



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2012 RESOLUTION

116TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 18-24, 2012 ~ GREENSBORO, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 and 25 Combined **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**

SUBJECT MATTER: **USE OF 840 RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION EAR
TAGS FOR USE IN IDENTIFICATION OF FOOT-AND-
MOUTH DISEASE "VACCINATED-TO-LIVE" LIVESTOCK**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

If the United States experiences a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak within its borders, it will require an effective and efficient collaborative response from state and federal government and the livestock industry. The scope and severity of the outbreak will determine what particular methods of control, mitigation, and eradication are chosen. One of the key decisions will be the need to utilize FMD vaccination to mitigate disease spread and assist in controlling the outbreak. If a decision to use FMD vaccination is chosen one of the vaccination options is a "vaccination-to-live" strategy. One important component of a "vaccination-to-live" strategy is the permanent identification and subsequent tracking of livestock that have been vaccinated for FMD. Because a "vaccination-to-live" strategy may be used in dairy herds, breeding herds, and seed-stock operations, the most efficient method of identifying and managing those livestock would be through the use of an official electronic identification (ID) ear tag. Official 840 radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags are "connected" to an official state livestock premises registration number and have proven advantages in speed and efficiency over official metal ID ear tags. It has been demonstrated that the official 840 RFID tags have a greater capability to assist animal health officials to trace, control, and contain livestock diseases. Livestock movements documented through 840 RFID ear tags would help to minimize the negative economic impacts of interstate transport restrictions that will occur during a significant foreign animal disease outbreak.

Currently, the only FMD vaccination ear tags in the National Veterinary Stockpile are pink, metal clip-on tags. It is acknowledged that the metal ear tags are considerably less expensive than 840 RFID ear tags and could be effectively used in animals where a "vaccination-to-slaughter" option is implemented. However the management of the FMD "vaccinated-to live" animals would be more difficult and time-consuming without the use of 840 RFID ear tags. If Veterinary Services engaged in indefinite

delivery/ indefinite quantity contracts with tag manufacturers to supply 840 RFID tags in the event of an FMD outbreak, then an inventory would not have to be maintained. It is important that these tags do not interfere with or supplant traceability requirements at the State or Federal level, and be synchronized with any existent or future traceability strategy. Tags could also be of a color with high visibility and bear the acronym “FMD” in a highly contrasted color-type to avoid any confusion and issues with those who are color blind.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians urge the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to develop contracts with appropriate vendors to supply unique 840 radio frequency identification ear tags on demand for use in appropriate livestock that have been vaccinated for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in a “vaccination-to-live” strategy as part of the unified state-federal FMD response operations. Tags should be visually identifiable and easily differentiated from tags used for other programs or purposes.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS currently has a small inventory of 840 radio frequency identification (RFI) ear tags (approximately 50,000) which are currently available for animal health emergencies.

APHIS is constantly evaluating foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) response policy and has assembled a project team of subject matter experts to develop a FMD response policy that will take into account the use of vaccine as a viable tool to respond and control an outbreak. APHIS welcomes the opportunity to improve FMD preparedness by working with the United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (USAHA/AAVLD), as well as with other stakeholders, to identify priorities for FMD preparedness. APHIS suggests the formation of a working group to evaluate and provide input on the prospective FMD policy response and capabilities, to establish priorities that align with existing resources, to explore public-private partnerships to further advance FMD preparedness, and to address the physical characteristics of an 840 RFI ear tag for FMD. APHIS suggests addressing the creation of the working group during the next USAHA Committee on Government Relations Meeting scheduled for February 2013. USAHA/AAVLD Resolution 3 (FMD Vaccine) is a closely related issue. Therefore APHIS suggests combining resolutions 1, 3, and 25 to approach them as a whole with broad stakeholder input.



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2012 Resolution

116th Annual Meeting

October 18-24, 2012 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2

APPROVED

SOURCE:

**USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

SUBJECT MATTER:

**SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-
DEFENSE FACILITY**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

If the United States incurs a foreign animal disease outbreak from a significant livestock pathogen, it will have a major impact on the entire country, could negatively affect animal and public health, may pose environmental risks if disposal of mass mortalities of livestock occurs, and could dramatically affect food security and the United States (US) economy.

In January 2009, the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Agriculture completed an extensive site selection process for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), a new animal disease research and diagnostic facility to replace the aging Plum Island Animal Disease Center. Manhattan, Kansas was selected as the site for the NBAF.

In July 2012, the National Academy of Sciences affirmed the vital need for the NBAF and determined that the Plum Island Animal Disease Center cannot meet US agro-security needs due to size limitations and inability to meet zoonotic disease and biosafety level-4 (BSL-4) needs.

NBAF will improve the nation's ability to study foreign animal diseases and emerging and zoonotic pathogens. It will aid in the improvement of diagnostic testing and the development of effective vaccines and other countermeasures for responding to highly significant livestock diseases. Further delay in initiation of NBAF construction will result in higher construction costs and critical gaps in national security from threats to animal agriculture and the public's health and well-being.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians affirm the decision for National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) construction and urge Congress to fully appropriate funds in the next funding cycle to enable the United States Department of Homeland Security to move forward in the planned construction and continued maintenance of the NBAF to ensure protection of animal agriculture and the public from potentially devastating diseases.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

**SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT MATTER: EVALUATE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE
RESPONSE POLICY AND CAPABILITIES**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

If the United States experiences a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak within its borders, a prepared response will be required for optimum control of the disease and continuity of business for agricultural producers and associated industries. The scope and severity of the outbreak will determine the particular strategy of response, control, and mitigation chosen. The North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB) has limited quantities of vaccine available. Emergency vaccine stocks are far below what would be required to address a livestock-dense state or multi-state outbreak. The public-private-academic partnerships formed as part the Secure Food Supply projects and work that has been conducted have brought the need for additional FMD vaccine and other response strategies and capabilities to a broader audience. In addition, there are other corollary issues that surround the decision to use FMD vaccine in an outbreak that need broad stakeholder input prior to an outbreak.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians urge the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to:

- Expediently evaluate foot-and-mouth (FMD) vaccine quantity and capability, times to delivery, methods of distribution, electronic identification of vaccinates, and other vaccine priority issues to meet FMD response needs.

- Provide a mechanism for broad stakeholder input to enhance FMD vaccine preparedness and response including exercises.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS is constantly evaluating foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) response policy. To this end, APHIS has assembled a project team of subject matter experts to develop a FMD response policy that will take into account the use of vaccine as a viable tool to respond and control an outbreak. APHIS welcomes the opportunity to improve FMD preparedness by working with the United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (USAHA/AAVLD), as well as with other stakeholders, to identify priorities for FMD preparedness. APHIS suggests the formation of a working group to evaluate and provide input on the prospective FMD policy response and capabilities, to establish priorities that align with existing resources, and to explore public-private partnerships to further advance FMD preparedness. APHIS suggests addressing the creation of the working group during the next USAHA Committee on Government Relations Meeting scheduled for February 2013. USAHA/AAVLD Combined Resolutions 1 and 25 (use of 840 radio frequency ear tags) is a closely related issue. Therefore, APHIS suggests combining resolutions 1, 3, and 25 to approach them as a whole with broad stakeholder input.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK COORDINATOR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) was established in 2002 and at that time a NAHLN coordinator was selected to coordinate the activities of the NAHLN. This is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) position and has been occupied by Barbara Martin for the last ten years. We recognize the outstanding job she has done as coordinator and congratulate her on her retirement. This position is critical in the continued success and progress of the NAHLN. When the original coordinator was appointed the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians had representation on the selection committee.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to with utmost haste implement the necessary process to identify a new National Animal Health Laboratory Network coordinator and urges USDA to allow AAVLD to have input again in the selection process.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is committed to ensuring that the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) maintain a strong working relationship with our State and industry stakeholders by hiring a NAHLN Coordinator in an expedient manner.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) Director has initiated the process for advertising the NAHLN Coordinator position, and plans to have the position

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announced this winter through the Federal government employment site (USA Jobs) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) job boards.

As the hiring process progresses, NVSL will continue to keep State and industry partners informed, and will ensure an invitation is sent through the current AAVLD president for a representative from AAVLD to join the interview panel.

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- be built using open-source, industry vetted and accepted, free components.
- be independent of source mechanisms for generating or receiving messages, i.e. no specific software or mechanism is mandated for a lab to participate.
- be hosted (server and software) and administered by Cornell University, inside its secure firewall on redundant, secure systems with 24/7 availability.
- be free to qualified participants.

SALMS will not:

- be a data repository. Messages and the data they contain are passed through the routing service and are not retained longer than necessary to facilitate secure transfer.
- necessarily replace the National Animal Health Laboratory Network Information Technology system, although it could serve the routing needs for these messages.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians support the development, testing and assessment of the State Animal Laboratory Messaging Service and request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) fully engage and cooperate with this development, testing and assessment, and enabling interoperability with USDA-APHIS-VS information systems including the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, Emergency Management Response System, Surveillance Collaboration Services, and the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The VS Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) staff have engaged with the State Animal Laboratory Messaging Services' (SALMS) development team in multiple discussions. These include technical integration, specific testing plans and schedules, and parallel deployment of both SALMS and VS' Laboratory Messaging Services (LMS) set for March 2013. The LMS team is also leading discussions with National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Emergency Management Response System, and Surveillance Collaborative Services teams, as Phase 2 of the LMS project, which is integration of LMS and these other VS systems, initiates. Additionally, a larger working group has been proposed and widely supported by the NAHLN IT Committee. The working group will be comprised of representatives from SALMS and each of the VS systems and have an estimated start date of February 2013. Top priority discussions for the group will be to determine if and exactly where integration points for these other VS systems are needed (beyond the connection between LMS and SALMS) and what will be needed by each system and its users to accomplish this.

NVSL could develop and implement the ring trial, but would need assistance from participating laboratories in providing EHV-1 virus isolates for optimal design of the ring trial with multiple isolates, potentially with differing genetics. This approach could provide more information about equivalent performance of the various PCR methods, across strains encountered in the field, than a ring trial using a single isolate.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians request that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Services Laboratory proceed with the neuropathic strains of Equine Herpes Virus-1 (nEHV-1) ring trial and make every effort to standardize testing methodology for nEHV-1 polymerase chain reaction testing at diagnostic facilities in the United States.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS supports this resolution, and understands the value of and the need to support diagnostic testing facilities through the development of an Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) ring trial. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has implemented a collaborative effort with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) to establish a working group whose goal is to design and implement an inter-laboratory comparison test (ring test) that will allow laboratories to test existing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays used for the detection and typing of EHV isolates and neuropathogenic EHV-1, and to establish their performance limits.

As part of this collaboration, NVSL is working with several participating laboratories to receive isolates for testing, propagation, and assembly of panels that it will offer to all interested laboratories this spring, at a cost of \$197 for 12 samples. Once all panels are distributed and all test method and result information is collected and analyzed by NVSL and the working group, NVSL anticipates providing a report of individual laboratory results and a summary of all laboratory responses (redacted to retain anonymity) to all participating laboratories.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

DEC 13 2012

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

Dr. David L. Meeker
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Ave.
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Dr. Meeker:

Thank you for your letter of November 19, 2012, and the continued support of the United States Animal Health Association for agricultural research and extension. We at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) share your concern about the potentially devastating effects of mycobacterial diseases on U.S. livestock production. While the NIFA Animal Health portfolio has many competing priorities for animal and zoonotic diseases, we recognize that support for mycobacterial diseases must remain as a component of our competitive and non-competitive funding programs.

NIFA has a substantial history of support for research on Johne's and the tuberculosis complex of diseases. As you know, in fiscal year (FY) 2004, NIFA awarded \$4.4 million over three years in support of the Johne's Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP). Sixteen research institutions participated, and numerous outcomes and impacts have been documented in relation to this CAP. As a consequence of the success of the Johne's CAP, the award was competitively renewed in FY 2008 for an additional \$4.8 million over four years.

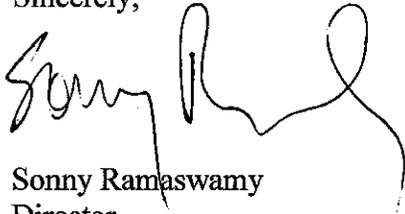
In addition, we have collaborated with the National Institutes of Health on a funding opportunity entitled "Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit: Research in Biomedicine and Agriculture Using Agriculturally Important Domestic Species," and provided NIFA funding in support of this program. This partnership is now in its third year and continues to welcome zoonotic diseases, including mycobacterial pathogens. In FY 2011, an award that studies mycobacterial diseases was made to the University of Massachusetts (with a subcontract to the USDA-Agricultural Research Service) for \$1.6 million over 5 years.

The Hatch-supported multistate research committee NE-1201, "Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals" was recently approved, and held its first meeting in Chicago this month. Additionally, the Animal Health and Disease component of the FY 2013 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational Request For Application (RFA) welcomes all relevant animal diseases, including mycobacterial pathogens.

Dr. David L. Meeker
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Thank you again for contacting me. I assure you that as priorities for future NIFA competitive solicitations are developed that involve animal health, mycobacterial diseases will be given strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonny Ramaswamy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Sonny Ramaswamy
Director

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 and 34 Combined **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: TUBERCULOSIS TESTING OF EXPORT CATTLE
AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR A NEGATIVE
CULTURE OF *MYCOBACTERIUM BOVIS* FROM
HISTOPATHOLOGICALLY NEGATIVE TISSUES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Between 1987 and 2011 exporters were following rules as per Veterinary Services (VS) Memorandum 592.102 dated 10/29/93:

“The test is valid for 90 days unless specified by the importing country. The CFT test should not be repeated less than 60 days following the previous tuberculin injection. The comparative cervical (CC) test must be run on CFT suspects and all must be negative before the remaining negative animals can be shipped. CFT suspects cannot be shipped even if negative on the CC test. CC test suspects may be sent to slaughter under permit, and if found without internal evidence of TB including histopathological examination of selected lymph nodes, the animals in the rest of the shipment may be considered free of TB.”

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) is now telling exporters that if a caudal fold test (CFT) suspect undergoes the comparative cervical (CC) test and responds as a suspect on this test, the remaining animals are not permitted to be exported until the tissues from the CC suspect undergo a negative culture for *Mycobacterium bovis* even if they are histopathologically negative. This culture takes 6-8 weeks to complete (Russia requires Tuberculosis [TB] testing during the 21 days prior to embarkation), and because all of the remaining animals are rendered ineligible for export until a negative culture is completed, an exporter is at risk of losing \$5-6 million. If this happens, the remaining exporters will be unwilling to face such a huge risk and will abandon the export business.

To date and after many requests, USDA-APHIS-VS has been unable to produce any documentation of cases in which a positive culture was obtained from tissues that were histopathologically negative for TB. Therefore, the probability of the remaining “test negative” animals in the shipment being capable of transmitting TB is insignificant. In all

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the years of following VS Memorandum 592.102, there has not been an incidence of a TB-positive animal being exported to another country.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) to eliminate the requirement for a culture for *Mycobacterium bovis* on histopathologically negative tissues, and to return to the Tuberculosis directives of VS Memorandum 592.102 dated 10/29/93.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is developing a risk assessment to determine the risk associated with discontinuing bacterial culture in comparative cervical test suspects with no gross lesions and negative histopathology. VS will complete its analysis of the risk assessment by July 2013 and will inform United States Animal Health Association of its decision.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 and 23 Combined **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES
COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR INDEMNITY OF CHRONIC WASTING
DISEASE POSITIVE OR EXPOSED ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Administrator is authorized to pay for the purchase and destruction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positive animals, CWD exposed animals, and CWD suspect animals (9 CFR 55.2). Subject to available funding, the amount of the Federal payment for any such animals will be 95 percent of the appraised value established in accordance with 55.3 of this part, but the Federal payment shall not exceed \$3000.00 per animal.

In the past, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services has provided funding to pay for the purchase of farmed cervids that tested positive for CWD, were exposed to CWD positive animals, or were suspect animals, in order to mitigate the risk of the spread of CWD to other captive and wild cervids. Federal funding for this purpose is no longer available and farmed cervidae producers are no longer indemnified for the destruction of their animals. Without federal funding for the purchase of destroyed animals, producers will suffer considerable financial damages.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to provide funding for a federal program to pay indemnity for animals euthanized because of infection or exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding chronic wasting disease (CWD) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In fiscal year 2012, the congressional appropriation for the CWD program was reduced to approximately \$1.9 million; further reductions are expected for fiscal year 2013 pending congressional budget approval. Consequently, VS no longer has funds to pay

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indemnity for CWD positive, suspect, or exposed farmed cervids. VS has directed remaining program funds to the administrative costs associated with implementation of the national CWD herd certification program and will continue to advise States on development of herd plans to manage CWD affected herds.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: RESEARCH ON SENECA VALLEY VIRUS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Swine exhibiting vesicular lesions similar in appearance to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have recently been observed in commercial pork production operations in multiple states. Diagnostics conducted at the Plum Island Animal Disease Lab have excluded foreign animal diseases and isolated Seneca Valley Virus as the etiologic agent. Little is known about the epidemiology of this virus in swine but the similarity in clinical presentation to FMD results in the initiation of foreign animal disease investigations and potential disruptions in domestic markets, animal movements and access to international markets. There is an urgent need for basic and epidemiological research to further the swine industry's understanding of this disease complex.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service to conduct research on Seneca Valley Virus (SVV) and the idiopathic vesicular disease (IVD) complex in swine, and that USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services initiate epidemiologic studies, outreach and education to all stakeholders, including USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, enhancing awareness of the occurrence of SVV and IVD in swine. USDA should work with all stakeholders to develop and implement plans that will mitigate the consequences on markets in the United States and internationally when vesicular lesions not associated with foreign animal diseases are found at ante-mortem inspections or on the farm.

INTERIM RESPONSE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Due to the sporadic occurrence of Seneca Valley virus findings, design of epidemiologic observational studies will be difficult. VS will continue to conduct investigations of Seneca Valley virus and Idiopathic Vesicular Disease findings for source attribution and factors associated with disease transmission within lots of swine at slaughter and on-farm. Over time, data from these investigations may be compiled to provide a better understanding of the ecology of the virus and the epidemiology of the disease.

VS works closely with State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) to provide timely and efficient foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations, which have involved swine and Seneca Valley virus. While Seneca Valley virus is not an FAD subject to State or Federal regulatory actions, the lesions it causes can resemble foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). As an example of

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frequency of FAD investigations involving vesicular lesions in swine, in 2011 there were six. A 2007 FAD investigation at a swine slaughter establishment in Minnesota (for pigs that originated from Canada infected with Seneca Valley virus) resulted in significant improvements in plans to mitigate the consequences on markets in the United States, or internationally when vesicular lesions not associated with foreign animal diseases are found at ante-mortem inspections or on the farm.

First, SAHOs have the opportunity to use approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network diagnostic laboratories to perform an initial diagnostic test for FMD. This activity can significantly accelerate the time to obtaining an initial diagnostic result and decrease the pressure of uncertainty during an FAD investigation. Second, in the event that diagnostic samples need to be transported rapidly to NVSL FADDL for definitive diagnostic results, APHIS provides a contract for rapid transportation services. Since 2008, there have been three occasions where VS and SAHOs have used the rapid transportation services to quickly resolve (within 24 hours) an FAD investigation (Iowa 2009, Iowa 2009, Wisconsin 2012).

The successful implementation of FAD investigation policy requires close coordination, communication, and mutual trust among all stakeholders. To promote FADD training and communications, in 2012, VS developed the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Response and Refresher Training course, to promote highly cooperative efforts between VS and the States. To further facilitate communications and planning, APHIS streamlined FAD investigation policy in October 2012 with the issuance of VS Guidance 12001.1, "Policy for the Investigation of Potential Foreign Animal Disease/Emerging Disease Incidents." VS has also cooperatively developed a user friendly "Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Manual," which will be distributed to State, Federal and tribal personnel. The field manual provides essential information on all aspects of FAD investigations. This manual will be distributed in early 2013.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND RELATED
ORBIVIRUSES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH NEEDS FOR
BLUETONGUE AND RELATED ORBIVIRUSES**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bluetongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease viruses are of concern to producers in North America because of: a) new serotypes b) increased reports of clinical disease and c) increased geographical range.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the United States Department of Agriculture, and United States Department of Interior arrange a diversified blue-ribbon panel (including: industry stakeholders, university and federal researchers, Federal and State regulatory agencies) to determine research needs and identify and prioritize intervention strategies.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS, the Agricultural Research Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture will collaborate with the Department of Interior to engage industry stakeholders, wildlife biologists, researchers, diagnosticians, vaccine specialists, and regulatory officials to examine and assess the current status of ruminant orbiviruses in the United States, including identification of knowledge gaps and potential next steps. The engagement is planned for mid-May 2013 and will address topics that include surveillance for the agents and vectors, diagnostics, and vaccination options. The product of this engagement will be a widely-available white paper to provide information to stakeholders and the wider community, and to serve as a resource to guide future actions.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS**

SUBJECT MATTER: **BRUCELLOSIS IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE
AREA**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state and federal governments and the livestock industries have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) infection from cattle in the United States (US). 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 only known remaining focus of brucellosis caused by *B. abortus* in the US is the bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the efforts of the 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. Through the significant efforts of the federal/state/industry bovine brucellosis eradication program, Wyoming was declared bovine brucellosis Class Free in 1983, Montana in 1985, and Idaho in 1991. No cattle brucellosis affected herds were detected in the GYA for over a decade.

A brucellosis affected cattle herd was then detected in 2002 in Idaho, followed by the disclosure of additional affected herds in subsequent years in all three states in the GYA. Wyoming lost its Brucellosis Class Free status in 2004, Idaho lost its Brucellosis Class Free status in 2006, and Montana lost its Brucellosis Class Free status in 2008, all due to transmission of *B. abortus* from wildlife to cattle. All three states subsequently regained Class Free status. Due to recent program changes, at this time, the states can still remain designated as "Class Free", and additional program status definition changes are pending. However, brucellosis continues to spread to livestock herds in the GYA. Since 2002, 21 brucellosis affected cattle and bison herds in the vicinity have been identified. Animals from herds disclosed in Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 have been traced out to 14 states. This trend is not only extremely costly to the affected cattle herd owners and states, but seriously threatens the brucellosis free status of the rest of the country. The reasons for this alarming increase in brucellosis in cattle and domestic bison herds in the GYA are unclear and the large number of cases disclosed in the last decade is alarming. Without a better understanding of what has changed in the last 10 years resulting in this surge of brucellosis affected herds, such as factors or changes in wildlife or livestock populations, it will be difficult to mitigate transmission and to arrest the continued spread of brucellosis.

RESOLUTION:

As part of understanding the apparently changing dynamics of brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services in partnership with the state and federal wildlife agencies, undertake a comprehensive epidemiologic study to determine why the frequency of cases of transmission from elk to cattle has increased so dramatically in recent years. The information learned from this study can then be used to develop steps to more effectively prevent the risk of brucellosis spread to cattle and domestic bison and to eliminate brucellosis from cattle and domestic bison in the GYA and the United States.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees that prevention of brucellosis transmission from wildlife to cattle will be more effective with a better understanding of the factors associated with disease dynamics in wildlife populations.

The increase in brucellosis in domestic herds is due to increases in disease prevalence in elk populations and in elk contact with domestic herds. A comprehensive understanding of the role of elk in the transmission of brucellosis to cattle will require a broad evaluation of not only epidemiologic factors, but also the sociologic and ecologic factors associated with shifting elk behaviors and population dynamics affecting disease transmission.

The study of the sociologic and ecologic factors is outside of APHIS expertise and authority. However, VS is currently supporting activities that will improve the understanding of factors associated with disease dynamics and transmission, including: 1) a cost-benefit analysis of the reduction of brucellosis prevalence in elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area. This analysis is projected to be completed in late spring of 2013. VS will make the results available when the studies are completed. 2) a stochastic model that standardizes the evaluation of Brucellosis Management Areas within the Greater Yellowstone Area and uses data from both wildlife and livestock surveillance and survey activities. This model has been applied for current Brucellosis Management Areas. Model revisions, based on an independent review will be made in fiscal year 2013 and 3) cooperative agreement funding that supports wildlife agencies' disease surveillance and monitoring efforts in elk populations.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES**

SUBJECT MATTER: **DOURINE AND GLANDERS TESTING OF DOMESTIC EQUIDS AT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES, NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES LABORATORY**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) requires that all horses entering the United States (US) test negative for dourine and glanders (among other diseases). On the USDA-APHIS-VS-NCIE equine importation webpage USDA states "...importers may wish to verify that the horse is not positive for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis, and equine infectious anemia (EIA) before exporting. Horses that test positive by USDA for any of these diseases will be refused entry." For this reason, many shippers recommend that US clients test their animals for dourine/glanders prior to exporting them out of the US to know their horse's status before shipping since a false positive test result for re-entry into the US could occur resulting in refused re-entry of the horse upon return. Additionally, this testing recommendation provided valuable national equine herd passive surveillance for these diseases with the testing expense being paid by the submitter.

In April 2012, a USDA-APHIS-VS-NCIE policy change was instituted dictating that the USDA-APHIS-VS, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) would no longer test horses residing in the US for dourine or glanders, unless they were suspected of having the disease or were required to be tested by law (e.g., plasma donor horses). USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL, the only US laboratory that performs these tests, is now prohibited from doing so on healthy horses residing in the US. So, despite the USDA recommendation that US horses be tested for these diseases prior to shipping out of the country, there is no longer a way to test them and the passive surveillance for these diseases is lost. This USDA-APHIS-VS-NCIE testing policy change was not communicated to diagnostic laboratories or equine exporters.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to re-evaluate the dourine and glanders testing policy change for United States domestic equids and allow this testing recommended by USDA-APHIS-VS, National Center for Import and Export upon request, at the owner's expense. This testing provides United States (US) owners exporting horses the opportunity to pre-test domestic horses and possibly avoid a domestic horse returning home from being denied entry into the US due to a false positive test. Reinstitution of the USDA-APHIS-VS, National Veterinary Services Laboratory testing of domestic equids for these diseases is necessary and valuable for the passive surveillance of our national equine herd.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is drafting a policy on allowing U.S.-origin horses to be pretested for dourine and glanders before export. This policy will apply only to horses exported from the United States with the intention of future re-import. After completion, the policy will be communicated to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, VS field personnel, and industry. The draft policy will be completed by July 2013.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **20** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK**

SUBJECT MATTER: **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE CONTROL**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It has been stated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services that (1) the goal of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in the United States has now changed from eradication to controlling its spread, (2) there is no longer federal funding available to pay for CWD testing or to pay indemnity for CWD infected or exposed animals, and (3) depopulation of infected herds will no longer be required or expected.

With this major change in objectives, it is critical that we change the way we implement the CWD program in the United States. We now need a program that minimizes the risk of spreading CWD in farmed and wild cervidae without putting farmed cervidae producers out of business if their herds become CWD infected or exposed. We need a CWD control program that includes plans for how to (1) handle infected or exposed herds, (2) clean up infected herds without depopulation, and (3) provide outlets so producers can continue to sell velvet antler and live animals to slaughter or specified terminal facilities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and state animal health regulatory officials to develop protocols for the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) control program that mitigate the risk of the spread of CWD and allow producers with CWD infected or exposed herds to continue operations under quarantine and which allow (1) addition of cervidae from CWD certified herds, (2) participation in herd plans such as test and removal, and (3) movement of velvet antler and live animals to slaughter or other approved terminal facilities.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In conjunction with the publication of the chronic wasting disease (CWD) final rule in June 2012, VS prepared a set of program standards governing the voluntary national herd certification program. The standards provide further explanation and guidance on how participating States and cervid owners can meet the program requirements to certify herds as low risk for CWD.

The standards are divided into two parts. Part A covers herd certification program participation requirements; registration, identification, and recordkeeping; surveillance and sampling; and diagnostics and testing. It also describes the requirements for interstate movement of cervids in accordance with the rule. Part B provides guidance to States for responding to findings of CWD in farmed cervids, in accordance with the national CWD herd certification program. This section also provides suggested best management practices that may be used by States and by herd owners to investigate and manage CWD-affected herds, including development of herd plans and factors affecting continuity of business. VS will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to assist States and herd owners with these mitigation efforts.

VS has convened a working group to review the program standards (see Resolution 24).



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21

APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER:

FUNDING FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The requirements for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) herd certification (9 CFR 55) and for interstate movement of farmed cervidae (9 CFR 81) specify that all farmed cervidae greater than 12 months of age that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD.

The CWD testing protocol that is recommended for farmed cervidae is the immunohistochemistry test using formalin fixed samples of brain stem or a retropharyngeal lymph node. The test on either of these tissues is highly sensitive and specific for detecting the presence of CWD prion. The test costs at least \$25.00 per slide to perform at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved laboratories.

In the past, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services has provided funding to pay for CWD testing of wild and farmed cervids in the United States. Federal funding for this purpose is no longer available and farmed cervidae producers in most states must pay the entire cost for required CWD tests. Without federal funding for CWD testing, producer compliance with program requirements is likely to decrease. Without producer support, the program to control the spread of CWD in the United States may become less effective.

Funding for CWD testing was requested and approved in United States Animal Health Association 2011 resolution number 14.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to appropriate federal funding to pay the laboratory costs of testing farmed and wild cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **24** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND
ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK**

SUBJECT MATTER: **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PROGRAM
STANDARDS**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It has been stated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) that the goal of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in the United States has now changed from eradication to controlling its spread.

The document entitled, "Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards" was published by USDA-APHIS-VS in July 2012. It was developed before the shift of the CWD program from eradication to control and without adequate input from state wildlife and animal health officials or farmed cervidae producers. Sections of the document suggest placing restrictions on farmed cervidae producers that do nothing to further the effort to control the spread of CWD. The restrictions are not based on current scientific knowledge and could undermine the success of CWD control programs that have been in place in many states for more than a decade.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to revise the document entitled, "Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards", and establish a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program Standards Committee to review and rewrite the document within 90 days so that it more appropriately reflects the needs of producers and regulatory officials charged with implementation of a program to control, not eradicate, CWD in the United States.

The United States Animal Health Association suggests that the CWD Program Standards Committee should be made up of representatives from and appointed by each of the following organizations: (1) the Exotic Wildlife Association, (2) the North American Elk Breeders Association, (3) the North American Deer Farmers Association, (4) the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, (5) the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, and (6) the USDA-APHIS-VS.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. To address a number of concerns voiced at the 2012 USAHA meeting, VS established a CWD Program Standards Working Group. The goal of the working group is to discuss stakeholder concerns with the CWD program standards and to recommend revisions as necessary. The group is composed of three representatives each from the National Assembly, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the cervid industry; two representatives from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians; and experts from VS.

The working group first met on November 28, 2012, and continues to have weekly teleconferences. We expect revisions to the program standards to be completed by the first week of March. The revised program standards will then be made available for public comment through a notice in the Federal Register.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26, 9 and 30 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: EXPORT OF SHEEP AND GOATS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Under the National Scrapie Eradication Program the prevalence of scrapie in the United States flock has decreased significantly over the past 10 years. The funding for the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) has been reduced and participation by sheep and goat breeders has dramatically decreased. It has become increasingly difficult to find breeding sheep and goats for export shipments that meet importing country protocols that rely on SFCP participation. Additionally, new tools such as genotyping and live-animal testing can be used to identify sheep that are at low risk for scrapie. These approaches may provide an appropriate basis for revised export protocols.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Health and Plant Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to expand their negotiating tools for the export of sheep and goats beyond those that rely on the *Scrapie Flock Certification Program* participation alone and to encourage other countries to recognize current National Scrapie Eradication Program prevalence and surveillance data along with the use of other tools such as genotyping when appropriate.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding scrapie and trade and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Because scrapie is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, it garners increased attention and concern from importing countries. Therefore, despite the low prevalence of scrapie in the United States, scrapie affects the export of breeding stock, semen, and embryos to many foreign countries.

VS, as a part of international negotiations for export of sheep and goats from the United States, continues to promote the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP). Despite these efforts, most countries hold strictly to guidelines of the World Organization for

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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Animal Health (OIE), which limit us to using the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) to qualify breeding animals for export. Further, some countries do not recognize the SFCP program as meeting OIE requirements. We intend to ask OIE to modify the Scrapie Chapter to consider options such as genotyping to qualify animals for export.



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2012 Resolution

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER:

INCREASED FISCAL YEAR 2014 FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wildlife rabies is a serious public health concern. Globally, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) now estimates that 70,000 people worldwide die each year from rabies. ProMED (September 28, 2011) states that rabies is one of the world's most lethal zoonotic diseases, killing more people than severe acute respiratory syndrome, H5N1 influenza, and dengue fever combined. Domestically, wildlife rabies is still responsible for 92% of all reported rabies cases in the United States (Blanton, et al. JAVMA, 2012). The use of licensed oral rabies vaccine (ORV) has been effective in controlling rabies in certain terrestrial wildlife reservoir species since the early 1990's. Rabies control continues to be the embodiment of a One Health initiative and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization now believes that rabies and foot-and-mouth disease should be the next global diseases targeted for eradication.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, ORV program is designed to reduce transmission of wildlife rabies to domestic pets, livestock, and humans. The United States Animal Health Association agrees with OIE that the best place to address rabies control is at the animal source. Regular distribution of ORV to immunize target wildlife species increases the percentage of rabies immune animals in ORV baiting zones. Creating a reservoir population of immune animals results in a decrease in rabies cases and prevents the spread of rabies to new areas. Rabies programs in the United States that have integrated ORV with traditional public and animal health measures have successfully eliminated the transmission of the canine variant of rabies in south Texas coyote populations, halted the westward expansion of raccoon rabies variant at the Appalachian Mountains, and resulted in no reported cases of gray fox rabies variant cases in Texas since May of 2009. Today, federal and state sponsored ORV programs continue to monitor areas where rabies variants have been eliminated while addressing new challenges. The funding level requested would allow the USDA to maintain ongoing logistical support and wildlife rabies case surveillance necessary for the program, while maintaining existing operational programs to control rabies in target wildlife populations.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 114th Congress continue to support level funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program. However, consideration for additional funding in FY 2014 may be warranted to cover increased costs associated with operational programs that are successfully controlling wildlife rabies in 14 States and emergence of rabies in new locations or species.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

November 30, 2012

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
20250

Dr. David L. Meeker
President
U.S. Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Meeker:

Thank you for your November 19, 2012, letter expressing interest and support of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) coordination of wildlife rabies management and the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Resolution 27: "Support level rabies funding in FY 2013 and consideration for additional rabies funding in FY2014...to maintain an effective Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Vaccination Program."

In FY 2012, WS committed \$23.8 million in federally appropriated funds toward surveillance, control and research targeting raccoon rabies in the eastern U.S. and canine and gray fox rabies in the southwestern U.S. (primarily Texas). In FY 2013, WS plans to continue to implement the most effective program practical within FY 2013 funding levels once the budget process is completed and the allocation for rabies management is known.

Wildlife Services recognizes among its many priorities the need for new or improved oral rabies vaccines and baits to more aggressively achieve rabies management goals. In September 2011 WS and cooperators completed the first field trial to test ONRAB (Artemis Industries, Guelph, Ontario, Canada), a human adenovirus5-rabies recombinant vaccine. This oral vaccine has been successfully used by international cooperators in Canada. Encouraging results including nearly 50 percent of the raccoons sampled after ONRAB distribution with antibodies against rabies, lead to expanding field testing of this vaccine in FY 2012 in Ohio, and along the Quebec border in New York, Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as replicating the 2011 trial conducted in West Virginia. Results of these expanded trials are being analyzed and will serve to help chart the future direction of wildlife rabies management activities in the United States.

We greatly value the USAHA's continued interest and support of our efforts to protect animal and human health from rabies. We look forward to continued collaboration with the USAHA Public Health and Rabies Committee. Thank you again for providing us your resolution.

Sincerely,

William H. Clay
Deputy Administrator



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2012 Resolution

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28

APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE:

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF
POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES**

SUBJECT MATTER:

**SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL
DISEASE FUNDING**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has become a major source of funding for both basic and applied research on foreign animal diseases, supports two Centers for Excellence (Kansas State University and Texas A&M University), and owns and operates the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The DHS support has provided for useful advances in diagnostic tests and vaccines for several important foreign animal diseases. This funding has been applied primarily to mammalian diseases with limited support for diseases of poultry.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the United States Department of Homeland Security support funding for avian influenza vaccine projects.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER:

MINOR USE ANIMAL DRUG PROGRAM

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 the United States 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 urges Congress to include a permanent funding mechanism for the National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) program and urges the United States Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to include funding for the NRSP-7 in their budget requests at a level that meets the needs of minor use and minor species requests.



December 10, 2012

David L. Meeker, Ph.D., M.B.A.
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Dr. Meeker:

Thank you for your letter dated November 19, 2012, sent to Dr. Bernadette Dunham, Director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) sharing your 2012 Resolution No. 29: Minor Use Animal Drug Program which states, "The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to include a permanent funding mechanism for the National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) program and urges the United States Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to include funding for the NRSP-7 in their budget requests at a level that meets the needs of minor use and minor species requests."

FDA-CVM is a strong proponent of the need to fund research to support the approval of needed new animal drugs for minor uses and minor species. This commitment extends beyond the activities of the NRSP-7 Minor Use Animal Drug Program. Through our Minor Use/Minor Species (MUMS) Designation program, FDA-CVM budgets for and provides grants to support safety and effectiveness studies to support approval of MUMS products. NRSP-7 researchers are eligible to apply for these grants and have done so successfully. These are competitive grants available to any sponsor pursuing approval of a MUMS product that has "designated" status. These grants are helpful to the researchers in the NRSP-7, but they are not a substitute for the needed funding from USDA to administer the program.

It should also be noted, that while it does not directly fund NRSP-7 as a budget item, for decades FDA-CVM has provided one staff member to serve as the FDA Liaison to the Minor Use Animal Drug Program (NRSP-7). To date, the partnership of the liaison with the members of the NRSP-7 has led to the approval of 28 new animal drugs for use in minor species of agricultural importance.

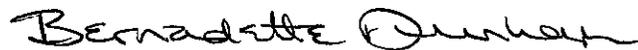
The NRSP-7 program has been a successful and efficient program and its continuation is of significant value to the stakeholders involved in raising minor species of agricultural importance.

FDA-CVM has every intention of continuing to provide a liaison to the NRSP-7 program and plans to continue to offer MUMS grants for designated products to researchers working in support of approval of designated MUMS products, including those working on NRSP-7 projects. These actions benefit the NRSP-7 program and do not require FDA to include funding specifically for the NRSP-7 program in its budget.

Your resolution should be directed only to the USDA to focus on the need for their budget to reflect support of this important program.

We appreciate you sharing your resolution and your ongoing interest in and support of our work.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernadette Dunham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Bernadette M. Dunham, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 and 35 Combined **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES**
COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: **STERILE SCREWORM FLY PRODUCTION AND**
DISTRIBUTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Screwworm larvae have been identified annually in the United States (US) over the last 12 years. These larvae are found in imported horses or dogs and cats originating in screwworm infested countries of South America or the Caribbean. Most detections have been found in Florida soon after importation, requiring steps to be taken to prevent further dissemination.

During a screwworm training exercise, conducted with state, federal, and industry responders in Florida, response planning included provision of sterile flies for release in Florida that were produced by both the Pacora, Panama plant and the Tuxtla Gutierrez plant in Mexico. Flies from both plants were needed to contain and control this simulated Florida outbreak.

During the past year, the United States Department of Agriculture discontinued US funding for the screwworm production plant in Mexico. The loss of production capabilities at this plant has raised serious concerns as to the ability of the US to respond to screwworm incursions into the US. Production at the Panama facility is needed to maintain the barrier zone in the Panama area to prevent normal migration of flies from the south and reestablishment of natural populations in Central America and Mexico.

It is critically important that plans be in place to meet the needs of state and federal responders in the event of a screwworm outbreak in the US.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture to have in place written emergency response plans to be shared with state cooperators for producing and distributing adequate sterile flies in the event of the reemergence of screwworm in the United States.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is currently writing a plan that will describe the production and distribution of sterile New World screwworm (NWS) flies to

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
2012 RESOLUTION

be used in the response to a U.S. outbreak of NWS. Up to 40 million sterile NWS pupae would be produced each week at the Pacora, Panama facility and flown to the United States for dispersal as adult flies throughout the outbreak area. This would be enough flies to cover an infested area of up to 3,000 square miles. A draft of the plan will be shared with State cooperators for review and input by July 1, 2013.

practices, who are on or near state borders and hold veterinary licenses in more than one state; practitioners acting as part of emergency service teams; practitioners participating in programs that provide services to underserved populations). That resolution asked the Attorney General to exercise authority granted by the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, 21 U.S.C. § 822 (d), to promulgate regulations that would waive the requirement for veterinarians in ambulatory practices to have a separate United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration registration in each state in which they are licensed or authorized to practice.

Two important points have been made clear from the DEA's response to the 2010 USAHA resolution, as well as its response to requests from stakeholders to modify regulatory requirements and allow registrants to transport controlled substances to locations remote from registrants' principal place of business (which may be necessary either within a given state or across state lines). The first is that this is a complex issue affecting many dispensers including, but not limited to, veterinarians. The second is that the authority accorded by 21 U.S.C. § 822 to the Department of Justice is insufficient to allow concerns to be resolved through a regulatory process—statutory change is required.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide a legal means by which the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration registrants or authorized agents may appropriately transport and utilize controlled substances when acting in the normal course of business or employment pertaining to the treatment of animals (domestic and wildlife) in locations outside of the principal place of business listed on their registration.