

**UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
2012 Resolution**

116th Annual Meeting October 18-24, 2012 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: RESEARCH ON SENECA VALLEY VIRUS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Swine exhibiting vesicular lesions similar in appearance to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have recently been observed in commercial pork production operations in multiple states. Diagnostics conducted at the Plum Island Animal Disease Lab have excluded foreign animal diseases and isolated Seneca Valley Virus as the etiologic agent. Little is known about the epidemiology of this virus in swine but the similarity in clinical presentation to FMD results in the initiation of foreign animal disease investigations and potential disruptions in domestic markets, animal movements and access to international markets. There is an urgent need for basic and epidemiological research to further the swine industry's understanding of this disease complex.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service to conduct research on Seneca Valley Virus (SVV) and the idiopathic vesicular disease (IVD) complex in swine, and that USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services initiate epidemiologic studies, outreach and education to all stakeholders, including USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, enhancing awareness of the occurrence of SVV and IVD in swine. USDA should work with all stakeholders to develop and implement plans that will mitigate the consequences on markets in the United States and internationally when vesicular lesions not associated with foreign animal diseases are found at ante-mortem inspections or on the farm.

INTERIM RESPONSE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Due to the sporadic occurrence of Seneca Valley virus findings, design of epidemiologic observational studies will be difficult. VS will continue to conduct investigations of Seneca Valley virus and Idiopathic Vesicular Disease findings for source attribution and factors associated with disease transmission within lots of swine at slaughter and on-farm. Over time, data from these investigations may be compiled to provide a better understanding of the ecology of the virus and the epidemiology of the disease.

VS works closely with State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) to provide timely and efficient foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations, which have involved swine and Seneca Valley virus. While Seneca Valley virus is not an FAD subject to State or Federal regulatory actions, the lesions it causes can resemble foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). As an example of

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
2012 RESOLUTION

frequency of FAD investigations involving vesicular lesions in swine, in 2011 there were six. A 2007 FAD investigation at a swine slaughter establishment in Minnesota (for pigs that originated from Canada infected with Seneca Valley virus) resulted in significant improvements in plans to mitigate the consequences on markets in the United States, or internationally when vesicular lesions not associated with foreign animal diseases are found at ante-mortem inspections or on the farm.

First, SAHOs have the opportunity to use approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network diagnostic laboratories to perform an initial diagnostic test for FMD. This activity can significantly accelerate the time to obtaining an initial diagnostic result and decrease the pressure of uncertainty during an FAD investigation. Second, in the event that diagnostic samples need to be transported rapidly to NVSL FADDL for definitive diagnostic results, APHIS provides a contract for rapid transportation services. Since 2008, there have been three occasions where VS and SAHOs have used the rapid transportation services to quickly resolve (within 24 hours) an FAD investigation (Iowa 2009, Iowa 2009, Wisconsin 2012).

The successful implementation of FAD investigation policy requires close coordination, communication, and mutual trust among all stakeholders. To promote FADD training and communications, in 2012, VS developed the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Response and Refresher Training course, to promote highly cooperative efforts between VS and the States. To further facilitate communications and planning, APHIS streamlined FAD investigation policy in October 2012 with the issuance of VS Guidance 12001.1, "Policy for the Investigation of Potential Foreign Animal Disease/Emerging Disease Incidents." VS has also cooperatively developed a user friendly "Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Manual," which will be distributed to State, Federal and tribal personnel. The field manual provides essential information on all aspects of FAD investigations. This manual will be distributed in early 2013.