UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
2016 Resolution
120th Annual Meeting
October 13-19, 2016 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **7, 9, 11 and 24 Combined** **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS & BIOTECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT MATTER: **Sustained Fiscal Year 2017 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service / Influenza A Virus – Swine Surveillance Activities**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Economic losses due to influenza A virus in swine (IAV-S) infections are substantial and a global problem, ranking among the top three major health challenges in the swine industry. In addition, IAV-S continues to be a concern to public health and the poultry industry.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began a surveillance system in 2009 to better characterize the genetic diversity of IAVs of swine. Data from this surveillance system have revealed tremendous genetic diversity across IAV-S isolates. This diversity creates great challenges for effective vaccination control programs. The need for next generation swine influenza vaccines that elicit broader cross-protection has never been greater.

The IAV-S Surveillance Program has collected and characterized virus isolates from swine since it was initiated in 2009. The program supports both animal and public health objectives. Program goals include monitoring the evolution of the virus, providing isolates for research and the development of diagnostic reagents, and updating diagnostic tests and vaccine Master Seed stocks. Importantly, the information gained from the surveillance system has benefitted our human health counterparts at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by providing sequence data from isolates identified in inter-species spillover events.

Following the human vaccine model, IAV-S vaccine backbones could be approved by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Center for Veterinary

Biologics (CVB) to permit timely updates with new and relevant hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA) for vaccine seed strains. These backbones should exhibit high yield growth properties as well as attenuating mutations in the case of live attenuated influenza vaccine. Commercial vaccine manufacturers may select viruses based on HA and NA sequences from the surveillance system or from their own internal surveillance data for their customers. Viruses from the USDA IAV-S surveillance repository are readily available for this purpose.

CDC funds were provided for an initial pilot influenza surveillance project in 2008. Additional surveillance activities were funded by allocations from the HHS to USDA-APHIS as one-time, no year funds under the authority of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009 for pandemic influenza preparedness and response. Those funds will run out in Fiscal Year 17. This surveillance system is the best system in the world and has contributed greatly to understanding the influenza status in swine in the US and provides an incredibly valuable public health resource for the CDC.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 115th United States Congress to appropriate and the Secretary of Agriculture to allocate a minimum of $10 million of mandatory funding in future United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service budgets for influenza A virus in swine surveillance as part of a comprehensive and integrated swine disease surveillance program.