



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2 - APPROVED**

**SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

If the United States experiences a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak within its borders, a prepared response will be required for optimum control of the disease and continuity of business for agricultural producers and associated industries. The scope and severity of the outbreak will determine the particular strategy of response, control, and mitigation chosen. The North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB) has limited quantities of vaccine available. Emergency vaccine stocks are far below what would be required to address a livestock-dense State or multi-State outbreak. The public, private, and academic partnerships formed as part of the Secure Food Supply projects and work that has been conducted have brought the need for additional FMD vaccine and other response strategies and capabilities to a broader audience. In addition, there are other corollary issues that surround the decision to use FMD vaccine in an outbreak that need broad stakeholder input prior to an outbreak.

In August 2013, the National Institute of Animal Agriculture, the United States Animal Health Association, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service took the initial steps to form an FMD Preparedness Working Group comprised of Federal and State animal health officials, academia, and livestock and allied industry representatives. The working group will facilitate dialogue between all potentially impacted business sectors to accelerate modernization and implementation of efforts to prevent, detect, contain, eradicate, and recover from an FMD outbreak in the United States. The working group will consider current capacities and future needs to ensure continuing advancement of United States FMD preparedness, including emergency vaccination.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) urge the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to:



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- Support, collaborate with, and provide guidance and information to the National foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Preparedness Working Group in all aspects of planning and preparedness for response to a FMD outbreak in North America.
- Receive and carefully consider integrating information from the National FMD Preparedness Working Group into Veterinary Services emergency preparedness and response planning.

The USAHA and the AAVLD urge the National FMD Preparedness Working Group to:

- Provide a mechanism for gathering broad stakeholder input to enhance FMD preparedness and response planning which would include assessing present capabilities, laying strategy for addressing preparedness and response gaps, and implementation of exercises to test the plans.
- Evaluate FMD vaccine quantity and capability, times to delivery, methods of distribution, electronic identification of vaccinates, and other vaccine priority issues to meet FMD response needs.
- Develop consensus among stakeholders on a plan of action, prepare a list of response needs, and initiate action to generate funding support for enhanced animal emergency preparedness.

## **INTERIM RESPONSE**

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

APHIS concurs with Resolution 2 with respect to planning, preparedness, and stakeholder input for foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease, including vaccines. APHIS suggests generating funding to support animal emergency preparedness for FMD vaccine and exploring public-private partnerships to achieve goals. Stakeholder concerns regarding USDA-sourced FMD vaccine, quantities available, time to delivery, triggers or decisionmaking, sharing vaccine with Canada and Mexico, priorities for distribution, and plans to implement in an outbreak have been well documented in three APHIS hosted stakeholder meetings (September 2010, May 2011, and November 2011) and in numerous other stakeholder meetings and exercises, such as the Dairy Management Inc. FMD Dairy Crisis Drills, and most recently the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII FMD Exercise.

Working with stakeholders (Secure Milk Supply Plan and Secure Pork Supply Plan), APHIS has further defined response strategies for FMD response, to include vaccines, in the publicly shared "Classification of Phases and Types of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, March 2013." This is an interim step to achieve better awareness of needed



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preparedness capabilities. As a next step to engage stakeholders, APHIS has formed two internal working groups, FMD Vaccine Logistics, and FMD Vaccine Stakeholder Communication. The goal of these two working groups is to produce information that can be shared publicly with stakeholders regarding current North American FMD vaccine capabilities, for stakeholder use in their analysis, planning, and preparedness initiatives..

The next steps of the stakeholders working group include the USAHA meeting with VS staff in March 2014. Following this meeting, VS will be available to discuss vaccine information and the next steps for broader stakeholder engagement.