

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2007

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** TUBERCULOSIS TEST REQUIREMENT FOR  
RODEO/EVENT CATTLE

**DATES:** RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The 2006 discovery of two separate instances of bovine tuberculosis (TB), one case in a bucking bull and the other in a roping steer, has resulted in traces to cattle in several states as well as the destruction of a herd of beef cattle. The relative risk posed by rodeo/event cattle is much greater than the risk from feeder cattle. Compared to feeder cattle, roping and bull dogging steers may remain in the population much longer, are more likely to be commingled with breeding beef cattle, may have multiple owners in a comparatively short time period and are frequently commingled with event/rodeo cattle of various owners at roping events and rodeos. In addition, current events indicate that there is a need for more tuberculosis surveillance in bucking bulls. This is clearly demonstrated by the number of exposed cattle traces related to the positive bucking bull.

Most United States (US) breeders of eventing cattle are cattle producers whose ranches are located in bovine TB Accredited Free states. These cattle producers follow management practices identical to those of other purebred and commercial beef producers and their cattle seldom commingle with Mexican origin cattle or dairy cattle. It should be recognized that these cattle pose a low risk of transmitting TB. Testing these cattle provides little if any benefit to the efforts to control and eradicate bovine TB from the US.

It should also be recognized that a testing requirement for native cattle that have never been exposed to Mexican origin cattle or dairy cattle as a condition for interstate movement for cattle shows and for sale as breeding stock may discourage the development of an alternative, low risk source of eventing cattle.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to implement a regulation requiring that all bucking bulls, roping steers and bulldogging steers be tested negative for tuberculosis (TB) within 12 months

prior to any interstate movement. Except that the movement of animals out of the birth herd would be exempt from the TB test provided that an accredited veterinarian places a statement on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that the birth herd has had no exposure to Mexican cattle or dairy cattle.

USAHA also urges USDA-APHIS to implement a regulation requiring that an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection accompany the aforementioned cattle that required a test and the test date of the last negative tuberculosis test for each animal is indicated on the Certificate.

## **RESPONSE:**

### **USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the opportunity to respond to this request by the United States Animal Health Association's Committee on Tuberculosis. VS would like to thank the committee for identifying this need and assures the committee that VS remains committed to finding and eradicating bovine tuberculosis in all classes of bovines and captive cervids. VS will evaluate these issues and determine if a risk assessment is warranted that would support regulatory changes.