
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 an FAD incursion.

Laboratory capability to detect and diagnose an initial incursion of an 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 response to a FAD often includes mass depopulation of animals, the United States Department of Agriculture FAD PReP 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.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 APPROVED AS AMENDED

**SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

SUBJECT MATTER: Veterinary Public Practice Awareness and Promotion

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There have been several workforce studies over the last few years addressing the future of veterinary medicine and the critical role the profession plays in meeting societal needs, and the additional challenges the profession faces such as increased student debt, mental health and wellness, career transition, and retention in the profession. Most citizens of the nation are not aware of all the significant contributions veterinarians make to public health. To meet the increasing costs of veterinary education and the decreasing federal and state funding to support that education, veterinary colleges are increasing tuition and increasing class sizes in an attempt to meet those financial challenges.

A National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report from 2013 entitled “Workforce Needs in Veterinary Medicine” states that most of those students will likely practice companion animal medicine, and that “these actions will increase the supply of companion animal practitioners, the largest group of veterinary practitioners, at a time of uncertain demand for companion animal services.” The report further states that “the veterinary profession should expand its capacity to address complex global problems, such as those associated with food security, by encouraging interactions between United States (US) veterinary graduates and other disciplines and cultures, particularly in the developing world, where the profession has the opportunity to leverage its expertise in One Health and lead advances in food animal husbandry welfare, water safety and security, and the health of wildlife and ecosystems.” However, society must be convinced that investment in veterinary medicine is imperative. The study states that “the public, policymakers, and even medical professionals are frequently unaware of how veterinary medicine fundamentally supports both animal and human health and well-being” and that “broadening the public’s understanding will require commitment by veterinary leadership, the academe, and practitioners to develop and promote the profession as one that offers diverse career paths with many different niches for veterinarians, ranging from traditional companion animal practice to public and private sector positions in biomedicine, animal research, wildlife, the environment, global food production, food safety and security, and public health.”

An Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) report of 2008 stated, "To safeguard the US economy, public health and food supply, there must be recruitment and preparation of additional veterinarians into careers in public health, food systems, biomedical research, diagnostic laboratory investigation, pathology, epidemiology, ecosystem health, and food animal practice." Conclusion 1 of the NAS report states in part "societal needs for veterinary expertise are substantial and growing, but the potential contributions of veterinary medicine are not realized because appropriate positions in relevant sectors are lacking." Although there are many reasons why there has not been adequate public sector financial support of veterinary education and opportunities, one clear reason is the lack of awareness of the public and decision-makers, and indeed many early career veterinary students, as to the value, skills, and broad interdisciplinary capabilities of veterinarians. To enhance the ability of the veterinary profession to better meet societal needs and to provide more opportunities for employment for veterinarians, it is critically important to increase public awareness of the skills, abilities, and broad-based training of veterinarians.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians strongly urge the American Veterinary Medical Association to develop and implement an action plan to lead a public relations campaign with a goal to raise public and professional awareness of the breadth of skills of veterinarians in diagnostic and regulatory medicine and the contribution of veterinary medicine to public, animal, and environmental health.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

**SUBJECT MATTER: Equine Infectious Anemia Testing for Horses Imported
through Southern Border Ports**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Horses imported from Mexico have been identified as a high risk population of horses which pose a significant risk to the health of the national equine population. Over the past few years, there have been numerous horses confirmed to be infected with Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) at the southern border ports. Mexico importers recognize the issue and one importer has suggested to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) port veterinarian that positive horses identified in the United States (US) be branded to prevent dissemination of disease. USDA policy is to reject entry of EIA positive horses and their cohorts. However, while awaiting test results these positive horses remain in the border pens with insect vectors which have the potential to spread disease to all horses in the pens at the Mexican border. These exposed horses enter the United States incubating disease and have the potential to distribute EIA infection throughout the United States. Additionally, once rejected the exposed horses are not tracked or monitored and have the potential for re-presentation at the same border port or another Mexican border port. Lastly, the official EIA test used for entry purposes is the agar gel immunodiffusion test which has the potential for not identifying early incubation of the disease agent. With the prevalence of disease in Mexico, the border port identification challenges, the lack of vector control at the ports and the challenges in diagnostic testing, additional measures are necessary to protect the health of the US equine population.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to take the following actions regarding equine entering through the southern border ports:

1. Implement a 45-90 day pre-import negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Agar Gel Immunodiffusion (AGID) test requirement for all equidae entering through a Southern Border Port. Test must be performed by a Laboratory Approved by the National Government Animal Health Authority.
2. Require a statement on the importing health certificate which states "Between the time of EIA test and export, the equid has not been on an EIA infected premises or exposed to an EIA positive equid."
3. The positive equid and all exposed equidae in the lot with the EIA reactor animal shall be requested to be microchipped and the identification information be recorded in a searchable database. This database shall be developed to have the ability to identify and recognize these equidae and prevent the exposed equidae from being allowed entry for 45 days.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL
COMMERCE**

SUBJECT MATTER: Identification and Documentation of Cattle in Commerce

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 11, 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule became effective. Under the final rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moving interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection. Owner-shipper statements or brand certificates may be used in certain circumstances when shipping and receiving states agree to alternative movement documentation. Beef breed stocker/feeder cattle less than 18 months of age are exempted from the ADT rule regarding official identification unless they are destined to an exhibition, show, rodeo, or recreational event. At that time, states were encouraged to issue official National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags to producers to identify livestock.

Traceability has improved since the implementation of the ADT rule. There continues to be gaps in the ability of states to trace diseased cattle back to their premises of origin. States have encountered challenging problems such as improper administration of NUES tags, errors in recording NUES tags, and lost time and errors in transcribing information from paper forms into easily searchable databases to trace cattle in some disease cases.

The cattle industry, the United States Department of Agriculture, and State Animal Health agencies rely on traceability to control and respond to disease incidents quickly, facilitate business continuity in the event of a disease outbreak, and satisfy domestic consumers and international trading partners. To be more effective and efficient in these tasks, the United States' cattle traceability program must be strengthened.

While it is expected that increased efficiency and decreased labor costs will allow the industry to purchase tags and equipment and maintain equipment after the program is in place and functioning properly, it is equally expected that the USDA will provide seed money to states and/or industry for the same. The successful implementation of a conversion to electronic identification (ID) from NUES tags will depend on the ability to negotiate a cost sharing agreement between the involved parties.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary

Services (VS) and State Departments of Agriculture, Animal Health Commissions, and Boards of Animal Health to set a mandatory date of January 1, 2021 to discontinue allowing visual only tags (including NUES tags) to be applied as official identification (ID) and a date of January 1, 2023 for all cattle and bison which are currently required to be officially identified under the rule to have electronic official ID tags which meet the standards defined by the USDA.

USDA shall be responsible for determining the specifications of the electronic official ID tags and reading equipment on or before July 1, 2019 after consultation with technology companies, industry, and other countries that have successfully implemented electronic ID programs. Official electronic ID tags must be read at the speed of commerce. Cattle and bison shall be identified prior to or when they leave their premises of birth or at the first point of commingling. Traceability to the premises of birth shall be maintained. Federal and State cost sharing shall be considered.

Federal/State Agencies, Industry, and Technology Companies shall ensure cost sharing for this project.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

SUBJECT MATTER: Brucellosis Testing in Farmed Cervidae

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the last 50 years of bovine brucellosis eradication in cattle in the United States, elk and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) have been an impediment to the completion of the Program. Whitetail deer, mule deer, and elk in the other 47 brucellosis free states have never been identified as being either a reservoir for the disease or a public health risk in regard to being infected with *Brucella abortus* or transmitting the agent.

The elk in the GYA are not privately owned or controlled, and it is presently illegal to trap, possess, or transport these free-ranging elk privately. Therefore, they cannot legally enter animal commerce channels and are not an issue in regard to interstate shipment of brucellosis-infected elk.

In 2013, the United States Animal Health Association membership approved a resolution to eliminate interstate *Brucella* testing requirements for whitetail deer and mule deer.

RESOLUTION:

- 1) The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed elk, red deer, and other cervid species that originate outside of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) if and when a federal rule for Brucellosis is published.
- 2) The United States Animal Health Association urges state regulatory officials to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed elk, red deer, and other cervid species that originate outside of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

SUBJECT MATTER: Farmed Cervid TB Herd Certification Testing Intervals

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The primary objective of the cervid bovine tuberculosis (bTB) herd accreditation program is to eliminate *Mycobacterium bovis*, the causative agent of bTB, in farmed cervids as part of a comprehensive approach to eradicate bTB in domestic cattle and bison in the United States. All farmed cervids destined for interstate movement are required to be tested for bTB.

To establish an Accredited Free herd in the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Cervid bTB Herd Accreditation Program, the entire herd of cervids over 12 months of age must have two negative tests in 9-15 month intervals. The accreditation is valid for 33 to 39 months from the original anniversary date and a negative whole herd retest must be performed in that period of time to maintain the accredited herd status. Animals from Accredited Free herds are allowed to be moved interstate at any time without additional testing. Details on the bTB testing requirements for interstate movements of cervids from monitored herds, qualified herds, and accredited herds from modified accredited States and zones are provided in the federal regulations (Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 77 and 86) and in the 1999 Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) on Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to modify the tuberculosis test requirements for maintaining cervid accredited herd status described in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77.35 to allow the test interval to be extended to 5 years for certain cervid herds if all of the following requirements have been met:

1. The cervid herd has continuously maintained accredited status for at least 6 years following initial herd accreditation.

2. Since initial herd accreditation, all non-natural additions to the accredited cervid herd have come from other accredited cervid herds only.
3. No evidence of bovine tuberculosis has been disclosed in either cattle or cervidae (wild or farmed) in the state or zone within the state in which the cervid accredited herd is located for the most recent 6 years.

Further, if bovine tuberculosis has been disclosed in either cattle or cervidae (wild or farmed) in a state or designated zone within the state in which the cervid accredited herd is located within the most recent 6 years, the test interval for maintaining cervid accredited status will be 3 years.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT MATTER: Standards for Labeling Requirements for Fetal Bovine Serum

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The animal serum industry and its products, especially Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), have suffered reputational damage over the years due to issues with product integrity and traceability.

In 2006, serum producers organized the International Serum Industry Association (ISIA), which established ethics and industry standards and set the stage for improving the industry's reputation through audit and certification processes.

Notwithstanding this effort, in 2013 an incident occurred via discovery that over a five-year period (2008-2013) an estimated 280,000 liters of FBS had been adulterated and mislabeled. United States (US) and European authorities were alerted and measures were taken to recall the unused products. The company involved has since gone out of business, but the consequences of this incident on research projects, diagnostic lab results, and vaccine producing companies is still unknown. It is possible that years of research may have been adversely affected, as well as the accuracy of diagnostic test results, safety of vaccines, and the reproducibility of protocols. The recall alert stated that FBS may have been adulterated with "adult bovine serum albumin (BSA) of US origin, water and/or cell growth promoting additives...in varying portions...ranging from 23-50% of the products composition..." Furthermore, it appeared that some lots were inaccurately represented as to their origin. Estimates were that the company involved in this incident controlled up to 25% of the worldwide market for FBS.

Because the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service does not have authority to directly regulate the serum industry and animal serum products, their involvement in this incident and other reported cases is limited to preventing the adverse effects questionable products may have on individual licensees of Veterinary Biologic products. FBS used by researchers, constituting approximately one third of all serum produced and used in the US, is not regulated. Therefore, in most cases, the serum producer is not held accountable by USDA in the event of issues with its products and their potential adverse effects.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to study the possibility of requesting authority and/or amending existing regulations, which would support standards for labeling requirements for all Fetal Bovine Serum products, as well as penalties and recall responsibilities.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: State Animal Health Official and Submitting Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Access to Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Records Reported from the National Animal Health Laboratory Network Labs and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory to the United States Department of Agriculture's Laboratory Messaging Service

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Laboratory Messaging Service (LMS) is a database application that serves as the centralized point of receipt for electronic veterinary diagnostic records being reported from National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs to the USDA. LMS also receives test results being reported from cases forwarded from NAHLN labs to the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for further diagnostic testing. Significant advances have been made in the NAHLN's ability to electronically transfer (message) veterinary diagnostic records from NAHLN labs and NVSL to LMS. These stepwise improvements in connectivity between veterinary diagnostic laboratories (VDLs) and USDA represent great progress towards establishing seamless and scalable systems of reportable disease veterinary diagnostic information transfer between United States VDLs and veterinary medical officials. However, USDA does not currently have an effective application for providing State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs) electronic access to the VDL records received into LMS that have originated from animals or farm sites in their respective States. Similarly, NAHLN labs do not have electronic access to diagnostic results from case submissions in which they forward onto NVSL for further testing. Permissioned access solutions are needed to bridge this gap in connectivity that exists between the USDA's LMS, State Animal Health Officials, and VDLs.

The USDA response to a previous resolution referred to USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) doing an assessment of 2016 capabilities and initial requirements. The response then included the intention to pilot test a state-based reporting solution to provide SAHOs with electronic access to veterinary diagnostic laboratory results that have been electronically reported to USDA, APHIS, VS using the VS LMS during the spring of 2018. Pending the successful pilot, the web-based software would be fully deployed by October 1, 2018.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to

1. Work with State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs) and industry to determine the requirements for a web-based reporting software solution and then develop an application that provides SAHOs electronic access to veterinary diagnostic laboratory records originating from animals or farm sites within their respective States that have been reported from National Animal Health Laboratory Network Labs or USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) to USDA's Laboratory Messaging Service,
2. Provide veterinary diagnostic laboratories electronic access to diagnostic results from case submissions which that same veterinary diagnostic laboratory has forwarded onto USDA, APHIS, NVSL for further testing, and
3. Work with State Animal Health Officials and industry to ensure the full deployment of the web-based software solution resulting from the 2018 pilot project if the project meets the previously determined launch date of October 1, 2018.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: A Nationally-Coordinated Bio-Surveillance System that Rapidly Delivers Real-Time Data for Analysis to Improve Foreign Animal Disease Detection

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As United States (US) 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.

These costs can only be mitigated if the US can mount a swift and thorough response once FMD is detected within our borders. Delay in detection of FMD or any other regulatory foreign animal disease risks a fatal delay in response.

On April 12-13, 2017, more than twenty-six representatives from the US swine industry, State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs), federal animal health officials, and academia came together for a common priority to discuss protecting swine health and developing a national bio-surveillance system for the US swine industry. Specific key elements and recommendations captured in the final report from the discussions at the workshop can apply to all animal protein species. The group agreed that a national surveillance vision should be risk-based, real-time, reliable (accurate information), efficient, representative, and integrate data in a timely manner so disease events can be identified quickly.

Some Across-species Key Elements of an Optimal Risk-Based Comprehensive Disease Preparedness System

1. Supports prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery from foreign and emerging animal diseases of concern
2. Includes a process for prioritizing, evaluating, implementing, and revising surveillance objectives
3. Includes feed and other common production inputs
4. Utilizes standardized, electronic, real-time data capture for data that will support risk-based preparedness

5. Facilitates communication between existing industry, state, and federal disparate response and database systems
6. Produces timely action oriented executive summary information for “rapidly digestible situational awareness”

FADs, including FMD, classical swine fever and African swine fever, are often clinically (visually) indistinguishable from other endemic, non-regulatory diseases. A Twenty-first Century approach to FAD surveillance is needed to quickly identify an outbreak and achieve meaningful disease response and business continuity capabilities that will drive sustainable production in the US animal protein industries in the event of a foreign animal disease that threatens to disrupt trade and commerce.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture to collaborate with stakeholders to organize and facilitate a meeting of animal protein commodity organizations, state animal health officials, and other critical stakeholders to discuss the following key elements to help achieve progress in developing an optimal nationally-coordinated bio-surveillance system that rapidly delivers real-time data for analysis to improve foreign animal disease detection.

Some Across-species Key Elements of an Optimal Risk-Based Comprehensive Disease Preparedness System

1. Supports prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery from foreign and emerging animal diseases of concern
2. Includes a process for prioritizing, evaluating, implementing, and revising surveillance objectives
3. Includes feed and other common production inputs
4. Utilizes standardized, electronic, real-time data capture for data that will support risk-based preparedness
5. Facilitates communication between existing industry, state, and federal disparate response and database systems
6. Produces timely action oriented executive summary information for “rapidly digestible situational awareness”

As the disease is continuing to expand, the tools previously available to address the problem have become unavailable.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges that within the Select Agent regulations, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) permit brucellosis research studies on pathogenesis under field conditions in endemic areas based on natural transmission of disease.

Further, the USAHA urges the USDA and DHHS to vigorously work to remove *Brucella abortus* from the Select Agent list.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: H5/H7 LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA RESPONSE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is the Federal government's poultry disease control program administered in cooperation with state animal health officials and poultry producers. The General Conference Committee (GCC) of the NPIP is the Official Federal Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture on matters pertaining to poultry health. Among other duties, the GCC is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) on maintaining adequate NPIP funding to enable the Senior Coordinator to fully administer NPIP Provisions, advise USDA, APHIS with respect to administrative procedures and interpretations of the NPIP Provisions as contained in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations, and to serve as a direct liaison between the NPIP and the United States Animal Health Association.

In 2002 H7N2 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was identified in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia costing producers hundreds of millions of dollars. A surveillance program was not in place to detect the potential spread of Avian Influenza (AI). In response, the NPIP LPAI program was created to provide an incentive for regular AI surveillance and to protect poultry producers through indemnification and compensation should H5/H7 LPAI be found.

AI remains a concern for poultry producers in the US with the H5N2 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 23 states in 2014–2015; H7N8 HPAI/LPAI in Indiana in 2016, H5N2 LPAI in Wisconsin in 2017, and H7N9 HPAI/LPAI in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia in 2017. The NPIP is the only Federal program responsible for H5/H7 LPAI surveillance, response, and containment activities. HPAI flocks are fully indemnified and compensated by USDA, APHIS, VS; however, indemnity and compensation for H5/H7 LPAI flocks is under discussion by VS. Disruption of indemnity and compensation for H5/H7 LPAI can result in loss of confidence and trust, and could potentially create a harmful impact on future responses to H5/H7 LPAI. This loss of confidence and trust discourages poultry producers (commercial, independent growers, and small flocks) from fully complying with NPIP testing programs and cooperating with state and Federal regulatory authorities. Without dedicated funding for LPAI indemnity and compensation, there is no incentive for producers to participate in voluntary NPIP programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services provide a clear policy on H5/H7 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) indemnity, compensation, and Initial State Response and Containment Plans. USAHA requests that policy be developed with input, participation, and feedback from the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Participants, Official State Agencies, and the NPIP, General Conference Committee. Changes will be presented to delegates for discussion and voting at the 2018 NPIP Biennial Conference. In addition, the USAHA requests that Congress appropriate new, no-year, mandatory fiscal appropriations dedicated for LPAI indemnity and compensation to ensure continued participation in NPIP H5/H7 LPAI programs.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: H5/H7 LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is the Federal government's poultry disease control program administered in cooperation with state animal health officials and poultry producers. The General Conference Committee (GCC) of the NPIP is the Official Federal Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture on matters pertaining to poultry health. Among other duties, the GCC is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) on maintaining adequate NPIP funding to enable the Senior Coordinator to fully administer NPIP provisions, advise USDA, APHIS with respect to administrative procedures and interpretations of the NPIP provisions as contained in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations, and to serve as a direct liaison between the NPIP and the United States Animal Health Association.

In 2002 H7N2 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) was identified in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia costing producers hundreds of millions of dollars. A surveillance program was not in place to detect the potential spread of Avian Influenza (AI). In response, the NPIP LPAI program was created to provide an incentive for regular AI surveillance and to protect poultry producers through indemnification and compensation should H5/H7 LPAI be found.

AI remains a concern for poultry producers in the United States with the H5N2 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 23 states in 2014–2015; H7N8 HPAI/LPAI in Indiana in 2016, H5N2 LPAI in Wisconsin in 2017, and H7N9 HPAI/LPAI in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia in 2017. The NPIP is the only Federal program responsible for H5/H7 LPAI surveillance, response, and containment activities. Disruption of prevention and surveillance activities for H5/H7 LPAI will result in loss of confidence and trust, and could potentially create a harmful impact on future responses to H5/H7 LPAI. This loss of confidence and trust discourages poultry producers (commercial, independent growers, and small flocks) from fully complying with NPIP testing programs and cooperating with state and Federal regulatory authorities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to increase funding for the avian health commodity line item appropriation.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS AND CAMELIDS

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, goat, and camelid disease and to the maintenance of animal health. The Minor Use Animal Drug (MUAD) Program provides much-needed and valuable service to the sheep, goat, and camelid industries throughout the United States. Strategies to prevent antimicrobial resistance and promote antimicrobial stewardship, an issue of emerging importance, depend on accurate recommendations on therapeutic regimen and withdrawal periods for responsible extra-label use of medications in small ruminants. The continued work of the MUAD Program will be essential to the sustainability and growth of the industry through the availability of the United States Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for use in sheep, goats, and camelids.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) appreciates and supports the efforts of the MUAD Program. 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. USAHA acknowledges the importance of research conducted under the MUAD Program. It is further noted that the Minor Use/Minor Species Grant Program 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, camelids and other minor species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress to authorize a permanent funding mechanism for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program and urges the United States Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to include permanent funding for the Minor Use Animal Drug Program in their budget requests at a level that meets the needs of minor use and minor species requests.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER: National Scrapie Eradication Program Funding

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Due to the success of the cooperative National Scrapie Eradication Program, no new cases of scrapie have been identified in the United States (US) in the past 18 months. There are key components of the program that have been critical to this success and the effort to have the US be recognized internationally as free from scrapie, which would open new markets to US sheep and goat products. Surveillance and traceability are vital to this eradication program. Program use of sheep and goat official tags have demonstrated that official plastic tags are preferred over metal tags for readability and to reduce safety concerns. Funding for tags that are readable, acceptable to producers and efficient for regulators is essential to continue identification compliance and progress of the program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture to request a congressional appropriation of five million additional dollars of new money to be added to the Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant health line for the purpose of supporting Small Ruminant Health Programs to complete the eradication of scrapie and assure program success. It is vital that this new funding does not reduce other current United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services program funding lines.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE AND CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

SUBJECT MATTER: Annual Reporting on Chronic Wasting Disease Epidemiological Data

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been recognized in wild cervids since the 1980's. Availability of complete epidemiological information is critical for evaluating the effectiveness of science-based disease control programs. Access to pertinent information from epidemiological investigations across the country in wild populations is imperative to developing success strategies for managing the disease.

More comprehensive information is needed on CWD epidemiology in the affected wild populations. Analysis of data from CWD affected populations across the country will improve risk assessment. Comprehensive epidemiological data evaluation may potentially identify factors contributing to the detection of CWD, enhance mitigation strategies to reduce the likelihood of CWD in new populations, and facilitate its earliest detection when it is present.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and other appropriate federal and state agencies to work cooperatively to assemble, analyze, summarize, and make available annually to the Committee on Wildlife and Captive Wildlife at the USAHA meeting all pertinent information from epidemiological investigations of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in cervid populations (including wild, free-ranging, and captive). Specific information requested may include:

- 1) Compiled CWD testing data from each state to include:
 - a) Overall state testing numbers of each susceptible species tested;
 - b) Number of CWD positive tests found annually in each state;
 - c) Overall state testing in wild populations;
 - d) Prevalence of CWD in positive populations;
 - e) Population totals for each susceptible species of wild herds in each state;
 - f) Demography of positive and negative animals in infected herds;
 - g) Results from all tissues that were tested;
 - h) Duration of monitoring prior to detection of the first case - including numbers of animals in the herd, numbers tested, and numbers not tested;
 - i) Results of trace-forward and trace-back investigations; and
 - j) All other pertinent data that will enhance risk assessment of CWD in cervids and identification of effective mitigation measures.
- 2) Compiled data should also be posted on the USDA website.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC AND VECTOR BORNE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: Development and Implementation of a Cattle Fever Tick Control Program in Mexican States Bordering Texas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP), established in 1906, is the oldest livestock pest eradication program in the nation. CFTEP's mission is to eradicate fever ticks from the United States (US) and to prevent re-establishment of cattle fever ticks in the US. A permanent quarantine zone was established along the Texas side of the Rio Grande in 1943. Cattle fever ticks were eradicated from Texas in 1946, except for incursions across the river into the permanent quarantine zone and the free areas of Texas.

The establishment of the permanent fever tick quarantine zone in 1943 created a buffer zone between Mexico and the rest of the US to prevent and/or limit the incursion of fever ticks into the fever tick "free" areas of country. Since that time, successful maintenance of the permanent quarantine zone has been based on the systematic inspection and treatment of cattle maintained within the zone to detect and eradicate incursions of fever ticks from endemically infested wildlife hosts and cattle from Mexico. From the onset of the CFTEP, 100% treatment of all cattle on infested premises has proven to be the most effective method of eradicating cattle fever ticks. The successful eradication of fever ticks from the US in 1946 was primarily attributable to the 100% treatment requirement.

However, in the last twenty years, factors such as changes in land use transitioning away from cattle production to wildlife, recreational uses, and increasing wildlife populations, especially white-tailed deer, elk, red deer and Nilgai antelope, have complicated and challenged fever tick eradication efforts and thus, successful maintenance of the permanent quarantine zone. The CFTEP has incorporated additional treatment and preventative treatment methodologies, such as ivermectin-treated corn for treating white-tailed deer, treatment of cattle with doramectin, and the use of a fever tick vaccine in cattle to help offset the impact of these challenges, but has not completely mitigated the challenges because there are not any available treatments for fever tick infested Nilgai antelope and some other cattle fever tick hosts.

Despite the incorporation of new methodologies into the existing eradication program, fever tick infestations, both within and outside of the permanent quarantine zone, are expanding. The largest contributing factor to the expansion is the fever tick burden present on Mexican origin wildlife and livestock populations located along the Rio Grande in Mexico. Mexico does not have a fever tick eradication or control program that would

decrease the fever tick population/burden on wildlife and livestock on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. When coupled with the inadequacy of the Rio Grande river as a barrier, especially, for cattle fever tick infested wildlife, the unchecked fever tick population in Mexico will continue to cross the Rio Grande on infested wildlife and livestock, overwhelming the capability of the CFTEP to successfully maintain the efficacy of the buffer created by the permanent quarantine zone and resulting in ongoing incursions of fever ticks into the “free” areas of Texas, and potentially the rest of the US.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Agriculture Research Service to collaborate with Mexican National Animal Health Officials, Mexican State Animal Health Officials from the Mexican states that border Texas, and Mexican livestock and wildlife industry representatives to develop and implement a fever tick control or eradication program that will reduce or eliminate the fever tick population along the Mexican side of the Rio Grande river, and thus the threat of fever tick incursion presented by wildlife and livestock populations across the Rio Grande from the permanent quarantine zone in Texas.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC & VECTOR BORNE
DISEASES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Accelerated Research and Development for Support of
Integrated Eradication efforts of the Cattle Fever Tick**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cattle Fever Ticks (CFT), known scientifically as *Rhipicephalus* (formerly *Boophilus*) *annulatus* and *Rhipicephalus microplus*, threaten the profitability and viability of the United States (US) livestock industry. These ticks transmit the agents causing bovine babesiosis, or cattle tick fever, and anaplasmosis, which can kill cattle. A dire need exists to find sustainable solutions for the current emergency situation with CFT in the US.

Efforts by the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP) have historically concentrated in the Permanent Quarantine Zone located in south Texas since CFT were eradicated from the rest of the US in 1943. Preventing the re-emergence of CFT into the US however is complicated because;

- CFT in Mexico continuously attempt to expand to the north
- CFT can be resistant to certain chemicals (also known as acaricides) used to kill ticks
- Complex interactions between CFT and exotic weeds along the transboundary region
- Stray livestock and wildlife crossing the Rio Grande from Mexico
- The significant increase of CFT infestations in White-Tailed Deer (WTD) and Nilgai.

WTD and Nilgai come in contact with cattle, and preserve CFT populations in the environment. These changes have recently led to multiple outbreaks of CFT involving cattle deep into South Texas, with the potential for this livestock pest to re-establish throughout the Southern US.

Integrated management practices that consider the new ecology of CFT and adaptation of precision agro-ecological practices are required to address the livestock-wildlife interface aspect of the problem. Development of novel technologies is also required to eliminate acaricide-resistant CFT.

In collaboration between the CFT response, research and stakeholder communities, the following CFT priority research objectives have been developed, along with a projected annual research expenditure of approximately \$15 million dollars;

Research Objectives:

1. Discovery and testing of new vaccines for control of cattle fever ticks and the Babesia pathogen
2. Develop alternative treatment methods for cattle
3. Field treatments for horses, corrals, pens, and pasture loafing areas
4. Develop methods for control of cattle fever ticks on Nilgai antelope
5. Improve effectiveness of treatments for infested deer
6. Identify, evaluate and release biological control agents from native range of cattle fever ticks in Southeast Asia and Europe.
7. Improve diagnostic detection of tick-infested/infected animals and pastures
8. Evaluation of rangeland vegetation that affects survival of cattle fever ticks
9. Development of artificial rearing systems for ticks to accelerate testing of vaccines, acaricides and biological control agents.
10. Outreach to South Texas ranchers, hunters and landowners to integrate eradication tactics and document sustainability of best practices

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 developing new and innovative technologies and tools to assist Cattle Fever Tick (CFT) responders in their ongoing fight to eradicate the CFT from Texas and the United States.

USAHA further urges the aforementioned groups to support to the extent legally permissible, mandatory research funding of \$15 million per year for the life of the next United States Farm Bill to help ensure achievement of the identified research objectives.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC & VECTOR BORNE
DISEASES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and Blue Tongue Virus
Data**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) are caused by a virus of the genus *Orbivirus* and are considered some of the most significant diseases affecting North American cervidae. The EHD and BTV viruses are wide spread and periodically cause serious epidemics in the cervid species. The diseases are carried by biting flies and occur on a seasonal basis.

These diseases infect and kill thousands of farmed and free ranging deer each year. There is little data compiled and disseminated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that details the estimated number of deaths related to known EHD/BTV infections and the specific strains per state. Strains of EHD and BTV vary by state and by year.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to prepare a descriptive report to present at the 2018 USAHA Annual Meeting and each annual meeting, thereafter. The report shall include the following data that is available:

- 1) Number of estimated farmed cervid deaths related to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) per state and cervid species in the previous year.
- 2) Number of estimated wild cervid deaths related to EHD and BTV per state and cervid species in the previous year.
- 3) Strains of EHD and BTV that have been known to be found in each state for both farmed and wild cervidae in the previous year.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ONE HEALTH

SUBJECT MATTER: Increased Fiscal Year 2019 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) has demonstrated through the strategic implementation of cooperative oral rabies vaccination (ORV) programs targeting wildlife to be cost-effective, while continuing to reduce rabies exposure and transmission among wildlife, livestock, pets and people. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) feels the most effective strategy to implement large scale rabies control efforts is at the source in animal (i.e., vector) populations. ORV programs are designed to immunize target wildlife species by increasing the percentage of rabies-immune animals within vaccination zones, resulting in the reduction of rabies cases, prevention of viral spread, and eventual rabies elimination.

In early 2016, WS with federal, state, academic, and international experts developed a comprehensive strategy to implement Phase 2, elimination of raccoon rabies variant in the Eastern United States. WS also developed and initiated an Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Program with state cooperation throughout the Northeast, Atlantic, and adjacent Mid-West and Southern States to enhance early detection of rabies cases or translocation of animals with rabies. This resulted in detection of two raccoons with raccoon rabies variant west of the Virginia immune barrier in 2017 and immediate contingency baiting strategy by WS and the state to eliminate danger of spread to a new area.

Successful programs in Texas continue with rabies elimination in gray foxes, as well as ongoing studies on rabies control methodology in skunks and maintaining a protective immune barrier along the Mexican border to keep the United States free of coyote (canine) rabies and protect Texas from gray fox rabies reentry. The requested funding will allow USDA to:

- Fully implement and continue the enhanced rabies surveillance program.
- Implement contingency action in response to rabid animals in sensitive areas.
- Continue Phase 1 as outlined in the U.S. National Plan for Wildlife Rabies Management that maintains existing operational programs (immune zones) to control rabies in wildlife populations.
- Continue the investigation of novel and US-licensed vaccines and baits.
- Continue studies related to rabies control in skunks.
- Initiate Phase 2 of the national plan to eliminate raccoon rabies variant in the U.S.

RESOLUTION:

program management and contingency actions at the state level in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program.

the Appalachian Mountain Range. When implemented, Phase 2 of the NRMP seeks to systematically eliminate terrestrial rabies variants in the US. The local elimination of raccoon rabies from Long Island alone provided for cumulative financial benefits exceeding \$14 million in NY during 2016. Similarly, the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick (Canada) have derived positive One Health and financial benefits by eliminating periodic incursions of raccoon rabies from New York and the New England States.

The North American Rabies Management Plan provides a firm foundation for the US, Canada, and Mexico to establish international partnerships to control and eliminate rabies. Recent pharmaceutical evolutions and bait developments have resulted in novel products that have enhanced rabies vaccination efficacy in raccoons and skunks, thereby providing advanced tools that have successfully eliminated raccoon and fox rabies variants in the US and Canada. Strategic planning has also been completed in the form of expert panels and a DELPHI process, to formulate wildlife vaccination strategies and establish associated costs that are required to definitively achieve the goal of raccoon variant elimination in North America. An increase of \$12.5 million, added to the current USDA APHIS\$ WS budget for wildlife rabies control, will facilitate initiation of Phase 2 of the National Rabies Management Plan. USDA will be provided with the means to implement a coordinated and systematic approach towards raccoon rabies elimination. The programmatic successes that have already been achieved in the US and Canada will be expanded. As rabies elimination milestones are achieved within regions and states, it is expected that funding will also become increasingly available from state and local partners to accelerate the ultimate goal of terrestrial rabies elimination in North America.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Congress add \$12.5 million in the 2018 Farm Bill for the current annual, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services budget to initiate Phase 2 of the National Rabies Management Plan, raccoon rabies elimination in the United States.