

2011-2012 NIAA Resolutions

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.

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

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

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

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.

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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

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

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- 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

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

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.

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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

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.

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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

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

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

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