

2011-2012 NIAA Resolutions

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.

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

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

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