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**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT, EXPORT AND
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS & BIOTECHNOLOGY**

SUBJECT MATTER: National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Preparedness

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is the most contagious and economically destructive disease of livestock. An FMD event in the United States will have severe, profound and long lasting negative impact on the United States agriculture and general economy. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that economic losses due to an FMD event in the United States will range from \$15 billion to \$100 billion per year (Source: USDA FMD Vaccination Policy in the United States, September 2014). Recent experiences in the United States with foreign animal disease outbreaks (porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and H5 type high pathology avian influenza (HPAI)) underscore the need for preparedness in dealing with high consequence animal disease impacting agriculture. In collaboration with animal agriculture stakeholders, allied industry, academia, State and other Federal agencies, the USDA continues to progress on FMD preparedness and response planning.

Previously applied FMD disease mitigation through culling-to-control methods are not considered effective and practical for the scale and advancement of the United States livestock industry. Emergency FMD vaccination control measures with effective elimination strategies are the most viable option for minimizing the economic impact of the disease. Should FMD become endemic after an outbreak in North America, control of the disease with vaccination will likely assure some level of continuity of business for United States livestock producers.

The September 2014 USDA FMD Vaccination Policy states the following:

The goal (of this Policy) is to advance preparedness by facilitating discussion, if not consensus, among our many partners to identify what level of preparedness is adequate and cost effective when considering:

- *Procuring and maintaining a sufficient amount of vaccine for a large-scale emergency vaccination effort is extremely costly.*

- *Vaccine quantity currently available to USDA is sufficient to respond to a small, focal outbreak in an area that is not livestock-dense.*
- *FMD virus strains are sufficiently different so vaccinating against one strain may not protect against different strains, even if they are related.*
- *FMD vaccine cannot be currently produced in the United States (21 U.S.C. 113A). The current vaccine antigen concentrate (VAC) held by the North American FMD Vaccine Bank must be shipped abroad to be finished into vaccine.*
- *VAC currently held by the North American FMD Vaccine Bank is intended to be shared by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For VAC currently held by the North American FMD Vaccine Bank, the vaccine manufacturers can produce 2.5 million doses in 21 days upon receiving the VAC. For additional vaccine (created from a master seed and not currently stored as VAC), vaccine production can take as long as 14 weeks.*

In working with our stakeholders, USDA-APHIS believes that an efficient, overall approach to protect the Nation's livestock industry in an FMD outbreak can be developed. Although the vaccination aspect of preparedness presents unique challenges, these can be overcome with adequate advance planning and consideration of the capabilities and opportunities that public-private partnerships and cost-sharing can afford.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture, in concert with the appropriate agencies, to include a request for funding in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget to develop an optimal Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine Bank and to create an FMD Preparedness and Response Plan that supports continuity of business within the United States animal agriculture industry should a large scale, multi-state, multi-strain FMD outbreak occur. The development of this budget should be informed by the criteria set forth in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Sources Sought Notice (Solicitation Number: AG-6395-S-16-0086) issued by the USDA on March 14, 2016.

The request submitted should be adequate to fund expansion of existing FMD virus antigen stockpiles to allow for production of sufficient quantities of FMD vaccine by capable vaccine manufacturers to produce 25 million doses in a timely fashion of each of the top 10-13 FMD virus strains recommended by the FMD World Reference Laboratory (WRLFMD) for FMD vaccine banks in FMD-Free countries.