

2012-2013 NIAA Resolutions

Small Ruminant Committee

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

SR1. 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 Minor Use Animal Drug Program (MUADP) was created in 1982 to work with the FDA/CVM, the pharmaceutical industry and producers to facilitate approval of pharmaceuticals and provide information for the safe and efficacious use of these materials in minor food animal species¹ or for minor uses in major food animal species. Enhanced by the Minor Use/Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004 (MUMS), this is the ONLY program that actively works to seek FDA approval for veterinary therapeutics for minor species or for minor use in major food animal species.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges adequate and authorized funding for the USDA Minor Use Animal Drug Program (National Research Support Project-7) that works in collaboration with FDA-CVM and the pharmaceutical companies to facilitate approvals of veterinary products for minor food animal species and for minor use in major food animal species. This program provides information so that veterinary products can be used in a safe and efficacious manner in minor food animal species and for minor uses in major food animal species and is consistent with the intent and regulations under the MUMS act.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2008 | Amended: 2012

SR2. Funding for Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (FARAD)

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

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

SR3. 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

SR4. 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 Sheep & Goat Health 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

SR5. 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.

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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 | Reaffirmed: 2012

SR6. 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

SR7. Diseases in Sheep and Goats

BACKGROUND: Local, state and federal governments are often required to react to public concerns related to zoonotic diseases in an expedited manner. It is critical to have a science-based program and plan in place to respond to a disease outbreak.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports science-based USDA programs that objectively evaluate zoonotic diseases in sheep and goats and develop action plans (e.g., prevention, control, eradication).

Adopted: 2012