
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 **Approved**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON EQUINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Contagious Equine Metritis Training**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The success or failure of the Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Import Quarantine Program is solely dependent on proper implementation of the prescribed quarantine, animal management and testing procedures by state/federal animal health officials in the CEM-approved states. Proper implementation is achievable only if knowledgeable, technically trained and qualified individuals provide day-to-day regulatory program oversight.

Previously, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services provided the critical in-person training course necessary for designated states CEM coordinators. The hands-on component provided essential training on the proper sample collection and treatment techniques required by the United States Code of Federal Regulations. This is the only training course which ensures clinical competency of those overseeing the CEM programs in the states. With the increased number of newly appointed CEM coordinators across the country, there is an immediate need for the training courses to be resumed.

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 provide at a minimum in-person hands-on training for contagious equine metritis (CEM) state coordinators every two years and develop an introductory training module for orienting new CEM coordinators. Furthermore, USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to require that the state-designated CEM coordinator complete the introductory training module within the first year of position appointment and attend the in-person training at the first available opportunity. Such training requirements shall be incorporated into the state-federal CEM Memorandum of Understanding.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to

respond.

APHIS agrees that additional training for state contagious equine metritis (CEM) coordinators would strengthen the program and is currently exploring virtual and in-person training options. Starting in April 2023, quarterly calls between the national CEM coordinator and the state CEM coordinators will include training on various aspects of the program, including case examples. Development of a basic introductory training module for new state CEM coordinators is underway.

All state-federal CEM memorandums of understanding expire in 2025. APHIS will consider USAHA's recommendation to incorporate more stringent training requirement timelines before reissuance.