
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1 Combined with 6, 13, 16, and 22 APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES
 COMMITTEE ON SWINE
 COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON
 COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS, AND CAMELIDS**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Adequate Funding for Prevention, Diagnosis, and Response for
 Foreign Animal Disease Outbreaks**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As United States animal agriculture has become increasingly dependent on exports, it is imperative that there are adequate resources in place to prevent, diagnose, and respond to Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks. For example, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) would immediately close all export markets. The cumulative impact of an outbreak on the beef and pork sectors over a 10-year period would be more than \$128 billion. The annual jobs impact of such reduction in industry revenue is 58,066 in direct employment and 153,876 in total employment. Corn and soybean farmers would lose \$44 billion and nearly \$25 billion, respectively, making the impact on these four industries alone almost \$200 billion. A workable FMD vaccine bank can minimize the impact on livestock producers and reduce government costs of a catastrophic FMD outbreak in the United States.

State resources to address prevention of, and preparation for, FAD outbreaks and other animal disease emergencies are often inadequate. Prevention and preparation will be essential in minimizing the impacts to animal agriculture of a FAD incursion.

Laboratory capability to detect and diagnose an initial incursion of a FAD quickly and capacity to meet diagnostic needs during an outbreak response is essential to an effective response including determination of the scope of the outbreak and opportunities to continue interstate movement and resume trade. Utilization of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratories will augment the activities of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories at National Veterinary Services Laboratory and Plum Island. The laboratories will need to operate synergistically for maximum effect.

While the response to a FAD often includes mass depopulation of animals, the United States Department of Agriculture FAD PRoP plan for FMD is contingent on vaccination for all but the smallest, localized outbreak. The United States currently does not have access to enough

FMD vaccine to handle more than a very small, localized disease event. Worldwide vaccine production is limited, and there is no surge capacity to produce the millions of doses needed to address a large-scale outbreak in the United States. Iowa State University estimated it would cost \$150 million a year for five years to bring vaccine availability to the level necessary to control such an outbreak.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, and State Departments of Agriculture/Animal Health Commissions to recognize the critical importance of a vaccine bank that prioritizes an adequate number of doses of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine, including surge capacity; the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and block grants for State animal health agencies to enhance their ability to prevent and prepare for a foreign animal disease emergency. USAHA further urges the aforementioned groups to support, to the extent legally permissible, mandatory funding of \$150 million per year for the life of the Farm Bill for the vaccine bank, \$30 million per year for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and \$70 million per year in block grants to States to enhance their ability to prevent and prepare for a foreign animal disease emergency within the next Farm Bill.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding foreign animal disease prevention, diagnosis, and response and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS realizes the importance of maintaining and improving the ability of the United States to respond to foreign animal disease events. VS has been closely monitoring proposals developed by several animal health stakeholder groups which seek to enhance these capabilities through the creation of new programs and additional funding within the next Farm Bill. VS has offered testimony on Capitol Hill regarding these proposals and will provide technical assistance if requested, as Congress begins drafting the Farm Bill.