

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

### RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 APPROVED

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) was created as a national strategy to coordinate the nation's federal, state and university laboratory resources to allow authorities to better respond to animal health emergencies, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases and foreign animal disease agents that threaten the nation's food supply and public health.

In fiscal year 2002, twelve state and university diagnostic laboratories were selected by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to receive Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants to initiate the laboratory network. In order to ensure that the NAHLN is fully capable of responding to any and all animal health emergencies, sustained funding will be required for appropriate facilities, training and equipment.

It is essential to food safety, animal and public health and the robust economy of the nation that annual appropriations are provided for operational support of the NAHLN.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to request annual funding in the USDA budget in the amount of at least \$35 million per year for operational support of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Also, it is necessary that the Secretary ensure annual funding for transfer and implementation of newly developed and validated assays from federal and other laboratories to the NAHLN laboratories.

Furthermore, USAHA requests the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees to support the Secretary's request for at least \$35 million each year to USDA for operational support of the NAHLN.

**RESPONSE:**

**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.