RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28  APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE:  COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER:  SEPARATE SHEEP AND GOAT COMMODITY HEALTH LINE ITEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In FY2011, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) primarily addressed sheep and goat health/disease issues through the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) and National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) studies. For FY2012, USDA-APHIS-VS has requested that Congress approve commodity-based funding which would include horses, cervids, sheep, and goats in a single line item where funding could be transferred between the commodities based on priorities identified by USDA-APHIS-VS and its partners. The proposed grouping of these species is reminiscent of the failed Miscellaneous Diseases line item in the USDA-APHIS-VS budget of over 20 years ago.

The United States Animal Health Association is concerned that sheep and goat funding may be diverted to address needs of other species, which could jeopardize the eradication of scrapie from the United States and the health and well-being of sheep and goats.

The currently proposed species grouping of Equines, Cervids, and Small Ruminants (sheep and goats) is not appropriate to serve the health and disease needs of such a diverse group of animals. Equines and Cervids have very few common health and disease issues with Sheep and Goats. Emerging diseases in each of the species in the proposed grouping will most likely result in even less commonality in disease/health priorities among these species.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to establish a separate line item for Sheep and Goat Health.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) requested a separate Sheep and Goat Health line
item for fiscal year 2013, and it has been included in the President’s budget. Before the new line item can be established, it must be approved by Congress.