

**NATIONAL  
INSTITUTE  
FOR ANIMAL  
CULTURE**

**2011-2012**

**Resolutions**



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# Animal Agriculture Advocacy

**Mission:** To serve the food industry through a variety of means including proactive communications support and resources based on objective, fact-based information about animal agriculture production and policy issues of importance to all stake holders.

The Animal Agriculture Advocacy Council has no resolutions at this time.

## Animal Care

**Mission:** To identify and monitor issues surrounding the care and handling of livestock and to develop resources and educational materials for distribution to industry, producers, educators and other individuals interested in livestock care issues.

### 1. Movement of Non-Ambulatory Animals to Slaughter

**BACKGROUND:** The livestock industry recognizes the need to provide for down or physically impaired animals through consultation with a veterinary practitioner. In addressing this challenge, the needs of these animals and the need to maintain the economic viability of the livestock industry will be met.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends that producers, livestock market agencies, meat packers, veterinarians, transporters and regulatory officials follow published accepted industry animal care and handling guidelines. Only ambulatory animals should enter or continue within livestock market channels. If animals become non-ambulatory, a final move to slaughter may be made under veterinary guidance if permitted under current federal regulations.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2009

### 2. Care of Newborn Dairy Calves

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends that newborn dairy calves be fed colostrum or colostrum replacer consistent with industry standards, as outlined in the *2008 Caring for Dairy Animals Reference Guide*. Before shipment from the premises where they are born, they must possess a dry hair coat and be able to stand and walk easily without assistance from a person.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2009

### **3. Distribution of Educational Resources Regarding Euthanasia of Livestock**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture has and will continue to facilitate the distribution of educational materials regarding the proper methods of euthanizing livestock which are non-merchantable, non-ambulatory, terminally ill, or injured with a hopeless prognosis for life. Such educational efforts should be promoted to all levels of the livestock and poultry industry from producer through processing.

Adopted: 2000 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **4. Needed Research in Animal Transportation**

BACKGROUND: Reports exist of the detrimental aspects of inadequate transportation including a high incidence of bruising, disease and death. These reports are especially associated with very young animals. The subject of transportation guidelines cannot be addressed with simple “one size fits all” recommendations.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends research be directed at the specific needs of various ages and sizes of animals under specific transport situations so that a broad range of guidelines that address the needs of transported livestock and poultry can be developed.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **5. Need for Objective Guidelines for Animal Welfare**

RESOLUTION: The NIAA supports continued development and implementation of animal care guidelines by livestock and poultry organizations that are verifiable, responsible, science-based, workable and affordable. NIAA supports the use of these species-specific materials to educate consumers regarding farm animal care practices.

Adopted: 2009

### **6. Equine Transportation and Processing**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture endorses the American Association of Equine Practitioners’ policy regarding equine transportation and processing, which reads as follows:

“The AAEP advocates the humane treatment of all horses and believes the equine industry and horse owners have a responsibility to provide humane care throughout the life of the horse. However, a small percentage of horses are ultimately unwanted because they are no longer serviceable, are infirm, dangerous, or their owners are no longer able to care for them.

The AAEP recognizes that the processing of unwanted horses is currently a necessary aspect of the equine industry, and provides a humane alternative to allowing the horse to continue a life of discomfort and pain, and possibly inadequate care or abandonment. The AAEP encourages, fosters and provides education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted horses. In addition, the AAEP supports and commends the efforts of equine retirement facilities and adoption groups.

Regarding the care of horses destined for processing, the AAEP's position is that these horses should be: Treated humanely and with dignity; Transported to the processing facility according to the guidelines approved by the United States Department of Agriculture in 2002; Euthanized in a humane manner in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association. [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia]

In addition, the AAEP recognizes that the human consumption of horsemeat is a cultural and personal issue and does not fall within the purview of the association, whose mission is the care of the health and welfare of the horse throughout its life."

Adopted: 2008 | Amended: 2010

*(The Equine Transportation and Processing resolution was also supported by the Equine Committee: 2009)*

## 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 (AHEM) issues that may adversely affect animal agriculture or public health.**

### **7. 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.)*

### **8. 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

### **9. 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

### **10. 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 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

## Animal Identification & Information Systems

**Mission: To play an important role in bringing unresolved issues such as advocating cost effective technologies and systems for modernizing the identification of livestock that has significant implications for residue avoidance, disease control and providing management information to producers.**

### **11. Outreach/Education Efforts for the Animal Disease Traceability Framework**

BACKGROUND: Since the announcement of the Animal Disease Traceability framework, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state/industry partners have been working to develop and provide information about the goals, implementation, and overall direction of this new program. From experience it is understood that considerable education about and promotion of the Animal Disease Traceability system, will be required to avoid misinformation. In order to move forward, it is critical to provide accurate, timely, and transparent communication about Animal Disease Traceability rule development and implementation plan.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) strongly supports the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services planned efforts to gather stakeholder information, provide outreach programs and educational materials for the Animal Disease Traceability framework. NIAA encourages a proactive approach, including leveraging outreach funds in cooperation with industry organizational partners and state animal health authorities to promote benefits of the enhanced Animal Disease Traceability system to stakeholders and to address public misconceptions.

Adopted: 2010

## **12. Slaughter Surveillance and Identification (ID) Collection**

**BACKGROUND:** In the near future, the brucellosis surveillance slaughter sample collection and testing program will be significantly reduced. This program has not only been integral to the control and eradication of brucellosis but also has served to aid in the traceability of other significant diseases. As brucellosis surveillance is being reduced, there is a wide recognition that the needs for animal disease traceability are increasing.

Whereas the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is deeply concerned that there will be a severe gap in animal disease traceability once brucellosis surveillance is changed and reduced and current animal ID/blood collection contracts are eliminated. Even though the Code of Federal Regulations describes the requirements for United States Department of Agriculture/Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA/FSIS) inspected slaughter plants to collect animal ID and correlate those animal IDs to the appropriate carcasses, we are concerned that it may not be performed properly in all slaughter plants to enable appropriate disease trace-back.

**RESOLUTION:** NIAA is requesting that United States Secretary of Agriculture direct the Administrator of USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Administrator of USDA/FSIS to immediately develop a strategy and transition plan to ensure that the collection of all man-made identification and correlation of those animal IDs to the appropriate carcasses from all livestock slaughtered continues without interruption. This activity is critical in order to maintain current levels of slaughter sample trace-back and to work towards enhanced animal disease traceability.

Adopted: 2011

## **13. Traceability Funding**

**BACKGROUND:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) acknowledges and applauds the unique and collaborative process United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services, States, and Tribes used to draft the proposed Animal Disease Traceability Rule. With the advent of reduced participation in animal disease programs fewer livestock in the U.S. are officially identified. In addition, we recognize many other gaps that inhibit regulatory efforts in effective animal disease traceability. We recognize that the current economic climate may challenge or prohibit adequate funding, and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has expressed concerns about animal disease traceability being an unfunded mandate.

Whereas animal disease traceability is of critical importance and most states are committed to accomplishing our joint traceability goals.

RESOLUTION: In order to maintain the viability, health, and marketability of U.S. livestock NIAA strongly supports the filing of the proposed animal disease traceability rule and an expedited process to enable approval of the final rule. We encourage USDA's efforts to abide by the proposed timeline in promulgating the final rule by July 2012. Failure to publish and fund the final animal disease traceability rule is not an acceptable or viable option. We urge the Secretary to identify other funding streams in the event that animal disease traceability cooperative agreement funds to States are not sufficient.

Adopted: 2011



**Mission: To bring the dairy cattle and beef cattle industries together for implementation and development of programs that assure the health and welfare of our cattle and the sustainability of our dairy and beef industries.**

#### **14. Support for Brucellosis Surveillance Funding**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports core funding for the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Brucellosis budget request. Core funding should be designated to absorb and continue to allocate funds and resources now appropriated under brucellosis in order to maintain and strengthen an adequately validated, comprehensive surveillance activity. This includes uniform identification system and assures depopulation funding necessary to continue the brucellosis eradication effort on an emergency basis for a period of at least five years after free status is achieved.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Reaffirmed: 2009

#### **15. Recommended Actions Needed to Eliminate Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA)**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges that actions be taken employing the principals of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to eliminate brucellosis in bison and elk in the GYA including:

- i. The Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee made up of representatives of state and federal agencies; any committee recommendation should be scientifically sound and defensible by accepted principles of veterinary epidemiology and pathogenesis of brucellosis in ruminants;
- ii. Gathering, sharing and analysis of current information, both published and unpublished, regarding comparative microbiology, immunology and epidemiology of brucellosis in wild and domestic ruminants;
- iii. Using all current technologies for brucellosis control and elimination to begin implementation immediately of a scientifically sound program oriented toward elimination of brucellosis from herds of bison and elk in the GYA;

- iv. Prevention of removal of bison from national parks in GYA, except direct to slaughter, approved research facility, or through quarantine facilities and testing protocols developed by the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services, to insure that the animals are disease free, and in no way compromise the progress made toward complete elimination of brucellosis from the United States.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

#### **16. Brucella Vaccine Use in Final Eradication Phase**

**BACKGROUND:** The appropriate use of brucella vaccines varies widely from area to area depending upon risk factors, regional preference, and the stage of the eradication program.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the following three-point policy on brucellosis vaccination be adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture.

1. Educate herd owners and veterinary practitioners regarding vaccination so their decisions on its use will reflect the advantages, disadvantages, and appropriateness in the herd under consideration.
2. Limit federal funding for the purchase and application of brucella vaccine to infected or designated high-risk herds.
3. Emphasize the importance of proper vaccination procedures that consider age, dosage, identification and reporting requirements.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

#### **17. Brucellosis Elimination in Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA)**

**BACKGROUND:** The policy of natural regulation by the Department of Interior and the National Park Service, in Yellowstone National Park, has led to environmental degradation of the park with the consequential problems of loss of species (both plant and animal), progression toward desertification, brucellosis exacerbation, and overpopulation with large ungulates (bison and elk) resulting in annual starvation of hundreds of animals.

The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service has agreed in principle to population control, but implementation of such measures has not occurred because of abuses of the National Environmental Policy Act. Efforts by state animal health and fish and game officials and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee, to develop and implement effective brucellosis control and elimination efforts in Yellowstone National Park and the GYA have been stymied by the policy of natural regulation.

The feeding of bison and elk, by the Department of Interior, on the National Elk Refuge has resulted in an artificially high population of bison and elk and a high sero-prevalence of brucellosis in Grand Teton National Park bison and elk populations.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) opposes the acquisition of additional lands for wildlife, and strongly urges the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to remain involved in active management of animal and plant species in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge to protect the environment, prevent overpopulation within the existing park boundaries, and control diseases including brucellosis.

NIAA strongly urges continued cooperation between the USDA and the Department of Interior to develop and implement strategies and plans to contain and eliminate brucellosis from the susceptible animal populations under its control in the GYA and all national park lands in the U.S.

NIAA urges all members and member organizations to communicate to the President of the U.S. and the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture the urgency for actions that will protect our national treasures of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge from environmental degradation, wildlife disease and starvation in the GYA.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

#### **18. Free Ranging Species Research**

**BACKGROUND:** There has been a marked lack of funding for researching methods to prevent, control, manage and eliminate disease processes in free ranging species occurring as a result of natural exposure and/or introduction by a bioterrorist.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports allocation of additional funds and resources to the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and other cooperating governmental entities necessary to develop effective procedures and products for use in brucellosis elimination from elk, bison, feral/wild swine populations and reindeer.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2009

#### **19. Quality Assurance/Residue Avoidance**

**BACKGROUND:** Animal health and production food safety management is needed at the farm level, which is the first step in the food chain. The application of best management practices will eliminate or reduce the risks of chemical residues and microbial pathogens.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the implementation of Quality Assurance practices on the local, state, and national level. Further, NIAA encourages quality assurance education of all interested and concerned commodity groups, industries and professional organizations to promote dissemination of information and encourage implementation of best management practices.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Reaffirmed: 2009

## **20. Johne's Disease Uniform Programs Standards**

BACKGROUND: Johne's disease is a chronic, progressive intestinal disease caused by an infection with *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis. It is an insidious wasting away disease affecting cattle and other livestock species. Knowledge of the pathogenesis, diagnosis, management, treatment and control is increasing. Johne's disease adversely affects the intrastate and interstate movement of cattle and the international export market, causing an excess of \$1 billion annually in lost revenue to our livestock industry.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the United States Department of Agriculture Uniform Program Standards for the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program and recognizes the contributions of the National Johne's Working Group, a subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association Johne's Committee, in developing the various program elements, procedures and infrastructure necessary to support implementation of the Uniform Program Standards.

NIAA encourages each state to implement a voluntary program of Johne's disease control based on the Uniform Program Standards and encourages producers and veterinarians to implement recommended best management practices to reduce the incidence of Johne's disease in U.S. cattle herds.

NIAA continues to support annual program funding to United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service and Johne's Disease Integrated Program.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2010

## **21. Support for National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Livestock Surveys**

BACKGROUND: The health of livestock in the United States is of prime importance to the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Qualification of health and management of animal agriculture is critically needed with the help of producer groups and government.

RESOLUTION: The NIAA supports the development of NAHMS surveys, special projects, and surveillance programs and their successful completion, proper evaluation, and dissemination of results.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Reaffirmed: 2009

## **22. Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD) Education, Testing and Vaccination**

BACKGROUND: Newly recognized variants of BVD virus have the potential of creating high morbidity and mortality in naive herds or improperly vaccinated herds. BVD persistently infected cattle are the main source of infection. New tools are available to determine if cattle are persistently infected with BVD virus.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the education of veterinarians and producers on BVD disease, the proper use of BVD vaccines in the prevention of disease and the adoption of testing procedures to identify persistently infected carriers. NIAA supports a cost benefit

analysis of a national eradication program by USDA Veterinary Services. Cattle identified as BVD-PI (persistently infected) animals should not be marketed in any manner that exposes at-risk-cattle.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2008 | Amended: 2009

### **23. Biosecurity/Biocontainment Education**

**BACKGROUND:** The control of infectious and contagious diseases in livestock populations is critical to production efficiency and product quality. Biosecurity and biocontainment strategies employ multiple approaches based on the ecology of infectious disease agents on livestock premises to reduce the risk of disease agent entry or spread.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the development and implementation of educational programs for livestock producers and veterinarians on biosecurity and biocontainment.

Adopted: 2001 | Amended: 2002 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **24. Preventing Exotic Ticks and Hemoparasitic Disease Establishment in the United States (U.S.)**

**BACKGROUND:** There is an increased risk of the introduction and establishment of exotic animal pests and diseases as a result of the changing dynamics of animal movements and transmission of hemoparasitic diseases. A particular focus on the risks associated with the Mexican and Caribbean Region is required. There are reports that ticks are developing resistance to commonly used acaricides. Therefore, actions to prevent the establishment of exotic ticks that infest livestock and other animals including wildlife in the U.S. are a continuous task. Such action requires vigilance, diligence and singleness of focus from scientific, animal (domestic and wild) and regulatory communities.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) to enter into a joint effort with state animal health officials, animal industries and wildlife interests to define and support a core organization or commission to facilitate the acquisition and allocation of continual funding for preventing the establishment of exotic animal pests and hemoparasitic diseases in the U.S. NIAA recognizes and supports the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Fever Tick Committee to combat ticks in the U.S. and Mexico.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2008

### **25. Use of Bovine Blood**

**BACKGROUND:** Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is a chronic, degenerative disorder affecting the nervous system of cattle. It is associated with consumption of animal proteins contaminated with Specific Risk Materials (SRM) containing the infective agent.

Fifteen years of scientific research have demonstrated no detectable BSE agent in bovine blood and no transmission of BSE from cow to cow through blood. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) does not classify bovine blood as an SRM for animal health.

Plasma, serum and fractions thereof contain biologically important components, including immunoglobulins, which may be used in colostrum supplements, colostrum replacers and feed supplements to reduce risk of transmission of Johne's disease, brucellosis and other economically important diseases transmitted via colostrum.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture, based on current science, encourages the Food and Drug Administration to retain the current bovine blood and blood products exemption to the ruminant feed ban, including plasma, serum and fractions thereof for diets used in ruminants and non-ruminants.

Adopted: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

## **26. Managing the Risk of Brucellosis Transmission from Bison and Elk to Cattle in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA)**

BACKGROUND: Wild bison and elk in the GYA are known to be infected with *Brucella abortus*. In addition, transmission of brucellosis from infected bison and elk to cattle has been well documented. Whenever infected elk or bison are in close contact with cattle or share common landscapes, the potential for transmission exists.

RESOLUTION: Until such time as *Brucella abortus* has been eliminated from the bison and elk populations from the GYA, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) strongly supports all efforts to reduce the commingling of wild elk or bison with cattle in the GYA whenever possible through temporal and spatial separation. Further, when commingling cannot be avoided, the NIAA strongly supports quarantine of the exposed cattle herd until herd testing or epidemiological investigation indicates the herd presents no evidence of brucellosis infection.

Adopted: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011

## **27. Tuberculosis (TB) Free Status on Prevalence of Disease**

BACKGROUND: The current rule for a state losing its TB Free Status is based on finding two infected herds in a 48 month time period.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports amending 9 CFR, part 77, TB rule to base downgrading of a State's Accredited TB Free status from the two herds in 48 months to a rule based on prevalence of the disease in the state and the risk of the disease spreading.

Adopted: 2008

## **28. U.S. Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program**

BACKGROUND: Given the current challenges of the US Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program, a science-based, risk-based and fiscally sound approach is needed. The current challenges include: origin of TB infected cattle; wildlife reservoirs; changes in the cattle industry; biosecurity program needs; limitations in current tests; deficiencies in animal identification and trace back; outdated and inflexible regulations; current approaches to TB disease controls and future fiscal limitations.

RESOLUTION: NIAA supports USDA/APHIS in its initiative to redesign and adequately fund the National Bovine TB Eradication Program and provide a progress report to NIAA at its 2010 Annual Meeting. Furthermore, NIAA encourages its members to provide comments in the development of a modified program that better addresses the goal of eradication and the needs of producers.

Adopted: 2009

## Emerging Diseases

**Mission:** Stay abreast of emerging animal diseases and educate the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) membership about them. Create resolutions and position statements regarding emerging animal disease issues, which are aimed at benefiting animal health and United States (U.S.) animal agriculture.

### **29. United States Department of Agriculture / National Institute for Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) Emerging Disease Appropriation**

BACKGROUND: In recent years, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service appropriations from Congress have provided limited funds specifically for emerging animal diseases. It is critical that a mechanism with appropriate funding exists to address emerging animal diseases in a timely manner. Recent budgets proposed drastic cuts in the USDA Hatch Funds and Animal Health Research Formula Funds (1433). Those line items have been a major mechanism by which land grant university agricultural experiment stations have been able to identify and clarify emerging animal diseases. Stakeholder lobbying efforts maintained funding in recent budgets.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) encourages increased funding for emerging diseases and urges NIFA to maintain flexibility in the use of funding for emerging animal diseases and prioritize those needs as identified by USDA and stakeholders. For NIFA, this should include a mechanism for emergency urgent short-term projects (including cooperative studies) that may be needed to answer questions of an urgent nature in addition to the current five-year project plans. The NIAA opposes budget cuts in 1433 formula funds. Furthermore, NIAA joins other animal health stakeholders in proposing increases in 1433 formula funds.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2009 | Amended: 2010

### **30. Funding for Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Research and Diagnostic Facilities**

BACKGROUND: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for the facility operations of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continue to conduct research and diagnostic programs at Plum Island. This is an important facility for foreign animal disease research and diagnostic development in livestock, requiring Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) and

Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) laboratories. Recently, agents such as the Nipah virus in Malaysia have emerged that are not only considered to be FAD agents but also have significant zoonotic potential that requires BSL-4 facilities for research and diagnostic development. Currently, there are no BSL-4 facilities that allow U.S. researchers to study this type of agent in livestock. Not having this capability puts the U.S. at risk of being unable to respond adequately to an emerging animal disease with this zoonotic potential.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports funding and program development for needed FAD research and diagnostic facilities. The necessary amount of BSL-3 Ag and BSL-4 space that is required to support a program with adequate research and diagnostic capabilities to protect U.S. animal agriculture from emerging diseases should be determined jointly by stakeholders, USDA/APHIS, USDA/ARS, DHS and diagnosticians within a coordinated plan for emergency management. In addition, assurances of adequate operational funding for the constructed facilities must be secured.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011

### **31. Federal Funding for Oral Rabies Vaccination Programs for Wildlife**

BACKGROUND: The increased threat of terrestrial rabies in the United States (U.S.) has overwhelmed traditional state rabies control and prevention programs resulting in a substantial public health threat and economic loss to agricultural interests. This has been demonstrated by the spread of the mid-Atlantic strain of raccoon rabies throughout the eastern states and the introduction and expansion of canine rabies in coyotes and gray foxes in Texas. An oral rabies vaccine (Raboral V-RG, Merial Ltd.) was granted full licensure for use in raccoons and coyotes by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Center for Veterinary Biologics. The vaccine has been demonstrated to be safe and efficacious for the oral vaccination of raccoons and has been used successfully in large-scale experimental programs in Texas to contain epizootics of canine rabies in coyotes and gray foxes.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages continued federal funds for USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Wildlife Services to support state-approved oral rabies vaccination programs. Further, these state programs should be developed to prevent the continued spread of raccoon rabies in the northeastern and southeastern U.S. and canine rabies in Texas. Through coordinated programs, strategic regional barriers should be completed with an ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by rabies in these wildlife species. New programs are also being developed for skunk, mongoose and bats, and these should also be part of this effort.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

### **32. Veterinary Education and Accreditation**

BACKGROUND: Globalization of the economy and current mechanisms of agribusiness put the United States (U.S.) at an ever-increasing risk of a devastating animal disease outbreak. Veterinary colleges and schools are not graduating enough veterinarians to fill the U.S. needs in rural practice, food supply

veterinarians and public practice veterinarians. Veterinary colleges and schools and departments of veterinary science also need to prepare more graduates for participation in national response plans.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) encourages and supports an increased effort by the colleges and schools of veterinary medicine in the expanded education of veterinary students, faculty and practitioners to prepare them for global issues in animal and public health, including foreign animal, zoonotic and emerging diseases.

Specifically:

NIAA asks the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education to include foreign animal and emerging diseases as a part of the accreditation standard on curriculum.

NIAA asks U.S. colleges and schools of veterinary medicine to develop or enhance programs that prepare graduates for global issues in veterinary medicine and national response plans for foreign animal or emerging diseases.

NIAA asks the U.S. colleges and schools of veterinary medicine to develop or enhance programs to recruit and admit more students whose intent is to engage in rural practice, food supply veterinary medicine or public practice.

NIAA asks AVMA, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, and National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues to continue to develop programs to mentor students and new graduates to assist in retaining students and veterinarians in these important career tracks.

NIAA supports all efforts on the part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to continue to expand linkages with veterinary colleges including education of veterinary students and faculty and participation in the national animal health emergency response plan.

NIAA supports adding requirements for knowledge of foreign animal diseases to requirements for USDA veterinary accreditation.

Adopted: 2001 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

### **33. National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)**

**BACKGROUND:** United States (U.S.) animal disease and surveillance would function most effectively as a shared responsibility of publicly funded state animal health laboratories, represented by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), and federal animal health laboratories administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS). The basic infrastructure of a national laboratory network would provide critical features including:

- I. A secure communication, reporting and alert system
- II. Standardized, rapid diagnostic techniques that can be used at the state, regional and national level

- III. Modernized equipment and experienced personnel trained in the detection of emergent, foreign and bioterrorist agents
- IV. A national training, proficiency testing and quality assurance system to ensure that all laboratories in the system meet quality standards
- V. Federal and state facility upgrades to meet biocontainment requirements
- VI. Periodic scenario testing of the network and the associated response network

In 2002, the USDA established a pilot NAHLN that included twelve state labs. In 2004, the USDA announced the expansion of the NAHLN to include all labs that currently have a diagnostic testing contract with the USDA. This includes labs testing for prion diseases, Exotic Newcastle Disease, and Avian Influenza and represents a major expansion of the NAHLN.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the ongoing development of a state and federal partnership to safeguard animal health through the NAHLN. This partnership provides an enhanced, coordinated, and modernized NAHLN. This effort should continue until the NAHLN includes all AAVLD accredited and/or USDA approved veterinary diagnostic labs to cover the entire U.S. The NIAA encourages ongoing support and continued budget enhancements relative to the NAHLN through USDA.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2011

### **34. Funding for Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) and BSL3 Ag Infrastructure at State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories**

BACKGROUND: There is inadequate BSL3 infrastructure in the current state veterinary diagnostic laboratory system. These facilities are necessary to safely receive and conduct testing for zoonotic, exotic and emerging diseases. BSL3 facilities are also necessary to assure proper containment and disposal of contaminated waste generated by diagnostic labs. Such facilities would also assure the public that these diseases are being safely contained.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages federal and state agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Homeland Security to provide funds to construct and/or remodel essential containment and disposal facilities, including BSL3 and BSL3 Ag, in American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

### **35. Training Veterinarians for Public Practice**

BACKGROUND: Veterinarians play a vital role in preserving our country's public health by protecting humans from diseases spread by animals (Zoonoses), ensuring the safety of our food, ensuring our national emergency preparedness, and advancing biomedical research. The number of veterinarians

available to serve society in these key roles does not meet demand, and a recent study projects this shortage to worsen by 4% annually for the next ten years.

There are 28 United States (U.S.) Colleges of Veterinary Medicine graduating approximately 2500 new veterinarians each year. All of the colleges are at full capacity. Only 27 states directly support veterinary medicine infrastructure development and operations. There are minimal to no federal dollars that have been obtained or identified since the 1970's to meet these national needs for our growing US population. The shortage of veterinarians working in food supply and public health positions, combined with the lack of capacity within the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to graduate more veterinarians, poses a threat to our national security.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and the American Veterinary Medical Association in their major federal funding initiatives to build teaching and research infrastructure and to provide ongoing support for faculty and programs dedicated to increasing human resource capacity in veterinary public practice.

Adopted: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2008

### **36. Movement of Animals Without Health Papers**

**BACKGROUND:** Several high-risk diseases have been introduced to new populations through the unauthorized or authorized movement of animals without knowledge of their health status. This especially involves animals such as wildlife, exotic park and zoo animals, and pets or domestic animals that are exhibited, traded, swapped or sold through nontraditional markets, dealers or auctions. For example, wildlife has been translocated for restocking or nuisance purposes without regard to existing laws or without violation simply because no appropriate regulations had been developed.

Recent examples of diseases caused by unrestricted or unregulated movement are Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), raccoon and coyote (dog strain) rabies, *Echinococcus multilocularis* (Alveolar Hydatid Disease) in foxes, monkeypox in prairie dogs, brucellosis and pseudorabies in feral swine, and Exotic Newcastle Disease in fighting cocks and exhibit birds.

Laws for domestic livestock, zoological associations, and exotic species should be harmoniously developed and require Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) that summarize required test results, provide unique identification, and other pertinent information such as owner, origin and destination.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports monitoring all commercial/translocation interstate animal movements by the development of harmonized regulations for those species that are not under existing laws – especially targeting species that have been known to transmit diseases to animal agriculture and humans. Such regulations would be similar to those currently in existence for the common domestic species and would require these additional species also be officially examined for health status by an accredited veterinarian, be uniquely identified, and be appropriately tested for pertinent diseases. Dated CVIs would be required to travel with the animals, as is common with other

domestic species. Regulations should establish rules for restricted movement for animals found to harbor diseases that affect other animals and/or pose a human health risk.

The ultimate goal of disease containment will be achieved through a combination of education, development of appropriate regulations, enforcement of existing regulations by local, state and federal agencies and collaboration of local, state, federal and non-governmental agencies that deal with these species.

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA encourages the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services to collaborate with state partners to develop and implement harmonized animal movement regulations for those species that are not under existing laws.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2011

### **37. Support for Fever Tick Eradication Program**

**BACKGROUND:** Recent marked increases in the introduction of fever ticks from the permanent quarantine zone into the free zone in Texas is evidence that the need for more support and funding of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fever Tick Eradication Program is paramount. Additionally, there has been recent identification of the escalation of acaricide-resistant ticks coming out of Mexico and continued evidence of the role of white-tailed deer and exotic ungulates in the spread of fever ticks within and outside of the quarantine zone. All of these factors increase the risk of transmission of bovine babesiosis from Mexico to the domestic U.S. cattle population with the result of high death loss and a negative impact on the cattle industry.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends a thorough review of the fever tick control program including funding, surveillance, education, research and bi-national cooperation for control programs with Mexico.

Adopted: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

### **38. National Reportable Disease Database**

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, reportable disease lists vary widely among states. Also, it is not uncommon for animal producers to utilize diagnostic testing services from several different accredited state diagnostic laboratories. State veterinary diagnostic laboratories attempt to report required diagnostic findings according to the state rules of where the animals are located; however such information is not always readily available or up to date. A national database with such information would be a first step in solving this issue that affects state veterinarians and veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Such a database could also facilitate harmonization of reportable rules, streamlining of the reporting process, and increase accuracy of reporting diseases to state veterinarians.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture requests that the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials work with the United States Department of Agriculture to establish and maintain in real-time a national database containing “reportable disease requirements” for each state. Such a list

would be utilized by state veterinary diagnostic laboratories for official report notification to state veterinarians, per individual state requirements according to where the animals are located.

Adopted: 2007 | Amended: 2011

### **39. Porcine Circovirus Associated Disease (PCVAD) Research Need**

BACKGROUND: PCVAD has impacted many countries throughout the world in the past ten years and appears to now be endemic in many major swine production regions in the United States (U.S.). The disease appears to double mortality and significantly increase morbidity and negatively impacts general health of the swine population. More research is needed due to the lack of complete understanding in the transmission, diagnosis, case definition and control measures.

PCVAD is quickly becoming one of the most economically important infectious diseases affecting the U.S. pork industry. Today there is a relatively small amount of funding, public and private, available for research on the prevention and control of PCVAD. This lack of funding and ongoing research is due to this disease being relatively new to the U.S.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute of Animal Agriculture requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture expand funding for basic and applied research, field studies, control, and elimination plans, and national prevalence studies for PCVAD.

Adopted: 2007



**Mission: To address key equine health issues relevant to the economic well-being of the United States equine industry.**

### **40. Animal Health Emergencies**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), through the NIAA Equine Health Committee, will work in cooperation with the American Horse Council, the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the United States Animal Health Association to meet industry responsibilities in preventing and responding to animal health emergencies and threats to food and agriculture security in the United States, as outlined in the industry guidelines developed by the Animal Agriculture Coalition (National Animal Health Emergency Management Systems 2001 Annual Report, Appendix D).

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2004 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **41. Support for Animal Health Safeguarding Review**

BACKGROUND: In 2000, the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) commissioned the National Association of State Departments of

Agriculture to conduct a National Animal Health Safeguarding Review of the U.S. The review has since been completed and a report with recommendations was issued in October 2001.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) requests that USDA/APHIS provide updates on changes that have taken place and ongoing activities monitoring the implementation of the safeguarding review recommendations.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011

#### **42. Formal Implementation of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) Guidelines**

BACKGROUND: In an effort to address EVA and its impact on the equine industry, we encourage the control and prevention of this disease through adherence to a standard protocol that has been developed through the joint efforts of the horse industry, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Animal Health Association.

It would be to the benefit of the industry to develop an approach to control EVA that would be applicable to both domestic and international stallions and semen. This has to be accomplished through the joint efforts of the states, USDA and the industry.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute of Animal Agriculture encourages the horse industry, USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the states to pursue formal implementation of the Uniform Methods and Rules for EVA and pursue whatever action is needed to formulate and implement a post entry testing program for stallions and semen.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Reaffirmed: 2009

#### **43. The Expanded European Union (EU) – Movement Requirements**

BACKGROUND: At the present time we have limited knowledge of the disease status or veterinary infrastructure of member countries of the EU. Prior to reaching agreement on equine movement to the United States (U.S.) from the EU, it is critical that these elements be assessed.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture strongly urges that the U.S. Department of Agriculture in its ongoing negotiations with the EU not agree to any proposals that would lessen current post entry, quarantine and testing requirements that would increase the risk of introduction of various equine diseases.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011

#### **44. Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Control**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports current federal/state initiatives to enhance the control of EIA and encourages uniformity in interstate movement regulations for EIA.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011

#### **45. National Forum on Selected Equine Infectious Diseases with Federal/State Regulatory Implications**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports a national meeting hosted by the American Horse Council, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association Equine Practitioners, NIAA and the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services/Veterinary Services to address domestic and international issues surrounding selected equine infectious diseases with federal/state regulatory implications, including but not limited to Equine Herpes Virus Neurological Disease, Equine Viral Arteritis, Equine Infectious Anemia and Piroplasmosis.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2007

#### **46. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Requirement for Imported Horses**

BACKGROUND: With increased global livestock movement the disease risk is greater to the United States (U.S.) horse population. Horse diseases considered high risk include, but are not exclusive to, Equine Piroplasmosis, Contagious Equine Metritis, Dourine, Glanders, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), African Horse Sickness, Equine Viral Arteritis and Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis.

Eradication efforts in the early 1900's eliminated the presence of diseases such as Dourine and Glanders in the U.S. To protect the U.S. horse population, required importation testing and quarantine were implemented to minimize potential disease introduction into the U.S. Through national disease control programs, testing of both domestic and imported animals have limited the spread of diseases such as EIA. Horses being imported to the U.S. represent a risk of importation of various diseases, and traceability of these animals is a critical element in the protection of the U.S. horse population.

A lack of a reliable and traceable permanent identification system for horses imported into the U.S. makes it difficult to conduct traceback of animals that are potentially positive for or exposed to an infectious disease. There is an immediate need to establish a standard method of permanent identification and traceability for all horses imported into the U.S.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the establishment of a requirement by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture that all horses imported into, or returning to the United States, be identified with RFID microchips that comply with the International Organization for Standardization ISO 11784 and 11785 standards (134.2 kHz). Universal RFID readers would be present at all import centers and border stations to read both 125 and 134.2 kHz microchips. This RFID number would be recorded on the animal's import documents.

Adopted: 2007

#### **47. Equine Infectious Anemia**

BACKGROUND: Equine infectious anemia (EIA) has been controlled in the United States because individual states with support of their equine industries have instituted regulations which require testing for entry, movement and/or congregation, as well as quarantine of test-positive equids. Testing for EIA has been widely accepted, and today includes both the agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID or Coggin's) and enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test formats. Each year, approximately 2 million equid

samples are tested for EIA, and over the last three years, 0.01 percent of the samples were reported as positive. The true prevalence of the infection is not known. In recent years, many of the reported cases have been from states with historically low numbers of cases, and a substantial proportion of those positives were in equids not previously tested for EIA. It is assumed that a population of untested equids exists in the United States. The rate of EIA infection is expected to be higher for that population in those states with historically higher reported numbers of positive tests, such as Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mississippi.

In the considered opinion of experts and regulators, active surveillance should not be reduced but should be improved. Changes are needed because the traditional methods have reached their plateau, and testing in the mobile tested population greatly exceeds the actual risk. The changes deemed most appropriate are those directed toward: 1) identifying the true prevalence of the infection, 2) reducing the interval of testing where appropriate, 3) devising methods to address the untested population, with a focus on states with historically higher rates of test-positive equids, and 4) implementing a three tiered testing system utilizing sensitivity and specificity of tests in appropriate sequence for maximum efficiency.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports USAHA's request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), in cooperation with states and the equine industry, such as the American Horse Council, state horse councils, American Association of Equine Practitioners and breed registries, request funding to support an enhanced EIA control/eradication program.

The three (3) basic components encompass:

Section A: Fund Program

1. USDA-APHIS-VS requests funding for an enhanced EIA control program leading to eradication with new money:
  - At-risk states are to receive focused federal funds in an eradication program; the initial funding emphasis should be in the states with historically higher rates of infection (Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi); and
  - At-risk states must meet certain minimum standards including: change of ownership testing, minimum 12 month negative test for interstate movement, required euthanasia of reactors (grandfather existing reactors that are isolated), individual permanent identification of tested horses, utilization of a 3-tiered testing system.
2. USDA-APHIS-VS should incorporate specific elements of the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, part 75, Communicable diseases in horses, asses, ponies, mules, and zebras, in order to assure that only equines having negative EIA testing status are moved interstate except as described under section 6.

## Section B: Prevalence Working Group

1. USDA-APHIS-VS should create a national EIA prevalence working group that includes representatives from all “at-risk” states.
2. The EIA prevalence working group would continue collaboration with the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) existing equine prevalence model for:
  - Identification of industry stakeholders
  - Accurate equine census
  - Accurate Prevalence data
  - Consistent case definition – herd vs. head
  - Address other issues as appropriate

## Section C: Diagnostic Laboratory Component

1. USDA-APHIS-VS should adopt national laboratory reporting system for accurate electronic test data
2. Re-evaluate laboratory certification (moratorium) policy with input from state/federal regulatory authorities and National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL)
3. Utilize and request funding for a 3-tiered laboratory testing system (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID), immunoblot)
4. USDA-APHIS-VS should request funding for the NVSL laboratory system to fully support an expanded program.

Adopted: 2009

### **48. Equine Piroplasmosis Testing for Importation into Canada**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2005, USDA-APHIS-VS adopted the cELISA test as the official EP test for importation into the U.S. Prior to this action, it was well-known that the complement fixation test (CFT) produced false negatives on chronically infected equids for Equine Piroplasmosis.

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA Equine Committee strongly urges that USDA-APHIS-VS-NCIE enter into discussions with Canada regarding official importation testing for Equine Piroplasmosis. The Committee urges Canada to adopt the cELISA as the official importation test for EP.

Adopted: 2010

# Global Animal Health, Food Safety & Trade

**Mission:** Identify current challenges to or problems with national and international trade by cross-disciplinary discussion between government, academia, and industry and recommend solutions or suggestions for enhancement through the novel application of information, communication, and technology.

**To enhance and assure the wholesomeness of products derived from livestock and to encourage research to identify, develop and implement management strategies to avoid and eliminate contamination from products derived by livestock.**

#### **49. Zoning and Compartmentalization Cooperative Guidelines**

BACKGROUND: The United States (U.S.) needs additional capabilities to implement zoning and compartmentalization relevant to disease status. Should we have a foreign animal disease and/or emerging disease, it would be critical to the economic survival of our livestock and poultry industries to prove we had the disease contained to a specific zone, and just as important, that the remaining zones of the U.S. were free of the particular disease and not at risk for international trade restrictions. Compartmentalization as defined by OIE.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Industry stakeholders, and the states to cooperatively develop zoning and compartmentalization guidelines to be adaptable to a foreign or emerging animal disease outbreak in the U.S.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2009

#### **50. National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS)**

BACKGROUND: A credible NAHRS is increasingly essential for maintaining and expanding trade in livestock and associated products in the global marketplace.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports and encourages the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) to strengthen the participation of all states in NAHRS. NAHRS should continue to present the national status of the country's livestock health status without naming infected states or farms, benefiting all states and industries needing USDA support for livestock disease control or endorsement of international health certifications.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

#### **51. Addressing the Impact of Emerging Diseases in International Trade**

BACKGROUND: Currently World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) develops standards for international trade on most known animal diseases, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) develops regulations and implements import policies related to diseases codified by OIE or caused by other identified agents. However, disease conditions may emerge where the etiologic agent(s) are not identified for some time but a case definition could be established. In addition, while an etiologic agent may be associated with a disease, the disease may have different manifestations or disease severity in various populations. The challenge is how to protect the U.S. animal agriculture industry from these emerging diseases or more severe clinical manifestations of known agents while

meeting international trade obligations. There is a need to develop some policy guidelines on how to handle these situations.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages USDA to discuss with states, academia, and the industry options to protect U.S. animal populations from emerging diseases while meeting our international trade obligations.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

## **52. Importance of the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South America**

BACKGROUND: The eradication of FMD in South America is an important goal in safeguarding animal health in the United States (U.S.).

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the private sector, to continue to collaborate with U.S. agencies, international organizations and other groups to support, coordinate and enhance the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (GIEFA) hemispheric plan for FMD eradication.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2007

## **53. The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Global Initiatives in Veterinary Education (GIVE)**

BACKGROUND: The AAVMC is launching a program called GIVE to support overseas Companion Colleges. Strengthening veterinary education in developing countries will improve livestock health infrastructures, expedite international trade, and sow the seeds of world peace by supporting human-animal bonding and reducing starvation. It will produce needed expertise for governmental and private enterprises and strengthen cooperation among the health professions. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) can support this effort—without financial commitments—by joining a growing list of cooperating organizations and agencies that encourage their members to support these efforts.

RESOLUTION: The NIAA supports the GIVE undertaken by the AAVMC to strengthen veterinary education in developing countries and urges its members and member organizations to cooperate and financially support this enterprise.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2007

## **54. Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE)**

BACKGROUND: The global food system is vitally important, not only in feeding the world's growing population, but also in sustaining the economies of developed and developing nations alike. Recent events, such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza, have highlighted the vulnerability of the global food supply chain and the apparent misalignment of its regulatory, academic and food system stakeholders. It is clear that the safety of the global food supply chain can be compromised not only by disease, but also by accidents, natural disasters or terrorist action.

A consortium involving food system companies, academic centers and non-governmental organizations recently formed the SSAFE initiative in collaboration with intergovernmental agencies. The vision of SSAFE is focused on protecting animal and public health through global implementation of science-based standards, ensuring an uninterrupted sustainable global supply chain of affordable safe food products to and from all countries and to help developing nations strengthen their infrastructures to feed their population, increase stability, promote economic growth and stimulate education. The role of SSAFE is to advise intergovernmental organizations, provide a safe harbor for discussion among global stakeholders, facilitate and enable strengthening of the global food system and to leverage resources through Public-Private Partnerships for collective action.

SSAFE is entering into Memorandum of Understandings with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization and is engaged in ongoing dialogue with the World Health Organization and the World Bank among other institutions, including national government agencies. The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) can support the SSAFE initiative, without financial commitments, through acknowledgement of the critical importance of the SSAFE initiative as outlined in the above vision and mission.

RESOLUTION: The NIAA supports the SSAFE initiative to strengthen the global food system through public-private partnerships. SSAFE is currently focused on veterinary public health capacity building in developing countries. NIAA urges its members and member organizations to cooperate in this endeavor where appropriate.

Adopted: 2007

### **55. Animal Welfare Research**

BACKGROUND: Scientific research on animal welfare is needed in North America to help guide the establishment of animal welfare standards as they are being adopted by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), private entities, associations and national governments. Because much of the current animal welfare research is being conducted in Europe, North American animal agriculture runs the risk of in the future having to follow standards developed under conditions not found in North America. Research based on North American food production systems will help to ensure the establishment of more balanced animal welfare standards in the future.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the need for an expansion of animal welfare research conducted on North American animal production systems. The NIAA encourages the United States Department of Agriculture and private industry to provide additional resources for the funding of peer-reviewed animal welfare research.

Adopted: 2008

### **56. Irradiation Technology**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges irradiation to enhance food safety and quality. Further, the appropriate educational materials regarding the benefits of irradiation should be

developed and distributed by relevant governmental agencies such as Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Agriculture, as well as industry organizations.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2009

### **57. Farm-to-Fork Food Safety**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the continued implementation of risk analysis, quality assurance and best management principles from “farm to fork”. These concepts should be applied to all food production systems.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010

### **58. National On-Farm Food Safety Policies and Programs**

BACKGROUND: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) believes that food safety requires a cooperative interdisciplinary approach. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state animal and public health agencies have existing infrastructures capable of supporting investigations, research, studies and education concerning food safety issues.

RESOLUTION: The NIAA urges Health and Human Services, USDA, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to sustain and build food safety cooperative initiatives, to maintain, support and utilize the veterinary infrastructure existing within USDA and state animal and public health agencies, and to further enhance partnerships with producers, academia and private sector.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2009

### **59. Availability of New Antimicrobials for Farm Animals**

BACKGROUND: Prudent and judicious therapeutic antimicrobial use within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, with strict observance of withdrawal times, is essential to support the health and welfare of United States livestock populations, including minor species, and delivery of a safe, wholesome, affordable food supply.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) encourages the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) to approve new antimicrobial drugs with guidelines to assure prudent therapeutic use of antimicrobials in food animals. NIAA encourages the objective prospective monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in both animals and public health medicine.

Furthermore, the FDA-CVM must base any new or additional restrictions or prohibitions of currently approved or new antimicrobials on sound peer-reviewed scientific evidence and risk assessment developed in an open public process demonstrating a significant impact on public health. The public and private sector should continue to promote educational programs for agriculture producers and the veterinary profession to assure prudent and judicious use of antimicrobial agents.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Reaffirmed: 2009

## **60. Direct Funding for Food System Emergency Preparedness**

**BACKGROUND:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports Homeland Security Presidential Directives #7 and #9, which direct coordination for homeland security among federal agencies and recognize food and agriculture as a critical infrastructure.

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA urges Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement a more streamlined direct funding structure for the entire food system including production agriculture to implement risk assessment, risk management, education and training programs at the local and state level with integration of emergency management preparedness and response with industry.

Adopted: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010



**Mission: To work in cooperation with and build consensus among poultry organizations, to share educational materials and advance solutions for healthy, safe and secure poultry production.**

## **61. Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) Programs**

**BACKGROUND:** The H5 and H7 LPAI program currently under development addresses the issues associated with this disease in the integrated commercial poultry industry and the live bird marketing system. All segments of the poultry industry need to be engaged to maximize the effectiveness of any program developed.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture requests the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service work with local/state animal health officials to customize LPAI education and outreach initiatives.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2009

## **62. Need for Funding for Rapid Development of Additional Methods for Depopulation of Poultry**

**BACKGROUND:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) applauds the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) support over the last year towards the development of practical and humane solutions for depopulation of poultry as is needed in response to disasters and diseases that cannot be controlled through other methods. However, some gaps still exist in our response capability. Adequate solutions for depopulation of caged layers have not been developed sufficiently to address both the needs of timely disease containment and limiting the exposure of personnel performing the depopulation. While practical solutions are important for the U.S. poultry industry, USDA/APHIS depopulation policy should find accord with other depopulation standards (e.g. European Union) where possible but only after consideration of the different husbandry systems and larger poultry numbers found in the U.S.

RESOLUTION: The NIAA compliments the USDA/APHIS on the success thus far of the program to fund and implement policy in support of new practical methods and humane solutions for depopulation of poultry. The NIAA requests continued financial support for rapid development of additional methods for depopulation of caged layers.

Adopted: 2007 | Amended: 2009

### **63. Quarantine (Section 18) Exemption to Use Bleach, Citric Acid, Soaps, and Detergents Against Avian Influenza (AI)**

BACKGROUND: Given the potential for limited supplies, high cost, and adverse environmental impacts from commercial disinfectants, if widespread use were required in the event of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the United States (U.S.), there is a need for additional disinfectants to be available for use against HPAI. Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided a list of 89 antimicrobials with efficacy against HPAI, all are limited in supply, none are labeled for use outdoors where they cannot be collected, many are corrosive to equipment, and most are not listed as efficacious on porous surfaces.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) to continue to collect efficacy data for common disinfectants against AI. If testing shows that these agents are efficacious, this data should then be submitted to the EPA in request of a quarantine (Section 18) exemption for USDA, state agencies and the poultry industry, to utilize these decontamination agents.

Adopted: 2006 | Amended: 2009

### **64. Amendment to the National Organic Poultry Program to Provide for Confinement During Outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

BACKGROUND: The American public expressed a desire for organic foods and formal certification program for such foods. The National Organic Program (NOP) was formed to meet this need and became regulation in October 2001. There are many distinctive and unique requirements for the production and processing of organic foods including poultry. Section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP requires that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic poultry should have “access to the outdoors” during their production life. This outdoor access enhances the likelihood that such poultry will have direct contact with migratory and wild birds as well as other animals. This requirement for outdoor access by a department of the official agricultural agency of this country, USDA, seems incongruous at best. Disease control is a priority for certified organic poultry as well as conventionally reared poultry. In over 50 years of progress, the poultry industries of this country have moved their flocks inside, and this action has contributed significantly to the improvement in health of the nation’s chicken and turkey flocks. Avian influenza (AI) has been a long-standing threat to the health of our poultry and now takes on new potential public health and media perception identities. Migratory and wild birds are known carriers of AI virus, and as such, contact between them and domestic poultry must be prevented.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services/Veterinary Services to work with the Agricultural Marketing Service regarding the NOP to change Section 205.239, a, 1 of the NOP regulations by amending the requirement related to “access to the outdoors.” As amended, Section 205.239 reads: (a) The producer must establish and maintain livestock living conditions, which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals including access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate and the environment and in such a manner that does not compromise food safety and animal health.

Adopted: 2006 | Amended: 2011

## Resolutions of the Board

### **65. Exemption of Livestock and Poultry Manure from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 Provisions**

BACKGROUND: Whereas livestock and poultry manure is a natural product of animal and poultry production; and whereas livestock and poultry manure is used as a form of nutrient support for crop production and as a salable product for composting or recovery of energy; and whereas there has been an effort to regulate livestock and poultry manure under CERCLA.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the Environmental Protection Agency to provide a clarification that livestock and poultry manure is not considered a hazardous substance nor a pollutant or a contaminant under CERCLA and is not subject to provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to Know Act of 1986.

Adopted: 2007

## Small Ruminant

**Mission: To work in cooperation with the sheep and goat industries to address the animal health and care challenges of those industries.**

### **66. Drug Availability for Sheep and Goats**

BACKGROUND: The limited availability of animal drugs approved for use in sheep and goats has been a concern of these industries for many years. Currently, costs of licensing new drugs for minor species discourage research and development leading to new products. The Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 required the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop proposals that would facilitate the approval for minor use animal drugs. The FDA has published its proposals for increasing availability of drugs for minor uses and in minor species.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports Minor Use/Minor Species (MUMS) legislative and regulatory reform that will expedite the drug approval process for minor species and minor uses while maintaining product safety, efficacy and human food safety. In addition, NIAA encourages establishment of adequate funding to accomplish these goals and activities for both the MUMS and the NRSP-7 programs.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2008

#### **67. Funding for Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (FARAD)**

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges adequate and authorized funding through the United States Department of Agriculture for the FARAD because of its vital role in food safety.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2011

#### **68. Producing Wholesome and Safe Sheep Products**

BACKGROUND: Supplying wholesome and safe products is critical to maintain consumer confidence. Further, the implementation of educational programs promoting best management practices will enhance the sheep industry's competitiveness.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the implementation of the national sheep safety and quality assurance program for production of wholesome and safe products. Further, NIAA supports an on-going partnership with the sheep industry in producer Quality Assurance efforts.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011

#### **69. Scrapie Eradication**

BACKGROUND: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), with the support of the U.S. sheep industry, initiated the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) in 2001 with the goal of eradication by 2017. In order for Scrapie eradication to be successful, USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) must clearly be the lead agency in a cooperative effort with the states. Adequate program funding is needed for both APHIS and state animal health regulatory authorities in order to be effective.

The NSEP allows states to find/evaluate new, innovative and science-based approaches to Scrapie eradication. Over the past several years, USDA-conducted research has yielded valuable findings guiding the diagnosis and control of Scrapie. Efforts should continue to be directed toward the development of live animal (pre-clinical) diagnostic tests, the improvement of existing postmortem diagnostics, and the determination of the pathogenesis of Scrapie.

Inadequate program funding will result in an increased prevalence of Scrapie which could increase costs to the industry and taxpayers and have negative trade implications.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) requests that USDA review the NSEP on an annual basis with the goal of integrating/implementing appropriate new science-based information. The results should be reported to the United States Animal Health Association Scrapie Committee and to the NIAA Small Ruminant Committee. NIAA also requests that USDA/APHIS commit additional funding to utilize the expertise in the field Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs), Area Veterinarians in Charge (AVICs), state veterinarians and their staff, utilize their constructive input and encourage increased surveillance, compliance and enforcement activities. NIAA recommends that this program be considered a top priority with complete and dedicated funding through the year 2017 to ensure complete eradication in both sheep and goats.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2008 | Amended: 2011

#### **70. Johne's Disease Research in Small Ruminants**

BACKGROUND: While the prevalence of Johne's disease in the United States (U.S.) sheep and goat population is not known, preliminary U.S. Department of Agriculture/Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health surveys of sheep and goat research from the University of Wisconsin, has recognized Johne's disease to be an important problem in both species. Federally funded Johne's disease research efforts have been proven to be valuable to the bovine industry.

RESOLUTION: In light of the needed progress for existing small ruminant-based Johne's research, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages expanded financial support for diagnostic, surveillance, and immunologic research programs.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2007

#### **71. Producing Wholesome and Safe Goat Products**

BACKGROUND: Supplying wholesome and safe products are critical to maintaining consumer confidence. Further, the implementation of educational programs promoting best management practices will enhance the goat industry's competitiveness.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the development and implementation of science-based dairy, meat, and fiber goat quality assurance programs.

Adopted: 2006 | Amended: 2009

#### **72. Official Sheep and Goat Identification**

BACKGROUND: It is important that the ear tag numbering system for official tags for sheep and goats be as visually readable as possible. Maximizing ease and accuracy of visual readability benefits both the producer and animal health officials.

The animal disease traceability Animal Identification Numbers tag numbering and distribution system (consisting of a 15 digit number of which 12 digits will not repeat from year to year and from tag order to tag order) is very difficult to both accurately read and record visually as 12 digits will need to be read

and recorded each and every time. This is particularly true for sheep and goat tags given the need (due to the weak ear tissue of both species, particularly in newborns) for as small a tag as possible.

Experience from the National Scrapie Eradication Program indicates that visual readability and livestock producer satisfaction is best achieved with an ear tag containing the United States (U.S.) shield, a repeating U.S. Department of Agriculture Scrapie flock/herd number and a larger font non-repeating individual animal number that consists of not more than six digits.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the continued use of an ear tag containing the U.S. shield and a larger font non-repeating individual animal number that consists of up to 6 digits for sheep and goat tags.

Adopted: 2006 | Amended: 2009 | Amended: 2010 | Amended: 2011



**Mission: To develop a comprehensive swine health agenda that includes regulatory animal health, animal welfare, biosecurity and food safety assurance.**

### **73. Funding for Infectious Disease Research and Field Studies**

**BACKGROUND:** Due to the increased risk of foreign animal disease introduction and heightened awareness of potential emerging swine pathogens, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is concerned about maintaining balanced funding by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for infectious animal disease research, particularly for field-based epidemiological studies at the farm level and applied research.

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA requests that DHS and USDA direct increased funding for epidemiological field studies and applied research that adequately serve the swine industry, and that industry priorities, as identified by the National Pork Board Swine Health Committee, continue to be considered in the allocation of funds and projects.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **74. Swine Health Protection Act Enforcement**

**BACKGROUND:** The risk of foreign animal disease introduction into the United States (U.S.) has increased due to recent global disease outbreaks. One potential route of entry for foreign animal diseases is the feeding of uncooked meat products to pigs.

RESOLUTION: In the high-risk global environment of foreign animal disease, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue vigilant enforcement of the current law and inspections of all garbage feeding operations in the U.S. and provide an annual report to the NIAA.

Adopted: 2001 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Reaffirmed: 2009

#### **75. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) Research Need**

BACKGROUND: PRRS is endemic in all major swine production regions in the United States (U.S.). Due to the ability of the PRRS virus to mutate and the lack of heterologous antigen/antibody protection, current biologics are marginally efficacious.

PRRS is indisputably the most economically important infectious disease affecting the U.S. pork industry. Today there is a relatively small amount of funding, public and private, available for research on the prevention and control of PRRS. This lack of funding and ongoing research is due to this disease being relatively new, along with restrictive patents and no mandatory control program.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA) requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture continue expansion of program funding for basic research, applied research, field studies, control and elimination plans, and national prevalence studies for PRRS.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2009

#### **76. Swine Health Protection Act Support – Commercial Waste Processing Methods**

BACKGROUND: Current regulations that cover the Swine Health Protection Act do not recognize commercial manufacturing methods now used for processing and cooking methods used by the food industry to produce human food products that also could be available for feeding to pigs with limited or no further cooking. Current regulations do not allow for alternative cooking methods for food waste that effectively kill foreign animal disease (FAD) organisms.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) encourages United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Service (USDA/APHIS/VS) to propose changes to 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 166, related to the Swine Health Protection Act, to recognize commercial food waste processing methods that effectively kill potential animal disease organisms and allow for alternative cooking methods that effectively kill infectious disease agents; while fully protecting the health of the U.S. herd from possible FAD introduction via food waste feeding. CFR language must in no way compromise the safety of the treatment process; all proposed alternate processing must be scientifically proven to consistently and effectively kill all pertinent disease organisms.

Adopted: 2004 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **77. Marine Act of 1920 (Jones Act) Exemption**

**BACKGROUND:** The Marine Act of 1920 established, for security and protection of the maritime industries, a regulation that prevents a foreign flagship from loading and unloading in a United States (U.S.) port. However, it may load at any port in the world and unload at any U.S. port. Thus, over time, this legislation has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of U.S. flagships because of competition with foreign operated ships. Therefore, U.S. rates are NOT competitive, and free trade of U.S. products is prevented, and imports are encouraged. Examples include U.S. feeder cattle produced in Hawaii that have to be shipped through Canada to make feedlots in the U.S.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports an agricultural exemption of the Marine Act of 1920 that would eliminate the inequities so created by the Act and requests its staff and membership to join with National Pork Producers Council and other interests and organizations that also seek out such an amendment.

Adopted: 2004 | Reaffirmed: 2009

### **78. Comprehensive National Surveillance Plan for Swine Diseases**

**BACKGROUND:** Implementation of a comprehensive national surveillance plan for swine diseases is critical to maintenance of United States (U.S.) free status and early detection in case of introduction or re-emergence.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture requests the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS/VS) immediately take the following actions concerning surveillance for swine diseases.

1. Evaluate and redesign surveillance programs for pseudorabies, swine brucellosis and other diseases identified by the National Pork Board's Swine Health Committee, with the goal of evolving the programs into a comprehensive swine surveillance program based on risk assessments.
2. Assign staff to be responsible for program analysis and implementation.
3. Coordinate work between the National Surveillance Unit and Animal Health Programs staff.
4. Reassign pseudorabies funding and secure additional funding to better implement these ongoing surveillance efforts.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2008

### **79. Free Ranging Species Research**

**BACKGROUND:** There has been a marked lack of funding for researching methods to prevent, control, manage and eliminate disease processes in free ranging species occurring as a result of natural exposure and/or introduction by a bioterrorist.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges Congress to allocate additional funds and resources to United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

and other cooperating governmental entities necessary to develop effective procedures and products for use in brucellosis elimination from elk, bison, feral/wild swine populations and reindeer.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Reaffirmed: 2009

**80. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) (now referred to as Swine Disease Analysis Program SDAP) for Pseudorabies Virus (PRV) and Swine Brucellosis (SB) Program Standards**

BACKGROUND: The United States (U.S.) pork industry has worked cooperatively with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS/VS) Swine Health Programs (SHP) to explore the use of HACCP principles as a methodology to develop and maintain flexible, simple and effective disease programs for the swine industry. The industry supports the utilization of HACCP principles to define SDAP standards for the control of PRV and SB in the commercial swine compartment.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges the USDA/APHIS/VS SHP to continue to work with industry to adapt and implement the HACCP principles to define SDAP standards for the PRV and SB Programs.

Adopted: 2008 | Amended: 2009