
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10

APPROVED AS AMENDED

SUBJECT MATTER: Adequate Funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2018 Farm Bill under section 12101 Animal Disease Prevention and Management:

1. Established the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP), which allows the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter into cooperative agreements with states, universities, industry, and other entities on projects and research to advance animal health.
2. Established the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB) to maintain sufficient quantities of vaccine and other countermeasures to help to address an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or other high consequence foreign animal disease
3. Reauthorized the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) with appropriations authorization of \$30 million per year.

Funding for the first four years (\$120 million) is provided up front as no-year money.

NADPRP (1 above) must receive a minimum of \$5 million for the first four years (of the \$120 million) and \$18 million (of the \$30 million) annually, thereafter, (\$38 million of the total \$150 million).

The \$112 million in 2018 Farm Bill funding not required to be spent on NADPRP was intended to be used to provide additional support for the NAHLN (3 above) with the remainder dedicated to the NAVVCB (2 above) to provide a robust vaccine and countermeasures bank, with priority given to FMD response capabilities.

The NAHLN is the frontline for detection of a disease event and provides critical support for disease monitoring during the outbreak and certification of a return to disease absence after the outbreak. The NAHLN has never been fully funded (\$30 million per year) at the federal level. In addition, availability of adequate test kits/reagents for foreign animal

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disease (FAD) outbreak response testing has been identified as a critical concern in every FAD tabletop exercise conducted.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide at least \$5 million from the funding in the 2018 Farm Bill each of the 5 years dedicated as additional support of National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) infrastructure and improvements in testing capabilities and capacities.

Additionally, USAHA urges the USDA to assure that the 2018 Farm Bill prevention funding not be used to replace current funding for USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) activities with the states nor should it inhibit full appropriation of the NAHLN laboratory authorization within USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative and USDA-APHIS budgets.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond. On February 7, 2020, USDA leadership received the letter sent by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians to members of Congress and USDA leadership with similar requests. While we appreciate the early submissions, no decisions regarding 2020 Farm Bill funding for NAHLN have been determined.