

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 50 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: RESTRICTING IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Mexican origin steers and spayed heifers meeting United States (US) import requirements are allowed to enter the US without restriction and little consideration for risk to commingled or adjacent livestock that may be exposed to Mexican origin cattle that may be incubating tuberculosis (TB).

Cases of TB continue to be found in Mexican origin steers and spayed heifers, and genetic fingerprinting suggests epidemiologic links and their involvement in transmitting tuberculosis to native US cattle. This has been determined to be a major deterrent in successfully completing the national tuberculosis eradication program in the US.

To adequately address this significant impediment to the successful completion of the US TB Eradication Program, cattle import regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) must be modified to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from non accredited free states or zones in Mexico or from any other zone which historically has not achieved accredited tuberculosis free status meet import testing requirements and be restricted to facilities which contain no breeding cattle.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to modify Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 93.427 to require that steers and spayed heifers originating from states or zones which have never historically achieved Accredited-Free Status only be allowed importation into the United States if import requirements are met and transported directly from the port of entry or first point of assembly to feedlots, pastures or pens which do not contain breeding cattle.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) would like to thank the United States Animal Health Association's Committee on Tuberculosis (TB) for its interest in the National Tuberculosis Eradication Program. VS recognizes that steers and spayed heifers imported from States or zones in Mexico that are not TB free may pose a disease risk to domestic cattle.

VS intends to make changes to our regulations and policies governing the administration of the TB program that are science based. These changes will address identified risks, including the importation of steers and spayed heifers for feeding from States or zones in Mexico that are not accredited TB free and the subsequent movement of these cattle upon entering the United States. As we make these changes, VS will maintain a close working relationship with our stakeholders so that together we can develop a strategy for the TB program that will build upon the successes of the past. VS held five listening sessions in December 2008 to solicit input from our stakeholders regarding revisions and improvements to the program. VS will consider this resolution from the TB Committee when developing these short- and long-range plans for the program.