



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2014 RESOLUTION

118TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 16-22, 2014 ~ KANSAS CITY, MO

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) for Sheep and Goats and for Humans in the United States

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Q-Fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetti*. *Coxiella* infection is found in many species in many countries of the world, including the United States. The disease is a major cause of abortion in sheep and goats, which results in significant economic losses to producers, but also results in significant risk of transmission to human beings. Exposure to the products of abortion (or raw milk products) either directly or through environmental contamination poses a significant public health risk, as demonstrated by the recent Q-fever epidemic (human and goat) in the Netherlands.

Currently there is no vaccine available in the United States to prevent *Coxiella burnetti* infection or abortion in sheep and goats. Such a vaccine is available in Europe. The availability/approval of a safe and effective sheep and goat vaccine for *Coxiella burnetti* in the United States would serve to safeguard human health and prevent production losses due to this potentially devastating disease. Humans not in direct contact with aborting animals also face some risk of indirect environmental exposure, so effective vaccination of sheep and goats could play a key role in minimizing human exposure. Additionally, the availability and approval of a safe and effective human vaccine would provide protection for those with occupational risk of exposure to *Coxiella burnetti*.

2013 Action: Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for sheep and goats and for humans in the United States remains of strong interest to the Committee. Committee recommends that this resolution is still important and be carried forward. Interim response provided some promise of progress; final response with updates would be appreciated.

2014 Action: USAHA Committee on Sheep and Goats urges USDA One Health Office to collaborate with the Center for Disease Control to gather the data on the impact of *Coxiella Burnetti* on human health and the relationship of that to the incidence of disease in animals. This information would be invaluable to support the advancement of the licensure of human and animal vaccines in the United States.

RESOLUTION:

In priority order:

First, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for sheep and goats.

Second, the USAHA encourages the Food and Drug Administration to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for humans.

Third, the USAHA encourages USDA-APHIS-VS, Center for Veterinary Biologics to facilitate the importation, for investigation and research, of available animal Q-fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccines from Canada, the European Union, and Australia.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

At this time, the biologics firm that has a Q-fever vaccine licensed in Europe has not provided any additional information relative to this product to the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). The CVB is ready to expedite licensure of such a vaccine if an application is received.