

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2004

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA CONTROL PROGRAM

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses has studied, developed and now proposes a National State-Federal Cooperative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Control Program. The goals of this program are to, without the burden of additional regulations, (a) reduce the overall national prevalence of EIA and (b) reduce the imposition of required EIA testing. Under this plan, EIA test requirements for equine movement will be standardized, simplified and, in some cases, eliminated; allowing greater freedom of movement while reducing the risk of being exposed to equidae of unknown EIA status. These proposed changes will reduce the overall cost of EIA control.

The Program proposal calls for a three-phase implementation with an open time frame. Phase One establishes EIA Risk Zones within the U.S. based on incidence levels derived from historical EIA testing records; Phase Two refines the Risk Zones and risk management as improved equine census and disease prevalence information becomes available; and Phase Three further develops the program, and its utility to the industry, through the development of a voluntary EIA Certification Program partially supported by Federal funding. This Program will reward equine owners who test and have historically tested their animals with reduced costs, increased ease of movement, and protection from punishment for the untested and non-commingled EIA reservoir equidae in their region.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in collaboration with the USAHA, develop and annually update a National State-Federal Cooperative Program for the Control of Equine Infectious Anemia. It is further requested that USDA-APHIS-VS and states begin implementation of this control program as soon as possible

RESPONSE:

The United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses, Equine Infectious Anemia Subcommittee is currently implementing Phase One, as noted in the resolution above. Therefore, the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, is not anticipating any direct involvement with this control program this year.