

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 31 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONAL  
EVOLUTION

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The recently appointed Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rajiv Shah, told the United States House of Representatives Agriculture subcommittee at a congressional hearing, that as "Chief Scientist" that "the next six months will be of great organizational evolution" as he reviews research conducted by USDA scientists as well as grants given to external research bodies. Shah said that he sees the chance "to bring about transformative change in the way we do science at USDA." He said he will focus resources around priority areas, seeking breakthroughs in food safety, food security, climate change, biofuels and human nutrition; he feels this change will generate real benefits for the people.

The Undersecretary failed to mention the importance of a critical component of USDA, Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) historical focus: the ongoing animal disease research performed by USDA scientists, often in collaboration with scientists at universities or the private sector under the umbrella of the agency's ARS. This work has proven essential to maintain the health and well-being of the nations' animal industries through the development and implementation of methods to diagnose, control, eliminate and eradicate emerging, regulatory, foreign, exotic and zoonotic diseases. These efforts must be maintained to protect our national animal and human health, enhance food safety, minimize pathogen load and sustain the safe, affordable food supply we produce for national and global consumption.

## **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognize the importance of the efforts and accomplishments of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) regarding animal disease and animal health research and acknowledge by providing a robust budget and administrative support to fund ARS sponsored research for animal disease which benefits human and animal health, food and environmental safety, and abundant, affordable food for our nation and global partners.

*\*This resolution was passed by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Board of Delegates, October 12, 2009, San Diego, California.*