



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Resolution

114th Annual Meeting ~ November 11-17, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: RESTRICTED ANIMAL VACCINE USAGE GUIDANCE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State and tribal animal health officials, animal production industries and associated processing industries need clearer guidance relative to the use of restricted animal vaccines in the face of an outbreak of certain foreign animal diseases (FAD) in the United States, especially foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), and Rift Valley fever (RVF). Policy on usage of these vaccines will inform disease spread modeling, response cost estimates, continuity of business planning, and market recovery. Depending on the specific disease emergency, certain segments of animal industries (and possibly public health) will be impacted differently, so FAD planning and response at all levels, i.e., animal production unit, regional food chain, and international trade, must be based on official vaccine usage policy and guidance.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management develop policy and technical guidance for utilization of restricted animal vaccines in the United States for economically important foreign animal diseases (FAD) such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), and Rift Valley fever (RVF). Federal, state and tribal animal health and regulatory officials and academic, and industry stakeholders should be included as members of FAD/FMD policy groups and steering committees to address transportation, storage, tracking and administration of restricted vaccines, as well as identification, marketing, transportation and disposal of vaccinated animals. The policy and technical guidance should be approved by USDA-APHIS-VS leadership and incorporated into national FMD, CSF, and RVF preparedness plans and countermeasure strategies and be made available to all aforementioned stakeholder groups.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services' National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management agrees with the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) interest in the development of policy and technical guidance for using restricted animal vaccines in the United States for economically important foreign animal diseases (FAD) such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), and Rift Valley fever (RVF). APHIS is currently conducting stakeholder meetings regarding FAD preparedness and response. The next scheduled meeting is May 2, 2011. The meetings' purpose is to gather stakeholder input on many FAD topics, but an early focus will be on vaccinating for FMD. Defining the parameters for FMD vaccination will build a foundation for developing vaccination strategies for other FADs.

APHIS also supports USAHA's interest in ensuring that policy and technical guidance incorporated into national FMD, CSF, and RVF preparedness plans and countermeasure strategies are made available to stakeholders. APHIS has already developed new FAD Preparedness and Response Plans (FAD PReP), including standard operating procedures, guidelines, and plans that are publically available on the Web at <https://fadprep.lmi.org>.

FINAL RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

On May 2, 2011, a second Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Stakeholder meeting was held to discuss the challenges, impacts, and consequences of using vaccination in the event of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. APHIS provided introductory presentations about FMD and the strategies for vaccine use. Breakout sessions were held to provide opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions, express concerns, and share ideas on how to move forward in implementing a vaccine policy that addresses their concerns. In response to United States Animal Health Association resolution number 3 and feedback from the May 2 meeting, APHIS is exploring options to form groups with wide stakeholder representation to help inform decisionmaking and policy development on emergency vaccination (e.g., a National Association of State Animal Health Officials subcommittee focused on movement control, continuity of business, and permits). Additionally, and as part of a larger FMD Response Toolbox, we are developing a decision support tool to help determine the appropriate control strategies to use in a specific outbreak. The decision tool considers important criteria on available resources, outbreak demographics, and acceptance of control measures. APHIS will initially explore implementation and usability with emergency management decisionmakers and plans to share and test the decision tool with our stakeholders.

An additional stakeholder meeting is planned for early November 2011 to discuss animal movement control strategies and continuity of business planning. APHIS will continue to work with our stakeholders to develop national-level guidance on FMD mitigation strategies.