disease (CWD) diagnostics. We agree that retropharyngeal lymph nodes may be used in monitoring for CWD in *Odocoileus* spp. We additionally recommend the continued collection of obex samples; obex should not be eliminated from the collection protocol.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  5, 14, 16, 24, 41, 58, 61 and 67 Combined  APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS

COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER:  FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in United States (US) livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations are crucial for animal health protection, maintenance and restoration, for assurance of food security, and for documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Animal health surveillance is a central function of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Veterinary Services leads the initiative in building the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS). Guidance is provided by the National Animal Health Safeguarding Review Principles and Recommendations, and resolutions of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians (AAVLD). The NAHSS is to be a ‘comprehensive, coordinated and integrated’ system that will enhance efficacy and efficiency of surveillance for high impact foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases and endemic diseases.

Surveillance planning and funding for implementation have traditionally been tied to specific ‘program’ diseases. This mechanism of funding prevents flexibility resulting in a
lack of harmonization of surveillance planning and implementation. Difficulties in resource allocation slow down the planning process, which also has been hampered by insufficient human resources, and delay the implementation of integrated and comprehensive surveillance activities. This places animal agriculture at risk of undetected introduction and/or spread of animal diseases, including high impact foreign animal and emerging diseases.

The USAHA and AAVLD recognize that comprehensive and integrated surveillance is essential for the continued protection of our animal populations from disease. USAHA and AAVLD support identifying and leveraging resources to achieve maximum surveillance efficacy and efficiency for diseases that are currently present in the United States, as well as for those that threaten our animal populations or may arise in the future.

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 ensure continued highest priority for integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning and implementation. The USAHA also urges the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to initiate and support a legislative effort to create a system that allows funding for inter-species, multiple disease based comprehensive and integrated surveillance to support continued, effective and efficient protection of the United States’ livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations from disease.

RESPONSE

National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials

NASAHO appreciates and supports the needs and goals in establishing a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated surveillance system for enhancing animal health status through detection of disease and verification of health status. While NASAHO continues to support development and implementation of the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS) by USDA, APHIS, VS; NASAHO is not funded nor intended to initiate federal legislation. NASAHO members will be individually supportive in legislative efforts and NASAHO will consider legislation concerning NAHSS and consider support of such legislation on the merits, providing comments appropriately as an organization.

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS considers the continued development of a comprehensive, integrated national animal health surveillance system (NAHSS) to be one of its highest priorities. VS will utilize appropriated funding to continue to explore the most efficient and effective mechanisms in designing, implementing, evaluating, analyzing, and communicating its surveillance programs through collaboration with state and industry partners.
In 2008, VS plans to complete the design and various stages of the implementation planning phase of national surveillance plans for scrapie, pseudorabies, vesicular diseases, viral hemorrhagic septicemia and brucellosis; to develop surveillance guidelines for use in a disease outbreak; to create a blueprint (white paper) for comprehensive, integrated surveillance; and to begin integrating surveillance for swine diseases into a comprehensive integrated system. In addition, we will continue the development of national surveillance plans for major cattle diseases, and in 2009 begin planning integration to build a comprehensive cattle surveillance system.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA SURVEILLANCE

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) has historically been considered to be the most serious viral disease of salmonids reared in freshwater environments in Europe. More recently, VHS has been associated with marine finfish species, and most recently has become an emerging disease of freshwater fish in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada.

VHS was first detected in the Great Lakes region in the Bay of Quinte, Lake Ontario, in 2005, and was subsequently detected in an archived 2003 sample from Lake St. Clair. VHS virus also was detected in Lake St. Clair in 2005 and in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clare and the St. Lawrence River in 2006 in a variety of fish species. The virus has also been documented from inland waters in New York (Consensus Lake, Skaneateles Lake, Little Salmon River in Mexico, Oswego County, the Seneca - Cayuga Canal, and an isolated farm pond in Ransomville, Niagara County), Wisconsin (Lake Winnebago), and Minnesota (Budd Lake near Harrison, MN). Prior to 2003, isolations of VHS virus (VHSv) were limited in North America to saltwater finfish from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, including Chinook and coho salmon, Pacific herring, Atlantic herring and cod. Since 2005, the list of species known to be affected by VHSv has risen to more than 40, including a number of ecologically and recreationally important fish. In many instances, VHSv has been associated with extensive fish mortality, albeit only in wild fish.

Because of the threat of this emerging disease to farmed species, a surveillance program must be developed, immediately implemented and then maintained to minimize potential risks and help prevent impacts of this disease on aquaculture fish species in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
(APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Department of Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) obtain the necessary funding to develop, implement and maintain a national viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSv) surveillance program to determine changes in the geographic distribution of VHSv and the fish species affected. Additionally, the information that is collected through this surveillance program should be disseminated to commercial and public aquaculture managers.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7    APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUNDING TO STATES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The effective management of animal health and all hazards emergencies is dependent upon a comprehensive system coordinating and integrating federal, state and local emergency management. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked with other federal agencies to further develop and integrate animal emergency management activities within the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and the National Response Plan (NRP). There have been continued efforts among federal agencies defined through the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and emergency management training and exercises to create a more coordinated and integrated federal level emergency management effort. USDA is working to integrate federal animal emergency efforts with states through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Area Emergency Coordinators, other APHIS personnel, and other USDA entities such as the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service.

Within each state the authority to regulate and respond to livestock disease lies primarily with state animal health officials. It is the responsibility of state animal health officials within each state to coordinate animal emergency management to integrate with their livestock industries, to coordinate with other state government agencies through their state emergency management agency and to coordinate with other states’ animal emergency planning and response activities within their respective Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. In order to respond effectively to animal emergency events, planning and response activities must be integrated into each specific livestock species production industry. State animal emergency management planning and response must be further developed within regional, state, and local levels to successfully integrate into animal production systems in order to ensure an acceptable level of business continuity. Failure to adequately support such capabilities may threaten the economic viability of our livestock industries and endanger our nation’s critical food supply.
The present level of state emergency management planning and response capabilities varies between individual states and is not adequate to ensure an effective animal emergency management system in many states at this time. Appropriate staffing of state animal health emergency management personnel must be accomplished in order to ensure effective emergency management capabilities to protect the livestock industry from foreign animal disease events, all hazards emergencies and ensure an acceptable level of continuity of business within production agriculture. Adequate state level staffing to address animal health emergency planning and response efforts has broad effects that act to ensure the safety and health of United States citizens, food systems, agriculture infrastructure and the economy.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the development of a system to provide adequate funding for state animal health agencies to enhance the state level emergency management capabilities needed to protect the livestock industries and other appropriate animal-related criteria within each state.

The USAHA urges the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the American Veterinary Medical Association to work collaboratively in a legislative effort involving the Congress and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create a system of funding that ensures employment of adequate state personnel to develop animal health emergency management capabilities that will prevent, protect, respond to and recover from livestock disease and all hazards animal emergencies.

In addition, USAHA requests DHS and other federal partners, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implement the policies and directives included in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) #9 to secure a successful animal health emergency management system.

RESPONSE:

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
The AVMA applauds the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) leadership in identifying and addressing the need for adequate funding across the country to ensure an appropriate response to all hazards animal emergencies. While much has been accomplished through our collaborative efforts, gaps still exist in emergency preparedness and response.

Current AVMA policy urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Homeland Security and the Congress of the United States to establish and continue to develop contingency plans and resources to be immediately available to the Secretary of
Agriculture, or instant, effective reaction to animal emergencies. However, the AVMA does not have specific policy regarding funding for employment of state personnel. We will need to ask applicable AVMA committees to evaluate this request from USAHA. In the meantime, if USAHA could be more informative in specifying how much money is requested, or what specific purposes in the states, and for which fiscal year, that would be helpful.

**National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO)**
The NASAHO recognizes the crucial defects in current Department of Homeland Security funding systems pertaining to animal health and animal agriculture as a whole. The NASAHO is strongly supportive of this resolution and will continue to work with other groups as named in efforts to improve funding and funding mechanisms for state animal health emergency management efforts.

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS has made significant progress toward fulfilling its portion of the tasks set forth in HSPD-9. APHIS contributes information on its ongoing HSPD-9 related animal health initiatives to the USDA quarterly HSPD-9 report requested by DHS. The HSPD-9 report is a coordinated record of the collaborative efforts by USDA agencies to protect U.S. agriculture. The specific areas tracked by the HSPD-9 report are USDA awareness and warning issues, vulnerability assessments, mitigation strategies, response planning and recovery, research and development, and budget.

One of the proposed goals in 2008 for the Food and Agriculture Sector includes clarifying the DHS grant funds available for food and agriculture State partners as well as increasing the awareness of available DHS grants within our sector. The 2008 goals will be considered and finalized by the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) and the Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) for the Food and Agriculture Sector at an upcoming joint meeting.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (USAHA) - 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER:  8       APPROVED

SOURCE:      USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR SURVEILLANCE

DATES:      RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in United States (US) livestock, poultry and aquatic populations are crucial for the protection, maintenance and restoration of animal and public health, assurance of food safety and security, and documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Animal health surveillance is a central function of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Guided by the National Animal Health Safeguarding Review and resolutions of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), plus the ever greater challenges to the health of our animal populations, VS leads the initiative in building the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS). The NAHSS is to be ‘a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated’ system that will enhance efficacy and efficiency of surveillance for high impact foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases and endemic diseases.

Central to all disease surveillance activities are the collection, analysis and dissemination of information. All three of these activities are dependent on properly designed and executed information systems. Achieving proper design and execution requires the linkage of high quality technical information technology skills and knowledge with veterinary program expertise which ensures that the designed systems match the purpose and needs of surveillance programs. An effective union that adds value to the information collected is often difficult to achieve but becomes impossible without the deep integration of information technology and veterinary medical specialists. Mixed units of technical specialists ultimately yield more effective systems than separate groups who are conceptually isolated as could be the result of plans for reorganization of USDA information technology systems.
RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commit the necessary resources and management support to maintain the integration of animal health specialists and information technology specialists in the development of information technology systems capable of linking to State regulatory and laboratory data bases and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. The USAHA also urges USDA to seek input from State regulatory, laboratory and industry stakeholders at all stages of the development of new or revision of existing information systems that support animal health surveillance programs.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VETERINARY SERVICES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Surveillance data relating to animal health are stored in several databases developed and maintained by USDA. VS recently hired a Chief Information Officer who is reviewing all information technology (IT) deliverables. A strategic plan addressing IT needs and priorities will be developed. In the process, we will solicit input from stakeholders to ensure the products address needs of field, State, and laboratory personnel.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASE LIST

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Committee is tasked with evaluating animal disease information systems that provide information to stakeholders for activities and decisions related to maintaining the health of animals and people, controlling and eradicating disease, and assuring the well-being of animals and profitability of animal industries. In 2006, the Committee formally identified the need for a unified national list of notifiable and reportable diseases. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) previously recommended that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) compile and evaluate current state reporting and notification requirements. Although all States have a required reportable diseases list, there exists large variability in these lists. Requirements for federal reporting are related only to program diseases or foreign animal diseases (FADs).

A National List of Reportable Animal Diseases will provide one standardized national reportable animal diseases list, demonstrate to trading partners and other countries that the United States has a uniform national list of reportable diseases, assist in meeting international reporting obligations and validate the United States’ required international reporting to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as required export certifications, and improve zoonotic and endemic animal disease reporting in the United States.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) List of Notifiable Diseases currently provides a list of diseases that have implications related to international spread, zoonotic potential, and potential for significant mortality or morbidity. This list can serve as a starting point in the development of a national list of reportable diseases for the United States.
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 cooperation with state animal health officials and industry, develop a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases. The National List of Reportable Animal Diseases should include appropriate reporting criteria. The List of Diseases Notifiable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) should be used as a starting point in developing a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS’ National Surveillance Unit (NSU) is drafting a list of diseases that may be considered a national reportable disease, using the list of diseases notifiable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a starting point. NSU has conducted background research of required disease reporting in the Code of Federal Regulations and in other pertinent rules, agreements, and memos.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, NSU determined that VS does not have the authority to implement a mandatory list, but does have authority to develop voluntary guidelines. This information was presented to the VS Management Team (VSMT) in January 2008. VSMT instructed NSU to continue development of the list, form a working group of stakeholders, and explore the possibility of rulemaking that would formalize the list. VSMT also requested periodic progress reports.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 Combined with 64  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
        COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE/LIVESTOCK DISEASE INTERACTIONS

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The significance of diseases involving wildlife and livestock has increased opportunities for conflict between natural resource and livestock interests. The concerns are valid for the potential for disease transmission in either direction between wildlife and livestock. Domestic and wild species frequently share the same habitat and may share several pathogens. This interface creates many complex problems. Unfortunately, these problems are not always easily solved scientifically and so remedy is sought through political and/or legal channels.

Agriculture and wildlife interests share common risks and threats such as foreign animal disease introduction, loss of land/habitat to urban sprawl and land developments. It is imperative that we work together to preserve our common interests. Working together will require extensive cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration between several agencies and interest groups. It will also require respect for the responsibilities, authorities, skills, and livelihoods of all partners, and will help to develop trust.

Of immediate concern is domestic sheep/bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis spp.) disease interactions. Bighorn sheep are currently at just 1-2% of their historical numbers with the majority of them inhabiting public lands in the western United States (US) managed by federal and state agencies. In recent years, some but not all bighorn sheep die-offs and declines have been temporally and spatially associated with domestic sheep contact. The complete range of mechanisms/causal agents that lead to epizootic disease events are not fully understood. Separation of wild and domestic sheep has been practiced to reduce the potential for additional bighorn sheep die-offs. Consequently, bighorn/domestic sheep disease interactions and their management impact the domestic sheep industry as well as bighorn sheep conservation.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committees on Wildlife Diseases and Sheep and Goats are establishing a working group comprised of representatives of
state and federal animal health agencies, wildlife and public land managements, the American Sheep Industry and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) to develop best management practices for raising domestic sheep (and goats) on public lands where contact between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep may occur.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Secretary of the Interior to seek resources through the President’s budget to fund research to better elucidate the epidemiology and pathogenesis of bighorn/domestic sheep disease interactions so informed and effective management decisions can be made.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  17       APPROVED

SOURCE:              COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER:       BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS CONTROL COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS IN BEEF AND DAIRY PRODUCTION

DATES:               RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The control and reduction of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) in the cattle population of the United States is a grass roots effort driven by the dairy and beef cattle industries. The National Cattlemens Beef Association, Academy of Veterinary Consultants, American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) all have BVDV control committees or subcommittees, however, there is not a single entity acting as a coordinator for these activities

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct an analysis to determine if the negative economic impact of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) infection in both beef and dairy cattle would warrant the development of an organized BVDV control and reduction program.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS encourages the dairy and beef cattle industries, the National Cattlemens Beef Association, the Academy of Veterinary Consultants, and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners to fund the completion of a cost-benefit analysis that would support the development of an organized BVDV control and reduction program. If this
analysis warrants such a program, the support of these industry groups would be needed to develop appropriate funding.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHECK TEST PANEL FOR TESTING CATTLE FOR BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS PERSISTENT INFECTION

DATES: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cattle persistently infected (PI) with bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) are a major source of infection for naïve animals. Control, reduction, or eradication of BVDV is dependent on the reduction of exposure of naïve animals by removing PI cattle from herds. Laboratories conducting BVDV PI testing are not required to demonstrate proficiency, and there are no national standards for validation of tests. Licensing of tests by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) is only required when tests kits are sold commercially. The claims for accuracy and sensitivity of test kits only apply when the kit is used according to the manufacturers’ recommendations, and the manufacturer does not guarantee kit results when laboratories modify test kit protocols. The economic consequences of false positives and false negatives in BVDV PI detection are significant, and therefore, proficiency testing for BVDV PI is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to support efforts by state and industry bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) control programs to evaluate laboratory proficiency in BVDV persistent infection testing of cattle. Pending appropriate funding, this support should include the development of a check test panel available on an ongoing basis to assess laboratory proficiency in BVDV testing. Samples used in panels may include serum, whole blood, buffy coat and skin biopsy.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National
Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) suggests that a working group comprised of representatives of NVSL, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, and USAHA be convened to come up with a framework, similar to that used in the Johne’s program that will address standardization of BVD testing protocols and a laboratory approval process. A proficiency panel for BVD cannot be provided during fiscal year 2008 but may be available in 2009.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUEST FOR SERUM FROM THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FOR AN EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS SEROLOGICAL SURVEY

DATES: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is currently classified as a Foreign Animal Disease to the United States. However, due to past issues with import testing, the causal agents, Babesia equi and/or Babesia caballi, possibly exist at some undetermined prevalence level in the country’s resident horse population.

Concern over this issue was addressed by way of resolutions in 2006 from the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was based upon recommendations from the EP Subcommittee of the USAHA committee on the Infectious Diseases of Horses. The major resolution adopted by USAHA advocated conducting a slaughter horse survey to estimate the prevalence or lack thereof of EP infection in the United States (US) resident horse population.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this is no longer a viable option. The EP Subcommittee met by conference call on July 9, 2007 and discussed alternative strategies for achieving this goal. An alternative discussed and unanimously approved was to make application to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) and request that residual sera collected during the 1998 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to EP. The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

The outcome of such a survey would help greatly in resolving the current uncertainty regarding the prevalence of EP in the domestic US horse population. If a significant prevalence of EP infection is found in our horse population, then the issue can be responsibly addressed.
Resolution:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories make available and submit residual banked equine serum samples to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for testing by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to equine piroplasmosis (EP). The absolute requirement is that all samples submitted for evaluation carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, date of collection, premises of origin or the laboratory or state from which they originated.

USAHA also requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to determine what constitutes a representative number of samples from the above NAHLN submissions to provide meaningful estimates of the current prevalence of EP in the United States resident horse population or accept the previously statistically recommended number of 15,000 samples and use previously identified funding which was obtained through the slaughter surveillance initiative.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) support this project and are in the process of planning the survey design, development, and implementation as follows:

1. VS will design this national prevalence survey relative to sample size and selection techniques to ensure the anonymity of the samples.
2. Members of the USAHA Equine Piroplasmosis Subcommittee (of the Infectious Diseases of Horses Committee) will assist in finalizing the project design and contacting the National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories that are providing samples to be tested.
3. National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, will perform all screening tests. As of January 4, 2008, the NVSL has received 3360 samples for this survey. These samples have not yet been tested for equine piroplasmosis. The total number of samples required is still being evaluated and is dependent on the randomness of the samples collected.
4. ARS in Pullman, Washington, will perform all confirmatory tests.
5. VS will oversee and coordinate the final project analysis and report of the results of the survey.
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The outcome of such a survey would help greatly in resolving the current uncertainty regarding the prevalence of EP in the domestic US horse population. If a significant prevalence of EP infection is found in our horse population, then the issue can be responsibly addressed.
Resolutions:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) provide residues of sera collected during the 1998 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey to be tested by competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) for the presence of antibodies to Equine Piroplasmosis (EP). The sera would carry no identification (ID) whatsoever as to animal name/numerical ID, premises of origin or state from which they originated.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The decision was made by the EP subcommittee to use the residual serum submitted to diagnostic laboratories (Resolution 19) as the basis of the survey rather than the 1998 NAHMS samples.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21   APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AGAINST RABIES

DATES: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (US) is enzootic for wildlife rabies. A single rabid animal may result in mass exposures to the public and the administration of hundreds of courses of human rabies postexposure prophylaxis. Production of Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) is, in particular, time and labor intensive and relies upon a pool of hyperimmune human donors. Supply shortages of rabies biologicals occur with disconcerting frequency. Strategic planning for episodic increases in demand for rabies biologicals, e.g. natural or man-made disaster, or mass exposures, is currently lacking.

Exposure to suspected rabies infected dogs is still the cause of over 90% of human exposures to rabies and of over 99% of human deaths worldwide. Yet requirements for importation of domestic animals to the US from canine-rabies enzootic countries are the same as from countries that pose a much lower risk of rabies translocation.

The use of a licensed oral rabies vaccine has been effective in controlling rabies in certain wildlife rabies reservoir species. However, there is only a single licensed vaccine available for this endeavor. Its efficacy is not uniform across the range of target species, and unit cost is rising.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) consider creation of strategic federal stockpiles of human rabies biologicals, improved research support for novel alternatives to current human rabies biologicals and encourage investment and innovation in the commercial sector thereby ensuring adequate production and distribution capacity for cost effective and efficacious products.
The USAHA requests HHS, CDC strengthen federal regulations to minimize the opportunity for the importation of rabies infected domestic animals from rabies endemic countries.

The USAHA also requests HHS and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offer financial incentives to small, innovative, biotech business ventures for production of new, cost effective, and efficacious oral wildlife rabies vaccines and delivery systems to better serve current and future program needs and support preparedness efforts.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22      APPROVED

SOURCE:                  COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:         THE NORTH AMERICAN RABIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

DATES:                  RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On September 8th, 2007 during world rabies day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the United States (US) had eliminated the canine rabies variant. This was made possible by the success of a collaborative project of Federal, State, Local, and academic partners. This program resulted in elimination of canine rabies variant, endemic in Mexico, in coyotes from South Texas using RABORAL V-RG® (Merial) and the continued surveillance and vaccination barrier of the Texas/Mexico border. Continued progress in the eastern US with Canada to control the raccoon rabies variant and new programs to study the control of skunk rabies variant utilizing oral vaccines are reviewed at the annual United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) Rabies Management Team meeting. At these meetings, the North American Rabies Management Plan has been developed with state, tribal, US, Canada, and Mexico agencies to plan the management, control and elimination of terrestrial rabies in North America.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continued surveillance and control of the canine variant of rabies to prevent the reintroduction of this strain into the United States. USAHA also encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) and the HHS, CDC to allocate appropriated funding and resources to assist state and local agencies in maintaining this canine-free rabies status and expand the coordinated regional wildlife rabies control and vaccination programs through the newly developed North American Rabies Management Plan with the ultimate goal of eliminating terrestrial strains of rabies regionally, nationally and throughout the North American continent.
RESPONSE

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) agrees with USAHA Resolution 22 on the importance of continued surveillance and control of the canine rabies variant to prevent reintroduction into the United States. We recognize the importance of continued surveillance and control of the canine variant of rabies to prevent the reintroduction of this strain into the United States. In 2007, the United States was declared free of canine rabies variant as a result of ongoing cooperative efforts among Federal, State, and local authorities. WS and counterparts in Mexico and Canada completed a North American Rabies Management Plan (NARMP) to facilitate effective border rabies control during FY 2007. The plan identifies four primary areas for international collaboration: information exchange, enhanced rabies surveillance, control and research. The NARMP is in a final review process by administrative entities in each country leading to formal signatures to the plan during FY 2008. WS also agrees with USAHA that there is a need for expanded support of regional wildlife rabies management programs. In addition to the broad objectives outlined in the NARMP, the focus of wildlife rabies management in the United States will be further detailed in a National Plan for the Management of Rabies in Wildlife. The ability to provide enhanced support at the local and regional level will require additional resources.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 Combined with 5, 14, 16, 41, 58, 61 and 67 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING AND PLANNING OF INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

RESOLUTION:
The USAHA urges the USDA, APHIS, VS to ensure continued highest priority for integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning and implementation. The USAHA also urges the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, and the NASDA to initiate and support a legislative effort to create a system that allows funding for inter-species, multiple disease based comprehensive and integrated surveillance to support continued, effective and efficient protection of the US livestock, poultry, wildlife, and aquatic populations from disease.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS considers the continued development of a comprehensive, integrated national animal health surveillance system (NAHSS) to be one of its highest priorities. VS will utilize appropriated funding to continue to explore the most efficient and effective mechanisms in designing, implementing, evaluating, analyzing, and communicating its surveillance programs through collaboration with state and industry partners.

In 2008, VS plans to complete the design and various stages of the implementation planning phase of national surveillance plans for scrapie, pseudorabies, vesicular diseases, viral hemorrhagic septicemia and brucellosis; to develop surveillance guidelines for use in a disease outbreak; to create a blueprint (white paper) for comprehensive, integrated surveillance; and to begin integrating surveillance for swine diseases into a comprehensive integrated system. In addition, we will continue the development of national surveillance plans for major cattle diseases, and in 2009 begin planning integration to build a comprehensive cattle surveillance system.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: TUBERCULOSIS TEST REQUIREMENT FOR RODEO/EVENT CATTLE

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2006 discovery of two separate instances of bovine tuberculosis (TB), one case in a bucking bull and the other in a roping steer, has resulted in traces to cattle in several states as well as the destruction of a herd of beef cattle. The relative risk posed by rodeo/event cattle is much greater than the risk from feeder cattle. Compared to feeder cattle, roping and bull dogging steers may remain in the population much longer, are more likely to be commingled with breeding beef cattle, may have multiple owners in a comparatively short time period and are frequently commingled with event/rodeo cattle of various owners at roping events and rodeos. In addition, current events indicate that there is a need for more tuberculosis surveillance in bucking bulls. This is clearly demonstrated by the number of exposed cattle traces related to the positive bucking bull.

Most United States (US) breeders of eventing cattle are cattle producers whose ranches are located in bovine TB Accredited Free states. These cattle producers follow management practices identical to those of other purebred and commercial beef producers and their cattle seldom commingle with Mexican origin cattle or dairy cattle. It should be recognized that these cattle pose a low risk of transmitting TB. Testing these cattle provides little if any benefit to the efforts to control and eradicate bovine TB from the US.

It should also be recognized that a testing requirement for native cattle that have never been exposed to Mexican origin cattle or dairy cattle as a condition for interstate movement for cattle shows and for sale as breeding stock may discourage the development of an alternative, low risk source of eventing cattle.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to implement a regulation requiring that all bucking bulls, roping steers and bulldogging steers be tested negative for tuberculosis (TB) within 12 months.
prior to any interstate movement. Except that the movement of animals out of the birth herd would be exempt from the TB test provided that an accredited veterinarian places a statement on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that the birth herd has had no exposure to Mexican cattle or dairy cattle.

USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS to implement a regulation requiring that an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection accompany the aforementioned cattle that required a test and the test date of the last negative tuberculosis test for each animal is indicated on the Certificate.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the opportunity to respond to this request by the United States Animal Health Association’s Committee on Tuberculosis. VS would like to thank the committee for identifying this need and assures the committee that VS remains committed to finding and eradicating bovine tuberculosis in all classes of bovines and captive cervids. VS will evaluate these issues and determine if a risk assessment is warranted that would support regulatory changes.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: COLLECTION OF SERUM FROM CERVIDS ROUTINELY TESTED BY THE SINGLE CERVICAL TEST FOR EVALUATION OF THE RAPID TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS IN CERVIDS

DATES: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the 2006 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting the following resolution was approved as Resolution Number 21: “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) validate a serological tuberculosis test for captive cervids. USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to take the lead in organizing a pilot project with industry so that prior to each single cervical test injection in captive cervids a blood sample is collected and serum submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for evaluation of the VetTB Stat-Pak™ rapid test for one year. Serum should be banked for evaluation of a future serology test. Results of this evaluation should be submitted for review by the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee on Tuberculosis”.

This Resolution had the following response: “The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) maintains interest in enhancing and approving new, reliable tests for tuberculosis. We specifically look forward to testing methods that will exceed the accuracy of our current tests and reduce the impact of testing on producers and their livestock. For these reasons, VS fully supports this recommendation. Implementation of this project will be heavily dependent on the industry for providing samples, providing assistance with the purchase of suspects and reactors for confirmatory testing, assistance during testing, and with the promotion of this effort within the industry. Implementation of this project is also dependent on the availability of time, personnel, and financial resources. VS fully intends to pursue”.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to expedite the validation process for tuberculosis (TB) serological tests for cervids to enhance surveillance for TB.

RESPONSE:
USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Serology Section of the Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is currently working with various cervid producer associations to obtain serum samples from a variety of cervid species. A cervid serum bank has been established; the number of species and the number of samples for each species are increasing. As of January 1, 2008, there were 1,273 serum samples in the bank. The NVSL continues to create panels of blind samples to assist in the evaluation of cervid TB serological tests being developed.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  27   APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER:  DESIGNATION OF TUBERCULOSIS SEROLOGICAL TESTS FOR PROVISIONAL STATUS

DATES: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Preliminary data presented at the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) on Tuberculosis (TB) on October 20, 2007, indicates that the PriTest SeraLyte-Mbv™, Chembio BovidTB STAT-PAK™, and Chembio Mapia™ Mycobacterium bovis test technologies show promise for potential use in the national Bovine TB Eradication Program. Test sensitivity values reported were 81.5%, 70.4% and 70.4% respectively. Additional data is now needed to more critically evaluate these tests according to proposed use in an official capacity. Designation of these tests as provisional, as per applicable United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) memoranda will support the collection of additional data for evaluation by the TB SAS and USDA-APHIS.

This designation will initiate a more formal process allowing USDA-APHIS to work with the test developers in identifying specific uses for these tests in the national Bovine TB Eradication Program and to provide guidance regarding additional test samples needed for further consideration and evaluation as official TB program tests.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to designate the PriTest SeraLyte-Mbv™, Chembio BovidTB STAT-PAK™, and Chembio Mapia™ tests as provisional tests for Mycobacteria bovis diagnosis in cattle.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Official use of specific test kits is determined by VS National Animal Health Program and Policy staff, with input from the TB Scientific Advisory Committee. Due to confidential business information constraints, the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) cannot comment on the licensure status of these three kits, but it is the CVB’s opinion that these products should follow the standard process for licensure.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28, 47, 60 and 63 Combined

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: MINIMUM EXPORT RULES FOR GOATS AND SWINE

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The livestock industry of the United States has much to offer other countries through the
exportation of our livestock genetics. To be competitive with other livestock exporting
countries, exporters in the United States need to keep preparation costs as low as
possible and the tuberculosis test, in particular, requires two visits by a veterinarian to
conduct the test.

Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 91, relating to the inspection and handling of
livestock for exportation requires certain testing to be eligible for exportation.

Part 91.5 relating to cattle exportation was amended on August 22, 2007 to allow the
exportation of cattle without the need for a tuberculosis or brucellosis test unless required
by the importing country.

Part 91.6 still requires a tuberculosis and brucellosis test even if not required by the
importing country. Part 91.9 requires a brucellosis test for swine even if not required by
the importing country.

Most states in the United States are free of both brucellosis and tuberculosis so it should
not be a major risk for an importing country. If the importing country believes there is
some risk for the two diseases, they can require the tests in their import protocols.

RESOLUTION:
The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) proposes that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) publish a proposed rule eliminating the requirement for the brucellosis and tuberculosis test for goats intended for exportation, and the brucellosis test for breeding swine intended for exportation unless required by the importing country.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees with the recommended resolution and will initiate the necessary regulatory process to amend Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 91.6 (goats) and part 91.9 (swine), to remove the testing requirements for tuberculosis and brucellosis of goats intended for export and brucellosis of swine intended for export, unless such testing is required by the importing country.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION—2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29    APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR HIGH-CONTAINMENT BIOSAFETY LABORATORIES

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

High containment biosafety level (BSL)-3, BSL-3 Ag, and BSL-4 laboratory space is vital to our ability for early detection and response to any potential emerging and foreign animal disease or bioterrorist event.

Laboratories must be capable of handling disease agents in a manner that allows the safe handling of diagnostic materials and the ability to conduct research to detect and prevent emerging and exotic infectious agents.

These same laboratories assist livestock producers, veterinarians, pet owners, wildlife managers and public health professionals in every state on a daily basis by providing surveillance and diagnostic services for these diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports continuing operation of existing, and construction of new, high-containment biosafety laboratories. Furthermore, USAHA recommends funding and coordination by federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for maintaining regulatory oversight of these laboratories.
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 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to receive United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants to initiate the network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any animal health emergency, funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment.

USDA-APHIS-VS and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have established a collaborative relationship to produce, distribute and use proficiency panels and reference materials in order to harmonize the diagnosis of major animal diseases between the United States and Canada.

This initiative is separate from, but integrates with and supports, the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914, H.R. 2206) by providing training opportunities for veterinarians in public health practice.

It is essential that annual appropriations be provided for the full implementation, maintenance and long-term support of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) reiterates the need for the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request line-item funding in the USDA budget in the amount of $35 million per year for ongoing support of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and to ensure that adequate funding is available for transfer and full implementation of newly developed and validated assays from federal and other laboratories to the NAHLN laboratories.

USAHA requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies’ Subcommittees on Appropriations provide $35 million annually for the infrastructure support needed to fully implement the NAHLN.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In 2007, the Steering Committee of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) requested a review of the NAHLN be conducted with three goals: 1) Evaluate how well the original objectives of the NAHLN have been accomplished, 2) suggest new or modified objectives for the future NAHLN, and 3) identify key issues that would be the focus of subsequent phases of the review. The summary report and recommendations have been finalized and provided to the NAHLN Steering Committee and stakeholders. The NAHLN Review report affirmed the original NAHLN objectives, recognized strengths and accomplishments, and identified recommendations and concerns that need to be addressed. Addressing the concerns and needs will assist in determining the funding necessary to fully implement the NAHLN. The NAHLN Steering Committee met on January 10, 2008, to discuss how to address the findings in the review.

The APHIS Administrator at the January 2008 NAHLN Steering Committee meeting offered to facilitate discussions on NAHLN funding and approaches with the budget office.
The National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) is a student loan repayment program for veterinarians who practice in underserved areas. This loan repayment program is to be administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Secretary of Agriculture can determine veterinary shortage areas in rural practice, urban practice, federal government agencies, and discipline areas. Recently highlighted awareness of bioterrorism and foreign animal disease threats to public health and food safety has heightened the urgency of a fully funded and implemented program. The NVMSA also creates a reserve corps of veterinarians available for mobilization in the event of an animal disease emergency or disaster. Adequate funding for NVMSA is $20 million annually.

Enacted in December 2003 and appropriated for both FY06 and FY07, NVMSA’s rules remain unwritten by USDA, rendering the program non-functional. The Administration has not included funding for NVMSA in the President’s budget, prioritize its rule-making process, or attempt to develop NVMSA’s reserve emergency veterinary corps component.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Congress fully fund the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) for $20 million in the FY08 Agriculture Appropriations bill and requests that the administration budget NVMSA for $20 million in FY09.

USAHA requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) promulgate the regulations for NVMSA no later than 270 days after adoption of this resolution. USAHA recommends that the first phase of NVMSA’s implementation should prioritize shortages of large and mixed animal practitioners in rural communities and training of veterinary...
laboratorians because of urgent national security concerns for public health, bioterrorism preparedness, and food supply security.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR STAFFING AND OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER’S NEW BIOSAFETY LEVEL-3 AGRICULTURE WILDLIFE DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It is critical to ensure there is adequate laboratory space to address national wildlife disease problems because of the important impact wildlife diseases have on human and domestic animal health. The construction and operation of a Biosafety Level-3 Agriculture (BSL-3 Ag) laboratory at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), Fort Collins, Colorado will enhance the nation’s ability to address significant wildlife disease issues. In support of the construction of the NWRC BSL-3 Ag facility, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed Resolution 8 at its 2005 meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The 30% design phase of the NWRC Wildlife Disease Building (WDB) is complete and “Solicitation for Offerers” for development and construction is underway. Functional operation of the facility is scheduled for spring 2010. This resolution supports efforts for the staffing and operation of a 70,000 square foot Biosafety Level 3-Agriculture laboratory at the NWRC, Fort Collins, Colorado.

The NWRC has unique capabilities to address research, surveillance, diagnostics and disease control efforts in wildlife. These programs are the first line of defense against catastrophic and newly emerging animal diseases, some of which are transmissible to humans. An essential component of an increased capacity for addressing these disease programs is the construction of a BSL-3 Ag research laboratory and wildlife disease diagnostic and research facility at the NWRC. This facility will support expanding research, methods development, and operational efforts to better understand and combat emerging and invasive wildlife diseases.

During the past 18 months USDA, WS has played a critical role in efforts for first detection for Asian subtypes of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Through the WS operational program over 75,000 wild bird samples and 50,000 environmental samples were collected in collaboration with 50 state agencies. The 75,000 wild bird samples were analyzed at a number of different laboratory facilities under stringent requirements laid out in the Interagency Strategic Plan by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The 50,000 environmental samples were all analyzed at the NWRC. While the HPAI screening was conducted under BSL-2 conditions, the effort and capacity of the NWRC for surge wildlife disease diagnostics were demonstrated.
Construction and operation of the WDB will enhance USDA’s ability to meet the challenges imposed by newly and re-emerging wildlife disease and to comply with Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 9, the USDA Strategic Plan and the APHIS Strategic Plan by providing APHIS with Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) laboratory and Biosafety Level-3(Ag) wildlife holding/testing facilities in support of: (1) enhancement of operational capacity of federal BSL-3 laboratory diagnostic surge capacity; (2) development of laboratory diagnostic methods for wildlife pathogens and diseases impacting domestic animal and human health; (3) development of field sampling and diagnostic methods to support surveillance and monitoring activities for wildlife pathogens and diseases within and across United States borders; (4) development and efficacy evaluation of methods to prevent/control/contain (e.g. vaccines) wildlife diseases; (5) determination of wildlife host range and reservoir potential for pathogens of program importance toward development of wildlife disease risk assessment models relating to animal and human health and farm biosecurity; (6) development of methods for the protection of animal and public health and protection of the food supply; (7) directed efforts toward methods development for foreign animal diseases.

The NWRC laboratory will be utilized to conduct research on zoonotic wildlife diseases that affect wild and domestic animals, and that may impact human health. The facility will be instrumental in development of methods to identify, monitor, control, eradicate, and prevent the introduction of wildlife diseases into the United States and the North American continent. The BSL-3 laboratory environments will provide for support and surge capacity for other APHIS surveillance activities for domestic and foreign animal diseases during times of emergency.

A fully staffed facility will be able to respond to outbreaks of wildlife diseases and catastrophic emergencies. In addition, the facility could provide emergency surge capacity to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

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), the Secretary of Agriculture, and the House and Senate Subcommittees on Agriculture Appropriations secure funding for the staffing and operation of the 70,000 square foot Biosafety Level 3-Agriculture laboratory at the National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins, Colorado, at an estimated annual cost of $3,500,000.

RESPONSE

USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services
USDA, APHIS, WS agrees and is committed to support USAHA Resolution Number 32, Support for Staffing and Operation of the National Wildlife Research Center’s New Biosafety Level-3 Agriculture Wildlife Disease Research Laboratory. We recognize the importance of increased Biosafety Level 3 facilities to both conduct wildlife research and carry out critical wildlife disease diagnostics in support of biosafety to humans, domestic animals and wildlife. Previously, we have supported the 2005 USAHA Resolution Number 8 (A New Biosafety Level 3-AG (BSL-3-AG) Wildlife Disease Research
Laboratory at the National Wildlife Research Center) as part of the APHIS/WS National Wildlife Research Center’s (NWRC) Master Plan on the campus of Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. This facility is scheduled to be constructed under a private construct/USDA lease arrangement through General Services Administration. APHIS continues to support both resolutions for this important, unique wildlife disease research facility as part of fulfilling APHIS’ mission of strengthening emergency response preparedness and safeguarding American agriculture.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33  APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER:  VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS IN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE QUARANTINE REGIONS OF HIGH DENSITY FOOD ANIMAL POPULATIONS

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are approximately 500,000 dairy cows and calves in a 40 mile radius of Tulare, California. Dairy operations and calf facilities are often located across rural roads from each other or short distances away. California’s Highway 99, a heavily used north/south vehicle and trucking corridor runs through the center of the Tulare milk shed. Similar densities of food animal livestock operations are scattered throughout the nation.

In the event of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak within or near the Tulare milk shed, there are United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Homeland Security (DHS) vehicle restrictions that would affect ingress/egress. Also the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) restrictions may occur until intentional disease introduction is ruled out.

Vehicle quarantine measures as part of the FMD management/eradication program could prove to be more costly within the milk shed than the disease itself. Most of the large Tulare calf ranches, which may consist of up to 80,000 animals per ranch, have only 4-12 hours of feed inventory available, thus making them vulnerable to restricted movement of feed. Dairy farms and most feedlots will be somewhat less susceptible to the feed availability problem, but given enough time, they too will suffer great losses due to nutritional deficits. Moving fresh dairy milk off site will be an issue and the alternative of disposing milk in manure pits creates major waste management problems. Rapid and efficient disposal of dead stock will quickly become a vehicle related issue.

Dairy and calf operations must have the ability to obtain feedstuffs and transport milk and dead stock in a timely manner during FMD quarantines. Disinfection protocols are needed for vehicles to avoid animal health and animal welfare adverse effects.
RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture Research Service (ARS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Health Affairs and the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to jointly develop protocols for vehicle movement in foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak areas with high density populations of food animals.

USAHA urges these agencies to formulate disinfection protocols for transportation modalities of feed, milk and dead stock during an FMD outbreak.

USAHA urges these agencies to evaluate the current status of FMD real-time pen-side diagnostic and milk tanker tests which are needed to ensure vehicles do not further the spread of FMD.

RESPONSE:

USDA, Agriculture Research Service

For Resolution 33 regarding vehicle movement protocol, the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has primary responsibility over these areas. Therefore, ARS has referred this resolution to APHIS, which has agreed to take the lead on these issues and to respond on behalf of USDA. However, ARS will be pleased to offers our support to APHIS, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and other Federal institutions on any actions that are initiated to address needs in these areas.

As for the specific request in Resolution 33 to evaluate the status of Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) diagnostic and tanker tests, ARS has been conducting research at the Plum Island Animal Research Center. Specific efforts have included the development of a real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test for the rapid detection of the FMD virus. ARS scientists demonstrated that the RT-PCR test was capable of detecting the FMD virus in milk, and the test was transferred to APHIS for its validation and optimization on various types of samples including milk.

ARS efforts to improve biosecurity surrounding milk products also take place at the Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC), where researchers have been working to develop a new filter system that can be installed on milk tankers. Preliminary tests have shown that the filter can effectively block the passage of viruses similar in size to FMDV from leaving the milk tanker during transport, demonstrating that the filter is likely to block FMDV as well and would permit milk
to be safely transported off farms without risk of contamination. Further testing and improvements of the filter are necessary, but these efforts will continue in partnership with ARS collaborators. ERRC researchers also have been and will continue studying effective pasteurization techniques that can inactivate the FMD virus. To date, research has shown that the high-temperature, short-time pasteurization technique can greatly reduce the risk of its transmission by milk.

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Directing and administrating protocols for vehicle movement restrictions that serve public health and safety goals are all evolution that falls outside of the purview of the FBI. The USDA in coordination with state departments of agriculture would be responsible for managing quarantine zones in a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. These agencies would then call on numerous entities to provide support services. Additionally, under the Incident Command System, the state departments of agriculture could task the Incident Command /Logistics section to locate equipment and personnel from private, state, and federal resources.

The FBI involvement with vehicle restrictions in FMD quarantine regions would be limited to the need to comply with appropriate cleaning and decontamination of our personnel, equipment, and possible evidence that would have to enter and leave the quarantine zone for investigation purposes. The FBI would follow the USDA's cleaning and disinfecting standard operating procedures for the entry and exit of personnel and vehicles as well as their guidelines that apply to the investigation's logistics such as the use of personal protective equipment and vehicle decontamination procedures.

The WMD Directorate of the FBI would support the creation of any such protocols that are developed resulting from your organization's Resolution 33 as appropriate.

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has conducted studies to evaluate the viricidal activity of several chemical biocides against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) virus when applied to concrete, rubber, stainless steel, hard wood, or soft wood, following applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) testing guidelines. VS Emergency Management & Diagnostics is currently facilitating an interagency agreement between EPA and USDA’s Agricultural Research Service to conduct additional disinfectant studies.

NVSL is meeting with its counterpart laboratories in Canada and Australia to discuss joint evaluation criteria and procedures for use of pen-side diagnostics.
Preliminary work to determine sensitivity and specificity of the current FMD real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay using bulk milk samples has been performed as part of a joint study between the USDA ARS and the APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Although there are limited resources available for this work, the NVSL considers this a priority and will work to validate the FMD RT-PCR assay using the bulk milk sample. In addition, the NVSL intends to form collaborations with international laboratories that will allow for the evaluation of the PCR as well as other pen-side technologies that could be utilized with this sample type.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34  APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT (HR 1232, S. 746)

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health and national security. There is a critical shortage of veterinarians in certain key public practice areas. The nation’s veterinary medical colleges are at capacity and can enroll only 2,500 students per year. Although these colleges provide a national resource by training veterinarians, only 26 States provide direct support to the 28 colleges. Federal support is needed to increase capacity in veterinary medical education.

The United States Congress has not directly supported veterinary medical education in over 30 years. According to animal health officials, nearly 6,000 veterinarians would be needed to respond to a major animal health catastrophe. Without a sufficient supply of veterinarians with the unique training needed to respond to an emergency, the nation’s public health infrastructure is at risk.

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act (VPHWEA) was introduced in the 110th Congress by Senator Wayne Allard (CO) and Representative Tammy Baldwin (WI-2) in early 2007. The VPHWEA would authorize a competitive grants program for veterinary medical colleges and other eligible entities to increase capacity in veterinary medical education. At least an additional 400 students enrolled in a veterinary medical professional program are needed per year to meet the current United States population societal needs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate enact the Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act (VPHWEA) and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education.
USAHA Executive Committee and Committee on Government Relations members are requested to provide relevant information to Members of Congress regarding the lack of capacity in the nation’s veterinary medical colleges and the need to pass the VPHWEA, as introduced, during regular visits to Washington.

USAHA members are requested to formally support the VPHWEA and actively advocate its passage with their individual Members of Congress.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35        APPROVED

SOURCE:       COMMITTEE ON JOHNE’S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL JOHNE’S DISEASE DEMONSTRATION HERD PROJECT

DATES:        RENO, NEVADA – OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Report of the Ad Hoc Steering Subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Johne’s Disease in 2002 indicated that demonstration herds are critical and of the highest priority to provide the validated management tools to implement a science-based National Johne’s Disease Program. As a result, the National Johne’s Disease Demonstration Herd Project was initiated in 2003 as a long-term project (at least 5 years) with objectives to 1) evaluate the long-term effectiveness and feasibility of management-related disease control on development of Johne’s disease on dairy and beef cattle operations, 2) provide information and materials for education and training of public and private practice veterinarians and cattle producers, 3) develop and evaluate management, testing, and monitoring strategies for use in control of Johne’s disease in cattle herds, 4) create the opportunity for add-on projects within states to address important research objectives.

The stated objectives of this project are being achieved. Preliminary evidence indicates a reduction in incidence of subclinical Johne’s disease in demonstration herds to date. Economic studies are underway but additional time is needed to complete the project. States have effectively used information generated to develop educational materials and to evaluate testing strategies to support the national control program, and several states are implementing additional add-on projects. In addition, the project has provided a large number of well-characterized biologic samples for researchers as part of the Johne’s Disease Integrated Project (JDIP), thereby promoting development of new diagnostics and vaccines to control Johne’s disease.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continue to prioritize funding for the National Johne’s Disease Demonstration Herd Project.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS sees the value in collecting additional years of data, now that calves born under the project management plans are entering the productive phase of their lives. VS will continue to support the project in fiscal year 2008.
MESSAGE: UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON JOHNE’S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: MILK ELISA TESTING FOR JOHNE’S DISEASE

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Evaluation of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) has shown that it is comparable in accuracy to currently available serum ELISA kits. Incorporation of USDA-approved milk ELISAs into the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) would allow dairy producers access to additional testing options.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) incorporate the milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing method into the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) by recognizing it as an approved screening test for Johne’s disease and require that laboratories performing the milk ELISA test must pass an annual proficiency test under the direction of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS will incorporate the milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing method into the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (VBJDCP). The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) is developing a proficiency test that is scheduled for shipment in the summer of 2008. The addition of Milk ELISA as a screening test will be included in the Uniform Program Standards for the VBJDCP during the next revision.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 37    APPROVED

SOURCE:          COMMITTEE ON JOHNE’S DISEASE
SUBJECT MATTER:  STRATEGIC PLAN FOR JOHNE’S DISEASE
DATES:          RENO, NEVADA – OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Johne’s Disease Strategic Plan was developed by the National Johne’s Working Group (NJWG) in 2001 to guide the work and efforts of the NJWG and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Johne’s Disease through 2008. The USAHA Committee on Johne’s Disease at its meeting in 2007 approved a recommendation to develop a new strategic plan for Johne’s Disease, due to significant changes that have occurred in such things as the understanding of Johne’s Disease, its management, availability and performance of diagnostic testing, state and federal funding and awareness of Johne’s Disease within the ruminant industries.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has, and continues to be, substantially involved in the development of national program standards and funding for the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program. It continues to have a vested interest in the future of the national Johne’s Disease control and management efforts.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) provide financial and personnel support for the development of the new national Strategic Plan for Johne’s Disease.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health
Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees that the current Johne’s Strategic Plan needs revision and is committed to providing support for the development of the new national Strategic Plan for Johne’s Disease. To ensure wide industry acceptance and support for the revised plan, VS requests that industry name a chairperson for the group that will lead the development of this revision.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38    APPROVED

SOURCE:      COMMITTEE ON JOHNE’S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER:  MILK ELISA TESTING FOR JOHNE’S DISEASE IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

DATES:       RENO, NEVADA – OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Evaluation of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) has shown that it is comparable in accuracy to currently available serum ELISA kits. Incorporation of USDA-approved milk ELISAs into the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) would allow dairy producers access to additional testing options. Dairy operations enrolled in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) typically have individual milk samples tested on a monthly basis for milk components such as somatic cells, protein and fat. These milk samples could also be used for milk ELISA testing for Johne’s disease. DHIA field personnel, who collect and submit milk samples for testing, receive training and must be certified by the Quality Certification Services (QCS) division of National DHIA. DHIA laboratories, which are incorporating the milk ELISA for Johne’s disease into their current milk testing, are proposing to require labs to complete and pass a monthly proficiency test administered by QCS, in addition to passing an annual proficiency test under the direction of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), to ensure consistent and proper diagnostic procedures.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association, recognizing the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) is a voluntary program, requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to allow the Quality Certification Services (QCS)-certified and Designated Johne’s Coordinator (DJC)-approved Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) field personnel to collect and submit milk samples to approved laboratories for milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing for Johne’s disease under the direction of the herd's Johne’s certified veterinarian.
RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Given the voluntary nature of the Voluntary Johne’s Disease Control Program, VS will consider whether to allow the Quality Certification Services-certified Dairy Herd Improvement Association field personnel to collect and submit milk samples to approved laboratories for milk ELISA testing as part of the official program for herd classification. This would be a significant change to VS policy by allowing official sample collection by nonaccredited veterinarians and personnel who are not veterinarians.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39      APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER:  INCORPORATING STATE CODES ON ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION NUMERIC DEVICES

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND:

Traditional means of rapid visual identification of cattle have utilized the numeric state code on ear tag devices. Many cattle industry members and state animal health officials have identified the need for visual identification continuing into the future.

Cattle producers have requested that state codes continue to be visible on ear tag devices to assist them in rapid visual cattle identification.

Brand inspectors utilize the state code in their daily work of determining animal ownership and state of origin.

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) incorporate the standard numeric state code onto animal identification number (AIN) ear tag devices for use in cattle.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. USDA has purchased 1.5 million animal identification number (AIN) radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for use with Federal animal disease programs in high-risk, emergency need areas. These white or yellow tags do not have the State
code. It would be cost prohibitive for USDA to inventory RFID orange tags, limited for use with brucellosis vaccination, for each individual State. In addition, use of State codes on AIN tags to determine the origin of an animal could become problematic. As NAIS evolves, AIN tags will be applied on animals throughout the preharvest production chain. Since many animals will not be tagged at their birth premises, and often in another State, using the State code to accurately determine the origin of the animal will be questionable in many situations. On the other hand, all State and Federal animal health officials have 24/7 access to immediate information regarding the State in which the 840 number was assigned through the AIN Management System, which has been available since March 2006.

Although USDA cannot inventory tags for individual States, State codes could be imprinted on AIN tags when States order tags directly from an AIN device manufacturer. If this practice is considered, however, USDA requests that the States, through the National Assembly of State Departments of Agriculture or the USAHA Livestock Identification Committee, offer a consistent format: either the alpha or the numeric codes. USDA could establish guidelines for positioning the agreed-upon State code format for approved AIN tag manufacturers to establish uniformity, when such tags are ordered by animal health official.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 Combined with 62 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE IDENTIFICATION: IMPORTED AND RETURNING HORSES

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease in the United States. However, it is assumed that the infection exists at some undetermined prevalence level in horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the “official test” for Piroplasmosis, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States, was the Complement Fixation (CF) test, a test that is known to occasionally yield “false negative” results. Some horse owners, importers or agents have compounded the problem by purposely treating EP infected horses with immunosuppressive medications resulting in these animals giving a false negative response to the CF test. An upgraded competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) test was specified as the “official test” for importation of equine into the United States on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield “false negative” results in adult horses.

The lack of a reliable and traceable permanent identification system for horses imported into the United States makes it difficult to trace back potentially serologically-positive animals. An available option to determine the prevalence of EP in the equine population would be to conduct a serological survey. While a serological survey of the equine population may suggest a meaningful prevalence of EP in the resident horse population, it will neither be as effective or efficient as the detailed traceback that would be present with a highly functional traceability system in place. This has underscored the immediate need, as it pertains to dealing with EP and other important equine diseases, to establish a standard method of permanent identification and traceability for all horses imported into the United States.

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) implement provisions that require all horses imported into, or returning to, the United States be identified with permanent individual Identification and/or Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) microchips that comply with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11784 and 11785 standards (134.2 kHz).
Universal RFID readers should be present at all import centers and border stations to read both 125 and 134.2 kHz microchips.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) currently does not require permanent identification for horses being imported into or returning to the United States. VS’ National Center for Import and Export will initiate a regulatory amendment to modify the existing horse import requirements in title 9 CFR parts 93.300 – 93.326 to require such identification. These changes would apply to all horses imported into the United States, including horses imported from Canada and Mexico.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 42 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE VETERINARY SERVICES PROCESS STREAMLINING SYSTEMS

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND:

The Veterinary Services Process Streamlining system provides accredited veterinarians the ability to collect and disseminate animal information into health certificates, related test records and permits via functional electronic documents. These applications are not available to state and federal animal health officials for use in animal disease programs.

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 immediately complete and deploy full functionality of their e-data collection system know as the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) system with full integration into USDA's mobile information technology applications by December 31, 2007.

Failure on the part of USDA to accomplish full deployment of VSPS and mobile information technology applications will result in initiation of the following: 1) USAHA will extend invitation to all State Animal Health Officials or associated information technology staff or company representation to participate in a state e-data management workshop, 2) USAHA will make arrangements for the workshop to be conducted near the Kansas City, MO airport, a central United States location, 3) the purpose of the USAHA workshop / agenda will be to develop and coordinate a state recognized e-data format and delivery of an online interstate movement permit, health certificate or equivalent thereof and related e-test documents.
RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) system is a suite of integrated modules that provide data management capabilities for national programs that regulate international animal/animal product movement, veterinary accreditation and interstate animal movement. Production modules include Veterinary Accreditation and Interstate. Legacy systems continue to support import, export and animal quarantine center activities. These legacy systems will be scheduled for redevelopment and become additional VSPS modules.

The VSPS Interstate module enables veterinarians to create certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) and associated diagnostic test documents. In the last 5 months (9/15/2007 – 2/15/2008), CVIs were issued by accredited veterinarians using the VSPS in 27 States, with 39 States identified as the destination State. During this period, 2,467 certificates were issued, representing 952,072 animal movements. Data related to the interstate movement are stored in the VSPS database and accessible by the accredited veterinarian and State and Federal animal health officials. Diagnostic testing data are displayed on the appropriate VS form and not in the Generic Data Base or the Animal Health and Surveillance Management (AHSM) information system.

At this time, mobile information management (MIM) applications have not been developed for the VSPS. AHSM MIM applications have been developed for several of the national disease programs, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy, scrapie, chronic wasting disease, avian influenza (wildlife), and tuberculosis. These applications enable animal health officials to collect data, produce reports and official forms, create lab submissions, and manage animal information in the field, where the program work is being accomplished. Restricted-movement and indemnity forms are supported by some of these MIM applications. The MIM applications produce a data file that can be exchanged with other data bases.

The VSPS will not be fully deployed (i.e., all modules functioning, including replacement of the legacy systems) until fiscal year (FY) 2009, assuming adequate funding. The animal import center reservation and management system will be deployed in FY 2008. The next module scheduled for development is the land border ports module, replacing the legacy Import Tracking System (ITS).

MIM applications, which are designed to support the work of State and Federal animal health officials, are in various stages of deployment and development. A brucellosis MIM application is scheduled to be deployed in the 4th quarter of FY 2008.
Lastly, VS recently hired a Chief Information Officer who is reviewing all information technology (IT) deliverables. A strategic plan addressing IT needs and priorities will be developed. We will solicit input from stakeholders to ensure that the product addresses the needs of field, State, and laboratory personnel and both accredited and private veterinarians, and continues to build upon the VSPS.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Historically, animal health officials have allowed accredited veterinarians, working within the context of a herd health plan requiring routine herd visits, to issue a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) covering animals born into the herd since the previous herd visit without having to inspect the individual animals. Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has reviewed the statute governing the interstate movement of animals outside a routine production flow and issued an interpretation disallowing this practice. The wording in question is contained in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 161.3(a)(2) and reads as follows:

(2) Following the third and subsequent inspections of a herd or flock in a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal within 30 days prior to issuance.

USDA-APHIS-VS has interpreted this language to mean that the individual animals must be inspected by the accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to the issuance of a CVI. It is not uncommon in the swine industry today to transport weaned pigs interstate at less than 30 days of age. Similar movements also occur in other species as well (e.g. day-old chicks and dairy calves).

Through the practice of conducting routine herd health visits within the confines of an established herd health program, the accredited veterinarian can establish an understanding of the health status of the herd. It is medically sound to believe that the newborn animal assumes the health status of the herd or flock into which it is born or hatched. Thus by inspecting the herd or flock, the accredited veterinarian can issue a CVI with confidence in the integrity of the health of the
animals yet to be born or hatched into the herd or flock. The veterinarian’s knowledge of the herd or flock accumulated through a regular health maintenance program exceeds that which could be gained from a one-time inspection of only those animals being shipped.

The current interpretation places veterinarians at risk of violating their accreditation while failing to improve the health status of United States (US) livestock or the safety of interstate movements. The proposed interpretation actually enhances the security of livestock shipped interstate by encouraging producers to establish herd health programs involving routine herd visits by accredited veterinarians. This promotes a much more thorough understanding of the health status of US livestock and poultry and provides for the early recognition of potential disease risks associated with interstate movement.

These proposed changes have the support of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the American Association of Avian Pathologists, the Animal Agriculture Coalition, the National Pork Board’s Swine Health Committee and the National Pork Producers Council.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) respectfully requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) change the wording in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 161.3(a)(2) as follows:

(2) Following the third and subsequent inspections of a herd or flock in a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal residing in the herd or flock at the time of the last inspection or born into the herd or flock since the last inspection in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal herd or flock within 30 days prior to issuance.

USAHA also urges the USDA-APHIS to adopt these proposed changes while awaiting approval of the amended final rule.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.
VS acknowledges the common practice in certain industries whereby young animals or poultry are shipped based on herd or flock health status. Regulations do not currently restrict these types of movements, nor do they require individual inspections of the animals to be completed in the specified time frame. However, VS accreditation standards require an accredited veterinarian to issue certificates that reflect the actual inspections conducted. Specifically, if the animals being shipped (i.e., early weaned pigs) were not inspected, the statements on the certificate should attest to the animals that were inspected (i.e., the sow herd from which the early weaned pigs were derived). Poultry certificates already utilize this approach, providing a statement that allows accredited veterinarians to certify that “the flock or flocks and the hatchery or hatcheries from which the above-described hatching eggs or newly hatching poultry originated were inspected by me or another accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to shipment … and found free from evidence of communicable diseases.”

APHIS will issue a Veterinary Services Notice clarifying the policy regarding the accuracy of language on the certificate of veterinary inspection. We encourage the industry to work with States to accept the certification of herd status as described.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 44      APPROVED

SOURCE:               COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER:       INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE SWINE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PLANNING

DATES:               RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Effective procedures and tools to detect disease agents in the United States (US) commercial swine compartment are crucial for swine health protection, maintenance and restoration, for assurance of food security, and for documentation of the US animal health status for national and international partners and stakeholders.

Surveillance planning and funding for implementation have traditionally been tied to specific ‘program’ diseases. This mechanism of funding prevents flexibility resulting in a lack of harmonization of surveillance planning and implementation. The difficulty within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to allocate existing resources to the development of an integrated and comprehensive surveillance system hampers the advancement of the program. In addition, the lack of funding and insufficient human resources will continue to further delay development and implementation of this surveillance system. Without a comprehensive and integrated animal health surveillance system, animal agriculture will continue to be unnecessarily placed at risk of undetected introduction and / or spread of animal diseases, including foreign and emerging swine diseases.

The US pork industry supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated surveillance system and recognizes this system as essential for the continued health of US livestock. In addition, the industry supports leveraging resources to maximize surveillance efficiency to detect and monitor endemic, emerging and foreign animal diseases that significantly impact US livestock.

In an effort to support comprehensive surveillance, the pork industry worked directly with the USDA’s National Surveillance Unit (NSU) to develop and
implement a swine business plan for integrated and comprehensive swine surveillance. As a result, the swine industry has prioritized industry surveillance objectives and communicated those objectives to the NSU for planning purposes.

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 make integrated and comprehensive surveillance planning a high priority and to provide the funding and human resources necessary to the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) to complete the planning process for integrated and comprehensive surveillance for the commercial swine compartment by June 30th 2008.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has been developing a more integrated and comprehensive swine surveillance scheme since 2004. The classical swine fever surveillance plan was implemented in early 2006 and the pseudorabies virus (PRV) surveillance plan is undergoing internal review and is expected to be implemented in fiscal year 2009. Swine brucellosis surveillance will closely follow the PRV plan. Vesicular disease surveillance planning is also nearly completed.

The Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health’s National Surveillance Unit, in conjunction with the National Centers for Animal Health Programs, will turn resources towards integrating the various surveillance plans. Together, the separate plans comprise a “comprehensive system.” These plans may use common surveillance streams and targeted sampling strategies to produce a cost-effective scheme. The plans will be designed to allow flexible and responsive surveillance strategies for multiple foreign, emerging, and endemic swine pathogens.

While concepts and elements of the plans will be in place by June 30, 2008, we envision that full completion and implementation of the surveillance plans may carry into fiscal year 2010. VS and our cooperative partners must gain experience with program premises identification, abattoir sample data collection, interstate movement information, and associated database development to allow full implementation of targeted surveillance for multiple pathogens. Lessons learned in early implementation will guide revisions as we improve the efficacy of the multiple surveillance programs nested in the comprehensive and integrated plan.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current market swine surveillance program provides a valuable infrastructure for sampling the United States (US) market swine population. Fourteen out of the top 35 swine slaughter plants that are currently collecting samples for market surveillance provide access to 50% of the US market swine population, or approximately 200,000 head out of the 405,000 head harvested daily.

Market swine surveillance has been recognized as a key component of the industry’s move to an integrated and comprehensive swine disease surveillance program for the commercial compartment. Market swine surveillance provides access to samples using methods that are more economically feasible and less burdensome to the industry. In order to utilize this surveillance stream more effectively the swine industry has taken significant steps to expand surveillance objectives, enhance traceability, and take advantage of research opportunities to make market swine surveillance more cost-effective and valuable to the industry.

In late 2007, the swine industry prioritized and communicated national surveillance programming objectives to the National Surveillance Unit. This prioritization process yielded a number of economically important diseases that could be included in market swine surveillance as part of a comprehensive swine surveillance program. The list included Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Pseudorabies, Erysipelas, Swine Brucellosis, Trichina, and Toxoplasmosis. Currently there are validated tests for detecting Pseudorabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Trichina at harvest. Antibody and antigen tests for detecting Classical Swine Fever are in the process of being validated by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

The program standards for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for swine require reporting and recording of the Premises Identification Number (PIN) of the sending premises for all market swine arriving at the first point of concentration in the harvest chain. The program standards also require the use
of official NAIS tags bearing the source premises identification number or official animal identification number (AIN) in market breeding swine moving to the first point of concentration. These two requirements are being implemented by the swine industry as part of the Swine identification (ID) Plan under the NAIS and will support risk-based surveillance and statistically significant sampling from both market swine populations.

Market swine surveillance is being used in a two phase pilot study to determine the prevalence and distribution of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) in high risk swine populations in hog dense areas. PRRS is estimated to cost the pork industry $540-$700 million annually and the results from these studies will be important to the industry as it moves forward with strategies to mitigate the economic effects of this disease. Market swine surveillance can also be beneficial in determining prevalence and distribution of other important diseases to the industry including *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, *Actinobacillus suis*, and *Mycoplasma hyopneumonia* in a rapid and cost effective manner. This information on these diseases will assist with decisions on how to deal with these diseases as an industry.

**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 maintain funding for market swine surveillance in Fiscal Year (FY) 08 and in FY 09 and in the long term increase funding in future years to expand and integrate market swine surveillance into the swine industry’s comprehensive surveillance program.

**RESPONSE:**

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees that market swine surveillance is an important surveillance sampling stream that needs to be included in comprehensive swine surveillance program. Breeding herds and grow-finish swine have been functionally and geographically separated with the industry shift to high-health multisite production. Thus, a large percentage of finishing swine cannot be sampled effectively using breeding herd surveillance streams, since finishing sites no longer share close proximity and equal disease status with their source breeding herds.

Commercial abattoirs are a sampling point of interest because of the ability to identify and test large populations on a daily basis. Producers prefer the passive nature of this process compared to time-consuming and costly down-the-road or
first-point collection testing regimens. The abattoir is the first point of concentration for a large percentage of market swine under current industry structure. Packers have been willing to participate in sampling programs as they see this as an opportunity to improve the health status of their supplier herds. State and Federal regulatory agencies have also recognized the efficiency of this sampling stream versus other more traditional sample procurement systems.

VS will endeavor to include market swine surveillance as a component in the developing comprehensive swine surveillance program.
The United States (US) pork industry has worked cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) Swine Health Programs (SHP) to explore the use of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles as a methodology to develop and maintain flexible, simple and effective disease programs for the swine industry. The industry supports the utilization of HACCP principles to define program standard guidelines for the control of pseudorabies virus (PRV) and swine brucellosis (SB) in the commercial swine compartment.

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) Swine Health Programs (SHP) to continue to work with industry to adapt and implement the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles to define program standards for the Pseudorabies and Swine Brucellosis Programs. Further, it is requested that USDA-APHIS-VS, SHP present such prototypes to USAHA’s Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine during its annual meeting in 2008.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In addition, VS appreciates the swine industry’s support of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles; this support is instrumental in defining
future control of pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, and other diseases in the commercial swine compartment.

VS plans to continue developing a HACCP-like program prototype by collaborating with industry officials and the National Surveillance Unit (NSU). This will allow development of program rules and regulatory standards that meet ever changing swine disease and surveillance needs. VS understands industry’s request for presentation of a prototype at the 2008 USAHA’s Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine, and plans to provide the committee with a progress update at the 2008 USAHA meeting.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 48  APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER:  OFFICIAL BRUCELLOSIS VACCINATION ‘840’
RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The ongoing cooperative brucellosis eradication program has made great strides in elimination of the disease. Currently 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are classified as Brucellosis-Free. However, an ongoing potential threat concerns both state animal health officials and cattle producers in the western United States. Private practitioners, producers and state animal health officials have all identified the need for and have voiced support for development of an “Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) Official Brucellosis Vaccination Tag” that visually identifies the state where the animal was vaccinated. Such a tag, if made available for use on a voluntary basis, would offer the choice for the producer and his veterinarian to replace the metal clip tag in current use with an RFID tag. Over a period of time this would allow for the identification of a large number of “momma cows” on producer operations. The use of an Official RFID Brucellosis Vaccination Tag over the next four to five years would have a significant impact on acceptance of RFID to enhance the brucellosis eradication program as well as identifying 60-70% of adult female cattle on producer operations where calfhood vaccination is practiced. The majority of livestock health officials, brand inspectors and livestock producers are familiar with the “state two digit code” and routinely use this information to identify the state where the cattle were vaccinated.

Benefits of an RFID Official Brucellosis Vaccination Tag would include: maintenance of the familiar state coded tags and the current vaccination reporting system; increase acceptance of RFID technology by accredited veterinarians; aid in transition from metal ear tags to 840 coded RFID tags; enable automated reporting of brucellosis vaccination by accredited veterinarians; increased utilization of electronic identification systems; and enabling transition over time to electronic systems for those who are not inclined to utilize newer technology.
RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to make available to accredited veterinarians a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) Official Brucellosis Vaccination Tag that is orange in color and carries the two digit state code, as an option, for use as an official identification device for official vaccination of heifer calves.

USAHA also urges that USDA-APHIS-VS subsidize these tags so that they are available through appropriate channels to accredited veterinarians at a reasonable cost, which is estimated to be between twenty-five cents and fifty cents per tag ($0.25-0.50/tag)

Additionally, USAHA urges that USDA-APHIS-VS work with data service providers to expedite integration of disease management systems through the creation of a new brucellosis reporting module which would include online ordering of tags, online printable report forms and online reporting of brucellosis vaccination.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. USDA agrees that integration of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and standardized data elements (e.g., the 840 animal identification number (AIN) format) into Federal disease programs will greatly improve data accuracy and overall program efficiency, resulting in enhanced tracing capabilities. In fact, the lack of uniformity in data standards was one of the justifications for creating a National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Industry and State and Federal animal health officials agreed in multiple public forums that a primary goal of NAIS was to create one standard for official animal identification for all animal disease programs; the approved NAIS-compliant AIN devices available now are official for use in all disease programs, including the brucellosis program. The proposed development of an additional official identification standard for an RFID official brucellosis vaccination tag is inconsistent with the NAIS objective.

According to the brucellosis regulations in title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 78.1, the tattoo is the determinant of official calfhood vaccination (OCV), rather than the presence or color of an official eartag. Although the proposed orange brucellosis RFID tag could have merit as an additional OCV status indicator in some cases, in general its utility would be limited for several reasons:
1) Calves can presently be officially identified (tagged) prior to OCV and do not require retagging for OCV purposes; therefore, heifers could frequently be officially calfhood vaccinated without having an associated orange RFID eartag.

2) USDA cannot restrict the use of various colored tags; thus it is unlikely that using color on an RFID tag to designate OCV status would have much value. If the primary goal is to have a color associated with official designation of calfhood vaccinates, the least expensive option based upon all considerations is to use an orange metal tag that indicates the animal was vaccinated for brucellosis in combination with an already available RFID device.

3) The designation of an official brucellosis vaccination tag would necessitate the RFID device being applied in the right ear to be consistent with the CFR. A change to the CFR would be needed to avoid this practical complication in properly placing an RFID tag in the right ear with the brucellosis vaccination tattoo. On the other hand, NAIS-approved RFID devices can be applied in the left ear, providing optimal space in the right ear for the official tattoo.

With regard to the recommendation to create a new brucellosis reporting module, USDA, as described in the Traceability Business Plan, is developing a Mobile Information Management System for brucellosis vaccination and testing that will provide electronic data transmission to the animal health databases.

Fortunately, industry, State, and Federal efforts have reduced the number of U.S. brucellosis-infected cattle herds to zero and all 50 States are now recognized as brucellosis free. This success and the future surveillance needs of the program should be considered when exploring the need for new program standards. The continued need for disease program-specific official identification devices should be discussed further, especially since currently available AIN RFID tags meet the requirement for official identification of brucellosis vaccinates. USDA encourages State animal health authorities to incorporate RFID technology using existing, approved AIN RF tags to meet the needs associated with this resolution.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 49       APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RECTAL BIOPSY AS AN OFFICIAL LIVE ANIMAL TEST FOR SCRAPIE.

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Detection of scrapie in the live animal is an important component of the Scrapie Eradication Program. Biopsy of the third eyelid lymphoid tissue has proven to be beneficial but there are several limitations on its use. Some of the limitations are due to the distribution of the abnormal scrapie prion protein but more commonly it is due to lack of sufficient lymphoid follicles to make a diagnosis.

Studies evaluating the use of recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) have shown sensitivity and specificity roughly equivalent to the third eyelid test. There are several additional advantages to RAMALT sampling. There is a large amount of suitable tissue to sample and multiple sites can be sampled allowing repeat sampling over time. Restraint of the animal is still required but is generally easier and is much less a factor for the person obtaining the sample than with third eyelid sampling.

With proper training and equipment RAMALT sampling is relatively easy for most people and should result in an increase in diagnostic samples. Producers may find this technique more acceptable as well.

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) approve rectal biopsy (RAMALT) as an additional live animal test for scrapie.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health
Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has approved RAMALT as an additional live animal test for scrapie in VS Memorandum 557.16, “Approval of Rectal Biopsy Derived Lymphoid Tissue Testing for Scrapie,” dated January 11, 2008.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 50 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM FUNDING

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress regarding efforts towards scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. Surveillance activities must be doubled in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-positive animals. Funding requests are currently inadequate to effect eradication in a reasonable amount of time.

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 request adequate funding for the National Scrapie Eradication Program’s budget to achieve eradication and conduct subsequent surveillance. This amount is equal to $10 million beyond the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation or a total budget of $28.6 million.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. This spring VS will develop the fiscal year 2010 scrapie budget request. APHIS will consider all disease program funding requests and needs and will prioritize its overall budget accordingly.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 51    APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT: GENOTYPE EDUCATION

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is ample international evidence to demonstrate that no genotype is fully resistant to all types of scrapie in sheep. Recent findings indicate that certain genotypes once thought to be fully resistant are susceptible to other prion types.

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) increase efforts to educate producers about these findings so that they may make informed decisions regarding genetic selection and flock management.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS, in cooperation with the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), published an article in ASI News to educate producers on Nor98-like scrapie and the apparent lack of genetic resistance to this scrapie type. VS is also developing talking points and a presentation for use by VS and State personnel to educate veterinarians and producers on Nor98-like scrapie.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 52 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT: GOAT GENOTYPING RESEARCH

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) board passed the following resolution and requests the United States Animal Health Association’s (USAHA) consideration: “ADGA supports research characterizing goat scrapie genotypes. This work could result in tools for breeders to use in selection for goat scrapie-resistant genotypes, and potentially to provide options for conserving animal genetics in infected herds”.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to continue funding research efforts in goat scrapie genotyping. USDA further encourages agencies within USDA to share data and biological materials in support of this research.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories has an ongoing operation to share data and biological materials within USDA in support of scrapie genotyping research.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 53 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM SECTION 205.239, TO MAKE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS OPTIONAL FOR POULTRY

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Organic Program (NOP) was formed to provide a mechanism for certification of organic foods and became effective in October 2001. There are many distinctive and unique requirements for the production and processing of organic foods including poultry. Section 205.239, of the NOP requires that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic poultry have "access to the outdoors" during their production life. This outdoor access enhances the likelihood that such poultry will have direct contact with migratory and wild birds as well as other animals, substantially increasing the risk of Avian Influenza (AI), Exotic Newcastle Disease, and other diseases. Disease control is a priority for certified organic poultry as well as conventionally reared poultry. In over 50 years of progress, the poultry industries of this country have moved their flocks inside and this action has contributed significantly to the improvement in health of the nation's chicken and turkey flocks. Avian influenza has been a long-standing threat to the health of our poultry and now takes on new potential public health and media perception identities. Migratory and wild birds are known carriers of AI virus and contact between them and domestic poultry must be prevented.

In 2005, The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) passed Resolution 46 with similar wording and identical intent to the present Resolution, requesting that the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) "use their good offices to influence the National Organic Program (NOP) to change section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP regulations by eliminating the words 'Access to the outdoors' as a requirement for production of USDA certified organic poultry.” USDA-APHIS-VS did indeed forward the resolution to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the responsible agency for the NOP, discussed the concerns with AMS, and at the request of AMS, provided recommendations and guidance on biosecurity and avian disease prevention and control practices for organic poultry operations. Those recommendations included identification of high risk areas such as wetlands, migratory flyways, and other congregating points for waterfowl and shore birds, as well as areas with high densities of poultry production; implementing preventive measures
such as indoor confinement or use of outdoor enclosures with solid roofs and netted sides in these areas; providing feed and water indoors; and prohibiting access to surface water.

While these measures are appreciated, the regulation remains unchanged, and continues to require access to the outdoors, with no qualification of that requirement. Some producers who desire to confine organic birds for biosecurity reasons have resorted to obtaining a letter from the state veterinarian recommending confinement, in order to obtain temporary or year-to-year approval of confinement from the organic certifier. We are not requesting that access to the outdoors be prohibited, only that outdoor access not be required (i.e., that it be optional except in cases of elevated risk) and that provisions be included to prevent contact with wild birds.

Resolution:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to change section 205.239, a, 1 of the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations by adding a provision allowing poultry producers the option of forgoing the requirement for access to the outdoors. As amended, Section 205.239 would read:

§ 205.239 Livestock living conditions.

(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including:

(1) Access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate, and the environment;

(2) Poultry producers are permitted to eliminate access to the outdoors if included as part of a comprehensive disease control program.

RESPONSE

USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program

Thank you for submitting your comment to the National Organic Program. Access to the outdoors is a requirement under the National Organic Program regulations, with provisions for temporary confinement to protect animal health and safety. The NOP works closely with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to ensure that producers and their certifying agents have appropriate information to make timely decisions with regard to this requirement.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Incident Commanders (IC) can quarantine any site, area, county and/or state after the Index Case has been determined. The National Response Plan (NRP) includes a 96 hour “no movement” moratorium for non-infected farms in a Control Area which creates a major concern for the egg industry. The egg industry in the United States (US) has developed their production for “just-in-time” basis. Farms are composed of numerous barns with up to six million birds on one site. Egg producing farms can handle eggs by “in line” processing (on site) or “off line” processing where eggs are delivered to a separate grading and/or breaking facility for further processing. Each day, eggs move from production sites to food service distributors, retail stores, and distribution centers of fast-food restaurants and grocery store chains. If an in-line egg production operation cannot move eggs, their fast-food restaurant customers will run out of eggs within 24 hours. Within 48 hours, eggs will disappear from shelves of large retail grocery store chains. In addition, customers nationwide will lose faith in the safety and security of our food supply.

Due to current table egg production methods and limitations on egg storage capacity (48 hours) a protocol has been developed whereby non-infected egg production premises can document on a daily basis the influenza-free status of their chickens, eggs and egg products. Daily documentation will provide assurance to the Incident Commander, State Veterinarian, APHIS, consumers, and customers of the safety of eggs and egg products moving into normal market channels.

Documentation that table egg flocks in a Control Area are free of avian influenza can be achieved by providing the Incident Commander critical information each day from each house at an egg production site, including mortality, water and feed consumption, and reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test results. Testing tracheal swabs from a minimum of five chickens from daily mortality and/or euthanized sick birds from each house at a production site will detect a flock
prevalence rate of 10/100,000 or 0.01%. This level of testing would be seven times more rigorous than USDA’s 2002-2003 exotic Newcastle disease (END) testing program in California. If a positive is found, the Incident Commander will immediately quarantine the farm.

In addition to daily surveillance, several standard operating procedures have been recommended to reduce the probability for introduction of avian influenza onto a premises. These procedures address potential problems such as manure movement, by-products, pullet movement, and spent hen movement.

Egg companies, the United Egg Association, the United Egg Producers, State Veterinarians, academia, and other regulatory individuals have reviewed and support the Egg Movement Protocol, SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and testing procedures.

The HPAI Movement Control Model Plan from the Egg Industry is attached for reference.

Resolution:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolves that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) incorporate business continuity as part of the National Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Response Plans by including movement protocols within, out of, and into a Control Area as exemplified by the protocol developed by the United States Egg Industry.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS values the U.S. egg industry’s proactive involvement in emergency planning for HPAI. While our first priority is to protect all U.S. poultry, we certainly recognize the need for continuity of business planning. However, all movement restrictions during an HPAI incident must be based on sound science and epidemiology for producers located both inside and outside of quarantined areas. Upon initial review APHIS representatives were concerned that the proposed movement protocol needed additional consideration and refinement. On November 30, 2007, APHIS met with the egg industry to discuss the movement protocol in detail. The group developed several recommendations, including:

- Prioritizing and developing risk assessments for individual commodities listed in the proposal—liquid egg products, further processed egg products, inedible eggs, table eggs and broken shell eggs, hatching eggs, and day-old chicks;
• Modifying the movement protocol by dividing it into various protocols by commodity to provide States receiving the commodities sufficient animal health assurances, as different commodities may pose different levels of risk, as determined by scientific risk assessment; and
• Seeking input, approval, and adoption of “completed” movement control model plan(s) and risk assessment(s) by State Veterinarians, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Department of Homeland Security, including the development of memorandums of understanding (or other instruments) to confirm the commitment of all parties.

APHIS looks forward to working with the egg industry delegation in collaborating with Federal, State, and industry partners to advance the USAHA resolution.
May 14, 2007

United Egg Producers/United Egg Association
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Movement Control
Model Plan

Movement Protocol for Liquid Egg Product, Further Processed Egg Products, Inedible Egg, Table Eggs and Broken Egg Shells, Egg-Type Hatching Eggs, and Day-Old Chicks Within, Out of, and Into a Control Area

1. Flocks that are found to be infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
   a. No movement of susceptible species or their products (e.g., shell eggs, hatching eggs, day old chicks, broken egg shells, unpasteurized liquid egg product, pasteurized egg products will be allowed off the premises, except for disposal and must be moved under permit.

2. Flocks that are deemed to be “Contacts.”
   a. Definition of contacts: A contact premises is a premises with birds or other susceptible animals or products that have been exposed directly or indirectly to birds and other animals, products, materials, people, or aerosol from an infected premises (the specific exposure factors to be considered must be appropriate to the epidemiology of HPAI).
   b. Layer industry HPAI at risk flocks include the following.
      i. Premises with susceptible birds exposed to poultry manure from an infected flock (virus in manure)
      ii. Premises with susceptible birds exposed to dead poultry from an infected flock (virus in carcasses, etc)
      iii. Premises with susceptible birds exposed to live poultry from an infected flock (virus in bird & secretions & excretions)
      iv. Premises with susceptible birds exposed to eggs or egg handling materials from an infected flock (HPAI virus in and on egg)
      v. Premises with susceptible birds with unprotected exposure to equipment that has been in contact with infected birds, manure, carcasses, or eggs. Unprotected means inadequate sanitation procedures for those items/people who come into contact with an infected flock.
      vi. Premises with susceptible birds with unprotected exposure to people that have been in contact with infected birds, manure, carcasses, or eggs.
      vii. Premises involved in depopulation of infected flocks.
   c. Minimal contact flocks that are unlikely to involve infected birds include the following.
      i. Premises that are in close proximity to an infected flock but which do not fall into the at risk definition and show no unexplained increase in daily mortality.
      ii. Locations who receive materials that come in contact with animals or manure but have taken precautions to protect against disease
iii. Farm workers/visitors who contact animals but who take precautions between farms (e.g. boots, coveralls, hand washing, showers, etc)

iv. Farms receiving supplies that have been in contact with birds or manure but have been cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the premises of origin.

v. Farms receiving equipment that have been in contact with birds or manure but have been cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the premises of origin.

d. Non-contact flocks include the following. Non-Animal contact functions (movement that does not involve contact with animals or manure)

1. Feed delivery, supplies,
2. Office workers/visitors who may travel to multiple sites

e. Disposition of Contact Flocks.

i. Contact premises will be quarantined and will be subject to strict biosecurity measures, daily monitoring of mortality in each house, and intensive surveillance for HPAI viruses in each house by RRT-PCR testing (see 3 immediately below) for at least 42 days or until the Incident Commander is convinced that no HPAI is present on the premises.

ii. Contact premises with 75,000 hens or more will not be depopulated until a diagnosis of HPAI has been confirmed by RRT-PCR or by virus isolation.

iii. Contact premises that prove to be infected will be depopulated immediately.

3. Determination of non-infected layer industry flocks in the Control Area.

a. The absence of infection will be documented by requiring chickens from flocks that are not exhibiting signs of the disease and that show no unexpected increase in mortality from each house on the farm to be tested each day and found to be negative by the real time reverse transcriptase – polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) or other suitable procedure as determined by the Incident Command.

i. A minimum of five chickens from the daily mortality and/or from euthanized sick birds from each house (flock) will be placed in a leak proof container (e.g. heavy duty plastic garbage bag) each morning. Each container will be labeled with the farm of origin, house of origin, and the number of birds found dead in the house that day. The containers will be taken to a designated pick-up point, typically the public road closest to the premises.

1. Rationale: In a large commercial poultry house (100,000 layers) “normal” mortality will be about 10 per day. A doubling of normal mortality to 20 due to HPAI (dead bird prevalence of 50% and flock prevalence of 0.04%) would be detected by sampling 5 dead birds. Historically, APHIS sampled 5 dead birds per week to monitor chicken houses in the END outbreak in CA and this plan requires daily monitoring. The proposed AI plan requires daily monitoring and will be 7 times more effective than the monitoring during
the END outbreak. It is not unusual for mortality to fluctuate that much from day to day, so sampling dead/sick birds every day is likely more sensitive than monitoring weekly mortality (where a trend over 2 or 3 days might be observed before acting). It is reasonable to assume that 50% of the sick and dead birds (in a house that is infected with HPAI) would actually be shedding AI virus then a sample size of 5 birds would allow you to have 95% confidence of finding the virus in the sick or dead birds.

ii. A state or federal regulatory official or an individual authorized by the Incident Command will take a tracheal swab from each chicken. Five tracheal swabs will be pooled in a tube containing brain-heart infusion (BHI) broth. Sample pooling will be done on a per house basis. One BHI tube containing tracheal samples (5 tracheal swabs/BHI tube) will be submitted as directed by the Incident Command to an authorized State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). These samples must be submitted on the day of sample collection by the state or federal regulatory official or an individual authorized by the Incident Command. The State VDL and the IC will establish the time of day by which samples must be submitted to an authorized VDL (example, by 12:30 pm). VDL personnel will perform RRT-PCR testing on these samples immediately upon receipt and electronically send test results to the Incident Command (IC) by the end of each day. The IC will report the test result information to the premises as soon as it is available.

4. **Movement of liquid egg product, further processed egg products, inedible egg, table eggs and broken eggshells, egg-type hatching eggs, and day-old chicks from non-infected flocks.**

a. Movement of liquid egg product, table eggs, egg-type hatching eggs, further processed egg products, and broken egg shells within and out of a Control Area will be allowed by permit for those flocks testing negative (see Section 3 above) as follows:

i. USDA FSIS inspected pasteurized egg products, or precooked egg products produced by plants within a control area may move within or out of the Control Area by Permit (accompanied by documentation of origin of the products). The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

ii. Unpasteurized liquid egg product may move in officially FSIS sealed vehicles per 9 CFR Chapter III Part 590.410 from breaking operations within the Control Area directly to pasteurization plants located within or out of the Control Area by permit. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.
iii. Inedible egg from graders and/or breaking plants in a Control Area may move by permit for pasteurization or to approved waste disposal sites within or outside the Control Area. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

iv. Washed and graded shell eggs destined for food service, retail marketing, further processing, or for breaking may be moved out of the Control Area by permit if they have been washed and sanitized using 100 – 200 ppm chlorine solution. The transport vehicle shall be sealed by farm or company personnel under the authorization of the Incident Command. Egg handling materials used in the transport of eggs to breaking or further processing plants must be destroyed at the plant or cleaned, sanitized (following accepted procedures) and returned to the premises of origin without contacting materials going to other premises. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

v. Nest run shell eggs (not washed and sanitized) must be moved directly for washing and grading, further processing, or to an off-line breaking operation. The transport vehicle shall be sealed by farm or company personnel under the authorization of the Incident Command. Egg handling materials must be destroyed at the destination plant or cleaned, sanitized (following accepted procedures) and returned to the premise of origin without contacting materials going to other premises. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

vi. Broken eggshells on the farm or from breaking plants, pasteurization plants, and/or further processing plants may be moved by permit. The transport vehicle shall be sealed by farm or company personnel under the authorization of the Incident Command. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

vii. Hatching eggs from source flocks tested negative for AI virus by daily mortality sampling may be moved to hatcheries within the Control Area with a permit. Egg handling materials must be destroyed at the hatchery or cleaned, sanitized (following accepted procedures) and returned to the premise of origin without contacting materials going to other premises. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.
and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

viii. Hatching eggs from source flocks tested negative for AI virus by daily mortality sampling may be moved out of the Control Area by permit. The chicks must be placed under a “post-hatch” quarantine for 30 days. Egg handling materials must be destroyed at the premises of destination or cleaned, sanitized (following accepted procedures) and returned to the premise of origin without contacting materials going to other premises. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area. The State Veterinarian of the state of destination must be faxed a copy of the restricted movement permit within 24 hours of issuance.

ix. Day-old chicks from source flocks tested negative for AI virus by daily mortality sampling may be shipped by permit within or out of the Control Area and must be placed under a 30 day quarantine. The State Veterinarian of the State of destination must be faxed a copy of the restricted movement permit within 24 hours of issuance. Hatcheries may receive eggs that originate outside the Control Area (accompanied by documents showing the origin of the eggs and the AI negative status of the source flock) without a permit. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle must be cleaned and disinfected. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must also be cleaned and disinfected. The tires and wheel wells must also be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within the Control Area.

x. The Incident Command or designate will evaluate and approve the risk assessment and risk mitigation procedures necessary to move products by permit. A permit must be issued and seals placed on the vehicle by a state or federal regulatory official or a person authorized by the Incident Command. The Incident Command will authorize procedures to break the seals outside of the control area with proper documentation.

b. Movement of liquid egg product, shell eggs, broken egg shells, and hatching eggs into a Control Area will be allowed without permit under the following conditions:

i. Pasteurized liquid egg product and unpasteurized liquid egg (and blends) from breaking plants and/or pasteurization plants outside a Control Area (and accompanied by documentation of origin) may move into pasteurization and/or further processing plants located in a Control Area without permit. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must be cleaned and disinfected. The exterior of the transport vehicle and the tires and wheel wells must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises in a Control Area.
ii. Shell eggs may move into breaking, grading, pasteurization, and/or further processing plants from outside Control Areas (accompanied by proof of origin) without a permit. Egg handling materials must be destroyed at the plant or cleaned, sanitized (following accepted procedures) and returned to the premise of origin without contacting materials going to other premises. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must be cleaned and disinfected. The exterior of the transport vehicle and the tires and wheel wells must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within a Control Area.

iii. Broken egg shells may move into a Control Area (accompanied by proof of origin) without a permit. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must be cleaned and disinfected. The exterior of the transport vehicle and the tires and wheel wells must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within a Control Area.

iv. Hatching eggs may move into a hatchery from outside Control Areas (accompanied by proof of origin and AI tested negative flocks without a permit. Egg handling materials must be destroyed at the plant or cleaned, sanitized (following accepted procedures) and returned to the premise of origin without contacting materials going to other premises. The driver will not be allowed outside the cab or else the cab interior must be cleaned and disinfected. The cargo interior and exterior of the transport vehicle and the tires and wheel wells must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises within a Control Area.

5. **Determination of Release of Movement Restrictions**

   a. All premises within the Control Area would be eligible for release from movement restrictions as determined by the Incident Command when:

   i. All infected flocks in a Control Area have been depopulated. All depopulated flock premises have been cleaned and disinfected. A minimum of 42 days has passed, or environmental sampling has proven HPAI virus negative status for the depopulated premises.

   ii. All contact premises in a control area must have been depopulated or must have been monitored for 42 days.

This plan has been written by egg industry and university personnel based on their knowledge of the egg industry. Standard Operating Procedures from the Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) outbreak were reviewed as a starting point for developing this plan.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 55 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: INCLUSION OF SWINE AND POULTRY WORKERS IN PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLANNING

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Recent research has demonstrated that swine and poultry workers, especially those who work in large confinement facilities, are at markedly increased risk of zoonotic influenza virus infections. In serving as a bridging population for influenza virus spread between animals and man, these workers may introduce zoonotic influenza virus into their homes and communities as well as expose domestic swine and poultry to human influenza viruses. Prolonged and intense occupational exposures of humans working in swine or poultry confinement buildings could facilitate the generation of novel influenza viruses, as well as accelerate human influenza epidemics. Because of their potential bridging role, such workers should be recognized as a priority target group for annual influenza vaccines and receive special training to reduce the risk of influenza transmission. They should also be considered for increased surveillance and priority receipt of pandemic vaccines and antivirals.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to recognize swine and poultry workers, including farmers, caretakers, processing plant workers, veterinarians, federal, state, and private agricultural emergency response personnel, and agricultural diagnostic laboratory personnel, as a priority target group for annual influenza vaccines, training in use of personal protective equipment, increased surveillance for influenza, and priority receipt of pandemic vaccines and antiviral drugs.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  56  APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER:  LOW PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA PROGRAM FUNDS

DATES:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) has existed in the Live Bird Marketing System (LBMS) of the Northeast and other locations for 15 years. An extensive campaign has reduced the prevalence and incidence of LPAI within the LBMS in the Northeast. Recent test results demonstrate the effectiveness of this effort.

Current progress within the market system is due, in large part, to the provision of personnel and other resources to establish control at various levels of the supply continuum. The LPAI national effort has expanded to the point that some 30 states are being recruited and funded for LPAI efforts and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) anticipates additional states participating.

Total funding for the LPAI effort program is now limited. The impact of this level of funding in this environment of increased participation is diminished resources for existing program participants. The reduced level of funding threatens to reverse LPAI market system progress made over the past two years.

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 request additional funding to fully support a national low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) program and for Congress to appropriate these monies.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Voluntary H5/H7 Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) Prevention and Control Program was initiated in fiscal year (FY) 2004 following serious outbreaks of LPAI H7N2 in Pennsylvania (1996-1998) and Virginia (2002). The Virginia outbreak resulted in the depopulation of approximately 4.7 million birds and losses to the Virginia poultry industry of approximately $140 million.

The LPAI Program in the commercial poultry industry is administered through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). In FY 2005, cooperative agreements for the NPIP LPAI program were initiated with 24 States; by the end of FY 2007, 29 States participated. This is a voluntary program that is focused on those States with high concentrations of commercial poultry populations; therefore, not all States see the need to participate.

The LPAI Program in the live bird marketing system (LBMS) provides uniform standards, published in 2004, that are enforced at the State level for the prevention and control of H5/H7 LPAI in retail live bird markets, distributors (haulers, wholesalers, etc.), and production facilities that supply the LBMS. States are responsible for enforcing the LPAI Program standards while VS coordinates and administers the program. VS also provides personnel and resources to assist States with implementation of and compliance with program requirements.

The LBMS-LPAI program in 2004 began with 10 participating States. As of FY 2007, APHIS had initiated cooperative agreements with 33 States/Territories (including Puerto Rico). This is a voluntary program and some States may choose not to participate. The efforts of VS and the participating States have resulted in a marked decline in the incidence of LPAI viruses in the LBMS in the United States, particularly in New Jersey and New York.

Securing funding to support the H5/H7 LPAI Program is an ongoing process. The Program was initiated in FY 2004 with Commodity Credit Corporation funds, which allocated $4.7 million for program development and $6.0 million for indemnity. In FY 2005, $11.0 million (LPAI line item) was allocated and an additional $12.0 million specified for indemnity. In FY 2006 and FY 2007, the Program received $14.0 million and $13.0 million, respectively. APHIS will continue to request additional and sufficient funds to maintain and support the H5/H7 LPAI Program. The final amount of appropriated funding is at the discretion of the U.S. Congress.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 57 APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: NEED FOR ONGOING FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL METHODS FOR DEPOPULATION OF POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) applauds the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) support over the last year in the development of practical and humane solutions for mass depopulation of poultry in response to disasters and epizootic and zoonotic diseases. However, gaps still exist in our response capability and ongoing funding is needed beyond the current avian influenza response commitment. For example, adequate solutions for depopulation of caged layers have not been developed sufficiently to address both the need for timely disease containment and limiting the exposure of personnel performing the depopulation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), and the USDA Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service continue to fund research and implement policy in support of new practical methods and humane solutions for depopulation and disposal of poultry.

RESPONSE:

USDA, Agriculture Research Service

For Resolution 57 regarding poultry depopulation and disposal methods, the Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has primary responsibility over these areas. Therefore, ARS has referred this resolution to APHIS, which has agreed to take the lead on these issues and to respond on behalf of USDA. However, ARS will be pleased to offers our support to APHIS, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and other Federal institutions on any actions that are initiated to address needs in these areas.
USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In 2008 APHIS is planning to fund additional projects to examine this technology with the University of Georgia at Athens, University of Delaware, Texas A&M University, Mississippi Board of Agriculture, and North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Each of these groups will look at different foam compositions and methods of generating compressed air gas-infused foam (specifically for layers) and developing a universal system for all field and poultry applications.

The Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service’s (CSREES) Avian Influenza Coordinated Agricultural Project (www.aicap.umd.edu) will continue investing in this area in upcoming years. It has conducted studies on virus inactivation in a windrow during cold weather and is currently evaluating sanitation of mechanical equipment. In addition, CSREES developed a catastrophic poultry emergency management training program and distributed it to 26 states in 42 sessions. Funding for fiscal years 2008 to 2010 will support the evaluation of the use of compost additives, cover materials, bulking agents, and carcass:carbon ratios for catastrophic mortality composting. U.S. training modules will be expanded and catastrophic poultry mortality training materials for Central and South America will be developed in coordination with APHIS.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 59  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORT REPTILE TICK CONTROL

DATE: RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Very high numbers reptiles infested with exotic ticks continue to be brought into the United States (US) from countries throughout the world, and these imported exotic ticks may serve as vectors for animal diseases such as heartwater, that threaten the US livestock industry. Program components have been drafted to permit, certify, inspect, and treat, if necessary, such imported reptiles. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Health Protection Act has clear authority and responsibility to prohibit or restrict the importation of animals and to impose post-importation quarantine measures to prevent the introduction or dissemination of any pest or disease into the United States.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) expedite the implementation of regulations to require permits and inspection certification for reptiles entering the United States. USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS-VS to carry out a program in collaboration with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP); and the United States Department of Interior (DOI), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); and, in conjunction with affected states, to ensure effective control measures are taken to eliminate any ticks imported on reptiles into the United States.

RESPONSE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection

CBP acknowledges USAHA’s position regarding the apparent risk presented by imported reptiles. In accordance with Article 7 of the Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and USDA, CBP enforces USDA’s, Animal and Plant Health Services (APHIS) regulations,
policies and procedures at our nation’s ports of entry. CBP will work with USDA-APHIS on any draft regulation and protocol they propose in response to your request. CBP takes any threat to U.S. agriculture seriously, and we are committed to the prevention of harmful agriculture pests and diseases.

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has recently completed a pathways analysis to identify some of the exposure pathways by which ticks and other vectors might introduce heartwater disease into the United States. A risk assessment describing the possible consequences of discontinuing the tropical bont tick program in St. Croix has also been completed. Based on this information, VS will determine the best method to address these risks. VS will work in consultation with other Federal agencies to develop new import regulations for reptiles, strengthen existing regulations for importation of heartwater-susceptible species from affected countries, and verify the import controls put in place by Canada and Mexico to prevent introduction of heartwater into their national herds.
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 into the United States (US) is free of pathogens which do not exist in the US and pose a risk to the US livestock population.

Since Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has become the primary 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 encourages 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 exist in the United States. Importations of ruminant serum have been authorized by USDA-APHIS-VS in limited quantities for development research and diagnostic purposes by both governmental and private institutions.

Gamma radiation 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 number 13 approved at the 2004 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) annual meeting recommended that USDA-APHIS allow the importation of gamma irradiated commercial shipments of FBS.

At the 2005 USAHA annual meeting, USDA-APHIS responded that a proposed rule for the importation of irradiated FBS was still being prepared for publication. A resolution from both the Committees on Import/Export and Biologics and Biotechnology asking USDA-APHIS to continue the follow up was approved at the 2005 USAHA annual meeting.

At the 2006 USAHA annual meeting, USDA-APHIS responded that the risk assessment had been completed and that a proposed rule was being prepared.

**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), publish a proposed rule to allow the importation of fetal bovine serum (FBS) from countries free of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) following gamma irradiation as provided in Veterinary Services (VS) notice 98-05 in approved private irradiation facilities to inactivate other diseases of concern to the livestock industry.

**RESPONSE:**

**USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. As a result of the 2006 risk assessment, it was determined that the risk of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) infectivity in gamma-irradiated fetal bovine serum (FBS) was low but not zero. Because the risk was not zero, the VS National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) had to establish a procedure for FBS importation that would result in an acceptable level of risk. NCIE consulted with the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories to develop several options for allowing the importation of irradiated FBS, thereby increasing the available supply of fetal bovine serum while safeguarding the health of U.S. animals. VS management is discussing these options and we expect a decision in the second quarter of 2008. Once the decision is finalized, NCIE will begin the process for a proposed rule.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 66  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT/EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMEN, EMBRYOS AND LIVE ANIMALS

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), National Center for Imports and Exports (NCIE) maintains a website with current negotiated international export health requirements for poultry, live animals, embryos and semen.

The National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) and Certified Semen Services (CSS) have met with and worked with USDA, APHIS, VS, NCIE for several years attempting to get the import requirements for live animals, semen and embryos posted on the same website to serve importers as a reference. USDA does not routinely issue the import requirements for these products and animals when import permits are applied for and issued to importers. As businesses involved in the export of live animals and germplasm grow and develop, the import of genetically superior live animals or their germplasm becomes an important aspect of business planning and development. Having a website maintained by USDA, with the most current import requirements posted for reference by importers is important in facilitating efficient information and transparent international import health requirements for both domestic businesses and international trading partners.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Service (VS), National Center for Imports and Exports (NCIE) to develop and maintain a website with the most current import health requirements for live animals, semen and embryos as well as poultry and hatching eggs.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS’ National Center for Import and Export is currently in the process of reviewing all live animal import protocols to include semen and embryos. The protocols will be reviewed to ensure the import conditions are consistent with regulations and USDA policy, edited to establish a standard format, and, in some cases, renegotiated with exporting countries. As protocols are finalized, they will be
posted through a link on the APHIS Web site, which contains current live animal import information. We expect to complete this project during 2008.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 68      APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLA OVIS ELISA TEST

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (US) sheep industry has an urgent need for reliable and consistent results on Brucella ovis enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing to detect Brucella ovis infection in rams.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) distribute the standard operating protocol (SOP) for performing the Brucella ovis enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to laboratories, complete validation (per ISO17025 standards) of the NVSL Brucella ovis ELISA before the 2008 spring ram testing season, and develop a national proficiency test program for Brucella ovis. These actions will provide for reliable and consistent results on antibody testing for Brucella ovis for the United States sheep industry.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The serology section of the Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory of the NVSL is currently in the process of finalizing quality assurance documents associated with test performance and reagent acquisition for the NVSL indirect ELISA for Brucella ovis. These documents were distributed to testing laboratories in February 2008, and reagents were made available at the same time. The validation of the test protocol within the NVSL is ongoing and is included in the overall NVSL ISO 17025 Accreditation Program. Further evaluation will be done in conjunction with field testing in the State laboratories. A conference call was held on
February 26 with participating laboratories to discuss 1) changes in the protocol from the previous version and 2) the upcoming proficiency test.
Resolutions Number: 69  Approved

Source: Committee on Sheep and Goats

Subject Matter: Approval of CIDRs® and Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin for Reproductive Manipulation of Sheep and Goats

Date: Reno, Nevada, October 18-24, 2007

Background Information:

Reproductive manipulations of sheep and goats such as artificial insemination, embryo transfer and timed matings require drugs, hormones and delivery devices not currently approved or available in the United States (US). Legal and ethical availability of these types of drugs and hormones would facilitate productivity and genetic progress of US flocks and herds and enhance planned reproduction systems for veterinarians and producers, while providing proper and transparent knowledge of the products in use in food producing breeding animals.

These hormones (progesterone and pregnant mare serum gonadotropin (PMSG), used in combination) are labeled and available in many sheep and goat producing countries outside the US. Availability here would level the playing field for US producers.

CIDRs (a progesterone-impregnated plastic device for intra-vaginal delivery to synchronize estrus) have been “fast tracked” through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) approval process since the summer of 2006, but they are still not available for use for the fall 2007 breeding season.

Resolution:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) respectfully requests that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expedite the completion of the approval of CIDRs. We also request that steps be taken to expedite the approval of pregnant mare serum gonadotropin (PMSG) through the Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) process to allow enhanced reproduction systems in sheep and goats.

Response:
While we appreciate your interest in getting an expedited decision on the CIDRs and PMSG, unfortunately, neither one of these products qualify for expedited review. Expedited review is granted for therapeutics can treat a life-threatening condition in animals. We recognize that the CIDRs has been designated as a minor species product but it still must meet all of the relevant safety and efficacy requirements for new animal drugs. We recommend that you contact the manufacturers of PMSG to determine the plans for the products, as we do not have the type of information you are interested in.

For additional information and clarification on the MUMS program please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 240-276-9005 or by e-mail, margaret.oeller@fda.hhs.gov
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 70     APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: BULK MILK TEST TO DETECT BRUCELLA MELITENISIS IN GOAT FLOCKS

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

*Brucella melitensis* infection in goats causes severe systemic disease in humans, who are often infected by consumption of raw goat milk products. It is responsible for more clinical cases of brucellosis and more human suffering worldwide than all other *brucellae*. A bulk milk test for goat brucellosis is needed in the diagnostic battery of brucellosis tests in small ruminants. The Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) requires annual testing of dairy goat flocks, however, no flock level test is available for screening; and goats have to be tested individually by serology. This is time consuming, costly, and stressful for the animals.

National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) and other research partners developed an indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (using *Brucella melitensis* strain 16M antigen) to detect brucella antibodies in goat milk. Initial research on this test using individual milk samples from experimentally-infected goats and laboratory simulated mock-bulk milk suggest this test may be a good bulk milk test for goats, especially in herds segmented in groups of 50 animals or less (N.D. Funk, L.B. Tabatai, P.H. Elzer, S.D. Hagius, B.M. Martin, and L.J. Hoffman. Indirect Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Detection of Brucella melitensis-Specific Antibodies in Goat Milk. J Clin Micro 2005; 43(2):721-5.).

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) support and facilitate the development and validation of the *Brucella melitensis* indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for screening bulk tank goat milk so that it may be considered for use as an official test to fulfill the requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).
RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The NVSL can facilitate the development and validation of the *Brucella melitensis* indirect ELISA through the production and standardization of a *B. melitensis* ELISA antigen. The NVSL could possibly offer additional support with sample testing utilizing the ELISA.
UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 71        APPROVED

SOURCE:       COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: MINOR USE ANIMAL DRUG PROGRAM

DATE:         RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The approval of animal drugs for use in minor species is critical to the appropriate treatment of sheep and goat disease and to the maintenance of animal health. The National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) provides much-needed and valuable services to the sheep and goat industries throughout the United States. The continued work of this program will be essential to the sustainability and growth of the industry through the availability of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for use in sheep and goats.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports and appreciates the efforts of the NRSP-7. The research conducted under this program will be essential to the sustainability of the small ruminant industries and to the maintenance of sheep and goat health. The USAHA acknowledges the importance of research conducted under the NRSP-7.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges Congress to appropriate continuing funding for the National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) program and urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to include funding for the NRSP-7 in their budget requests at a level that meets the needs of minor uses and minor species requests.

RESPONSE:

Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine

We appreciate your support of this work and are happy to inform you that FDA has continued to fund the liaison position for 2008. Dr. Margaret Oeller is continuing her work as both the liaison to NRSP-7 and now as the Acting Director of the Office of Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) at the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM).
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 72

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CALFHOOD VACCINATION OF BISON

DATES: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current Brucellosis Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) specify official brucellosis vaccinates as animals vaccinated at 4 – 12 months of age. Bison do not become sexually active until they reach an age which is approximately 12 months greater than the age at which cattle become sexually active. Bison management provides for brucellosis vaccination at an age up to 18 months which would result in increased numbers of bison vaccinated for brucellosis.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to rapidly institute changes in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) for brucellosis that specify official brucellosis vaccinated bison as those vaccinated at 4-18 months of age.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Vaccination of cattle and bison has been an important tool in eradicating brucellosis from domestic livestock and bison in the United States. VS will request that USAHA’s Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate the use of *Brucella abortus* Strain RB 51 vaccine in bison between the age of 12 and 18 months. If this Subcommittee recommends the use of this vaccine in this age of animal, the Center for Veterinary Biologics will evaluate the recommendation.
Concurrently, VS will examine if changes to title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, part 78 are required.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 73       APPROVED

SOURCE:   COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS
SUBJECT MATTER:  BRUCELLOSIS IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA
DATE:      RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state and federal governments and the livestock industries have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* infection from cattle in the United States (US), and the presence of *B. abortus* in the US has significant economic impact upon the livestock industry and may have an impact on international trade. The efforts to eradicate *B. abortus* are contributing to the national herd becoming free of the disease. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the efforts of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) state and federal agencies in their efforts to prevent exposure of livestock to brucellosis from elk and bison in the GYA and encourages the efforts of the GYA state agencies to control brucellosis in bison and elk in the GYA.

The only known remaining focus of brucellosis caused by *B. abortus* in the United States is the bison and elk in the GYA and all signatory parties (Secretaries of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Department of the Interior (USDI), and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming) to the original Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which created the GYIBC, agreed that the objective is to eliminate *B. abortus* from the GYA. A plan to eliminate *B. abortus* from bison and elk in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and other areas of the GYA, consistent with the objectives of the original GYIBC MOU, is urgently needed. Wyoming lost its Brucellosis Class Free classification in 2004, and Idaho lost its Brucellosis Class Free status in 2006, due to transmission of *B. abortus* from wildlife to cattle. Both states have subsequently regained Class Free status. A brucellosis affected cattle herd, thought to be infected by wildlife, was disclosed in Montana in 2007, and if a second affected cattle herd is disclosed within two years, Montana will lose its Brucellosis Class Free classification as well. The loss of Brucellosis Class Free status in a state is extremely costly to the cattle industry and is a significant setback to the Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (USDI) and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to take all steps and actions necessary to eliminate the last known vestiges of *Brucella abortus* from the United States, including, but not limited to: 1) providing necessary fiscal and human resources, and requesting additional funding as needed from Congress; 2) assuring collaboration among all relevant state and federal agencies; 3) utilizing all available, scientifically credible technologies and multidisciplinary management practices to prevent the spread of brucellosis in, between and among cattle, bison and elk; 4) providing strong direction
to these agencies to expeditiously develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan to eliminate *Brucella abortus* from the elk and bison herds in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

**RESPONSE**

**USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services**

We have forwarded Resolution Number 73 to our Veterinary Services (VS) office for their response. They will submit their response directly to you along with other VS responses.

**State of Wyoming**

The Wyoming Livestock Board, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Dr. Frank Galey, Chair of the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team have reviewed the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Resolution 73 titled, "Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area" and your invitation to Governor Freudenthal for the state of Wyoming to respond. The Board, Department and Dr. Galey, on behalf of the Brucellosis Coordination Team, appreciate this opportunity.

We acknowledge and appreciate USAHA's support of the efforts our agencies and the Coordination Team have made to prevent exposure of cattle to brucellosis from elk and wild bison. We agree with the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC) that the ultimate objective is the elimination of *Brucella abortis* from elk and wild bison in the GYA and that a plan to do so is needed. Though we agree that a comprehensive plan to eliminate brucellosis from elk and wild bison of the GYA is the ultimate best solution, we do not believe it is possible or practical with current technology to achieve this goal and completely eliminate the disease from elk and wild bison in the near future without resorting to ethically and politically unacceptable techniques (such as depopulation).

We agree with the resolution that all agencies, state and federal, inputs collaborate while providing adequate fiscal and human resources to address the brucellosis situation in the GYA. The Wyoming Livestock Board and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission have substantial personnel, as well as a large part of our respective budgets, dedicated to brucellosis. We also agree credible technologies should be utilized to prevent transmission. Our agencies work closely with livestock producers to prevent and minimize commingling. We recognize that complete separation is not always technically possible and we also must keep big game migration corridors open.

The state of Wyoming thru collaborative efforts and on-going guidance provided by the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team has implemented aggressive measures to prevent transmission and reduce the prevalence of brucellosis in elk and wild bison. Some of our efforts, many of which specifically address topics in the resolution are outlined below.

Dr. Jim Logan was hired as Assistant State Veterinarian to work out of Riverton (western Wyoming). Dr. Logan's primary responsibility is overseeing the state's brucellosis program. He has two technicians working entirely on brucellosis management; cattle herd plans, and commingling prevention. The Wyoming Livestock Board has additional staff in the Cheyenne office dedicated largely or solely to brucellosis prevention. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department hired four additional personnel whose primary responsibilities are to address brucellosis issues in elk and wild bison. These personnel supplement a cadre of existing personnel who work to prevent commingling.

State and federal agencies as well as producers and sale barns continue efforts aimed at reducing the risk of introducing brucellosis in the state's livestock and identifying any cases as soon as possible. From October 2006 through September 2007, Wyoming tested 121,456 cattle in the state; none were classified as reactors, 6 were classified as suspects and appropriate actions taken. Over the same time period 177,019 cattle were vaccinated (this includes calfhood vaccinates, adult vaccinates and booster vaccinates) in the state. A few slaughter suspects were
traced back to Wyoming; one resulted in a whole herd test, all-negative. Other suspect cases were resolved without hole-herd testing.

In December 2007, state and federal personnel conducted an annual test of three cattle herds that are in the area of the original cases that occurred in 2003/2004. This included testing of approximately 1200 cattle. All tested negative. These cattle herds are also booster vaccinated every two years.

The Wyoming Livestock Board has stringent brucellosis rules. These rules have reduced some testing requirements from when the state was Class A, but still require testing of all breeding cattle sold through Wyoming auction markets and also require change of ownership testing for most test-eligible cattle from an identified area in the GYA in which contact with infected elk and wild bison is considered possible.

The Governor’s Brucellosis Coordination Team continues to be significantly engaged and provides recommendations aimed at reducing the risk of brucellosis transmission from elk and wild bison to cattle. Recommendations made by this group that have been implemented are the development of cattle herd management plans, elk and wild bison Brucellosis Management Action Plans, and a pilot test and slaughter program for feedground elk.

The Wyoming Livestock Board and USDA-APHIS-VS personnel have worked with producers to develop over 160 cattle herd plans. Herd plans are voluntary and individualized based on the specific herd’s exposure to potentially infected elk and wild bison. They represent an obligation of the producer to take certain steps to minimize the risk of transmission to their cattle and include surveillance measures for herds with potential elk and wild bison contact. Several herd plans call for periodic adult booster vaccination with Strain RB51.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has completed Brucellosis Management Action Plans for all seven elk herds and the two wild bison herds in Northwestern Wyoming that are known to have brucellosis. These plans require wildlife management aimed at minimizing risk of brucellosis transmission from elk and wild bison to livestock and they provide for implementation of practices to reduce brucellosis in elk and wild bison.

In the winter of 2006, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department began a test and slaughter pilot project of elk on the Muddy Creek feedground. That year, 158 test eligible females were trapped; 58 (37%) of these elk were seropositive and sent to slaughter and culture. Eighteen (32%) of the seropositive elk were culture positive. The project continued during the winter of 2007 with the capture of 79 test eligible female elk; 13 (16%) of which were seropositive and eight (62%) of seropositive were culture positive. The test and slaughter program will be expanded to additional feedgrounds commencing in the winter of 2008-09.

As you can see, the State of Wyoming is fully committed to addressing brucellosis in the GYA. USAHA is uniquely positioned to help with those efforts. We strongly encourage USAHA to push stridently to obtain federal funding for additional research into diagnostics, vaccines, and vaccine delivery techniques. These tools are sorely needed if we are in fact going to reach of the goal of eradication of brucellosis in the GYA.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 74  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CELEBRATE THE ERADICATION OF BRUCELLOSIS IN LIVESTOCK FROM THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE COUNTRY IS DECLARED BRUCELLOSIS FREE

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Efforts to eradicate brucellosis caused by *Brucella abortus* in the United States (US) began in 1934 as part of an economic recovery program to reduce the cattle population because of the Great Depression and concurrent severe drought conditions. A number of states saw this as an opportunity to reduce the level of brucellosis, which was the most significant livestock disease problem in the US at the time. In 1934 and 1935, the reactor rate in adult cattle tested was 11.5%.

In 1954, the magnitude of the brucellosis problem in the US in terms of economics to the cattle industry and human health prompted Congress to appropriate funds for a comprehensive national effort to eradicate brucellosis. The brucellosis eradication program was designed as a cooperative effort between the federal government, the states, and livestock producers. As the science and technology of brucellosis has developed over the years through research and experience, the eradication program has been modified as needed.

In December 2000, there were no affected cattle herds in the US. This was the first time in the history of the brucellosis program that the US had no known brucellosis affected herds. The State-Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program has made tremendous progress since its inception. Only one state has not been recognized as being officially brucellosis free. That state is in the progress of being recognized officially brucellosis free at this time. This successful eradication effort has resulted in the elimination of this disease from a geographically larger area, with more numbers of livestock, than any other country in the world. This effort deserves a celebration to not only recognize the people involved in the effort but to also educate the public on the significance of the effort and how it has improved the economics of livestock production resulting in safer and cheaper food for the nation.

RESOLUTION:
The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) hold a celebration, in conjunction with the USAHA annual meeting, to recognize the tremendous combined efforts of the livestock industry, states, and USDA in eradicating brucellosis from livestock in the United States, once brucellosis has been declared eradicated in livestock.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health Association’s (USAHA) interest and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS will work with USAHA in planning a celebration regarding the eradication of *Brucella abortus* from domestic cattle and bison in the United States.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 76  APPROVED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER:  BRUCELLOSIS LABORATORY CONSOLIDATION

DATE:  RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the committee meeting, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) presented an overview of proposed laboratory consolidation as part of a suite of adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance to reflect declining budgetary resources, reduce redundancy, and improve program efficiency.

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 expedite the consolidation of brucellosis testing laboratories, moving toward a system of regional laboratories. USDA-APHIS-VS should consider the following as the move to laboratory consolidation is made: 1) establish 12 regional brucellosis laboratories; 2) eliminate USDA funding for 17 laboratories and transfer their samples to regional laboratories; 3) maintain funding for 7 state laboratories that do not serve as regional laboratories; 4) any of the 17 labs that lose USDA funding may decide to continue operating will need to seek alternate funding or charge user fees; 5) include approval of all brucellosis laboratories based on national standards; and 6) those national standards include, but are not limited to, ensuring that state animal health officials receive information on numbers of samples performed on animals that originate from that state, but are slaughtered in packing plants and tested in laboratories in other states, standards for turnaround time, rapid communication of test results, and standardization of tests performed.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) concurs with the recommendations made by the USAHA Committee on Brucellosis and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is continuing to develop and implement plans to consolidate brucellosis testing laboratories and standardize tests used for brucellosis surveillance. The number of laboratories and appropriate funding will be determined by an assessment of multiple factors, including the number of samples to be tested, cost per test, shipping costs, and protocols for
data management and timely reporting of test results. VS will continue to collaborate with States to refine appropriate laboratory selection and funding criteria and to develop and execute implementation and communication plans that ensure an effective and efficient brucellosis surveillance testing program.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  77     APPROVED

SOURCE:                COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER:        PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO NATIONAL
                        BRUCELLOSIS SURVEILLANCE

DATE:                  RENO, NEVADA OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) presented an overview during the committee meeting of proposed adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance to reflect declining budgetary resources, reduce redundancy, and improve program efficiency. Adjustments to national surveillance occurred in the 1970s with unintended consequences to nationwide brucellosis prevalence.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) endorses the concepts of the proposed adjustments to national brucellosis surveillance. It urges caution in adopting the adjustments to prevent the unintended re-occurrence of brucellosis, as has occurred in the past. It also urges that no funding changes be implemented until Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) changes, if needed, are finalized. The proposed adjustments should be made publically available for review and comment. Any changes should receive a risk analysis. The efforts of the working groups that generated the proposed adjustments should be publicly acknowledged. Special attention should be given to the ramifications of reducing Brucellosis Ring Test (BRT) testing. Special attention should also be given to the ramifications of relying on slaughter surveillance until mandatory identification of the breeding herd is in place, which would assure necessary traceability.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) shares the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) concern about maintaining the progress and accomplishments of national brucellosis eradication efforts, and we appreciate the opportunity to respond. VS is committed to implementing changes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the national
brucellosis surveillance program. During 2006, the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) comprehensively assessed current brucellosis program surveillance activities. This NSU assessment provided valuable insight into (1) redundancies in low-risk States; (2) disproportionate level of surveillance in dairy cattle; and (3) inconsistencies in laboratory and data entry protocols. Using this comprehensive assessment as a foundation, a Federal-State Working Group developed the proposed surveillance plan in 2007.

Given USAHA’s endorsement of the proposed surveillance concepts, VS is moving forward with implementation of the surveillance plan. VS has determined that 2008 will be the last calendar year for providing Federal cooperative agreement funding for first point testing in low-risk States. The target year for revising Federal funding for brucellosis ring testing and market cattle identification slaughter surveillance in low-risk States is calendar year 2010. We recognize that these revisions require amendments to the title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations. VS continues to seek adequate funding to support brucellosis surveillance activities required by regulation and essential to maintaining the integrity of the brucellosis surveillance program.