

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 16      **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND  
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL CENTERS OF  
EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS VETERINARY  
MEDICINE

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The 2008 Farm Bill included the establishment of new regional centers of excellence in food systems veterinary medicine. A regional center of excellence shall be composed of one or more colleges and universities, including land-grant institutions, schools of forestry and schools of veterinary medicine, to focus on species specific diseases.

The criteria for consideration to be a regional center of excellence shall include efforts to ensure coordination and cost-effectiveness, leverage available resources, implement teaching initiatives, increase the economic returns to rural communities, and improve teaching capacity and infrastructure at colleges and universities. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has not reported how they intend to implement this new program, either as a new stand-alone grant or part of the larger reorganization of USDA's extramural research programs.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) develop regulations and implementation plans for the Regional Centers of Excellence (Centers) and the newly elected President of the United States include funding for the Centers in the President's Annual Budget request.

USAHA also requests that the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees fund the Centers at \$15 million per year.