



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 38 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Adequate surveillance is a key component of any successful disease eradication program. Private veterinary practitioner involvement in the United States Bovine Tuberculosis eradication program through administration of the Caudal Fold Tuberculin (CFT) Test on cattle has been a critical component of the eradication efforts. The sensitivity and specificity of the CFT has been well documented, and therefore minimum guidelines have been established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services using validated statistical methods. A known false positive rate (approximately 1 percent or greater) for the test allows for general evaluation of veterinary compliance in administering the test. USDA tracks the CFT response rate for each state and releases general compliance numbers as part of its annual reporting system.

Although much progress has been made by the state animal health agencies in educating private veterinary practitioners on test technique and monitoring their statewide compliance with expected test results, a number of states continue to experience sub-par CFT response rates. Between the years 2006 and 2009 the number of states with a CFT response rate of less than 0.25 percent has been 11, 12, 13, and 12 respectively. This indicates that progress in enforcing acceptable CFT response rates by state animal health officials continues to be a challenge. USDA currently does not release complete information correlating state CFT statistics with the specific states involved. Identification of those states in compliance and those that are not should be available.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services release complete Caudal Fold Tuberculin (CFT) Test information as part of their annual report for all 50 states, beginning in 2009, including the name of the state, total number of cattle tested, and the correlating CFT response rate.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) is supportive of the United States Animal Health Association's Committee on Tuberculosis request to provide State-level information for caudal fold tuberculin (CFT) test response rates.

VS will rely on the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials as the primary venue for sharing CFT results. We plan on summarizing information taken from each

State's TB annual report that includes the number of cattle tested with the CFT, the number of responders reported, a State-level CFT response rate, the number of accredited veterinarians conducting CFT tests, the number of accredited veterinarians accumulating 300 or more CFT tests, the number of accredited veterinarians meeting or exceeding the performance standard; and the percent of accredited veterinarians meeting or exceeding the performance standard for each State.

A template of this report will be shared with the National Assembly for review and input before it is finalized. Once finalized, we will move forward with formal reporting of this information. The report will also be posted on the APHIS Web site.

FINAL RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

USDA APHIS VS is supportive of the request by the USAHA's Committee on Tuberculosis to provide State-level information for caudal fold tuberculin (CFT) test response rates.

VS will rely on the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials as the primary venue for sharing CFT results. Based on input from the National Assembly, we have developed a template that summarizes the information taken from each State's tuberculosis annual report, which includes the number of cattle tested with the CFT, the number of responders reported, a State-level CFT response rate, the number of accredited veterinarians conducting CFT tests, the number of accredited veterinarians accumulating 300 or more CFT tests, the number of accredited veterinarians meeting or exceeding the performance standard, and the percent of accredited veterinarians meeting or exceeding the performance standard for each State.

The template of this report will be shared with the National Assembly for review and input before it is finalized. Once finalized, we will move forward with formal reporting of this information tentatively scheduled in early 2012. The report may also be posted on the APHIS Web site.