

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 40 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

**SUBJECT MATTER:** FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON VACCINES AND ANTIVIRALS FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

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

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

If outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or of classical swine fever (CSF) are not controlled and eradicated quickly, there will be a very serious negative impact to the United States livestock industry and the general economy of the nation, including travel, food distribution and tourism. A number of critical research needs must be adequately addressed and funded if the United States is to be better prepared to respond to an outbreak of FMD or CSF. Among the most pressing research needs is to greatly accelerate the deployment of a new generation of vaccines and antivirals against FMD and CSF that can be quickly utilized to prevent the spread of disease, reduce clinical symptoms, eliminate the possibility of infection after exposure and permit the United States to pursue a “vaccination to live” policy, rather than being forced to continue to pursue a “stamping out” policy as the only alternative response option.

While great strides have been made in the development of novel vaccines for FMD and recently for CSF, critical to the acceleration of these initiatives at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) is the need for adequate funding for basic research for vaccine and antiviral development by the Agriculture Research Service (ARS). Currently this effort for FMD is limited to one team of researchers with inadequate funding and lack of dedicated laboratory space for this important effort. Total funding in FY 03 was approximately \$1.544 million. A rescission in funding in FY 04 reduced the total to approximately \$1.391 million, but under a reimbursable agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), an additional \$1.751 million was provided. The President included an increase of \$2.0 million in FY 05, bringing the total ARS FMD research budget at PIADC to \$3.391 million, far less than a sustainable level of \$5.0 million. The funding for the research in vaccines and antivirals for CSF, currently much smaller than that for the FMD initiatives, also needs to be optimized.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make available needed additional funding to rapidly accelerate the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) basic research program at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) to develop and validate effective vaccines and antivirals that can protect our nation’s livestock industries against all subtypes of foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) and against contemporary classical swine fever (CSF) virus strains. In addition, the USAHA urges the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology Directorate (STD) and USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to coordinate the deployment of such advanced vaccines and antivirals under the recently approved National Veterinary Stockpile for rapid deployment throughout the United States.

## **RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are working together to advance the work on new foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccines and antivirals for use as control tools in the face of an FMD outbreak in the United States. In order for these new tools to be deployed, they must meet strict Center for Veterinary Biologics and Food and Drug Administration requirements. Much of the work on these new tools has been completed, but the licensing of new biological reagents is a long process. DHS has focused their research effort at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) on moving these two tools into the commercial market.

The PIADC Center Director, representing DHS, and the Associate Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services have had several discussions about what role the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) can play in moving the novel vaccines into the commercial market. The NVS is very interested in the potential of this new vaccine and has been following the research and proof of concept work closely. Once these tools are licensed for use in the United States, the NVS will begin to stockpile them for use in the face of an FMD outbreak.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS)**

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) recognizes the importance of research on foot-and-mouth disease and Classical Swine Fever. ARS will continue to conduct basic research on disease pathogenesis and development of countermeasures as funding and space availability on Plum Island permit. ARS, with its U.S. Government partners (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Department of Homeland Security) will develop and validate vaccines and antivirals to aid in the protection of the Nation's livestock industries from these diseases. As funds are provided by Congress, research on these foreign animal diseases will be expanded and accelerated.