

# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 35 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

**SUBJECT MATTER:** SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BRUCELLOSIS CONCEPT PAPER PUBLISHED OCTOBER 5, 2009 IN  
THE FEDERAL REGISTER

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Following a highly successful *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) eradication program, the nation's livestock are free of brucellosis. Wild ungulates in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) represent the last focus of infection of *B. abortus* in the United States, and these wild ungulates are able to transmit *B. abortus* to other wild ungulates and livestock through infected products of parturition. However, current federal brucellosis rules do not recognize the continuing and variable risk from a wildlife vector.

Depopulation of affected herds does not eliminate the risk of re-infection, and the Brucellosis Class Status system based on state boundaries needs additional review.

## **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 proceed with revising brucellosis rules consistent with the published concept paper, and continue to solicit input from USAHA prior to, during, and following the rule writing process. Further, USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to proceed with an interim rule that, includes but is not limited to, removal of the mandatory downgrade of state brucellosis status with two *Brucella abortus* (*B. abortus*) affected herds detected within a two year period, and the elimination of the requirement for mandatory depopulation of affected herds.

## **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the support of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) of the brucellosis concept paper and our plans to revise regulations. VS is drafting an interim rule that reflects the changes endorsed by USAHA, including removing the provision requiring downgrade of State status from Class Free to Class A if two or more herds are found to have brucellosis within a 2-year period or if a single brucellosis-affected herd is not depopulated within 60 days. In addition, the new rule will reduce the amount of testing required to maintain Class Free status for States that have been Class Free for 5 or more years and have no known *Brucella abortus* in wildlife. These changes will eliminate surveillance redundancies and allow us to focus on States and areas of greater risk for spreading brucellosis. These changes are also aligned with the plan outlined in the concept paper to shift from a State-by-State

surveillance program to a national surveillance program that will demonstrate the disease-free status of U.S. cattle.