



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 27 - APPROVED**

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC DISEASES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, KNIPLING-BUSHLAND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Research Laboratory (KBUSLIRL) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Kerrville, Texas since 1963, does critical research and delivers game-changing technologies in support of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program (CFTEP) and the Screwworm Eradication Program (SEP), which have proven essential to maintain the health and well being of the nation's livestock industries. The CFTEP and the SEP are monuments to the success of science, and a fine example of how productive cooperative efforts between federal and state governments, and the private sector can benefit mankind. Recent impactful and innovative agricultural research at the USDA-ARS KBUSLIRL, which is recognized as a global center of excellence in livestock insect science, done in collaboration with universities and the animal health industry include: the development of an anti-tick vaccine for the CFTEP; a transgenic screwworm for the SEP; and a system commercially available for the remote delivery of insecticide gel capsules to control horn flies infesting cattle. The USDA-ARS published its Capital Investment Strategy in April 2012. Investment in the construction of new facilities for the KBUSLIRL was recommended as part of this investment strategy. Construction of the new KBUSLIRL facilities was listed in priority group 4 and it was estimated to cost \$45 million then. Whereas the Administration has proposed to fund this project, the inclusion of funding in the budget by Congress remains to be done.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Congress of the United States to provide appropriate funding to the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service for construction of the new facilities for the Knipling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Laboratory (KBUSLIRL) in the area of Kerrville,

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Texas. This will ensure continued protection of the United States livestock industry by fully supporting research activities which translate into technologies that minimize the impact of high-consequence pests. Construction of the new KBUSLIRL facilities will benefit human and animal health, and food and environmental safety while promoting sustainability in animal agriculture, and an abundant supply of affordable food for our nation and global partners.

The responses below refer to Resolutions 6, 7, 16, and 27.



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

January 15, 2014

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford  
President  
United States Animal Health Association  
4221 Mitchell Avenue  
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Dr. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter of November 21, 2013, to Dr. Edward Knipling summarizing the resolutions that were passed at the most recent annual meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), and that request involvement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dr. Knipling retired from Government service recently, thus please accept my response as the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Acting Administrator.

ARS appreciates the opportunity to speak to the USAHA resolutions. I can assure you that we share the concerns of USAHA members and will do all that we can to protect the health of America's farm animals, and thus, the American consumer. Allow me to address the points individually.

- **Resolution 1:** USAHA requests that ARS allocate resources to support Bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease research at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas.

**Response:** USDA in collaboration with the Department of Interior (DOI) organized a gap analysis workshop for international experts on orbiviruses. Workshop participants met at the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, in Manhattan, Kansas, May 14–16, 2013. They assessed countermeasures to effectively control and mitigate the impact of an outbreak of an emerging strain of orbivirus with epizootic potential, with special emphasis given to Bluetongue virus and epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus. A report of proceedings from the workshop that also highlights research priorities is expected to be completed and issued in January 2014. ARS will use its available resources to work with Federal and university partners to implement the research prioritized in the workshop report.

Office of the Administrator  
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, Room 302-A  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0300  
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- **Resolution 2:** USAHA urges ARS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to research, develop, and validate genetic strain typing capabilities for *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* (equine piroplasmosis organisms).  
**Response:** The ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Washington, is working with university partners researching both causes of equine piroplasmosis and their genetic makeup.
- **Resolution 3:** USAHA requests that USDA and the DOI establish a panel to determine research needs and identify and prioritize intervention strategies to control chronic wasting disease.  
**Response:** ARS is will work with APHIS and DOI scientists to organize a workshop of experts at which they will assess gaps in our knowledge about chronic wasting disease and establish research needs and intervention strategies.
- **Resolution 4:** USAHA urges Congress to provide appropriate funding to ARS to construct new facilities at the Knippling-Bushland United States Livestock Insects Laboratory in Texas.  
**Response:** ARS appreciates the support of USAHA for updated laboratory facilities in Texas. ARS has established a Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) to prioritize its funding requests to Congress for new or updated facilities. Requests for a replacement facility will be based on the CIS, which in turn is based on both facility condition and program priority. ARS sees the program in Kerrville as a high-priority because of the condition of the facility; nevertheless, appropriations for facilities in general have been limited in the current tight budget environment.

I appreciate that USAHA members make significant contributions to ensuring animal health and food safety in the United States. Rest assured that USDA is working diligently to provide practical and effective solutions to the challenges recognized by USAHA members, and we look forward to working with you and other officials to solve them.

Sincerely,



CAIRD E. REXROAD, JR.  
Acting Administrator