RESOLUTION NUMBER: 36  APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR DEFENSE OF UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The United States agriculture and food systems are vulnerable to diseases, pests, or poisonous agents that occur naturally, are unintentionally introduced, or are intentionally delivered by acts of terrorism. America's agriculture and food system is an extensive, open, interconnected, diverse, and complex structure providing potential targets for terrorist attacks. We should provide the best protection possible against an attack on the United States agriculture and food system, which could have catastrophic health and economic effects. Animal agriculture in the United States was estimated to have a $252 billion impact on total output in the economy in 2009.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD 9), issued on January 30, 2004, established national policy to defend the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. Section 18 of HSPD9 states:

“The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall work with State and local governments and the private sector to develop:

(a) A National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) containing sufficient amounts of animal vaccine, antiviral, or therapeutic products to appropriately respond to the most damaging animal diseases affecting human health and the economy and that will be capable of deployment within 24 hours of an outbreak. The NVS shall leverage where appropriate the mechanisms and infrastructure that have been developed for the management, storage, and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile.”

It is crucial to national defense that the National Veterinary Stockpile be funded at an adequate level to carry out its mandate in HSPD9 to protect human health and the economy.

RESOLUTION:
The United States Animal Health Association requests that the President include in his budget, the Secretary of Agriculture support, and that Congress appropriate, funding of the National Veterinary Stockpile sufficient to carry out Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD-9) in protecting human health and the economy.

RESPONSE:

APHIS and NIFA
We appreciate USAHA’s support of the National Veterinary Stockpile as a component of the Nation’s agriculture and food defense strategy and will keep your suggestions in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.