



RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

**SUBJECT MATTER: United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Program Standards for the chronic wasting disease (CWD) Federal Rule (9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 55 & 81) was published in 2012, along with a policy document known as the Program Standards. As originally published, the document's introduction noted "These Program Standards will be reviewed at least annually by representatives of the cervid industry and appropriate state and federal agencies."

The Program Standards have been reviewed just once since their inception. A working group was convened in July 2016 with the product published as the second edition of the Program Standards in May 2019. Thus, it has been more than five years since a working group of stakeholders has reviewed the Program Standards document.

Since 2016, CWD research in cervids has evolved, which is not included in the existing Program Standards, nor does the Program Standards include flexible language that provides opportunity to adjust policy based on unique scenarios, new scientific advancement and/or innovative techniques developed by state animal health officials.

Furthermore, recent years demonstrate the complexity of CWD in farmed cervid populations with significant variance in discovery and trace circumstances, which is amplified by differences in specific cervid species. Meanwhile federal indemnity money continues to fall short of allowing a state to execute agreed-upon herd plans without practical alternative recommendations.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to revise the document entitled, "Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards". This should include establishing a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program Standards Working Group to review and revise the document so it more appropriately reflects the language of the Code of Federal Regulations that supersedes the program standards. The review should also take into consideration the needs of producers and regulatory officials charged with implementation of a program that focuses on minimizing risk, not eradication, of CWD in the United States.

USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to establish the timeline based on an expectation to publish the third edition of the Program Standards by the end of the 2022 calendar year.

USAHA suggests that the CWD Program Standards Working Group should be made up of representatives from and appointed by each of the following organizations: (1) the Exotic Wildlife Association, (2) the North American Elk Breeders Association, (3) the North American Deer Farmers Association, (4) the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, (5) the USDA-APHIS-VS and (6) the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is evaluating this request and the resources needed to conduct a review. We plan to make a final decision regarding the scope and participants of a review after Congress determines the final fiscal year 2022 appropriation for the Equine, Cervid & Small Ruminant funding line.