

2019-2020 NIAA Resolutions

Food Security, Regulatory & Trade Council

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.

FSRT1 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 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Reaffirmed: 2018

FSRT2 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, Food and Drug Administration, 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 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Amended: 2016 | Reaffirmed: 2018

FSRT3 Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)

BACKGROUND: The economic well-being of American agriculture depends on maintaining strong export markets and creating new market access opportunities. Export markets are in large part the result of

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trade agreements negotiated over the past two decades. Since 1989, when the U.S. began using bilateral and regional trade agreements to open foreign markets, U.S. agricultural exports have nearly quadrupled in value and are now a record \$150.5 billion. During that period, earnings from U.S. agricultural exports as a share of cash receipts to farmers have grown from 22% to 35%.

Farm and food exports have a positive multiplier effect throughout the U.S. economy. According to USTR, every \$1 in U.S. farm exports stimulates an additional \$1.22 in business activity. Off-farm activities and services include purchases by farmers of fuel, fertilizer, seed and other inputs and post-production processing, packaging, storing, transporting and marketing the products we ship overseas. Exports of \$150.5 billion in FY 2014 therefore generated another \$184 billion in economic activity in the U.S. bringing the total economic benefit to the economy to \$334 billion. This economic activity creates jobs. Every \$1 billion of U.S. agricultural exports requires the full-time work of approximately 7,580 Americans throughout the economy. Exports in 2014 therefore supported over one million full-time jobs, more than half of these have been created in the past ten years.

Each and every one of the trade agreements that made these remarkable achievements possible were themselves made possible by the enactment of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation. TPA gave U.S. negotiators the ability to extract the best deals possible from other countries. Without it, no country will be willing to make the toughest concessions to us if they fear that Congress will subsequently demand more; trade agreements would break down without TPA. On the other hand, rejecting TPA would not be free of serious consequences. Nations around the world are negotiating bilateral trade deals. If competitors gain free access to our biggest markets while we continue to face substantial import barriers, our markets will inevitably shrink.

The future viability of American agriculture depends upon our ability to create foreign market opportunities. The best means to achieve this is through meaningful results for agriculture in current and future trade agreements. Enactment of TPA will ensure the best possible outcome from future trade negotiations.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the adoption of Trade Promotion Authority.

Adopted: 2015 | Sunset: 2018

FSRT4 Support for Brucellosis Surveillance and Research Funding

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports core funding for the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service / Agricultural Research Services Brucellosis budget requests. 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 and research activities. This includes uniform identification system and assures depopulation funding necessary to continue the brucellosis eradication effort.

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FSRT5 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 principles 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 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Sunset: 2018

FSRT6 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.

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FSRT7 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 adaptive 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 and wildlife disease.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Amended: 2018

FSRT8 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 / Agricultural Research Services 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. NIAA supports removing *Brucella abortus* and *Brucella suis* from the Select Agent List.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Amended: 2018

FSRT9 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 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Sunset: 2018

FSRT12 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.

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FSRT13 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 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018

FSRT14 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 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018

FSRT15 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.

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Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018

FSRT16 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 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Sunset: 2018

FSRT17 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 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018

FSRT18 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.

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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 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Sunset: 2018

FSRT19 Exemption of Livestock and Poultry Manure from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 Provisions and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

BACKGROUND: Whereas livestock and poultry manure is a natural product of animal and poultry production; and whereas livestock and poultry manure is routinely recycled on farms 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 the provisions of either CERCLA nor the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

Adopted: 2007 | Amended: 2012 | Reaffirmed: 2017 | Reaffirmed: 2018