

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 39 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT THE INTER-AMERICAN GROUP FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) initiated a program in 1951 for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from South America. The program has been successful in eliminating the virus from a large portion of South America. From 1980 to 1990, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and two southern states of Brazil were declared free without vaccination. Parts of Brazil lost FMD-free status in 2001 because of FMD spread from bordering infected countries. This situation has been reversed and those areas are now FMD-free with vaccination.

In March 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and PAHO sponsored a conference in Houston, Texas, with 24 Ministers of Agriculture from the Western Hemisphere, the National Directors of Animal Health Programs, and representatives from the private sector.

One of the outcomes of the Houston Conference was the creation of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa - GIEFA). The GIEFA was tasked with the development of a comprehensive plan to complete the eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere. The group was composed of one representative each from the private sector, the public sector, and each of the six regions identified in the original Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of FMD (PHEFA) approved in 1988.

The GIEFA has met frequently during the past 18 months, resulting in the preparation and approval of an Action Plan for the Eradication of FMD from the Western Hemisphere with the goal of having all countries affected by FMD at least at the level of FMD-free with vaccination by the year 2010.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and International Services (IS) to continue to support the work of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Grupo Interamericano para la Eradicacion de la Fiebre Aftosa (GIEFA) with technical assistance, expertise, and training opportunities to achieve the goal of completing the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2010.

RESPONSE:

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continues to promote the eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) from the Western Hemisphere and continues to support Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA) by providing Dr. John Shaw, APHIS International Service, as the North American government representative to the GIEFA committee. APHIS works closely with countries in South America to enhance the diagnostic,

epidemiologic and programmatic expertise needed to control outbreaks and make progress towards eradication of FMD.