

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

### RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:** SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR A DEMONSTRATION  
PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS  
PLAN

**DATE:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

### BACKGORUND INFORMATION:

In the event that outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), other foreign animal diseases or destructive biological incursions are not quickly controlled and/or eradicated, there will be catastrophic impacts to the United States livestock, food and agricultural industries, as well as the general economy of the nation, including transportation, travel, food processing, distribution and tourism.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9) establishes national policy to defend the United States agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council (FASCC) and Government Coordinating Council (GCC) organized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are in the process of considering an expanded version of a proposed National Livestock/Continuity of Business Plan (NL/COBP) developed by the Animal Production Subcouncil of FASCC. This expanded version of the original NL/COBP is intended to apply the policy directives embodied in HSPD 9 across the entire food and agriculture sector through the creation of Agriculture and Food Continuity of Business Councils (AF/COBC) that would operate within each Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region. The Councils would bring the public and private sectors at all levels together at the regional level to address the recommendations contained in HSPD 9, so as to take full advantage of the FEMA infrastructure support system in the event of a major agriculture or food emergency.

A national demonstration project is being proposed to gain understanding and support for implementation of this all hazards type regional approach to emergency preparedness and response utilizing FMD as an emergency disease template. The demonstration project would provide funding for cooperative agreements administered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to organize several regional projects to demonstrate the feasibility of organizing AF/COBC and provide direction and

guidance for broader future implementation of this approach to emergency management.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretaries of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Interior, and Health and Human Services to provide adequate funding to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to develop regional demonstration projects for the proposed National Agriculture and Food/Continuity of Business Plan. The demonstration projects should be developed in cooperation with appropriate state agencies and land grant universities.

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### **Department Of Interior, Fish And Wildlife Service**

The Service defers to expertise within the Department of Agriculture for consideration of the merits of the proposed regional demonstration projects for the National Agriculture and Food/Continuity of Business Plan.

##### **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office Of The Secretary**

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2006, to Secretary Johanns concerning resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2006 annual meeting.

We welcome USAHA's input, and will take the organization's views under consideration as we address the issues in question. We look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other matters as we move forward with important animal health initiatives.

We value your organization's longstanding collaborative relationship with USDA, and I know that we will continue to work together to advance U.S. animal health.

##### **Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate**

The Infrastructure Coordination and Analysis Office supports National Agro and Food Business Continuity Plans. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and its associated Sector Specific Plans (SSP) set the stage for the states and industry to come back to the GCC/SCC with sector and industry specific plans following NIPP-SSP guidelines to operationalize infrastructure protection plans.

This is the first proposal from an industry group to address one of the most significant threats to the Food and Agriculture sector.

Continuity of Business plans for Food and Agriculture are a central component fulfillment of NIPP-SSP. The NIPP-SSP process needs tangible strategic implementation objectives such as these to be effective.