

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2007

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 68 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: *BRUCELLA OVIS* ELISA TEST

DATE: RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States (US) sheep industry has an urgent need for reliable and consistent results on *Brucella ovis* enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing to detect *Brucella ovis* infection in rams.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) distribute the standard operating protocol (SOP) for performing the *Brucella ovis* enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to laboratories, complete validation (per ISO17025 standards) of the NVSL *Brucella ovis* ELISA before the 2008 spring ram testing season, and develop a national proficiency test program for *Brucella ovis*. These actions will provide for reliable and consistent results on antibody testing for *Brucella ovis* for the United States sheep industry.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the United States Animal Health Association's concerns and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The serology section of the Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory of the NVSL is currently in the process of finalizing quality assurance documents associated with test performance and reagent acquisition for the NVSL indirect ELISA for *Brucella ovis*. These documents were distributed to testing laboratories in February 2008, and reagents were made available at the same time. The validation of the test protocol within the NVSL is ongoing and is included in the overall NVSL ISO 17025 Accreditation Program. Further evaluation will be done in conjunction with field testing in the State laboratories. A conference call was held on

February 26 with participating laboratories to discuss 1) changes in the protocol from the previous version and 2) the upcoming proficiency test.

