

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 and 18 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON,
AND CAMELIDS
COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: INVESTIGATION OF RISK POSED BY EMERGING
PESTIVIRUSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It is well established that infection of livestock with pestiviruses causes significant losses to producers. The primary concerns are reproductive failure, persistently infected animals and the induction of immune suppression in infected animals, possibly leading to more severe disease. Several atypical pestiviruses, for example, hobi and pronghorn pestiviruses, have recently been isolated. Some of these viruses cause reproductive and immunological disease in domestic livestock. Further, it is unknown whether currently available diagnostic tests can detect and differentiate these viruses, and if currently available vaccines are protective. The risk and impact of infection of domestic animals with these atypical pestiviruses is largely undetermined. Research is needed to determine the presence, prevalence, and risk posed to domestic livestock by these emerging pestiviruses. This requires the design and validation of tests to be used in surveillance and differentiation of pestiviruses, as well as development of vaccines that will effectively protect livestock.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to initiate research to determine the risk and impact of emerging pestiviruses, especially those that may be difficult to differentiate from bovine viral diarrhea virus, on domestic livestock. Additionally, the USDA-ARS is urged to sustain research to determine the effectiveness of current vaccines and diagnostic assays in protecting domestic livestock industries from the detrimental effect of these viruses.

RESPONSE:

USDA

ARS appreciates the importance of the needs identified by USAHA in the enclosed resolutions. Research on emerging pestiviruses (Resolutions #6 and #18) is critical and beneficial in protecting the animal agriculture industry against emerging disease threats. ARS will continue our current

research on bovine viral diarrhea virus, classical swine fever, and other pestiviruses at the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) in Ames, Iowa, and the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Orient Point, New York, and pursue opportunities to expand this work as new resources become available. Likewise, ARS has research experience with the Rift Valley Fever virus at our Arthropod Borne Animal Disease Research Laboratory (ABADRL).