

# 2011-2012 NIAA Resolutions

## Animal Health Emergency Management

**Mission:** To provide a forum for representatives from animal agriculture, the veterinary profession, governmental agencies and academia to address animal health emergency management (AHM) issues that may adversely affect animal agriculture or public health.

### **Funding for the National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH)**

**BACKGROUND:** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has constructed a new facility in Ames, Iowa that will modernize, update and jointly house USDA's National Animal Disease Center, National Veterinary Services Laboratory and the Center for Veterinary Biologics. The new facility is critical for meeting animal health research, diagnosis and product evaluation needs in the U.S. The initial construction phase is complete, however, additional funding is required to maintain, equip, adequately staff and operate the facility.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges the USDA to secure adequate funding to maintain, equip, staff and operate the NCAH facility in future years.

Adopted: 2004 | Amended: 2008 | Amended: 2009

*(The Funding for the NCAH resolution was also endorsed by the NIAA Cattle Committee.)*

### **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**

**BACKGROUND:** In light of homeland security and the continued outbreaks of FMD worldwide, the risk of FMD entering this country has increased. Protection of United States (U.S.) livestock herds consists of assisting other countries in their disease control efforts, adequate border controls, awareness and education, and surveillance.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) requests: (1) the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to work with international organizations to eradicate FMD. (2) USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service seek additional funding for international initiatives. (3) Until eradication is completed, USDA and the Department of Homeland Security should continue to take appropriate measures to prevent the introduction of this disease into the U.S., including increased port of entry inspection, pre-clearance procedures, technical assistance and support, education and awareness programs, and enhanced surveillance in the U.S. and U.S. territories. (4) The NIAA strongly urges the USDA to: vigorously pursue multivalent FMD vaccine development and stockpiling; increase U.S. laboratory surge capacity available in preparation for an FMD outbreak; and, initiate field test validity of FMD diagnostic assays in endemic areas. Necessary funding should be obtained.

Adopted: 2001 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2008

**Communication Plan for Foreign Animal Disease (FAD)**

BACKGROUND: While state and federal animal health officials and industry organizations are familiar with the routine nature of FAD investigations, the public and media are not. When a FAD investigation occurs in concentration points such as livestock markets and packing plants, there is more visibility to the investigation. This has resulted in intense media interest, inaccurate reporting, significant market volatility and losses to producers, and international concerns. It is critical that a communication strategy is developed to address these situations. A communication strategy is also critical in the event that the investigation confirms the existence of a FAD.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges Department of Homeland Security, United States Department of Agriculture, state animal health officials and industry to work together to continue to develop and implement a strategy that would include standard operating procedures and any other appropriate guidelines to address the communication needs for foreign animal disease reporting, investigations, operational response and recovery.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2008 | Amended: 2009

**National Business Continuity Strategy**

BACKGROUND: The introduction of a foreign animal disease or other animal health emergency would have a devastating impact on United States (U.S.) agriculture. There is a need to develop a strategy to facilitate the continuation of agricultural operations during an animal health emergency and the subsequent response and recovery periods. The animal agriculture industry needs to identify and define the business continuity risks associated with an animal agriculture emergency and develop a comprehensive strategy (operational plan) by which the industry can continue to operate during an animal agriculture emergency and identify resources necessary for recovery. This process will need to encompass numerous future industry initiatives and legislative and regulatory policies and clarify appropriate operational plans to protect producers and allied industries from losses associated with stop movement orders, downtime and loss of business opportunity.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) will facilitate the collaborative development of a national business continuity strategy (operational plan) for all of animal agriculture and encourage the formation of consistent business continuity plans for individual species organizations. The NIAA will promote the development and distribution of educational materials to producers and allied industries to increase awareness of the potential implications of an animal health emergency and to encourage producers to participate in preparedness, response and recovery planning.

The NIAA will also facilitate, through the envisioned council process, collaborative efforts among industry leaders and representatives to enact federal and state legislative and regulatory support which will enable effective continuity of business planning implementation. The NIAA will also cooperate with the U.S. Animal Health Association and other state emergency management coalitions to effectively

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implement a national continuity of business strategy (operational plan) which coordinates, integrates and engages both the public and private sectors as outlined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive #9.

Adopted: 2008 | Amended: 2009 | Amended: 2010