



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CENTERS FOR
 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Herd depopulation of brucellosis affected herds has been an important component of the Emergency Action Brucellosis Eradication Program. Depopulation with associated indemnification may be needed intermittently in the three Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) states that face the continual threat of brucellosis transmission from infected wildlife.

With the federal brucellosis eradication program taking a new direction per the Interim Brucellosis Rule [APHIS-2009-0083], and Tuberculosis/Brucellosis Framework [APHIS-2011-0044], depopulation of brucellosis affected herds is no longer mandatory, but rather the decision to depopulate or proceed with a test and removal program is made based on the epidemiological investigation and other factors. It would be beneficial to have a transparent system that defines the decision criteria used by Veterinary Services to determine if a herd qualifies for depopulation.

In 2010, the Subcommittee on Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (SBGYA) drafted a Depopulation Decision Matrix that attempts to provide a quantitative assessment of various criteria which should be assessed prior to decision making on the disposition of affected herds. While recognizing the potential benefit of the matrix in herd management, an epidemiological and statistical review may improve its utility. The SBGYA prefers to focus on improving this depopulation matrix and opposes utilizing a depopulation model originally developed for the Tuberculosis Eradication Program. Application of any model should be based on brucellosis epidemiology and input from state and tribal animal health officials.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services/Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health provide technical assistance to the Committee on Brucellosis of the USAHA in an epidemiologic analysis of the depopulation matrix components to improve its utility and applicability to herds affected with brucellosis. Further, the USAHA requests USDA-APHIS to implement the updated matrix as part of a transparent decision process before the next USAHA meeting.



INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the need to provide information on the criteria used to determine when brucellosis indemnity will be paid. Accordingly, VS will develop a policy statement on use of its limited brucellosis indemnity funds for brucellosis whole herd depopulations. VS will work with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials to obtain comments and will have the policy prepared by the 2012 United States Animal Health Association meeting.