RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 and 5 Combined - APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)/American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Committee on Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Workforce Development (DLVWD) is to educate policy makers and influence North America's policy on the supply of and demand for veterinarians and laboratory diagnosticians as well as animal health laboratory facility needs. To effectively accomplish these goals, the committee members must analyze the gaps in veterinary workforce and facility needs. However, the committee does not have accurate data on the nation's veterinary workforce and animal health laboratory facility needs. In the past 12 months, there have been two veterinary workforce assessments completed - one for federally employed veterinarians and one for private veterinary practitioners. These assessments are missing data on state employed veterinarians, academicians, and industry veterinarians. In addition, there has not been a needs assessment conducted on animal health laboratories.

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) are interested in assessing the nation's veterinary workforce to identify veterinary workforce gaps between needs and demand. The Committee proposes that a joint effort between the NAFV, AVMA, USAHA, AAVLD, other veterinary associations, and the state and federal governments, be initiated and completed to assess the gap between the current demand and need for state and federal and animal health laboratory veterinarians in the national veterinary workforce needs. This information can be used to analyze needs and workforce gaps. The resulting analysis can then be used to better educate policy makers, develop strategies to resolve the needs identified, and ensure the nation is prepared to effectively respond to emerging and emergency animal health diseases.
RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) urge the National Association of Federal Veterinarians, American Veterinary Medical Association, federal and state governments, and other veterinary associations to develop and participate in a joint national effort in assessing and effectively addressing national veterinary workforce needs and animal health laboratory needs before the next USAHA and AAVLD annual meeting in 2014.
December 11, 2013

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford  
President  
U.S. Animal Health Association  
4221 Mitchell Avenue  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013 and attached resolution to the AVMA requesting our participation in a joint national effort to address the national veterinary workforce needs and animal health laboratory needs.

Let me assure you the AVMA shares the goal of your resolution and is currently working diligently towards that end.

The AVMA’s mission is to improve animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession. The objective of the AVMA is to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to public health, biological science, and agriculture. One of five goals of the AVMA’s current strategic plan is to strengthen the economics of the veterinary medical profession. A primary initiative of the AVMA’s economics strategic goal is to identify veterinary employment opportunities and develop solutions to effectively balance the needs of society with the supply of veterinarians.

The AVMA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM). This MOU has established a partnership intended to help increase the opportunities for public practice veterinarians and to provide training to better prepare veterinarians for careers in public and corporate veterinary practice.

Positive outcomes of this new partnership to date include completion of a white paper titled “Addressing Federal Hiring Needs with Veterinary Professionals”; developing an educational brochure designed to educate human resource departments within federal and state agencies, Congressional staff, and policy makers about the variety of skills and abilities that veterinarians possess which equip them to work in private practice with a goal of increasing job opportunities for veterinarians to work in federal, state and local government; and working to revise the federal government 701 series job description to expand the opportunities for veterinarians in the federal workforce. Also related to this MOU, as part of the AVMA’s Future Leaders Program the current AVMA Future Leaders Class is working collaboratively with the VMRCVM CPCVM on developing resources for veterinarians interested in making a career transition away from traditional clinical practice.
Additionally, the AVMA and the NAFV, while not members, sit on the Talent Management Advisory Council (TMAC) in an “advisory” capacity providing input and representation at TMAC meetings. The TMAC is an advisory group to federal agencies and to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The goal of the TMAC is to integrate the best human resource management tools and management practices in order to sustain the highest caliber of professionalism by Federal veterinarians. Currently the TMAC is drafting a Surge Capacity Plan/MOU between federal agencies. In addition, other recent TMAC activities include participation in a National Surge Capacity Workforce Assessment, meetings with Chief Human Capitol Officer and Human Resource federal agency officials on TMAC Veterinary Workforce Issues and working towards revision of the 701 series job classification.

Longer term goals include the measurement of the benefits and costs of the management and control of zoonotic diseases as a means to identify an appropriate level of veterinary professionals for monitoring and reducing the risk to animal and human health of these diseases both domestically and internationally.

Legislatively the AVMA continues to provide support for NAHLN authorization in the Farm Bill reauthorization and NAHLN funding in annual appropriations:

   i. Establishing authorized funding specifically for the NAHLN has been a longtime goal for AVMA. The NAHLN is a vital resource for our nation’s ability to detect emerging and foreign zoonotic disease to protect animal health, public health, and the nation’s food supply. Federal, State, and university-associated animal health laboratories have worked tirelessly to protect animal and public health and the nation’s food supply by providing diagnostic testing aimed at detecting biological threats to the nation’s food animals.

b. Annual Agriculture Appropriations: Funding for Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI), which was authorized under section 1484 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, is a high priority for the AVMA. FADI’s programs include the NAHLN, the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), and the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). NAHLN, NPDN and EDEN have distinct yet common missions in protecting U.S. agriculture and in supporting animal, plant and public health consistent with the mission of NIFA.

In summary, in partnership with the National Association of Federal Veterinarians, federal and state governments and other veterinary organizations (such as the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine), AVMA is diligently working to assess and effectively define and enhance the national veterinary and animal health laboratory workforce opportunities. AVMA welcomes additional dialog with USAHA and AAVALD pertaining to the national veterinary and animal health laboratory workforce opportunities, and other relevant topics, to help ensure AVMA’s continued support for public and corporate practice veterinarians and their associations.
Thank you for highlighting the importance of these issues to your associations and we look forward to working with you to improve the opportunities for veterinary professionals in the areas of public and corporate practice.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Mark Lutschauwig, Director, AVMA Governmental Relations Division (mlutschauwig@avma.org; 202-289-3205) should you have any questions or comments about AVMA’s statement.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Executive Vice President and CEO
American Veterinary Medical Association
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 - APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP

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, and academic partnerships formed as part of 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.

In August 2013, the National Institute of Animal Agriculture, the United States Animal Health Association, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service took the initial steps to form an FMD Preparedness Working Group comprised of Federal and State animal health officials, academia, and livestock and allied industry representatives. The working group will facilitate dialogue between all potentially impacted business sectors to accelerate modernization and implementation of efforts to prevent, detect, contain, eradicate, and recover from an FMD outbreak in the United States. The working group will consider current capacities and future needs to ensure continuing advancement of United States FMD preparedness, including emergency vaccination.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) urge the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to:
• Support, collaborate with, and provide guidance and information to the National foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Preparedness Working Group in all aspects of planning and preparedness for response to a FMD outbreak in North America.
• Receive and carefully consider integrating information from the National FMD Preparedness Working Group into Veterinary Services emergency preparedness and response planning.

The USAHA and the AAVLD urge the National FMD Preparedness Working Group to:
• Provide a mechanism for gathering broad stakeholder input to enhance FMD preparedness and response planning which would include assessing present capabilities, laying strategy for addressing preparedness and response gaps, and implementation of exercises to test the plans.
• Evaluate 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.
• Develop consensus among stakeholders on a plan of action, prepare a list of response needs, and initiate action to generate funding support for enhanced animal emergency preparedness.

INTERIM RESPONSE

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

APHIS concurs with Resolution 2 with respect to planning, preparedness, and stakeholder input for foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease, including vaccines. APHIS suggests generating funding to support animal emergency preparedness for FMD vaccine and exploring public-private partnerships to achieve goals. Stakeholder concerns regarding USDA-sourced FMD vaccine, quantities available, time to delivery, triggers or decisionmaking, sharing vaccine with Canada and Mexico, priorities for distribution, and plans to implement in an outbreak have been well documented in three APHIS hosted stakeholder meetings (September 2010, May 2011, and November 2011) and in numerous other stakeholder meetings and exercises, such as the Dairy Management Inc. FMD Dairy Crisis Drills, and most recently the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII FMD Exercise.

Working with stakeholders (Secure Milk Supply Plan and Secure Pork Supply Plan), APHIS has further defined response strategies for FMD response, to include vaccines, in the publicly shared “Classification of Phases and Types of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, March 2013.” This is an interim step to achieve better awareness of needed
preparedness capabilities. As a next step to engage stakeholders, APHIS has formed two internal working groups, FMD Vaccine Logistics, and FMD Vaccine Stakeholder Communication. The goal of these two working groups is to produce information that can be shared publicly with stakeholders regarding current North American FMD vaccine capabilities, for stakeholder use in their analysis, planning, and preparedness initiatives.

The next steps of the stakeholders working group include the USAHA meeting with VS staff in March 2014. Following this meeting, VS will be available to discuss vaccine information and the next steps for broader stakeholder engagement.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 and 20 Combined - APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: Q FEVER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The increasing public demand for raw milk combined with the threat of re-emerging *Coxiella burnetti* infection raises the need for a nationwide program to prevent Q Fever. The lack of a widespread surveillance program necessitates action by State and Federal milk regulatory agencies to protect the public health.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges each State Milk Regulatory Authority in states which allow retail sale of raw milk to include *Coxiella burnetti* surveillance in their raw milk inspection program. The programs should also include a public awareness campaign about Q Fever.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  4 - APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: AQUATIC ANIMAL DRUG APPROVAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Due to budgetary constraints, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. FWS) has discontinued funding for the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) program.

The AADAP program is an integral component in the drug approval process. Its goal is to “… ensure continued progress towards obtaining Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-compliant new animal drugs for Federal, State, tribal and private aquaculture programs in the United States....”

The AADAP program administers the compassionate Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) program that allows access to drugs which would be otherwise unavailable to those involved in aquaculture. The AADAP program also generates drug efficacy and safety data necessary to support FDA approval of new drugs for aquatic species. It has been involved in almost all aquatic animal drug approvals since its inception. The program also plays an important role in dissemination of information and drug use guidance though its newsletter, website, Aquaculture Drug Update list-serve, and the annual drug approval coordination workshop. Aside from U.S. FWS facilities, the private aquaculture industries, the veterinary profession, and animal health and welfare have all benefited from the AADAP program.

The drug approval process is long and expensive, with limited returns on the investment for pharmaceutical companies. However, approved drugs are an integral component of the management and control of diseases, while at the same time ensuring the quality and safety of our aquaculture products. Loss of this critical component for the drug approval process would further hamper the development and success of the U.S. aquaculture industry and deepen our dependence on foreign imports. The availability of FDA-approved drugs would enhance the harvest of safe and wholesome aquaculture products to meet growing consumer demand.
RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association strongly recommends that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledge the critical role that the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership program plays for federal, state, tribal and private aquaculture by restoring the financial support for the program for 2014 and beyond.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 – Combined with 1

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

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND RELATED ORBIVIRUSES

SUBJECT MATTER: VACCINE AND VECTOR CONTROL METHODS FOR THE VARIOUS STRAINS OF BLUETONGUE AND RELATED ORBIVIRUSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bluetongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease viruses have become a concern to both traditional and non-traditional livestock producers and wildlife biologists because of new serotypes, increased reports of clinical disease in cattle, farmed cervids and several wildlife species, and increased geographical range. The committee encourages the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to develop a vaccine and vector control methods that will protect against all known strains of these viruses.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service allocate resources to support Bluetongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) research at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit in Manhattan, Kansas, focusing on understanding the pathogenesis of the disease to facilitate the development of a vaccine and/or vector control methods to adequately protect the livestock industry from all strains of EHD.
January 15, 2014

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013, to Dr. Edward Knipling summarizing the resolutions that were passed at the most recent annual meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and that request involvement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dr. Knipling retired from Government service recently, thus please accept my response as the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Acting Administrator.

ARS appreciates the opportunity to speak to the USAHA resolutions. I can assure you that we share the concerns of USAHA members and will do all that we can to protect the health of America’s farm animals, and thus, the American consumer. Allow me to address the points individually.

- **Resolution 1:** USAHA requests that ARS allocate resources to support Bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease research at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas.

  **Response:** USDA in collaboration with the Department of Interior (DOI) organized a gap analysis workshop for international experts on orbiviruses. Workshop participants met at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas, May 14–16, 2013. They assessed countermeasures to effectively control and mitigate the impact of an outbreak of an emerging strain of orbivirus with epizootic potential, with special emphasis given to Bluetongue virus and epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus. A report of proceedings from the workshop that also highlights research priorities is expected to be completed and issued in January 2014. ARS will use its available resources to work with Federal and university partners to implement the research prioritized in the workshop report.
• Resolution 2: USAHA urges ARS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to research, develop, and validate genetic strain typing capabilities for *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* (equine piroplasmosis organisms).

  **Response:** The ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Washington, is working with university partners researching both causes of equine piroplasmosis and their genetic makeup.

• Resolution 3: USAHA requests that USDA and the DOI establish a panel to determine research needs and identify and prioritize intervention strategies to control chronic wasting disease.

  **Response:** ARS is will work with APHIS and DOI scientists to organize a workshop of experts at which they will assess gaps in our knowledge about chronic wasting disease and establish research needs and intervention strategies.

• Resolution 4: USAHA urges Congress to provide appropriate funding to ARS to construct new facilities at the Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Laboratory in Texas.

  **Response:** ARS appreciates the support of USAHA for updated laboratory facilities in Texas. ARS has established a Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) to prioritize its funding requests to Congress for new or updated facilities. Requests for a replacement facility will be based on the CIS, which in turn is based on both facility condition and program priority. ARS sees the program in Kerrville as a high-priority because of the condition of the facility; nevertheless, appropriations for facilities in general have been limited in the current tight budget environment.

I appreciate that USAHA members make significant contributions to ensuring animal health and food safety in the United States. Rest assured that USDA is working diligently to provide practical and effective solutions to the challenges recognized by USAHA members, and we look forward to working with you and other officials to solve them.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CAIRD E. REXROAD, JR.
Acting Administrator
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 and 14 Combined - APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS (EP) - GENETIC STRAIN TYPING OF EP ORGANISMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a foreign animal disease. The identification of EP-positive imported equids and the recent large-scale EP incident in a domestic population of horses have increased the need to identify the genotypic strains of organisms in positive EP equids detected in the United States. While natural, endemic transmission of EP is occurring at a very low level in the United States, a small number of EP positive horses continue to be detected. Many of these positive EP horses have direct ties to foreign countries endemic for EP, where the horse was believed to be infected. Currently, however, there is no validated method to determine different strains of each organism (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*) complicating the epidemiological and traceback investigations.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services, Agricultural Research Services and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory to research, develop and validate genetic strain typing capabilities for the equine piroplasmosis organisms *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services and the Agricultural Research Services (ARS) recognize the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciate the opportunity to respond. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories and the Animal Disease Research Unit at Pullman, Washington, have begun discussions on a collaboration to address this need. A single isolate (Florida strain) of *T. equi* has been sequenced, and sequencing of the *B. caballi* genome (Puerto Rico strain) is in progress. Comparative
genomics at the levels of specific genes will be utilized toward identification of potential strain markers. The decreasing cost and efficiency of whole genomic sequencing makes that method a potential avenue toward strain marker identification.APHIS and ARS will continue discussions to consider these and additional laboratory approaches and formulate a long-term work plan to meet the objectives of this resolution.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  8 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: INFORMATION SHARING FOR HERD HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The introduction of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus into the United States swine herd has resulted in the identification of gaps related to securely gathering and sharing premises, herd and laboratory data. The lack of premises identification numbers (PIN) and incomplete herd information on submission forms, along with variability in veterinary diagnostic laboratories’ capacity to capture PINs and share herd and diagnostic information between laboratories limits the timeliness and value of the information derived from shared data. A concerted effort to address this gap is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and its membership to enhance the capabilities to capture premises identification numbers (PIN) from laboratory submission forms and require PINs when forms are submitted with swine samples.

USAHA also urges the USDA’s National Animal Health Laboratory Network Coordinator to facilitate working with member laboratories to develop and implement a comprehensive solution for timely and seamless electronic gathering, collation and reporting of premises, herd and laboratory data needed for analysis and disease surveillance.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Animal Health Information Technology Board (NAHITB), which is composed of representatives from VS, State Animal Health Officials, and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), has held initial discussions regarding identifying information needs and gaps from industry’s perspective for data captured and reported by veterinary diagnostic laboratories. During these discussions, challenges regarding
laboratory business functions, information provided to the laboratories from submitting clients (specifically including premises identification), the ability for laboratory information management systems to capture and store certain data fields, and client confidentiality issues were identified. The NAHITB is working to develop key points to facilitate further communication among industry, veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and USDA and develop solutions to address the identified gaps.

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Coordinator, and others across VS, work toward expanding standardized electronic messaging of laboratory test results through the Laboratory Messaging Services (LMS), a modification of the existing NAHLN IT system. Within the upcoming year, LMS will be integrated with other VS animal health data systems to allow laboratory test result data to be electronically linked with foreign animal disease investigation and herd health management. Additionally, efforts are underway to develop and expand the National Veterinary Services Laboratories’ capability to electronically message test results and integrate with the State Animal Health Laboratory Messaging Services (SALMS). VS is actively engaged with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Center in the multi-year Enhanced Passive Surveillance Project.

All of these efforts are an important part of a multi-faceted approach required for a comprehensive solution to meet animal health disease surveillance needs.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: EMERGING DISEASES RESPONSE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the mid-1980s, the United States pork industry has experienced multiple emerging animal issues that have adversely affected swine health and production resulting in economic losses to the industry. The discovery of melamine in feed inputs incorporated into swine diets, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, porcine circovirus 2, novel H1N1 influenza and porcine epidemic diarrhea virus have made it clear that the industry is vulnerable to disease introductions and feed adulterations from global sources. These vulnerabilities need to be rapidly addressed to protect the United States pork industry.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to provide the infrastructure necessary to support the response to emerging diseases and support the pork industry as it develops an emerging diseases response plan.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS agrees that a more structured process for responding to emerging diseases is necessary for all livestock industries. VS is developing an emerging disease framework that will include processes and procedures for notification of disease events, characterization of the disease through time and by location, assessment of the event to determine next actions, and reporting mechanisms. A preliminary discussion of this framework was shared with members of the pork industry in a December 2013 meeting on responses to emerging diseases. This framework document will be completed in the third quarter of fiscal year 2014 and will be shared with a larger group of stakeholders for their input.
VS is working with the pork industry to develop and deploy Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to investigate emerging disease issues. VS is finalizing a cooperative agreement with the National Pork Board for collaboration on RRTs.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: RISK ANALYSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the mid-1980s, the United States pork industry has experienced multiple emerging animal issues that have adversely affected swine health and production resulting in economic losses to the industry. The discovery of melamine in feed inputs incorporated into swine diets, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, porcine circovirus 2, novel H1N1 influenza and porcine epidemic diarrhea virus have made it clear that the industry is vulnerable to disease introductions and feed adulterations from global sources. These vulnerabilities need to be rapidly addressed to protect the United States pork industry.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) to work cooperatively and urgently with the appropriate Federal, State, and industry stakeholders to undertake timely and proactive risk analyses regarding the introduction of diseases or adulterations via production inputs sourced from outside of the United States and assist industry in identifying the factors enabling disease introductions such as porcine epidemic diarrhea virus into the United States swine herd. VS should provide the outcomes of the risk analyses to the Swine Committee at the National Institute of Animal Agriculture’s 2014 annual meeting.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In response to the resolution, VS has initiated an exotic viral disease of swine pathway assessment. The purpose of the project is to conduct an entry assessment as the first step towards determining whether significant gaps exist in import regulations that may result in infections of U.S. domestic swine with
exotic viral pathogens of swine. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in March 2014.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS PROOF OF VACCINATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

While the practice of vaccinating for brucellosis has declined in much of the United States, many western States, especially those in or around the Greater Yellowstone Area still utilize vaccination as a principle component of their brucellosis mitigation programs. In some States, vaccination requirements are part of importation and change of ownership and movement regulations. Unfortunately, States’ regulations differ on what is considered proof of vaccination, with some requiring a legible tattoo even in animals with a vaccination tag, thereby creating issues for interstate commerce.

Traditionally, proof (and time) of vaccination helped differentiate a brucellosis infected reactor from an animal vaccinated with strain 19. Now that RB51 is the only approved vaccine for cattle and bison, proof of vaccination is only necessary for compliance reasons. In these cases, lack of proof can be remedied with re-vaccination without risk of causing test interpretation problems. Data supports that a second dose of vaccine will result in enhanced protection.

It is well documented that tattoos are often not permanent and are difficult to read on older cattle. Further, correct application of National Uniform Eartagging System or radio frequency identification individual official tags often allows these tags to have greater longevity than the tattoo and may be used as proof of vaccination if the orange color is used.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges all states to uniformly recognize a vaccination tattoo or an official brucellosis vaccination identification device as proof of brucellosis vaccination for the purposes of movement or importation. USAHA further urges the United States Department of Agriculture to modify brucellosis regulations to require a vaccination tattoo only if an official brucellosis vaccination identification device is not applied during brucellosis vaccination.
INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The proposed tuberculosis and brucellosis rule and the accompanying program standards to be published this year contain a protocol for identifying brucellosis vaccinates. When published, all stakeholders will have a chance to formally comment on the brucellosis protocol. In the meantime, APHIS will review current brucellosis vaccination tattoo protocols and official brucellosis vaccinate identification requirements and work with National Assembly of Animal Health Officials to address current concerns and meet program and traceability requirements.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS TESTING IN FARmed Cervidae

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the 1950’s several researchers have experimentally infected white-tailed deer with *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) and they are susceptible to the agent, but in no single case, either experimentally or naturally, have white-tailed deer been shown to transmit *B. abortus* to cattle or any other species. Only once in over 50 years has a free ranging wild white-tailed deer been shown to be infected with *B. abortus*. During this same time period, thousands of farmed white-tailed and mule deer have been tested as a requirement for interstate shipments without identifying any problems concerning brucellosis in these species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and state regulatory officials to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed white-tailed deer and mule deer.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Service recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Diseases such as brucellosis and tuberculosis continue to be reported in spillover infections between domestic livestock (including farmed cervids) and free-ranging wild bison, deer, and elk. Some areas of the country, like the Greater Yellowstone Area, are more impacted by this interface of disease transmission. APHIS is developing a proposed tuberculosis and brucellosis rule to address ongoing disease risks and current scientific perspectives on disease transmission and control. The rule will be published in the Federal Register for public comment. We encourage stakeholders to submit their comments at that time.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS - POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION TESTING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) is classified as a foreign animal disease. Since 2009, there have been several costly CEM incidents in the United States. The 2013 California incident reaffirmed the interest in and need for a rapid, validated, and economical diagnostic test for detection of the *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) organism in swab specimens from stallions and mares as well as in semen and vaginal exudates from mares. Current CEM investigation protocols require bacteriologic culture, isolation, and identification of the organism for diagnostic confirmation of the disease organism. This can be a slow process that on occasion is complicated by bacterial overgrowth on culture plates and also by the fastidious growth characteristics of the organism.

Although *T. equigenitalis* colonies are typically visible 72 hours after plating of a positive sample, in some cases it may take up to a week for colonies to appear. A rapid, robust confirmatory test, such as the PCR test, that does not have as stringent sample transport requirements as when submitting swabs for culture, would be highly beneficial to state animal health officials and diagnosticians. A validated PCR test would be a more economical, quicker means of screening stallions for the carrier state than conventional culture and test breeding. The PCR assay for *T. equigenitalis* requires additional research to ensure that it is fully validated for the determination of the status of stallions, mares and geldings based on screening swabs and perhaps other clinical specimens (i.e., vaginal exudate or semen) in the course of a CEM investigation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to prioritize research that is required to validate and subsequently secure World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) approval of a polymerase chain reaction assay for the detection of *Taylorella equigenitalis*.
INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS understands the need and value of a specific and rapid method to detect *Taylorella equigenitalis* in equine specimens. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has initiated a project to optimize a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay and evaluate its use to detect *Taylorella spp.* in swabs and semen. Initial testing will focus on archived samples from recent U.S. outbreaks and import horses, as well as negative samples from routine diagnostic testing. The ongoing work includes evaluation of DNA extraction methods, followed by PCR development and comparison to currently available PCRs. The NVSL will continue discussions and collaborations on this topic with other national and international experts, including the newly formed contagious equine metritis subcommittee.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  14 – Combined with 7

SOURCE:     COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER:   EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS (EP) - GENETIC STRAIN TYPING OF EP ORGANISMS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL EQUINE COMMUNICATION CENTER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States horse industry is unique in the livestock sector for its broad diversity of activities in all regions of the country and the world. Horses involved in business, sport, recreation, entertainment, gaming and environmental support add to the agribusiness economic engine. In addition to an annual economic impact of over $102 billion, the equine industry produces other public benefits, including recreation, exercise, working animals, stress reduction and entertainment.

The horse industry is at continuous risk of a disease outbreak of such proportion as to widely imperil the health of horses and threaten the economic viability of the industry. Equine industry reliance on the frequent and timely movement of healthy horses compounds this ever-present risk; the ability to move horses is critical to the industry. Compared to other livestock, horses are unique because they move much more frequently for breeding, competition, recreation and for import/export on both a temporary and permanent basis. Regulation of intrastate, interstate and international movement of horses is through multiple mechanisms, including policies overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs), privately-owned facilities or events, and foreign countries. An infectious disease outbreak in the United States can result in Federal or State restrictions on horse movement to stop the spread of the disease. The economic burden of equine disease outbreaks may include costs incurred associated with movement restrictions, enhanced testing, disease-specific treatment requirements, cancellation of equine events and equine mortality.

Effective management of equine infectious disease incidents requires preplanning and communication between all entities involved in monitoring and protecting horse health, including individual owners, venue managers, industry associations, SAHOs and VS. A June 2010 Impact of Equine Diseases workshop, co-hosted by VS and the American Horse Council (AHC), highlighted the need for the equine industry to have a comprehensive national equine health plan (NEHP) outlining the prevention, diagnosis and control of equine infectious disease and the responsibilities and roles of the VS, SAHOs, practicing veterinarians and individual horse...
owners. The AHC subsequently developed a NEHP framework document. One part of the
NEHP is the need for a comprehensive national Equine Disease Communication Center
(EDCC) for providing accurate, real-time information on equine infectious diseases to
regulatory officials and all segments of the industry to control disease and optimize equine
health. The American Association of Equine Practitioners in conjunction with the AHC
devised a plan and initiated creation of the infrastructure for an EDCC, which is a pivotal
part of a NEHP. For the NEHP EDCC to be effective, identification and coordination of
communication roles of VS, SAHOs and the horse industry are essential.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of
Agriculture, American Horse Council, American Association of Equine Practitioners, other
equine industry representatives and the National Assembly of State Animal Health
Officials to collaborate in the establishment of the Equine Disease Communication Center.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association
and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is committed to ensuring the development
of the Equine Disease Communication Center, the initial component of a National Equine
Health Plan.

VS continues to work closely with the American Horse Council on this issue and
represented USDA at the American Association of Equine Practitioners National Equine
Health Plan (Equine Disease Communication Center) Task Force meeting in December
2013. We appreciate additional opportunities to collaborate with the American Horse
Council, American Association of Equine Practitioners, other equine industry
representatives, and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials in the
establishment of the Equine Disease Communication Center. Our goal is to collaborate
with these stakeholders to finalize the National Equine Health Plan by the end of fiscal
year 2014.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH NEEDS FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the absence of an approved live animal test, vaccine, or recognition of genetically resistant animals, depopulation and indemnity of the herd mates is our only method of prevention to stop the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to other animals.

A Federal CWD Rule has been implemented with the purpose of controlling the spread of CWD versus eradication. To insure a successful program more tools are needed to manage this disease.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that 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 for the control of Chronic Wasting Disease.
The responses below refer to Resolutions 6, 7, 16, and 27.

January 15, 2014

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford  
President  
United States Animal Health Association  
4221 Mitchell Avenue  
Saint Joseph, Missouri  64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013, to Dr. Edward Knipling summarizing the resolutions that were passed at the most recent annual meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and that request involvement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dr. Knipling retired from Government service recently, thus please accept my response as the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Acting Administrator.

ARS appreciates the opportunity to speak to the USAHA resolutions. I can assure you that we share the concerns of USAHA members and will do all that we can to protect the health of America’s farm animals, and thus, the American consumer. Allow me to address the points individually.

- **Resolution 1:** USAHA requests that ARS allocate resources to support Bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease research at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas.  
  
  **Response:** USDA in collaboration with the Department of Interior (DOI) organized a gap analysis workshop for international experts on orbiviruses. Workshop participants met at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas, May 14–16, 2013. They assessed countermeasures to effectively control and mitigate the impact of an outbreak of an emerging strain of orbivirus with epizootic potential, with special emphasis given to Bluetongue virus and epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus. A report of proceedings from the workshop that also highlights research priorities is expected to be completed and issued in January 2014. ARS will use its available resources to work with Federal and university partners to implement the research prioritized in the workshop report.

Office of the Administrator  
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, Room 302-A  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0300  
An Equal Opportunity Employer
Dr. Stephen K. Crawford

- **Resolution 2:** USAHA urges ARS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to research, develop, and validate genetic strain typing capabilities for *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* (equine piroplasmosis organisms).
  
  **Response:** The ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Washington, is working with university partners researching both causes of equine piroplasmosis and their genetic makeup.

- **Resolution 3:** USAHA requests that USDA and the DOI establish a panel to determine research needs and identify and prioritize intervention strategies to control chronic wasting disease.
  
  **Response:** ARS is will work with APHIS and DOI scientists to organize a workshop of experts at which they will assess gaps in our knowledge about chronic wasting disease and establish research needs and intervention strategies.

- **Resolution 4:** USAHA urges Congress to provide appropriate funding to ARS to construct new facilities at the Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Laboratory in Texas.
  
  **Response:** ARS appreciates the support of USAHA for updated laboratory facilities in Texas. ARS has established a Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) to prioritize its funding requests to Congress for new or updated facilities. Requests for a replacement facility will be based on the CIS, which in turn is based on both facility condition and program priority. ARS sees the program in Kerrville as a high-priority because of the condition of the facility; nevertheless, appropriations for facilities in general have been limited in the current tight budget environment.

I appreciate that USAHA members make significant contributions to ensuring animal health and food safety in the United States. Rest assured that USDA is working diligently to provide practical and effective solutions to the challenges recognized by USAHA members, and we look forward to working with you and other officials to solve them.

Sincerely,

CAIRD E. REXROAD, JR.
Acting Administrator
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 and 18 Combined - APPROVED

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

SUBJECT MATTER: OBJECTION TO SALMONELLA LINKED TO HUMAN
ILLNESSES BEING DECLARED ADULTERANTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In May 2011, The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) petitioned the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service asking them to declare antibiotic-resistant strains of *Salmonella Heidelberg* in ground meat and ground poultry products as adulterants. On October 17, 2013, CSPI, as part of a coalition of consumer activist groups (collectively known as the Safe Food Coalition), submitted a letter to Mr. Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the USDA, urging him to immediately act on the 2011 CSPI petition, but to expand it so as to declare *all Salmonella serotypes linked to human illness* as adulterants when found in all poultry products (including raw intact poultry meat and bone-in parts).

Because there are more than 2400 different serotypes of *Salmonella* officially recognized and because human virulence or pathogenicity and antimicrobial resistance determinants are not readily identifiable, this request would effectively result in *all or nearly all Salmonella isolates* being declared adulterants in poultry products that are intended to be fully cooked before being consumed. This action would likely lead to a crippling economic burden on the poultry industry resulting in a reduced supply of poultry meat and increased food cost to the consumer with little to no demonstrable reduction in salmonellosis rates nationwide.

The salmonellosis burden in the United States is not solely attributable to consumption of raw poultry meat, but can also be contracted from consuming a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, eggs, pork, beef, and even some processed food products as diverse as peanut butter, dry dog food, scraped tuna, and tahini sesame paste along with exposure to pet dogs, cats, hedgehogs, reptiles (turtles, water frogs and African dwarf frogs) and mail order chicks and ducklings. [Ref: http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/outbreaks-2013.html]

In January 2013, the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) released an analysis of the reported foodborne illness cases in the Foodborne Disease Outbreak Surveillance
System during 2009 – 2010. The pathogen-commodity pairs responsible for the most outbreak-related illnesses reported to CDC in 2009 – 2010 were *Salmonella Enteriditis* and eggs followed by *Salmonella sp.* in sprouts and *Salmonella sp.* in vine-stalk vegetables. *Salmonella sp.* in poultry meat was not identified as a significant contributor to the overall salmonellosis rate.

[Ref: CDC MMWR Vol 62 No 3 January 25, 2013 *Surveillance For Foodborne Disease Outbreaks – United States, 2009 - 2010*].

Therefore, unilaterally imposing such a draconian measure on the poultry industry alone creates an unfair economic burden that will likely result in little public health benefit.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture to refrain from declaring any serotype of *Salmonella* an adulterant of raw poultry meat products, intact or ground, because this action is scientifically unwarranted and unlikely to result in measurable reductions in the national salmonellosis burden.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 Combined with 17

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

SUBJECT MATTER: OBSESSION TO SALMONELLA LINKED TO HUMAN ILLNESSES BEING DECLARED ADULTERANTS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FISCAL YEAR 2015 FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Rabies control continues to be the embodiment of a One Health initiative and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization now believes that terrestrial 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, oral rabies vaccine (ORV) program continues to reduce transmission of wildlife rabies to domestic pets, livestock, and humans. The United States Animal Health Association agrees with the World Organization for Animal Health (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 one reported non-reservoir case of gray fox rabies variant in Texas since May of 2009 and eliminated raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York in 2011. Today, federal, state and local sponsored and funded 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 and increased funding will allow new investigation into control of skunk rabies. Even in the recent dire economic environment, new states and counties have expressed interest in ORV projects.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the 113th Congress to appropriate at least $28 million in the FY2015 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, Oral Rabies Vaccine Program.
December 11, 2013

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford
President
U.S. Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter dated November 21, 2013, recognizing the importance and strategic value that the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has placed on controlling rabies at the animal source, supporting the continued coordination by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Association (APHIS), Wildlife Services of wildlife rabies management in the United States and acknowledges the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Resolution 19: “Increase FY 2015 Funding for the APHIS, WS' Oral Rabies Vaccination Program.”

In FY 2013 APHIS, 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). The FY 2013 level represents $862,000 reduction from the prior FY as a result of sequestration. In FY 2014, APHIS is currently operating under a continuing resolution but is planning levels similar to FY 2013 levels, contingent on an approved federal budget. WS plans to continue to implement the most efficient and effective program practical within the reduced funding level that began in FY 2013 as a result of sequestration.

In FY 2013 APHIS, WS continued collaborative oral rabies vaccine safety and immunogenicity field trials in the U.S. While we wait the final scientific results from these field trials with ONRAB® (a recombinant human adenovirus-vectored rabies glycoprotein vaccine in the ultralite bait, Artemis Technologies, Guelph, Ontario, Canada), WS continues to rely on Raboral V-RG® (Merial -- a Sanofi Company, Athens, Georgia) for operational rabies control activities. If the results of a comprehensive analysis from field research continue to show favorable outcomes, a decision will be made for the potential role for ONRAB to enhance our ability to more aggressively to conduct campaigns toward the elimination of raccoon rabies from the U.S.
Dr. Stephen K. Crawford

We appreciate input by the USAHA and greatly value the organization’s continued support of our collaborative efforts in “One Health” to protect U.S. agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety. We look forward to continued collaboration with the USAHA Committees. Thank you again for providing us your resolution.

Sincerely,

William H. Clay
Deputy Administrator
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 Combined with 3

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: Q FEVER
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: STATE OR REGIONAL BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS CLASSIFICATION FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established disease classification systems for program diseases that help determine the risk of those diseases within States or regions. Brucellosis classifications cover cattle, bison, and swine. Tuberculosis (TB) classification covers cattle, bison, and captive cervids. Goats and sheep are susceptible to both brucellosis and TB but the current disease classification system does not address these species. These diseases rarely occur in sheep or goats in the United States. USDA currently lists the status of the United States as “free” of B. melitensis for diseases reportable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Attempts to determine the prevalence of brucellosis and TB in U.S. goats and sheep identified two reports of disease. In 1999, a south Texas herd of goats and one sheep were diagnosed with Brucella melitensis (B. melitensis). Tuberculosis was diagnosed in 1991 and 1992 in two pygmy goats housed in zoos.

Despite the lack of any evidence of brucellosis or TB in dairy sheep or goats, the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) was modified in 1997 to require annual whole herd brucellosis and TB tests. A resolution from the United States Animal Health Association in 1998, requested a delay in the 1999 implementation of these requirements. A policy letter from the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners the same year recommended that no test requirements be placed on sheep or goats. The end result of these concerns was the addition of the “random statistical herd sampling” option to the PMO in 2001, which sets a minimum sample size based on herd or flock size.

Animal health rules from the 2011 PMO exempt cattle and bison from any testing requirements if they are from an area which has a certified brucellosis-free status and a modified accredited advanced TB or greater status. Since these classifications do not include sheep and goats the PMO testing requirements for these species remain in effect.

Establishing a brucellosis and tuberculosis classification for sheep and goats would allow State Veterinarians and USDA Veterinarians in Charge to develop appropriate brucellosis
and TB surveillance and testing requirements for sheep and goats while still protecting public health.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to conduct a risk analysis pertaining to brucellosis and tuberculosis (TB) in sheep and goats and to coordinate with the Food and Drug Administration to determine the need for testing for TB and brucellosis in these species.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS will reach out to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by April 2014 to determine whether a risk assessment would be sufficient to support a change in the tuberculosis and brucellosis testing requirements for sheep and goat dairies. If so, APHIS will look into whether there is adequate data to conduct a risk assessment and, if not, what data would need to be collected and the feasibility of collecting the required data.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: SEPARATE SHEEP AND GOAT COMMODITY HEALTH LINE ITEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In FY 2011, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) primarily addressed sheep and goat health/disease issues through the National Scrapie Eradication Program and National Animal Health Monitoring System studies. For FY 2012, VS requested that Congress approve commodity-based funding which would include horses, cervids, sheep, and goats in a single line item where funding could be transferred between the commodities based on priorities identified by VS and its partners. The proposed grouping of these species is reminiscent of the failed “Miscellaneous Diseases” line item in the VS budget of over 20 years ago.

The United States Animal Health Association is concerned that sheep and goat funding may be diverted to address needs of other species, which could jeopardize the eradication of scrapie from the United States and the health and well-being of sheep and goats.

The currently proposed species grouping of Equines, Cervids, and Small Ruminants (sheep and goats) is not appropriate to serve the health and disease needs of such a diverse group of animals. Equines and Cervids have very few common health and disease issues with Sheep and Goats. Emerging diseases in each of the species in the proposed grouping will most likely result in even less commonality in disease/health priorities among these species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to establish a separate funding line item for Sheep and Goat Health.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and
appreciates the opportunity to respond. Both fiscal years (FY) 2013 and FY 2014 President’s Budgets proposed creating a separate funding line for Sheep and Goat Health. Congress chose not to create this separate funding line when it finalized the FY 2013 and 2014 APHIS appropriations.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  23 - APPROVED

SOURCE:       COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER:  Q-FEVER (COXIELLA BURNETTI) VACCINE FOR SHEEP AND GOATS AND FOR HUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Q-fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacterium Coxiella burnetti. Coxiella infection is found in many species in many countries of the world, including the United States. The disease is a major cause of abortion in sheep and goats, which results in significant economic losses to producers, but also results in significant risk of transmission to human beings. Exposure to the products of abortion (or raw milk products) either directly or through environmental contamination poses a significant public health risk, as demonstrated by the recent Q-fever epidemic (human and goat) in the Netherlands.

Currently there is no vaccine available in the United States to prevent Coxiella burnetti infection or abortion in sheep and goats. Such a vaccine is available in Europe. The availability and approval of a safe and effective sheep and goat vaccine for Coxiella burnetti in the United States would serve to safeguard human health and prevent production losses due to this potentially devastating disease. Humans not in direct contact with aborting animals also face some risk of indirect environmental exposure, so effective vaccination of sheep and goats could play a key role in minimizing human exposure. Additionally, the availability and approval of a safe and effective human vaccine would provide protection for those with occupational risk of exposure to Coxiella burnetti.

RESOLUTION:

In priority order:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (Coxiella burnetti) vaccine for sheep and goats.

In addition, the USAHA encourages the Food and Drug Administration to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever vaccine for humans. The USAHA also encourages VS, Center for Veterinary Biologics to facilitate the importation, for
investigation and research, of available animal Q-Fever vaccines from the European Union and Australia.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

In priority order:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) stands ready to expedite the review of a Q-Fever (Coxiella burnetti) vaccine once an application is received. The CVB has issued several import permits for diagnostics, but to date, an application has not been received to either import the vaccine or manufacture it in the United States. As regulators, the CVB does not solicit industry interest in the manufacture, import, or marketing of a Q-Fever vaccine. However, the CVB will prioritize any such inquiries or requests by the industry and facilitate the review process.

VS will extend the concerns of USAHA and this resolution to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

As with any such request to import an unlicensed vaccine for research, the CVB must be provided with adequate information on the source and manufacture of the vaccine to determine that the vaccine will not endanger U.S. livestock populations. As indicated above, the CVB has not received such a request and does not solicit industry interest in vaccine importation. CVB is committed to expediting the review and approval process for the import of a Q-Fever vaccine for investigation and research.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 - 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.

It is further noted that the Minor Use/Minor Species (MUMS) Grant Program which is referenced in the interim response in 2012 relates only to projects with protocol concurrence, and that the MUAD Program is critical in providing information essential to food safety and animal care and welfare of sheep, goats and other minor species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to include a permanent funding mechanism for the National Research Support Program-7 (NRSP-7) 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.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE FROM THE AMERICAS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Although vaccines have been instrumental in eliminating foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from most South American countries, viral circulation still persists in some countries. The current Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) Plan of Action 2011–2020 for the elimination of FMD is based on the experience acquired by the countries and PANAFTOSA over the past 60 years. While several challenges need to be overcome, there is increasing confidence that FMD can be eradicated from the Americas by 2020.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service support the completion of the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease from the Americas by 2020 as outlined in the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center action plan.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS supports the goal of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the Americas by 2020. APHIS supports the current Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center action plan as resources allow. APHIS also recognizes that the eradication plan may need to be modified (as determined by situation, new technologies, additional challenges) between now and 2020. It is also important to note that FMD also exists in other parts of the world, so the risk of FMD introduction into the Americas poses an ongoing challenge for preparedness and eradication.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT OF THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A PUBLICLY-ACCESSIBLE RESOURCE THAT COMPILES IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, DISEASE-SPECIFIC, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MOVING LIVESTOCK INTERSTATE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States government’s final Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate rule that established general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate took effect March 11, 2013. While the Federal rule, commonly called the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule, stipulates a uniform set of minimum national standards for States and Tribes to follow, each State and Tribe is charged with administering traceability activities that align with the federal rule and have the flexibility to make a variety of decisions within the rule. For example, States and Tribes have the ability to agree to accept as official identification registered brands, tattoos or other breed-specific identification methods. Additionally, States and Tribes have the ability to agree to alternative documentation, as opposed to an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), to meet the ADT rule requirements.

While ADT was designed to provide this flexibility, variables among states increase the challenges in implementing the new approach. An ADT implementation survey was conducted in July 2013 by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Livestock Marketing Association. As anticipated, the survey, which was completed by 43 States, showed a great deal of variation in what States were accepting to meet the federal ADT requirements as well as a variety of additional state-specific identification requirements.

In addition to varying identification requirements, state livestock importation, movement documentation, and disease-specific requirements vary. Often, the answer to the question of what is required to move livestock from one state to another is to call the state veterinarian’s office in the receiving state. However, in many situations, such as livestock sold at a Saturday sale, the veterinarian who calls a State veterinarian’s office does not receive an immediate response.
Discussion at the USAHA and NIAA joint meeting on ADT in August 2013 and at other meetings have identified an industry need for one resource to find requirements for moving livestock of different classes from one state to another. Ideally, the resource could be available online and as a mobile application.

It was discussed in the Animal Identification committee at USAHA in October 2013 that this effort could begin with cattle movement requirements and then expand into other species. Also discussed at this meeting was the possibility of building a system that has uses in an animal health emergency situation in addition to its day-to-day uses. For example, perhaps this system could be used to provide information about new livestock and commodity movement requirements in the event of an emergency, such as secure milk requirements to allow the milk supply to continue flowing despite a disease event.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials collaborate with USAHA and private and public stakeholders to create and maintain an easy-to-use, publically-accessible resource that compiles identification, documentation, disease-specific, and other movement requirements for livestock moving interstate.

Furthermore, the USAHA supports the development of this resource being created in a manner that would allow for additional uses such as emergency response.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Animal Health Information Technology Board (NAHITB), with representation from the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and VS, formed a working group to respond to USAHA resolution 26. The working group completed its report, including a recommended solution, in December 2013. Their report was received and accepted by the NAHITB on January 16, 2014. The report has been forwarded on to the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials for its consideration.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, KNIPLING-BUSHLAND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Research Laboratory (KBUSLIRL) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Kerrville, Texas since 1963, does critical research and delivers game-changing technologies in support of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP) and the Screwworm Eradication Program (SEP), which have proven essential to maintain the health and well being of the nation’s livestock industries. The CFTEP and the SEP are monuments to the success of science, and a fine example of how productive cooperative efforts between federal and state governments, and the private sector can benefit mankind. Recent impactful and innovative agricultural research at the USDA-ARS KBUSLIRL, which is recognized as a global center of excellence in livestock insect science, done in collaboration with universities and the animal health industry include: the development of an anti-tick vaccine for the CFTEP; a transgenic screwworm for the SEP; and a system commercially available for the remote delivery of insecticide gel capsules to control horn flies infesting cattle. The USDA-ARS published its Capital Investment Strategy in April 2012. Investment in the construction of new facilities for the KBUSLIRL was recommended as part of this investment strategy. Construction of the new KBUSLIRL facilities was listed in priority group 4 and it was estimated to cost $45 million then. Whereas the Administration has proposed to fund this project, the inclusion of funding in the budget by Congress remains to be done.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Congress of the United States to provide appropriate funding to the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service for construction of the new facilities for the Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Laboratory (KBUSLIRL) in the area of Kerrville,
Texas. This will ensure continued protection of the United States livestock industry by fully supporting research activities which translate into technologies that minimize the impact of high-consequence pests. Construction of the new KBUSLIRL facilities will benefit human and animal health, and food and environmental safety while promoting sustainability in animal agriculture, and an abundant supply of affordable food for our nation and global partners.
The responses below refer to Resolutions 6, 7, 16, and 27.

United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

January 15, 2014

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013, to Dr. Edward Knipling summarizing the resolutions that were passed at the most recent annual meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and that request involvement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dr. Knipling retired from Government service recently, thus please accept my response as the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Acting Administrator.

ARS appreciates the opportunity to speak to the USAHA resolutions. I can assure you that we share the concerns of USAHA members and will do all that we can to protect the health of America’s farm animals, and thus, the American consumer. Allow me to address the points individually.

- **Resolution 1:** USAHA requests that ARS allocate resources to support Bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease research at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas.

  **Response:** USDA in collaboration with the Department of Interior (DOI) organized a gap analysis workshop for international experts on orbiviruses. Workshop participants met at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas, May 14–16, 2013. They assessed countermeasures to effectively control and mitigate the impact of an outbreak of an emerging strain of orbivirus with epizootic potential, with special emphasis given to Bluetongue virus and epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus. A report of proceedings from the workshop that also highlights research priorities is expected to be completed and issued in January 2014. ARS will use its available resources to work with Federal and university partners to implement the research prioritized in the workshop report.
• **Resolution 2:** USAHA urges ARS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to research, develop, and validate genetic strain typing capabilities for *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* (equine piroplasmosis organisms).
  
  **Response:** The ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Washington, is working with university partners researching both causes of equine piroplasmosis and their genetic makeup.

• **Resolution 3:** USAHA requests that USDA and the DOI establish a panel to determine research needs and identify and prioritize intervention strategies to control chronic wasting disease.
  
  **Response:** ARS is will work with APHIS and DOI scientists to organize a workshop of experts at which they will assess gaps in our knowledge about chronic wasting disease and establish research needs and intervention strategies.

• **Resolution 4:** USAHA urges Congress to provide appropriate funding to ARS to construct new facilities at the Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Laboratory in Texas.
  
  **Response:** ARS appreciates the support of USAHA for updated laboratory facilities in Texas. ARS has established a Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) to prioritize its funding requests to Congress for new or updated facilities. Requests for a replacement facility will be based on the CIS, which in turn is based on both facility condition and program priority. ARS sees the program in Kerrville as a high-priority because of the condition of the facility; nevertheless, appropriations for facilities in general have been limited in the current tight budget environment.

I appreciate that USAHA members make significant contributions to ensuring animal health and food safety in the United States. Rest assured that USDA is working diligently to provide practical and effective solutions to the challenges recognized by USAHA members, and we look forward to working with you and other officials to solve them.

Sincerely,

CAIRD E. REXROAD, JR.
Acting Administrator
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CLASSIFICATION OF CERVIDS FOR TUBERCULOSIS STATUS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is a lack of information on the use of the Dual Path Platform in the extensive general captive cervid population.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to allow the Designated Tuberculosis Epidemiologist to consider the herd and animal history in addition to test results when arriving at the final tuberculosis classification of a cervid.

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 must classify a cervid as a TB suspect or reactor in accordance with sections 77.20 and 77.34 in title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which stipulate TB classifications of animals based on the test results. In addition, VS has developed a guidance document on the Stat-Pak/Dual Path Platform to give staff additional information on how to determine classifications under the regulations. The guidance document states that exceptions to reactor classification may be considered but must be justified by the VS epidemiologist in writing.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPROVING REPORTING AND TRACEABILITY OF TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SUSPECT LESIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Surveillance for bovine tuberculosis (TB) in United States cattle is largely dependent on the efforts of State and Federal meat inspectors to submit TB suspect lesions detected in slaughter cattle to the diagnostic laboratory for evaluation. Success in tracing TB suspect lesions confirmed to be positive to their respective herds of origin is directly related to the quality of identification collected from the animal and submitted with the sample.

At times, TB suspect lesions are submitted without official identification devices, resulting in the inability to successfully trace the sample to the origin herd. Through the collection and reporting of all animal identification devices, the Granuloma Submission Report may improve tracing of TB positive lesions. This effort may serve as a more immediate means of augmenting and prioritizing ID collection at cattle slaughter plants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service to improve the collection of animal identification devices and the recording of animal identification device information on the existing Granuloma Submission Report. In addition, USAHA requests that the Granuloma Submission Report be submitted to State Animal Health Officials.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS completed training to standardize data entry for animal ID information for granuloma submissions at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). In addition, NVSL is revising the database structure in a way that specifically identifies whether official animal ID was submitted. VS will continue to work with FSIS to ensure all animal ID is submitted with granulomas. VS will provide a preliminary analysis of animal ID information by slaughter establishment later in fiscal
year (FY) 2014 to State Animal Health Officials, though a complete analysis is not expected until FY 2015.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: APPROVAL OF THE USE OF THE CHEMBIO DUAL PATH PLATFORM (DPP®) VETTB ASSAY FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE ELEPHANT TB STAT-PAK® ASSAY AS A PRESUMPTIVE OR SCREENING TEST FOR TUBERCULOSIS SURVEILLANCE IN CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay is recommended for use in surveillance for tuberculosis in elephants. As with the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay, the DPP® VetTB Assay is Center for Veterinary Biologics approved for use in the detection of tuberculosis in elephants. The DPP® VetTB Assay provides equivalent sensitivity [100% (95% CI, 84-100%)] and superior specificity [100% (95% CI, 97-100%) vs 95% (95% CI, 90-98%)] to the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay (Greenwald et al., 2009). With the DPP® VetTB Assay, seroreactivity to MPB83 and CFP10/ESAT-6 are independently evaluated; thereby, improving the ability to distinguish exposure to non-tuberculous Mycobacteria spp. from infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex organisms as compared to the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay (all 3 antigens are included in a single test line). With the DPP® VetTB Assay, the test sample and antibody detection reagents are each applied to separate nitrocellulose strips allowing independent migration of the sample and detection reagents to the antigen and control lines. Separate migration of the sample and detection reagents reduces interference associated with impurities in the test sample (e.g., red blood cells, hemolysis, contaminants, etc.). Only 5 microliters of test sample is required for the DPP® VetTB Assay as compared to 30 microliters for the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay, thus, minimizing the impact of sample impurities on test performance. Similarly, smaller colloidal gold particles (30-40 nm gold particles vs 300 nm latex beads) used with the DPP® VetTB Assay limit the possibilities for interference with impurities within the test sample. For detection of antibody, protein A/G is used with the DPP® VetTB Assay whereas blue latex beads coated with test antigen are used for detection with the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay. Thus, the DPP® VetTB Assay detects only IgG reactive with M. tuberculosis complex antigens whereas the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay detects all isotypes of antibody, increasing the possibility of detection of non-specific IgM responses. Each of these aspects (i.e., independent antigen detection, separate migration of antibody detection reagents and test sample, smaller sample
volume, smaller colloidal gold particles, and protein A/G conjugate to detect IgG responses only) improves the specificity of the assay. The DPP® VetTB Assay also has operational benefits as compared to the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay. These include: (1) ease of use with enhanced visibility of test bands for determining test status and (2) availability of a reader to provide an objective measure of band intensity, thereby, affording better communication between diagnostic laboratory staff and regulatory agencies, attending veterinarians, and clients.

The Elephant Tuberculosis Subcommittee of the USAHA Tuberculosis Committee has recommended the replacement of the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay with the DPP® VetTB Assay as a presumptive or screening test for tuberculosis in elephants.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Animal Care replace the Elephant TB STAT-PAK® Assay, with the DPP® VetTB Assay as a presumptive or screening test for tuberculosis in elephants.
December 17, 2013

Stephen K. Crawford, DVM
President, USAHA
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) thanks the United States Animal Health Association for its continuing support for the scientific advancement of tuberculosis diagnosis in elephants. We have reviewed Resolution 30 as presented in your letter of November 21, 2013.

As this resolution provides for an alternative to the currently unavailable Elephant TB StatPak® in the 2008 and 2010 versions of the “Guidelines for the Control and Treatment of Tuberculosis in Elephants,” USDA will make those changes in the information maintained on our website, as well as notifying elephant holders of the approved changes to available serological tests that meet the recommendations of the guidelines.

Thank you for your continued collaboration with USDA for the improvement of animal health.

Sincerely,

Chester A. Gipson
Deputy Administrator
USDA APHIS Animal Care
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: APPROVAL OF THE CERVIDTB STAT-PAK AND DUAL PATH PLATFORM AS OFFICIAL TESTS FOR SIKA AND MULE DEER IN THE CERVID TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Advances in the science of tuberculosis (TB) testing have led to the development of antibody tests. The approval of antibody tests for farmed cervids has decreased the need for handling of these species and increased the interest in TB testing by farmed cervid producers.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) previously licensed the CervidTB Stat-Pak for use in elk, red deer, and white-tailed deer. In October 2012, the CVB licensed the Dual Path Platform as a secondary test for bovine TB. CVB approved both tests for use in series in elk, red deer, white tailed deer, fallow deer, and reindeer.

In 2013, additional serum samples have been collected in the TB Serum Bank from sika and mule deer for validation with the Stat-Pak and DPP test.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services evaluate the CervidTB Stat-Pak and the Dual Path Platform for use in sika and mule deer in the Cervid Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.
In 2013, APHIS asked producers to voluntarily submit serum samples from their mule deer and sika deer to evaluate the CervidTB Stat-Pak and the Dual Path Platform VetTB Assay tests in those species. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) received approximately 150 mule deer samples, but very few from sika deer. The Tuberculosis Diagnostics Working Group evaluated the data from these two species and determined the sample size tested was inadequate to scientifically evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of the serological tests at this time. NVSL will continue to receive and bank serum samples until a statistically valid sample number is available for each species.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 - APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Critical for implementation of Comprehensive and Integrated Surveillance System (CISS) is the role of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), National Surveillance Unit to balance surveillance objectives with available surveillance streams, estimate costs and provide analysis back to the United States pork industry. For various reasons due to issues with infrastructure and resources, which have recently been addressed with targeted funding for CISS, this process has not occurred for previously identified surveillance objectives thus limiting CISS implementation.

The United States Animal Health Association’s (USAHA) Resolution 39 in 2011, urged the VS National Surveillance Unit to make the implementation of industry surveillance priorities, through appropriate surveillance streams and the communication of the results, a high priority to be completed in the first quarter of calendar year 2011. It requested that a progress report from VS be provided to the Swine Species Committee at the 2011 National Institute of Animal Agriculture annual meeting and to USAHA Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine.

In its final response to the 2011 resolution, VS indicated that they had:
1. begun developing a surveillance plan for African swine fever (ASF)
2. preliminary results of studies evaluating the suitability of tonsil for ASF diagnosis
3. developed national protocols to monitor slaughter condemn data for health anomalies
4. purchased off-the-shelf software for surveillance and disease management, and are integrating it into their information system

In the opinion of the USAHA Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine, inadequate progress has been made to achieve development and implementation of CISS since the 2011 meeting.
RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) National Surveillance Unit to make the implementation of industry surveillance, through appropriate surveillance streams and the communication of the results, a high priority. The committee asks VS to update the Swine Species Committee during the 2014 National Institute for Animal Agriculture Annual Meeting.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS considers implementation of comprehensive integrated surveillance systems (CISS) a high priority for all animal agriculture commodities. As VS continues to evolve swine surveillance programs from disease-focused to commodity-focused surveillance, stakeholder communication and collaboration will be paramount to the success of these efforts.

VS will provide an update of the CISS at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Animal Agriculture. Agenda items will include a review of CISS goals, a report of recent progress and current activities, a presentation of a framework for planning and decision-support, a discussion of essential stakeholder collaboration, and an assessment of solutions to data sharing constraints. VS looks forward to active stakeholder participation.
RESOLUTION NUMBER:  33 - APPROVED

SOURCE:   COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER:   THE PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS (PAST) ACT, HR 1518/S1406

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Soring of horses is the practice of purposely and deliberately causing pain to a horse’s front legs and hooves that results in exaggeration of the horse’s natural gait in show competition. The Horse Protection Act (HPA) of 1970 made the sale, auction and exhibition of sored horses illegal. Unfortunately, soring continues and, as USDA’s ability to detect it has improved, methods used to sore horses have become more creative and deceptive.

Chemical methods of soring involve applying caustics (e.g., kerosene, mustard oil) to the horse’s lower leg; the leg is then covered with plastic and a leg wrap for several days to allow the chemicals to penetrate the skin. The chemicals cause the horse’s leg to be sensitive to ‘action devices’ and their hoof to be sensitive to striking the ground. This method usually leaves obvious scars, which may be burned off using a chemical stripping agent (causing the horse additional pain).

Physical methods result in pain when the horse’s hoof strikes the ground. This causes the horse to lift its legs in an exaggerated high-stepping gait. Methods of physical soring include grinding or trimming of the hoof and/or sole to expose sensitive tissues or removal of the normal support structures of the hoof wall; inserting hard objects between the pads and the sole to place pressure on this sensitive area of the hoof; over-tightening of metal hoof bands to cause excessive pressure; improper shoeing techniques that violate the HPA; and purposefully causing laminitis.

Unethical trainers and owners use various tricks to avoid detection, including application of numbing agents that mask pain during inspection, but wear off by show time; use of harsh and/or painful training methods (stewarding) at practice inspections to teach the horse that flinching or reaction will cause worse pain; application of something painful in a location other than the hoof (distraction device) just before inspection; and providing a substitute horse for inspection (horse switching).

Soring may be detected by visual inspection of the horse’s posture and legs and by palpation of the horse’s lower leg. Signs of pain include excessive time spent lying down, unwillingness to move, and an abnormal posture while standing or in motion. Inspection and palpation of the leg may reveal swelling, pain, abraded skin, or other signs of inflammation. The hair of the horse’s lower leg may be wavy, rippled or curly, and there may be cording scars. Sore horses may also move forward very slowly with short, choppy strides. Technology used to detect soring includes gas chromatography to identify chemical agents applied to the leg; thermographic images, which can identify excessively warm (inflamed/painful) and excessively cool areas (numb); blood tests to detect drugs used to mask pain; iris scanning for horse identification; hoof testers to determine if laminitis or other hoof pain is present; and radiographic...
images to determine if there are pathologic changes to the third phalanx or if nails, screws, or other objects have been placed between the shoe pads and hoof to cause pain.

The Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, H.R. 1518/S. 1406, seeks to eliminate the soring of horses by improving USDA’s enforcement capabilities and strengthening penalties against violators.

Specifically, H.R. 1518/S. 1406:

- Makes the actual act of soring, or directing another person to cause a horse to become sore, illegal, whereas the original HPA only bans showing, transporting or auctioning/selling a horse that is sore, not the actual practice;
- Prohibits the use of ‘action devices’ (e.g., boots, collars, chains, rollers, or other devices that encircle or are placed on the lower extremity of the leg of a horse) on any leg of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, or Racking Horses at horse shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions and bans weighted shoes, pads, wedges, hoof bands, or other devices (often referred to as ‘performance packages’) that are not used for protective or therapeutic purposes. These devices may facilitate soring (action devices) or may assist in avoiding its detection (performance packages). The American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Veterinary Medical Association jointly called for a ban on the use of action devices and performance packages in the training and showing of Tennessee Walking Horses in 2012.¹
- Increases civil and criminal penalties for violations, and creates a penalty structure that requires a horse to be disqualified for increasing periods of time based on the number of violations.
- Allows for permanent disqualification from the show ring after three or more violations.
- Requires the USDA (rather than the current structure of horse industry self-regulation that has proven unsuccessful for more than 40 years) to license, train, assign and oversee inspectors to enforce the HPA.

Amendments to the HPA proposed in the PAST Act are consistent with recommendations made by the AAEP in its 2008 white paper, “Putting the Horse First: Veterinary Recommendations for Ending the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses,”² and are supported by the AAEP, the AVMA, and the American Horse Council, as well as numerous other horse industry, veterinary, and animal protection organizations, and horse industry professionals. As of October 16, 2013, the House bill had more than 200 cosponsors and the Senate version had 18.


RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports passage of The Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, H.R. 1518/S. 1406.
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 – NOT APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

SUBJECT MATTER: HORSE TRIPPING AS A RODEO OR CHARRO RODEO EVENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Horse tripping is the practice of roping the front or hind legs of a galloping horse, on foot or horseback—causing it to trip and come crashing to the ground—for the purposes of entertainment or sport. This inhumane activity is practiced in 3 of the 9 events typically held in a charreada or Mexican-style rodeo. Tripping is intentional and points are awarded for dropping the horse. The three events that include horse tripping are:

- Piales en lienzo—roping of the hind legs of a horse
- Manganas a pie—tripping or felling of a horse from on foot
- Manganas a caballo—tripping or felling a horse from horseback.

The intentional tripping of horses for sport or entertainment has been prohibited by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the National Professional Rodeo Association at their sanctioned events, and by the film and television industries, as monitored by the American Humane Association (“No Animals were Harmed”). Horse tripping differs from the popular rodeo event of calf roping because the high center of gravity of horses, and their longer legs and faster speed, creates more potential for injury, whereas the center of gravity for cattle is lower, they move more slowly and have sturdier limbs. Reported injuries include lacerations, dislocated joints, fractured bones and teeth and neck and shoulder injuries. Additional concerns have been expressed that the horses used for these rodeos are underfed and overused, repeatedly roped until lame, sometimes with rope burns down to the bone.

Horse tripping has been banned in eleven US states. Other states have chosen to address this activity through the use of existing, less specific animal cruelty statutes. Unfortunately, this activity continues.

The resolution expresses opposition to horse tripping and calls on those with potentially the greatest influence to act to get this activity stopped. The resolution further respects variation by locale, organization and stakeholder need(s) by allowing flexibility in selecting the approach that may be most effective for each situation.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) opposes the roping or lassoing of any equine by the legs (“horse tripping”) during sport or entertainment, and during training and practice for such events. The Association calls on all public officials, as well as leaders within the rodeo industry, equine industry, veterinary medicine, and animal protection, to find effective ways to eliminate this activity in the United States.