

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 35 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: RESTRICTING FEEDER CATTLE FROM HIGHER-RISK TUBERCULOSIS AREAS IN MEXICO

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Even though current tuberculosis (TB) import regulations and requirements have been strengthened over the past few years, feeder steers and spayed heifers from many states in Mexico are allowed to enter the United States to graze unrestricted on pastures throughout the country with little consideration as to the risk to commingled or adjacent livestock that may be exposed to TB-incubating Mexican animals. Cases of tuberculosis continue to be found in these steers, and genetic fingerprinting of many of these cases suggests their involvement in transmitting tuberculosis to native U.S. cattle. This has been determined to be the largest deterrent in successfully completing the national tuberculosis program. From 2003-2005, Mexican steers originating from Mexican states with a current status of Accreditation Preparatory or less were more than three times more likely to have cases of TB than steers originating from states of higher status.

To adequately address this significant impediment to the successful completion of the U.S. TB Eradication Program, cattle import regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) must be modified to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from those higher-risk Mexican states, having a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognized status below Modified Accredited, be tested as currently required and be restricted by the USDA port veterinarian for movement directly to approved feedlots without provisions for grazing of these cattle.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to modify applicable sections of 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 93.427 to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from Mexican states/zones that are recognized by USDA as having an equivalent tuberculosis (TB) status below Modified Accredited status only be allowed importation into the United States if tested negative and permanently identified as required per existing protocol, and transported directly from the port of entry to approved feedlots or approved pens specifically recognized as such by the receiving U.S. state. USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS consider modifying the applicable sections of 9 CFR relative to user fees to offset the increased costs that will be incurred by states in the enforcement of this provision.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the process of amending the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to accomplish the intent of this regulation. APHIS is making proposed changes to amend the 9 CFR, Part 93 and will review with the Office of General Counsel, the legal requirements for user fees to offset cost incurred by States for enforcement.