



RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services approve the CervidTB Stat-Pak as an official test in the Cervid Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) supports the request of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Tuberculosis to approve the Chembio CervidTB Stat-Pak® as an official tuberculosis (TB) test for the Cervid Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

VS funded a project in fiscal year 2011 to evaluate the Stat-Pak as a primary test for official bovine TB program use in captive and free-ranging *Cervus canadensis* (North American elk), *Odocoileus virginianus* (white-tailed deer), and reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*). Approximately 1,800 animals were tested, and the performance of the Stat-Pak was compared to the single cervical tuberculin test. Findings from this project are encouraging, and we recognize the importance of developing and utilizing new diagnostic tests in the TB program.

However, VS agrees with the USAHA TB Committee's Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (TB SAS) conclusion that the comparative cervical test (CCT) is not a suitable secondary test for the Stat-Pak, given that the two tests detect different types of immune responses to different antigens. Without a suitable secondary test, the false positive rate observed in our FY 2011 project suggests that an unacceptably high number of animals with non-negative results on the Stat-Pak would be destroyed in order to determine the infection status of the animal.

VS is delaying program approval and implementation of the Stat-Pak as an official TB program test until a suitable secondary test for animals with non-negative results is available. We are continuing to investigate alternatives and will report on our progress at the annual USAHA meeting.