
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5, 17, and 31 Combined APPROVED AS AMENDED

SUBJECT MATTER: Adequate Funding for National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank

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 (USDA), 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 authorized appropriations 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).

Of the remaining \$112 million in 2018 Farm Bill funding not required to be spent on NADPRP, monies may be dedicated to the NAVVCB (2 above) to provide a robust vaccine and countermeasures bank with priority given to FMD response capabilities and to support diagnostic capabilities through the NAHLN.

Response to a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) often includes mass depopulation of animals, but the USDA FAD PReP plan for FMD is contingent on vaccination for all but the smallest, localized outbreak. The United States (US) 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 US. 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 the US economy and reduce government costs of a catastrophic FMD outbreak in the US.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State Animal Health Authorities to support a total of \$92 million for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB), with a minimum of \$20 million for each of the first four years and \$12 million in the fifth year, of the funding established in the 2018 Farm Bill to provide adequate number of doses of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine and surge capacity. This \$92 million for NAVVCB is to include a reasonable stockpile of foreign animal disease testing kits/reagents needed for outbreak response.

Additionally, the 2018 Farm Bill prevention funding the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) should not be used to fund current USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) activities with the states nor should it inhibit full appropriation of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratory authorization within USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative and APHIS budgets.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

In the first round of funding for Section 12101 programs in 2019, APHIS awarded \$5.2 million through the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) to support 39 projects in 25 States. The projects will advance the capabilities, capacity, and readiness of the nation's animal agriculture sector responders through training and exercises and \$5 million through the NAHLN to support 25 projects in NAHLN laboratories.

APHIS also issued a request for proposals on January 16 to begin acquisition of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine for the new National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank. APHIS' plans to have vaccine contracts in place as soon as possible and to invest between \$15 and 30 million on FMD vaccines by the end of 2020. APHIS is working on plans for the NADPRP and NAHLN 2020 funding cycles. Decisions regarding 2020 Farm Bill funding is currently not determined.

FINAL RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

In the first round of funding for Section 12101 programs in 2019, APHIS awarded \$5.2 million through the NADPRP to support 39 projects in 25 States. The projects will

advance the capabilities, capacity, and readiness of the nation's animal agriculture sector responders through training and exercises. APHIS also awarded \$5 million through the NAHLN to support 26 projects in NAHLN laboratories. APHIS announced the 2020 NADPRP and NAHLN funding opportunities in July, with proposals being due by September 14, 2020. Up to \$10 million will be targeted toward NADPRP projects focused on increasing practical livestock biosecurity measures or advancing rapid depopulation and disposal abilities to be used during high consequence animal disease outbreaks. Up to \$5 million will be directed toward NAHLN projects that enhance test development and validation, emergency preparedness, electronic data management and exercises and drills centered on the laboratory.

To ensure the cattle industry's FMD vaccine concerns are addressed, in July, APHIS announced a \$27.1 million purchase of FMD vaccine antigen concentrate for the NAVVCB. In addition, in August, APHIS announced the availability of a sources sought notice to gather information from diagnostics manufacturers on their ability to supply test kits for three major livestock diseases: FMD, African swine fever, and classical swine fever. Based on the information gathered, APHIS will determine if test kits and/or their components are recommended for inclusion in NAVVCB.