

2011-2012 NIAA Resolutions

Equine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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
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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)

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4. USDA-APHIS-VS should request funding for the NVSL laboratory system to fully support an expanded program.

Adopted: 2009

Equine Piroplasmiasis 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 Piroplasmiasis.

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

Adopted: 2010