RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND RELATED ORBIVIRUSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH NEEDS FOR BLUETONGUE AND RELATED ORBIVIRUSES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bluetongue and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease viruses are of concern to producers in North America because of: a) new serotypes b) increased reports of clinical disease and c) increased geographical range.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the United States Department of Agriculture, and United States Department of Interior arrange a diversified blue-ribbon panel (including: industry stakeholders, university and federal researchers, Federal and State regulatory agencies) to determine research needs and identify and prioritize intervention strategies.

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. APHIS, the Agricultural Research Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture will collaborate with the Department of Interior to engage industry stakeholders, wildlife biologists, researchers, diagnosticians, vaccine specialists, and regulatory officials to examine and assess the current status of ruminant orbiviruses in the United States, including identification of knowledge gaps and potential next steps. The engagement is planned for mid-May 2013 and will address topics that include surveillance for the agents and vectors, diagnostics, and vaccination options. The product of this engagement will be a widely-available white paper to provide information to stakeholders and the wider community, and to serve as a resource to guide future actions.