
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19

Approved

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER:

National Animal Health Monitoring System Equine Study

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) program unit conducts national studies on the health and management of United States domestic livestock and poultry populations. These studies are designed to meet the information needs of the industries associated with these commodities, as identified by people within those industries. NAHMS equine studies conducted in 1998, 2005 and 2015 provided extremely beneficial data and analysis to the equine industry and state animal health officials (SAHOs).

The equine industry has recognized an increasing number of equine domestic infectious disease outbreaks (strangles, equine herpesvirus, equine influenza, and arboviruses) and the increasing risk for incursion of foreign animal diseases such as equine piroplasmiasis, contagious equine metritis, and African horse sickness. The equine industry believes the recent change in equine demographics, equine health care, interstate and international movement patterns and biosecurity practices could have an impact on future disease prevention and control efforts. Therefore, industry and SAHOs recognize the critical need for a new NAHMS study to be conducted to define these changes and potential impacts.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to devote the resources necessary so that the National Animal Health Monitoring System can conduct an equine study within the next 5 years. Furthermore, USAHA requests state, federal and industry stakeholder participation in study needs assessment, study design and implementation.

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.

In preparation for a future NAHMS Equine study, the APHIS has submitted a request to the Office of Management and Budget to conduct a needs assessment survey of equine stakeholders to obtain their input to help determine information gaps which could be addressed by a cross-sectional study of equine operations. This feedback, and communications with researchers, university extensions, and other government agencies will be used to develop future study objectives.

NAHMS has also begun conversations with the National Agricultural Statistics Service to identify a timeframe for the next national equine study.