



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1, 11, and 17 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

SUBJECT MATTER: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF
VETERINARY INSPECTION FOR LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (e-CVIs) have proven advantages over certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) that are issued via paper form. Electronic CVIs have demonstrated a greater capability to trace, control, and contain livestock diseases. International livestock movements documented via e-CVIs would help to decrease the negative economic impacts that a significant livestock disease outbreak would have on the United States economy and the nation's livestock industry by decreasing the time to trace movements and identify exposed animals.

The use of e-CVIs for livestock in cross-border movements was listed as an action item of the Border Solutions Council and the Cross-border Livestock Health group at the 2010 and 2011 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) meetings. Participants are concerned that extensive paperwork requirements impose significant costs on livestock buyers and sellers and may cause unnecessary stressful welfare conditions to animals in transit.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to collaborate in designing their Information Technology Systems so they are compatible in order to implement electronic certification to expedite movement of livestock across the United States-Canada border.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates your interest in facilitating the trade of animals



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between the United States and Canada. For animals to move internationally, the animals need to be accompanied by an export health certificate. VS is developing a pilot project for electronic export certificates. The project will create and test the necessary information technology infrastructure to provide electronic animal export health certificate services to the public. This pilot is scheduled to start March 26 and end July 30, 2012. We plan to report the results in October 2012.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 Combined with 4

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK
FUNDING



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3, 19 and 31 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH
SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE
ANIMAL DISEASES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) will be one uniform, science and policy based, nationally supported standard list of animal diseases. Standard uniform case finding and case reporting criteria will provide the basis for uniform reporting. The list will facilitate national and international commerce; assist in meeting international reporting obligations to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and trading partners; support generation of export certifications; and contribute to the assessment and reporting of the listed zoonotic and endemic animal diseases in the United States.

In 2006, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) formally identified the need for a unified national list of reportable animal diseases. USAHA previously recommended that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) compile and evaluate current state reporting and notification requirements. Although all states have a required reportable diseases list, there is large variability in these lists. Requirements for federal reporting are related only to program diseases or foreign animal diseases.

In 2007, USAHA and AAVLD formally requested that USDA-APHIS-VS, in cooperation with state animal health officials and industry, develop a United States NLRAD. The NLRAD should include appropriate reporting criteria. The USDA-APHIS-VS supported drafting a list of diseases that may be considered national reportable diseases.

In 2008, USAHA and AAVLD requested that USDA-APHIS-VS task the existing National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) subcommittee of the USAHA/AAVLD Joint Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems, with support from the USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH-National Surveillance Unit (NSU), with developing the NLRAD as well as the case definitions and reporting criteria for each disease on the list. The USDA-APHIS-VS supported this request.



From 2008-2010, the NAHRS Steering Committee in conjunction with the NSU has developed a NLRAD overview draft white paper and a proposed NLRAD. The NLRAD white paper describes the NLRAD reporting structure, the standard operating procedures for the approval and maintenance of the NLRAD, and case definitions and reporting criteria development.

USDA-APHIS-VS and the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) subcommittee of the USAHA/AAVLD Joint Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems continue to move forward with implementing a United States NLRAD.

The NLRAD is under review by National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and VS Area Veterinarians in Charge with comments requested by September 23, 2011. The NLRAD has also been distributed to USAHA animal disease commodity committees with a request for discussion in Buffalo at the USAHA meeting and comments by October 30. After considering the current round of stakeholder comments with concurrence of the NAHRS subcommittee and final approval by VS management, it will be published as a cooperative State-Federal set of guidelines for reportable disease. In addition, once the NLRAD is finalized, VS will be requested to initiate the regulatory process to establish and maintain the NLRAD and associated reporting requirements.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians request that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, finalize the United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) and related NLRAD white paper and initiate the regulatory process to establish and maintain the NLRAD and associated reporting requirements.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS), acknowledges the support of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

VS and the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) subcommittee of the USAHA/AAVLD Joint Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems continue to move forward with implementing a National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD).

Currently, the NAHRS subcommittee is reviewing stakeholder comments that were provided after the 2011 AAVLD/USAHA meeting in Buffalo, New York. After considering the comments with concurrence of the NAHRS subcommittee and final approval by VS management, the NLRAD will be published as a cooperative State-Federal set of guidelines for reportable diseases. We project that the NLRAD will be finalized in



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September 2012. In addition, once the NLRAD is finalized, VS will initiate the regulatory process to codify the NLRAD and associated reporting requirements.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4, 2, 5, 20 and 23 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK FUNDING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is our nation's early warning system guarding against emerging and foreign animal diseases that threaten the nation's food supply. The NAHLN also plays a large role in zoonotic disease surveillance and the protection of public health. The NAHLN has proven itself to be an effective way to expand and strengthen veterinary diagnostic capabilities in a coordinated network across the United States. Diagnostic capacity is a critical asset in case of major animal disease events, and any reduction in the NAHLN budget places our animal industries, the security of our food supply, and consequently our citizens' health and the United States (US) economy at enormous risk.

Federal support of the NAHLN allows veterinary diagnostic laboratories to perform high-consequence disease surveillance to protect against several foreign animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and avian influenza. Response to recent FMD outbreaks in Asia cost billions of dollars resulting in millions of cattle and swine destroyed and reducing food security. According to estimates by federal agencies, the cost to the US for a similar outbreak in our country could be as much as \$100 billion. Results from several studies show that for every hour FMD goes undetected, the cost of response increases by as much as \$10 million. Surge capacity (increased sustained testing in case of a disease outbreak) in the network has been built to a level that will help offset disease-related economic losses to industry, states and the federal government through rapid diagnostic deployment and efficient and secure communication. However, limited funding of the NAHLN to date has not allowed expansion of the NAHLN to achieve a level projected to more fully diminish losses from disease outbreaks.

At the FY 2010 funding level from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative and from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal



and Plant Health Inspection Service to support the NAHLN and the NAHLN laboratory infrastructure, economic losses associated with response and recovery from a serious disease event, and possible human losses, will far exceed this figure if NAHLN capability is not increased. To sufficiently meet US food security, and animal and public health needs, \$30 million is needed annually to support a fully functional laboratory infrastructure and to continue enhancements for network capacity and information technology capabilities. Further, since the annual appropriations process creates challenges for laboratories in sustaining the federal investment into NAHLN infrastructure capacity and capability, a more stable funding mechanism on a multi-year basis is needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians request that the Secretary of Agriculture support and that Congress authorize \$30 million in annual funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). We further request that in order to adequately sustain the network to ensure food safety and security, animal and public health, and the United States economy, Congress fund the NAHLN through a stable funding mechanism.

The United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians urge Congress to fully fund the authorized amount to ensure that NAHLN infrastructure, capacity, and capability are maintained and enhanced.

RESPONSE:

APHIS and NIFA

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is a critical part of our national emergency preparedness and response infrastructure. Global and emerging animal health issues make the NAHLN even more critical. Throughout the 10 years of its existence, the NAHLN has significantly enhanced our diagnostic capabilities and the capacity to address high consequence animal health situations. We are especially pleased with how the partnership between USDA and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) has contributed to NAHLN's success. We appreciate your support of NAHLN and will keep your suggestion in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 18 2012

Mr. David T. Marshall
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 2011, forwarding resolutions passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) at its October 2011 annual meeting. I apologize for the delayed response.

I appreciate USAHA's sharing its views on issues of importance to your organization. I look forward to further dialogue with USAHA on these and other issues as we evaluate the health needs of animals in our country and move ahead with important animal health initiatives. To address your specific resolutions, I have asked officials with the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture to respond in more detail.

Again, thank you for your letter. I value USAHA's longstanding partnership with USDA and look forward to continued collaboration advancing our mutual efforts to safeguard and promote U.S. animal health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack", written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

APHIS and NIFA Response to USAHA Regarding USAHA Resolutions 4, 9, 30, and 36

Resolution 4

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is a critical part of our national emergency preparedness and response infrastructure. Global and emerging animal health issues make the NAHLN even more critical. Throughout the 10 years of its existence, the NAHLN has significantly enhanced our diagnostic capabilities and capacity to address high consequence animal health situations. We are especially pleased with how the partnership between USDA and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) has contributed to NAHLN's success. We appreciate your support of NAHLN and will keep your suggestions in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.

Resolution 9

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will continue to support animal health and production-related efforts through our Agriculture and Food Research Initiative programs. These programs provide opportunities for science-based discoveries. Recent programs such as NIFA's pre and post-doctoral fellowships and the National Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program are proving to be extremely beneficial in filling subject-matter-expertise gaps in animal health sciences, as well as ensuring adequate veterinary services coverage across the Nation. USDA will continue to ensure that adequate funds are available to address programs that are critical in supporting animal health sciences and infrastructure across our Nation. We appreciate your support of NIFA programs and will keep your suggestions in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.

Resolution 30

USDA is committed to continue building its partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in support of a collaborative, unified approach to Federal pre-harvest food safety efforts. Drawing on its expertise in veterinary medicine, epidemiology, pathology, microbial biology, and other areas, APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) works closely with its partners, including HHS' Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to develop strategies to effectively address pre-harvest issues. In addition, Secretary Vilsack has created the USDA One Health Multiagency Coordination Group to ensure that APHIS VS and other USDA agencies with relevant responsibilities are working together on food safety issues and other issues where animal and human health are linked.

Resolution 36

We appreciate USAHA's support of the National Veterinary Stockpile as a component of the Nation's agriculture and food defense strategy and will keep your suggestions in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: **5 Combined with 4**

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY
NETWORK FUNDING



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: MAINTAINING A WELL-TRAINED FEDERAL VETERINARY FIELD WORKFORCE AND DEVELOPING A SYSTEM FOR CONTINUALLY IMPROVING ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AT THE FIELD LEVEL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Because of budget cutbacks, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reorganizing the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS reports that it can no longer operate as it has in the past, as current and projected funding streams will not support the agency's existing operations and organizational structure. APHIS proposes to centralize its infrastructure by streamlining and consolidating its management to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources provided. APHIS is considering actions that will eliminate programs not specifically funded in the budget; pursuing lower operating cost initiatives; reducing funding of selective cooperative agreements; and restricting hiring, training, travel, and services.

This causes concern that USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services (VS) field programs will be underfunded or eliminated and the maintenance of well-trained USDA-APHIS employees in field locations will not be able to continue as they have in the past, which will negatively impact USDA-APHIS' role in the protection of animal health. One of the primary reasons that USDA-APHIS-VS has been so successful in the past is that it has a veterinary field force that can effectively and efficiently work with states, industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to prevent, control and eliminate animal diseases and pests. While many of the USDA-APHIS-VS field programs have been successfully completed, maintaining animal health is a continual process that requires a well-trained veterinary field workforce. Existing programs need to be monitored, and new diseases and pests will need to be addressed and eliminated. With USDA-APHIS budgets continually being reduced, there may be serious consideration given to reducing and/or eliminating federal animal disease prevention/control activities in the field. USDA-APHIS may become an advisory agency with no field workforce or hands-on experience to prevent, recognize, or respond to an animal or public health emergency.

The United States Animal Health Association should inform Congress of the importance of maintaining a well-trained federal veterinary field workforce to continue protecting



animal health by controlling diseases and pests through comprehensive surveillance and response programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to maintain and improve the current federal veterinary field workforce to protect the nation's animal and public health. Any significant reorganization in the veterinary workforce should be carried out in collaboration with state animal health authorities, animal industries and non-governmental organizations to ensure an adequate animal and public health infrastructure.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

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

Congressionally appropriated funding for VS has been reduced each year for the past 3 years, with fiscal year (FY) 2012 representing a 9 percent decrease from FY 2011. However, VS is committed to ensuring that the United States has an effective, committed, and highly skilled veterinary field force within the limitations of this budget reality.

As part of the VS2015 initiative, we studied how VS needs to adapt to meet the demands of animal agriculture. To the extent possible, we have focused budget reductions on program areas that are less central to our core functions of disease exclusion, detection, and response. For example, we have essentially eliminated funding for chronic wasting disease and Johne's disease. We are looking at ways to improve our delivery of services, such as moving from generalized to targeted surveillance. Lastly, we continue to offer relevant, critical training to our workforce.

Despite making programmatic changes, some office closures have already been implemented, and under increasingly tightening budgets, additional changes to operations may be necessary. However, we will strive to ensure that we maintain our core field functions to meet the needs of our stakeholders. As we consider possible changes to the veterinary workforce, we will continue to keep our State and industry partners informed.

To meet the agricultural challenges of the 21st Century, VS provides relevant, critical training to its workforce. The VS Professional Development Staff (PDS) facilitated 29 training courses in FY 2011, and most courses have a hands-on component. In addition, two distance-learning courses were created by PDS staff last year, and eight courses that



had been created by contractors in previous years are now available online to VS employees.

In January 2011, VS established the One Health Coordination Office to contribute toward improving the global health of people, animals, ecosystems, and society. Within VS, One Health is central to our VS2015 initiative. To implement the VS2015 One Health strategy, we will build upon past successes in safeguarding American agriculture, continue monitoring diseases affecting livestock, and ensure that new diseases and pests can be addressed and eliminated. VS will continue to provide U.S. leadership for the animal component of One Health and increase our collaborations among Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments; private industry; and the human health, animal health, and agriculture communities.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED

SOURCE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY SERVICES INVESTMENT ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Veterinary Services Investment Act (VSIA) (SS1053, May 23, 2011) will help ensure a stable and safe food supply for citizens in the United States.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) reports that 60 percent of the veterinary school graduates in 2009 entered private practice of which only five percent opted to practice large-animal medicine. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has predicted a veterinarian shortage in the coming years. This shortage already exists in parts of rural America and shows signs of worsening unless current trends are reversed. There are urgent unmet needs for veterinary services within rural areas jeopardizing both animal and public health and the ability to trade animals and animal products interstate and internationally.

This legislation will establish a new competitive grant program to relieve veterinary shortage situations and support veterinary services. It will help address the challenges faced by America's farmers and rural communities which rely heavily on large animal veterinarians. Grants awarded under the program may be used for a variety of purposes including:

- Promoting recruitment, placement, and retention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students of veterinary medicine and students of veterinary technology.
- Assisting veterinarians with establishing or expanding practices for the purpose of equipping veterinary offices, sharing in the overhead costs of such practices, or for the establishment of mobile veterinary facilities where at least a portion of such facilities will address education or extension needs.
- Providing financial assistance for veterinary students, veterinary interns and externs, fellows and residents, and veterinary technician students to attend training programs in food safety or food animal medicine, to cover expenses other than tuition.
- Establishing or expanding accredited veterinary education programs, veterinary residency and fellowship programs or veterinary internship programs, or



veterinary internship and externship programs in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

- Programs for tele-veterinary medicine where such practices shall at least in part contribute to veterinary extension, education, or research.
- Assisting the office or position of a state veterinarian or animal health official to coordinate veterinary services and food protection issues.
- Assessments of veterinarian shortage situations and preparation of applications for designation as a shortage situation.
- Continuing education and extension, including distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety.
- Recruiting and retaining faculty at accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.
- Programs, in coordination with universities or local educational agencies, to encourage students in secondary schools to pursue careers in veterinary medical or science professions.

VSIA will be administered by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture shall award a preference to applications that document coordination between or with the state, national allied or regional veterinary organizations, or specialty boards recognized by AVMA; the applicable accredited veterinary education institution, accredited department of veterinary science, or department of comparative medicine; or the applicable state veterinarian or animal health official (or its equivalent); and will use the grant funds to help meet veterinary workforce or food protection needs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Congress pass and fund the Veterinary Services Investment Act.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND
EDUCATION ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinarians interested in pursuing a career in public health face additional financial burdens due to additional education requirements. Eighty nine percent of today's veterinary students have debt upon graduation of which 90.4% was incurred while in veterinary school. According to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the mean educational debt for today's veterinary medical graduate is approximately \$142,000, with approximately 37% of students graduating in 2010 reporting debt exceeding \$150,000.

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Enhancement Act (PHSA) will increase the number of veterinarians working in public health in two ways. It establishes that "veterinary public health" professionals are intended to be included among the health professionals for purposes of two PHSA authorities: section 765, which provides for grants for expanding America's public health workforce, and section 766, which establishes a loan repayment program for public health professionals.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association supports the Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act and urges the United States Congress to pass and fund this legislation.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR SECTION 1433 FORMULA FUNDS FOR
ANIMAL HEALTH AND RESEARCH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) have been in existence since 1977 and provide an extremely valuable source of funds for fundamental research on diseases of food producing animals. These funds are important for the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Science departments in the United States. In the past, these funds allowed food animal related research on local and emerging diseases; however, these funds have been steadily dwindling and eroded by inflation. As a result, college faculties are shifting efforts to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research which will not support research on agricultural animals or on food safety at the farm level. Section 1433 Formula Funds have also supported training graduate students in most colleges and veterinary science departments. There are no other funds available at this time to provide this much needed support.

For a number of years the President's budget had not included any money for Section 1433 Formula Funds, but Congress has provided less annually. In FY11, \$2.95 million was appropriated to the fund.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the President include the authorized level of \$10 million for Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) in his Annual Budget request.

USAHA also requests the House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees to fund Section 1433 Formula Funds (P.L. 95-113) at the authorized level of \$10 million per year.



RESPONSE:

APHIS and NIFA

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will continue to support animal health and production-related efforts through our Agriculture and Food Research Initiative programs. These programs provide opportunities for science-based discoveries. Recent programs such as NIFA's pre and post-doctoral fellowships and the National Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program are proving to be extremely beneficial in filling subject-matter-expertise gaps in animal health sciences, as well as ensuring adequate veterinary services coverage across the Nation. USDA will continue to ensure adequate funds are available to address programs that are critical in supporting animal health sciences and infrastructure across our Nation. We appreciate your support of NIFA programs and will keep your suggestions in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT FOR FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE
DATABANK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD), in existence since 1982, provides scientifically valid information on how to avoid drug, environmental and pesticide contaminant residues in food animals and it helps to avert food safety crises. No other federal or private entity duplicates FARAD. FARAD develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, and state and federal regulatory and extension specialists on avoiding both animal drug residues and environmental contaminants in meat, milk and eggs. FARAD's databank provides information regarding the time-course of drug and chemical depletion in blood and tissues of animals following the routine use of drugs in animal agriculture, for the extra-label use of drugs in animal agriculture, and during food contamination emergencies which might arise from exposure to environmental toxins, particularly pesticides, either accidentally or intentionally introduced into the food supply. Additionally, FARAD provides rapid response assistance through both its telephone hotline and web access for inquiries concerning residue issues that affect food animal health and food product contamination. FARAD provides assistance in trade matters by maintaining databanks of foreign drug approvals and it trains veterinary students and veterinary medical residents in the principles of residue avoidance.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the President to request and the United States Congress to fund the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank at \$2.5 million annually.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 11 Combined with 1

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT

SUBJECT MATTER: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF
VETERINARY INSPECTION FOR LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES



implemented a collaborative effort with Quality Certification Services (QCS) for certification of Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) and non-DHI laboratories.

As part of this collaboration, NVSL will receive a panel of well-characterized milk samples routinely used in the QCS monthly test panel. NVSL will evaluate these milk samples for suitability. In addition, NVSL will request specific milk samples for kit assembly to ensure the kit composition meets the description within the Uniform Program Standards for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program – 2010.

NVSL will be responsible for the distribution of the proficiency test kits to all participating laboratories. The DHI laboratories receiving these kits will conduct all required milk testing (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and milk quality testing) using these kits.

All laboratories (DHI and non-DHI) will report their proficiency test results through the QCS online reporting program. At the end of the reporting deadline, NVSL will download all results from the QCS online reporting program, evaluate the submitted results, and administer certification notices to laboratories that successfully complete the Johne's Milk ELISA Proficiency Test.

Proposal for DHI Laboratory certification through the NVSL Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test program using Quality Certification Services Inc. (QCS), a subsidiary of National DHIA, Proficiency Testing Data:

Objective: To integrate the QCS milk proficiency test into the NVSL Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test program allowing DHI laboratory certification utilizing the QCS monthly proficiency test results.

Laboratory Application Process:

1. An invitation letter will be sent by the NVSL to all labs participating in the previous year's Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test.
2. A proficiency test order form will be included with the invitation letter.
3. The order form will contain a check box area to select whether the laboratory is a DHI laboratory.
 - a. For participating non-DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the "non-DHI laboratory" check box.
 - b. For participating DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the "DHI laboratory" check box.
4. On the lower portion of the order form, where laboratories select how many kits requested, two options will be available for selecting the proper pricing structure.
 - a. For participating non-DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the kit quantity requested to be sent to the particular laboratory.
 - b. For participating DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the "DHI laboratory – administrative fee" option.
5. For non-DHI laboratories the kit purchase fee will apply for each kit ordered. For DHI laboratories, a designated administrative fee will be applied to cover the costs involved in evaluating test results and administrating approval letters and certificates.

Kit Composition and Administration:

1. The QCS milk panel will be utilized for evaluating all laboratories participating in the annual NVSL Milk ELISA proficiency test program.
2. One to three months prior to administration, QCS shall forward information related to panel composition, grading criteria, and other panel specifics to ensure the NVSL is aware of testing specifics.
3. The panel will consist of 20 total samples. Ten different milk samples will be utilized, with each sample utilized in duplicate.
 - a. The entire kit shall consist of three to five Johne's negative milk samples and five to seven Johne's positive milk samples, each used in duplicate.
4. The milk samples utilized in the QCS kits will also be supplied to the NVSL in sufficient quantity so that the same milk samples are utilized in the NVSL Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test kits.
 - a. This will ensure all participating laboratories are being tested on the same characteristic milk samples.
5. One specific month will be designated, in coordination with QCS, to serve as the official testing month.

6. QCS shall administer kits to participating DHI laboratories and the NVSL shall administer kits to all participating non-DHI laboratories.

Answer submission and results evaluation:

1. The QCS testing data from participating DHI laboratories for that particular month will be utilized for certification of DHI labs.
2. QCS will submit to the NVSL, in a spreadsheet format, the testing data for each participating DHI laboratory.
 - a. The raw testing data shall be included in the spreadsheet. The data will include the following: Laboratory Identifier, Individual submitting results, Kit manufacturer, Kit Lot Number, Date Test Completed, Negative Control values, Positive Control values, Sample Number identifier, Sample Test Value, Result interpretation.
3. The NVSL shall evaluate the DHI laboratory testing data in combination with all other participating laboratories.
4. For the NVSL proficiency test, the previously established NVSL qualifying criteria for a passing score shall stay in effect.

Laboratory Results Reporting and Certification:

1. Upon completion of testing data evaluation, laboratories shall be notified by the NVSL as to final results (pass/fail).
2. For laboratories not passing the initial round of testing shall be allowed one retest. A retest kit will be administered by the NVSL in these particular occurrences.
3. For laboratories completing the testing criteria satisfactorily, the NVSL shall notify those laboratories with a summary report letter and a certificate of satisfactory completion.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE FUNDING FOR CAPTIVE CERVIDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The proposed rule for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification and Interstate Movement of Captive Cervids in farmed cervidae requires that all farmed cervidae greater than 12 months of age that die or are slaughtered must be tested for CWD. Farmed cervidae producers across the nation have complied with testing requirements, in large part because laboratory costs for CWD testing have traditionally been paid with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds.

The CWD testing protocol that is recommended for farmed cervidae is the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test using formalin fixed samples of brain stem and retropharyngeal lymph node from each animal. It is the most sensitive and specific test for detecting CWD. The test is expensive and costs at least \$25.00 per slide to perform at USDA approved laboratories.

There is an urgency to maintain USDA funding to cover the costs of CWD testing for farmed cervidae. If USDA funding for CWD tests ends and farmed cervidae producers are forced to cover the cost of such tests, there is a real possibility that producer compliance with CWD testing requirements will decrease. Without producer cooperation, the national CWD control program for farmed cervidae could collapse.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to continue to provide funding to cover the laboratory costs of testing farmed cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease by immunohistochemistry at all approved laboratories.

INTERIM 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.



In fiscal year 2012, the congressional appropriation for the chronic wasting disease (CWD) program was reduced by \$13.9 million, to approximately \$1.9 million. Consequently, VS no longer has funds to cover testing costs for farmed cervids. Laboratories and industry were informed that this funding ended on December 31, 2011; all such costs must now be borne by the producers. VS will continue to cover only confirmatory testing on any presumptive CWD positive samples from farmed and wild cervidae at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

VS will direct remaining program funds to the publication of the CWD final rule and the administrative costs associated with implementation of the national CWD herd certification program.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HERD CERTIFICATION AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENT FINAL RULE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Implementation of rules for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) that define the CWD herd certification program (9 CFR 55 Subpart B) and requirements for interstate movement of farmed cervidae (9 CFR 81) has been delayed since 2006.

There is an urgency to finalize these rules to ensure that CWD certification programs are uniformly administered in all states and that all farmed cervidae that move from state to state meet the same requirements. These rules are critically important to the survival of the farmed cervidae industry. These rules are needed to preserve the ability of producers to move farmed cervidae and their products interstate and internationally without unnecessary restrictions.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to finalize rules for Chronic Wasting Disease herd certification programs (9 CFR 55 Subpart B) and interstate movement of farmed cervidae (9 CFR 81).

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services appreciates your interest in the rulemaking for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

The CWD amended final rule was cleared by USDA and is in clearance in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Once OMB clearance is completed, the CWD amended rule would become effective 60 days after its publication.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AND ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

SUBJECT MATTER: LIVE ANIMAL TESTING FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in live animals is an important component of CWD Prevention and Control Programs.

With the funding decrease for CWD indemnification, the need has increased for additional diagnostic tools to monitor CWD positive herds and epidemiologically linked herds that may be maintained in quarantine rather than depopulated. The use of recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) has been approved as a live animal test for Scrapie. There have been numerous studies evaluating the sensitivity and specificity of RAMALT in cervids.

There are several additional advantages to RAMALT sampling. There is a large amount of suitable tissue to sample and multiple sites can be sampled allowing repeat sampling over time.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services evaluate live animal tests, including the rectal biopsy (RAMALT), as a live animal test for Chronic Wasting Disease.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services appreciates your interest in live animal tests for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

APHIS is completing analysis of a multi-year study evaluating recto-anal mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (RAMALT) biopsy testing as a diagnostic tool for CWD detection in captive white-tailed deer. This is a collaborative study with APHIS Wildlife Services, Agricultural Research Service, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Colorado State University, and others to evaluate the existing collective data on white-tailed deer relative to diagnostic testing and interpretation of the immunohistochemistry test for CWD



on rectal biopsy testing in the United States and Canada. Currently, there is insufficient data available to evaluate this technique on other captive Cervidae.

After this analysis is completed, APHIS will determine the applicability of RAMALT for use in a CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP). We plan to complete this determination by September 30, 2012. APHIS also will continue to evaluate other live animal tests for CWD, as they are developed, to assess appropriate use in a CWD HCP.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 Combined with 1

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

SUBJECT MATTER: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF
VETERINARY INSPECTION FOR LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES



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Swine Species Committee at the 2012 National Institute for Animal Agriculture annual meeting and to the United States Animal Health Association Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine at the 2012 meeting.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19 Combined with 3

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE ANIMAL DISEASES



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 Combined with 4

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK
FUNDING



- Be identified with ISO-compliant microchip and that the identification number be held in a repository accessible by states; **AND**
- Nested real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and complement fixation test negative on post-treatment testing; **AND**
- Negative by transfusion to a splenectomized horse **OR** negative by the USDA-ARS Western Blot clearance test; **AND**
- Competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA) negative at USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory;

Additionally, annual cELISA tests should be conducted for the first three years after release as added assurance of disease freedom.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is reviewing the data on equine piroplasmiasis- (EP) affected horses that test negative after being treated according to the program that the Agricultural Research Service designed for *Theileria equi*. We will report on this data review at the 2012 annual USAHA meeting and will develop a policy on the disposition of EP-affected horses that test negative after treatment.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 22 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS - IMPORTATION TESTING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is classified as a Foreign Animal Disease to the United States. However, it is assumed that the disease exists at some unknown prevalence level in horses that are native to the United States or horses that have been imported into the United States. This assumption is based on the fact that prior to February 1, 2004, the “official test” for Piroplasmosis, conducted on equine animals presented for importation into the United States was the Complement Fixation (CF) test. An upgraded competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA) test was specified as the “official test” on August 22, 2005, and is highly unlikely to yield “false negative” results on chronically EP infected adult horses.

While the cELISA has a significantly higher sensitivity in detecting the chronically infected EP horse, the sensitivity to detection of the acutely infected horse is much lower when compared to the CF test. Recently, through research and EP disease investigations, there have been cases where acutely EP infected horses have tested negative on the cELISA test but positive on the CF test. As a result, the Equine Piroplasmosis Working Group recommended that the definition of a confirmed case of EP be defined as, “an equid that has tested positive by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) with either a complement fixation (CF) test or a competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA).” This definition was incorporated into domestic policy in Veterinary Services Memorandum 555.20.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, to require a negative Complement Fixation test **and** a negative competitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay test for Equine Piroplasmosis (*Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*) prior to importation of equids into the United States.

INTERIM RESPONSE:



The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) concurs with this recommendation. In the second quarter of calendar year 2012, the VS National Center for Import and Export plans to formally incorporate complement-fixation testing into the standard equine import testing protocol, which already includes the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Before implementing this change, VS must notify brokers and importers about the new requirement and associated costs. Further, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories must prepare additional reagents to supply foreign laboratories that conduct preexport screening tests.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 Combined with 4

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK
FUNDING



Further, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) continues to provide support for laboratories wishing to perform the *Brucella abortus* BAPA and FPA tests in the form of diagnostic testing, supply of diagnostic reagents, and a proficiency testing program. Additionally wildlife serum samples are planned to be included as part of future proficiency tests based upon sample availability and validation by NVSL.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CENTERS FOR
 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Herd depopulation of brucellosis affected herds has been an important component of the Emergency Action Brucellosis Eradication Program. Depopulation with associated indemnification may be needed intermittently in the three Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) states that face the continual threat of brucellosis transmission from infected wildlife.

With the federal brucellosis eradication program taking a new direction per the Interim Brucellosis Rule [APHIS-2009-0083], and Tuberculosis/Brucellosis Framework [APHIS-2011-0044], depopulation of brucellosis affected herds is no longer mandatory, but rather the decision to depopulate or proceed with a test and removal program is made based on the epidemiological investigation and other factors. It would be beneficial to have a transparent system that defines the decision criteria used by Veterinary Services to determine if a herd qualifies for depopulation.

In 2010, the Subcommittee on Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (SBGYA) drafted a Depopulation Decision Matrix that attempts to provide a quantitative assessment of various criteria which should be assessed prior to decision making on the disposition of affected herds. While recognizing the potential benefit of the matrix in herd management, an epidemiological and statistical review may improve its utility. The SBGYA prefers to focus on improving this depopulation matrix and opposes utilizing a depopulation model originally developed for the Tuberculosis Eradication Program. Application of any model should be based on brucellosis epidemiology and input from state and tribal animal health officials.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services/Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health provide technical assistance to the Committee on Brucellosis of the USAHA in an epidemiologic analysis of the depopulation matrix components to improve its utility and applicability to herds affected with brucellosis. Further, the USAHA requests USDA-APHIS to implement the updated matrix as part of a transparent decision process before the next USAHA meeting.



INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the need to provide information on the criteria used to determine when brucellosis indemnity will be paid. Accordingly, VS will develop a policy statement on use of its limited brucellosis indemnity funds for brucellosis whole herd depopulations. VS will work with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials to obtain comments and will have the policy prepared by the 2012 United States Animal Health Association meeting.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: CALFHOOD VACCINATION OF BISON UP TO TWENTY-
FOUR MONTHS OF AGE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services requested that United States Animal Health Association's Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate the use of *Brucella abortus* "Strain RB 51 vaccine" in bison between the age of 12 and 18 months due to the later maturity of bison as compared to cattle. Data was previously presented by Dr. Steven Olsen regarding serological responses in bison calves vaccinated with RB 51 between the ages of 12 and 24 months. Bison calves vaccinated during this time frame remained seronegative after vaccination. The scientific advisory subcommittee of the Brucellosis committee recommended the use of this vaccine in this age of animal.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services adjust the allowable age of RB51 official calfhood vaccination of bison through 24 months of age.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) on brucellosis vaccination. We have reviewed the resolution to adjust the allowable age of RB51 official calfhood vaccination of bison to 24 months of age. We recognize that the Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee's evaluation of the serologic responses in bison calves indicated that calfhood vaccination with *Brucella abortus* RB51 stimulated an immune response and, when tested, these bison calves remained sero-negative throughout the study.

We also recognize that the safety and efficacy of the use of the *B. abortus* Strain RB51 vaccine in bison calves of the proposed 4 to 24 month age range must be evaluated before considering changes to regulations and program standards. USDA Agricultural Research



Service is evaluating serologic responses of bison to multiple inoculations with *B. abortus* RB51 and evaluating the safety and efficacy of booster vaccination of bison.

In addition to this work, further evaluation is needed to support this resolution, and we request your assistance. Specifically, we ask that the USAHA Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee evaluate relevant data and provide recommendations on the feasibility of adjusting the age for vaccinating bison. If relevant data are not available, we would appreciate input on a plan to scientifically validate the vaccination age for bison. A report from the USAHA Brucellosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee at or before the 2012 USAHA meeting would facilitate further discussion and decision-making.

Other issues, such as extra-label use of the *B. abortus* Strain RB51 vaccine in bison, need to be addressed as well. VS will continue to seek appropriate options and resolutions to these issues.

If a change in age of brucellosis vaccination for bison is feasible, we will reflect changes in the new comprehensive regulations and program standards that VS is developing for the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis programs.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates discussions with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and United States Animal Health Association concerning a situation report template. This template will be used to inform States about epidemiological investigations, including tracing information for brucellosis and tuberculosis affected herds. The use of this situation report will be a collaborative effort between the States and VS. We expect the template will be ready for use by March 2012. In addition, VS will continue to distribute to the States a monthly summary report on brucellosis- and tuberculosis-affected herds as well as an update on tuberculosis slaughter cases.



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item for fiscal year 2013, and it has been included in the President's budget. Before the new line item can be established, it must be approved by Congress.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 and 33 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM – SURVEILLANCE
LEVELS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress toward scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) began in 2001 and has made excellent progress as demonstrated by a 96 percent reduction of scrapie in sheep diagnosed positive at slaughter as adjusted for face color. At this time the best available epidemiological analysis suggests that, with adequate funding, eradication is possible by 2017. However, as described in the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan, funding is currently inadequate to meet surveillance goals. Specifically, funding is needed to insure that sampling goals are met for both sheep and goats and that the information system is designed to maximize the value of the data collected. Also, the number of scrapie-positive animals that could be traced from slaughter was only 80 percent in FY 2011. Surveillance, identification compliance, and producer education must be significantly increased in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-infected flocks/herds.

As the NSEP nears success, maximum surveillance is needed to achieve the final goal of eradication. We are concerned that federal budget constraints may jeopardize the ability to carry out the targeted surveillance needed for final scrapie eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to maintain or increase scrapie surveillance levels for sheep, and increase surveillance levels for goats.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates your concerns and intends to maintain scrapie surveillance levels as high as possible, given the current and expected budget. To maximize the effectiveness of surveillance, for example, we are limiting sampling of lower risk classes of sheep and



goats to animals in the 2- to 5-year age range. In that way, we will be focusing resources on testing animals where the disease is most likely to be found.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 30 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE'S ROLE IN PRE-HARVEST FOOD SAFETY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Human foodborne illness associated with poultry meat consumption continues to be a significant public health concern within the United States as evidenced by The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent *FY 2011 – 2016 FSIS Strategic Plan* which identifies the following Strategic Theme:

Strategic Theme: Understand and Influence the Farm-to-Table Continuum

- *Goal 5: Effectively use science to understand foodborne illness and emerging trends*
- *Goal 6: Implement effective policies to respond to existing and emerging risks*

We believe that USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services' (VS) mission is to partner with, support, and assist other Agencies that have regulatory authority in this area.

USDA-APHIS-VS, through the National Poultry Improvement Plan, National Anti-Microbial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) and the USDA-APHIS-VS National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), has extensive knowledge of on-farm practices in animal agriculture along with the core competencies necessary for pre-harvest food safety outbreak investigations. This expertise makes USDA-APHIS-VS the obvious candidate-agency for undertaking the pre-harvest food safety effort consistent with USDA-APHIS-VS 2015 vision. One Health and pre-harvest food safety are 2 of the 4 documented core pillars of this vision. Additionally, USDA-APHIS-VS mission supports the Center for Disease Control's *One Health Strategic Plan* and the Food Safety Inspection Service Strategic Plan for 2011-2016.

Recommended activities for USDA-APHIS-VS include:

1. Direct the National Animal Health Monitoring System program to perform baseline prevalence studies for salmonella and campylobacter at the turkey and chicken



breeder and progeny farm and hatchery level, determine antimicrobial resistance profiles at each stage of production, and identify effective intervention strategies;

2. Approach the Center for Veterinary Medicine to return authority for evaluation and approval of food safety vaccines and competitive exclusion products to the Center for Veterinary Biologics.
3. Continue to fully fund the ongoing efforts of the USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL and support for the NARMS program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges that the Secretaries of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Department of Health and Human Services develop a collaborative, unified approach to federal pre-harvest food safety efforts, utilizing the expertise of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services.

RESPONSE:

APHIS and NIFA

USDA is committed to continue building its partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in support of a collaborative, unified approach to Federal pre-harvest food safety efforts. Drawing on its expertise in veterinary medicine, epidemiology, pathology, microbial biology, and other areas, APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) works closely with its partners, including HHS' Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to develop strategies to effectively address pre-harvest issues. In addition, Secretary Vilsack has created the USDA One Health Multiagency Coordination Group to ensure that APHIS VS and other USDA agencies with relevant responsibilities are working together on food safety issues and other issues where animal and human health are linked.



December 7, 2011

David T. Marshall
President, USAHA
4221 Mitchell Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Dr. Marshall:

Thank you very much for your letter dated November 8, 2011, sharing Resolution Number 30 from your Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and other avian species.

In your Resolution you request that the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) develop a collaborative, unified approach to federal pre-harvest food safety efforts utilizing the expertise of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Your Resolution recommends three specific actions.

We appreciate you sharing your Resolution with us. Please be assured that USDA and HHS through the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) work very closely on pre-harvest food safety efforts. Both agencies have a number of ongoing, joint initiatives including those you reference in your letter to identify food safety hazards and encourage the development and approval of effective intervention strategies.

Thank you again for sharing this information with us and we appreciate your interest in our work.

Sincerely yours,

Tracey H. Forfa, J.D.

Deputy Director

Center for Veterinary Medicine



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 Combined with 3

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: UNITED STATES NATIONAL LIST OF REPORTABLE
ANIMAL DISEASES



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32 Combined with 34

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: Q-FEVER (*COXIELLA BURNETTI*) VACCINE FOR SHEEP AND GOATS AND FOR HUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 33 Combined with 29

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP & GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM – SURVEILLANCE LEVELS



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 and 32 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: Q-FEVER (*COXIELLA BURNETTI*) VACCINE FOR SHEEP AND GOATS AND FOR HUMANS IN THE UNITED STATES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Q-Fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetti*. *Coxiella* infection is found in many species in many countries of the world, including the United States. The disease is a major cause of abortion in sheep and goats, which results in significant economic losses to producers, but also results in significant risk of transmission to human beings. Exposure to the products of abortion (or raw milk products) either directly or through environmental contamination poses a significant public health risk, as demonstrated by the recent Q-fever epidemic (human and goat) in the Netherlands.

Currently there is no vaccine available in the United States to prevent *Coxiella burnetti* infection or abortion in sheep and goats. Such a vaccine is available in Europe. The availability/approval of a safe and effective sheep and goat vaccine for *Coxiella burnetti* in the United States would serve to safeguard human health and prevent production losses due to this potentially devastating disease. Humans not in direct contact with aborting animals also face some risk of indirect environmental exposure, so effective vaccination of sheep and goats could play a key role in minimizing human exposure. Additionally, the availability and approval of a safe and effective human vaccine would provide protection for those with occupational risk of exposure to *Coxiella burnetti*.

RESOLUTION:

In priority order:

First, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for sheep and goats.

Second, the USAHA encourages the Food and Drug Administration to facilitate the licensure of a safe and effective Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccine for humans.

Third, the USAHA encourages USDA-APHIS-VS, Center for Veterinary Biologics to facilitate the importation, for investigation and research, of available animal Q-fever (*Coxiella burnetti*) vaccines from the European Union and Australia.



INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services appreciates your concerns about the availability of a vaccine for Q fever in the United States.

Our Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) has reviewed the public information report for Coxiella Burnetii Vaccine, known as Coxevac, published by the European Medicines Agency. The CVB believes the product profile developed by the manufacturer, Intervet, could adequately meet USDA standards for product potency, safety, and efficacy. Full USDA regulatory approval (i.e., a permit to import Coxevac "For Distribution and Sale" or a veterinary biologics license for a U.S. manufacturer) would require the following:

- Submission of product information for Coxevac (including a license or permit application as well as an outline of production and information supporting product purity, potency, safety, and efficacy) to the CVB from a U.S. licensee or permittee for official review and confirmation of the suitability of this information.
- CVB inspection and approval of Coxevac manufacturing facilities.
- Satisfactory CVB confirmatory testing of Coxevac Master Seed Stocks, Master Cell Stocks (if applicable), and a representative sample of the final product (vaccine) for testing purposes to ensure purity and potency.

The CVB would provide an expedited review and inspection of Coxevac to support efforts to control Q fever in the United States.

The public information report for Coxevac is available at http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/veterinary/medicines/000155/vet_med_000219.jsp&murl=menus/medicines/medicines.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1c&jsenabled=true.



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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FY2013 FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, WILDLIFE SERVICES ORAL RABIES VACCINATION (ORV) PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wildlife rabies is a serious public health concern. The veterinary community, both public and private, has as a fundamental obligation, the 'responsibility to apply their knowledge and skills to ensure control of rabies at the animal source'. This was a conclusion of the 2011 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) conference on rabies control. Rabies control is the embodiment of a One Health initiative. In fact, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now believes that rabies and foot-and-mouth disease should be the next two global disease targets for eradication now that rinderpest has been eradicated.

Globally, the OIE now estimates that 70,000 people worldwide die each year from rabies. ProMED (September 28, 2011) states that rabies is one of the world's most lethal zoonotic diseases, killing more people than severe acute respiratory syndrome, H5N1 and dengue fever combined. Domestically, according to the 2010 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rabies Surveillance Report, wildlife rabies is still responsible for 92% of all reported rabies cases in the United States (Blanton, et al. JAVMA, 2011). The use of licensed oral rabies vaccine (ORV) programs has been effective in controlling rabies in certain terrestrial wildlife reservoir species since the early 1990's.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services ORV program is designed to reduce transmission of wildlife rabies to domestic pets, livestock and humans. It is estimated that there are over 40,000 administrations of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) against rabies in humans in the United States (US) annually at an average cost of \$4,042 per treatment (Meltzer, et al. Vaccine, 2008) resulting in over \$160,000,000 per year in associated human health care costs. These costs do not include indirect impacts on the population from anxiety, fear and trauma associated with rabies threats to people, their pets and livestock. In spite of a public health strategy that is effective in preventing human rabies deaths in the US, the financial cost of coexistence with wildlife rabies is high, exceeding \$300,000,000 annually (Slate, et al. Proceedings 20th Vertebrate Pest Conference, 2002). According to Shwiff (Shwiff, et al., unpublished 2011), if ORV programs are allowed to lapse the annual negative economic impact could be approximately \$45 million per year in the US.



The ORV campaigns in conjunction with other rabies control measures, such as mandatory dog and cat vaccination and recommended livestock and equine vaccination programs, are effective and are part of the veterinary community's One Health initiative responsibility. Regular distribution of oral rabies vaccines to immunize specific wildlife species increases the percentage of rabies immune animals living within the ORV baiting zones. Creating a sustained reservoir population of individual immune animals results in an overall decrease of wildlife rabies cases.

The level of ORV programs' success in the US can be quantified as follows: transmission of the canine strain of rabies in south Texas coyote populations has been eliminated; the westward expansion of raccoon rabies strain has been halted at the Appalachian Mountains; the gray fox strain of rabies has been confined in the Southwest and the epizootic area is being consolidated and reduced; and, strategies have been developed to address wildlife rabies outbreaks in urban environments, especially in the Northeastern US. Today, federal and state sponsored ORV programs, supported by the CDC, continue to monitor areas cleared of wildlife rabies while addressing new challenges. Due to the level of success achieved to date, the federal government has signed a tri-national agreement with Canada and Mexico called the North American Rabies Plan. A critical component of this plan is to control wildlife rabies.

Because of the economic downturn in the US economy, all ORV programs (state and federal) are now faced with rapidly declining levels of governmental funding and resources while public support remains high. Ironically, as funding levels for US ORV programs decline societal changes have led to increasing numbers of interactions between humans and wild animals in urban habitats. Today and in the future, wildlife rabies prevention is, and will continue to be, a key factor in maintaining the integrity of rabies control in the US.

The United States Animal Health Association agrees with OIE that the best place to address rabies control is at the animal source. Wildlife species are the rabies reservoir in the United States. The funding level requested would allow the USDA to maintain ongoing logistical support and rabies case surveillance necessary for the program, while maintaining and/or increasing existing rabies-immune target wildlife populations. The maintenance of sufficient levels of immunity in the existing wildlife ORV zones is essential to assure program integrity. This funding level would also allow the ORV Program to be less dependent on emergency funding each year for program integrity and would advance research and development of new vaccines, baits and control strategies. Funding at this level will have the additional benefit of job maintenance and creation, especially in rural locales. The ORV Program, a One Health initiative, promotes animal and human health and alleviates the burden of additional health care costs associated with rabies including disparities between rural, suburban and urban communities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 113th Congress to appropriate at least \$28 million in the FY2013 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, Oral Rabies Vaccine Program.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

December 1, 2011

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
20250

David T. Marshall
President
United States Animal Health
Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Dear Mr. Marshall:

We are in receipt of your letter dated November 8, 2011, which recognizes the importance and strategic value that the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has placed on controlling rabies at the animal source. Thank you for supporting the continued coordination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS)' of wildlife rabies management in the United States. We acknowledge and support the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Resolution 35: "Increase FY 2013 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services' Oral Rabies Vaccination Program."

In FY 2011, WS committed \$23.8 million in federally appropriated funds toward surveillance, control and research targeting raccoon rabies in the eastern U.S. and canine and gray fox rabies in the southwestern U.S. (primarily Texas). In FY 2012, APHIS is expected to commit a similar level of funding to wildlife rabies management activities, contingent on an approved federal budget. While WS' wildlife management funding levels remain static for FY 2012, WS plans to continue to implement the most efficient and effective program practical within funding levels.

Late in FY 2011, WS implemented the first collaborative oral rabies vaccine safety and immunogenicity field trial in the U.S. in more than 20 years, when V-RG was field tested in Cape May, NJ. While we wait the final scientific results from this field trial with ONRAB[®] (a recombinant human adenovirus-vectored rabies glycoprotein vaccine in the ultralite bait, Artemis Technologies, Guelph, Ontario, Canada), we anticipate expanding trials in FY 2012 to achieve both management and research objectives. Based on favorable raccoon rabies management results with ONRAB[®] in Canada, this vaccine could substantially enhance our ability to more aggressively meet the management goals of elimination of raccoon rabies from areas where it has gained a foothold in the eastern U.S. since the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies epizootic began in the late 1970's.



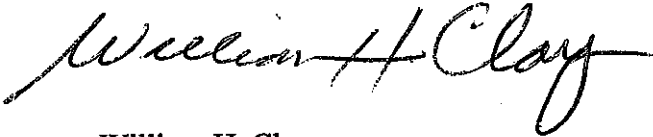
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We appreciate input by the USAHA and greatly value the organization's continued support of our collaborative efforts in "One Health" to protect U.S. agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety. We look forward to continued collaboration with the USAHA Committees. Thank you again for providing us your resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Clay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

William H. Clay
Deputy Administrator



The United States Animal Health Association requests that the President include in his budget, the Secretary of Agriculture support, and that Congress appropriate, funding of the National Veterinary Stockpile sufficient to carry out Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD-9) in protecting human health and the economy.

RESPONSE:

APHIS and NIFA

We appreciate USAHA's support of the National Veterinary Stockpile as a component of the Nation's agriculture and food defense strategy and will keep your suggestions in mind as we develop the FY 2013 budget.



outreach with the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials to develop this memorandum that provides updated guidance for classifying and managing cattle herds affected with bovine tuberculosis. It specifically addresses the use of the predictive epidemiologic model to determine when there is sufficient confidence that the herd is free of infection and quarantine may be released.

Rather than revise the current Uniform Methods and Rules, VS will incorporate risk-based, performance criteria to release quarantines in affected herds in the proposed rule and program standards that are being developed for the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis programs. VS will continue to engage the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials as these regulations and supporting documents are developed.



RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services approve the CervidTB Stat-Pak as an official test in the Cervid Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) supports the request of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Tuberculosis to approve the Chembio CervidTB Stat-Pak® as an official tuberculosis (TB) test for the Cervid Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

VS funded a project in fiscal year 2011 to evaluate the Stat-Pak as a primary test for official bovine TB program use in captive and free-ranging *Cervus canadensis* (North American elk), *Odocoileus virginianus* (white-tailed deer), and reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*). Approximately 1,800 animals were tested, and the performance of the Stat-Pak was compared to the single cervical tuberculin test. Findings from this project are encouraging, and we recognize the importance of developing and utilizing new diagnostic tests in the TB program.

However, VS agrees with the USAHA TB Committee's Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (TB SAS) conclusion that the comparative cervical test (CCT) is not a suitable secondary test for the Stat-Pak, given that the two tests detect different types of immune responses to different antigens. Without a suitable secondary test, the false positive rate observed in our FY 2011 project suggests that an unacceptably high number of animals with non-negative results on the Stat-Pak would be destroyed in order to determine the infection status of the animal.

VS is delaying program approval and implementation of the Stat-Pak as an official TB program test until a suitable secondary test for animals with non-negative results is available. We are continuing to investigate alternatives and will report on our progress at the annual USAHA meeting.



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 Combined with 13

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: A MULTI-STATE INITIATIVE FOR MYCOBACTERIAL
DISEASES IN ANIMALS



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

December 1, 2011

Mr. David T. Marshall
President
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for your letter of November 8, 2011, and for including the "Identification of Farm Environmental Parameters Hostile to *Salmonella*" resolution, which was passed by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) during its 115th annual meeting. I appreciate hearing from you.

I believe the goals of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and USAHA area are similar in many respects. For example, two ARS programs—the National Food Safety Program and the Animal Health Program—have as part of their broader goals the assessment of *Salmonella* multiplication and transmission from animal to animal, from animals to plants, and of course, from food sources to humans.

The goal of ARS' National Food Safety Program is to conduct the types of research that will ensure that America's food supply is safe for consumers by seeking ways to assess, control, and eliminate potentially harmful food contaminants both in the plant and animal food chains. ARS currently conducts food safety research at 16 laboratories around the Nation. Several of these locations specifically address *Salmonella* in animal systems: ARS' Meat Safety and Quality Research Unit in Clay Center, Nebraska, conducts research on beef cattle; the Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center in College Station, Texas, conducts research on livestock and poultry; the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa, conducts research on swine; and the Richard B. Russell Research Center in Athens, Georgia, conducts research on poultry and eggs.

Similarly, one of the primary goals of ARS' Animal Health Program is to protect and ensure the safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply through better disease detection, prevention, control, and treatment practices. Part of the work of the program involves examining ways to reduce the risk of *Salmonella* infection in meat and poultry products.



Office of the Administrator
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building • Room 302-A • 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0300

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Through these national-scale programs, you can be assured that we at ARS are continually striving to understand the mechanisms of *Salmonella* transmission and to develop the scientific information and tools to prevent infection. We are also working closely with various Federal regulatory agencies to turn the most promising and applicable results of our research into guidelines and regulations that members of the agricultural community—such as USAHA members—can readily follow and apply to their production systems. As you might guess, however, unraveling these mysteries and establishing proper guidelines and regulations both take time.

I applaud the USAHA for calling on ARS to establish project teams for the purpose of identifying cost-effective ways to suppress *Salmonella* multiplication in the food animal environment. My hope is that members of USAHA will continue to support our efforts at ARS to better understand the mechanism of *Salmonella* multiplication in farming systems.

Again, thank you for writing to me. I appreciate your interest and support for ARS research, and value the benefit of USAHA's input as we make decisions on future research endeavors.

Sincerely,



for EDWARD B. KNIPLING
Administrator