

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 and 25 Combined **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICALS

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE
DATABANK (FARAD)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), in existence since 1982, develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory and extension specialists on avoiding both animal drug residues and environmental contaminants in meat, milk and eggs. FARAD's databank provides information regarding the time-course of drug and chemical depletion in the blood and tissues of animals following the routine use of drugs in animal agriculture, for the extra-label use of drugs in animal agriculture, and during food contamination emergencies which might arise from exposure to environmental toxins, particularly pesticides, either accidentally or intentionally introduced into the food supply. Additionally, FARAD provides rapid response assistance, through both its telephone hotline and web access, for inquiries concerning residue issues that affect food animal health and food product contamination. FARAD provides assistance in trade matters by maintaining databanks of foreign drug approvals and it trains veterinary students and veterinary medical residents in the principles of residue avoidance.

The loss of an earmark for funding of FARAD in 2007 clearly demonstrates the dilemma that has existed throughout FARAD's existence. FARAD shut down all public access on September 30, 2008, and with remaining funds, will maintain the existing databank for an additional month. Without permanent multi-year funding (\$2.5M/year for 3-5 years), FARAD will discontinue all activities by the start of 2009.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the newly elected President of the United States include funding for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) in the President's Annual Budget.

USAHA also requests the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees fund FARAD at \$2.5 million per year.

RESPONSE:

USDA, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service

Regarding future prospects for FARAD funding, we assure you that [CSREES] is committed to ensuring a strong national food safety infrastructure, and that the role FARAD might play in achieving this broad objective will be fully considered as the Department of Agriculture's annual budget prioritization process moves forward.