

# 2019-2020 NIAA Resolutions

## Global Animal Health & Emerging Diseases Council

**Mission:** Bring awareness of emerging foreign and domestic animal diseases to the attention of the NIAA membership, and explore and seek solutions to the global consequences of these diseases for those directly and indirectly involved in protecting U.S. food animal health.

### **GAHED1      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.

**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 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 and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, 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.

Adopted: 2001 | Amended: 2005 | Reaffirmed: 2010 | Amended: 2013 | Amended: 2015

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## **GAHED2 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:

A secure communication, reporting and alert system

Standardized, rapid diagnostic techniques that can be used at the state, regional and national level

Modernized equipment and experienced personnel trained in the detection of emergent, foreign and bioterrorist agents

A national training, proficiency testing and quality assurance system to ensure that all laboratories in the system meet quality standards

Federal and state facility upgrades to meet biocontainment requirements

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.

In 2012, a concept paper that described a new structure for NAHLN and provided criteria for each level of laboratory, as well as new processes such as periodic review of the levels was developed. This new NAHLN structure preserves the oversight, leadership, administration, and roles and responsibilities for the Network, while giving the NAHLN added flexibility to respond to national animal health testing needs, as well as clarifying the roles and responsibilities of network members. The number of laboratories in each level was not explicitly defined, except for reference to meeting the national 'need', as determined based on geographic distribution, population density of animals, farm gate values, risk of FAD introductions, etc. In 2014, a transition plan for the restructured network was outlined by the NAHLN Coordinating Council. The restructure was implemented in 2016.

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. 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 | Amended: 2016

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**GAHED3      Funding for Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) and BSL3 Ag Infrastructure at University and 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 | Reaffirmed: 2015 | Amended: 2016

**GAHED4      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.

There are 30 United States (U.S.) Colleges of Veterinary Medicine graduating over 3000 new veterinarians each year. All of the colleges are at full capacity. 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 uneven distribution of veterinarians working in Food Animal Medicine/Food Safety public health positions, combined with the lack of capacity within the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine 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 | Amended: 2013 | Amended: 2018

**GAHED5      Movement of Animals Without official certificate of veterinary inspection**

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.

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 (USDA/APHIS/VS) to collaborate with state partners to implement a monitoring system for 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.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2011 | Reaffirmed: 2016 | Amended : 2019

#### **GAHED6 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 ascaricide-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

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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 | Reaffirmed: 2015

#### **GAHED7      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 public and private veterinary diagnostic laboratories. 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 (NIAA) requests that the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials work with USDA to establish and maintain in real-time a national database containing “reportable disease requirements” for each state. Such a list would be utilized by public and private 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 | Amended: 2016

#### **GAHED8      Support for PEDv Control, Research and Funding**

BACKGROUND: Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) was first diagnosed in the United States in May 2013. The disease causes acute diarrhea and exhibits a very high mortality in affected herds, especially in suckling pigs. PEDv is not a new disease, occurs worldwide, and is reportable in the US. The disease has impacted a variety of sizes and production types, spreading to swine operations in over half of the states in the US within the first year of diagnosis. While much is unknown regarding the transmission and epidemiology of the disease, current knowledge has indicated that prevention through a variety of biosecurity measures is needed.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages coordinated federal, state, industry, and producer efforts towards the recognition, prevention, and control of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus. Furthermore, the NIAA encourages increased federal funding for research pertaining to the diagnosis, surveillance, epidemiology, transmission, prevention, and control of the disease.

Adopted: 2014 | Amended: 2015

**GAHED9 United States Department of Agriculture / National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/ NIFA) Emerging Disease Appropriations**

BACKGROUND: Congress has routinely appropriated funds specifically for animal health and emerging animal diseases through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA, formerly CSREES) and Section 1433 Animal Health Research Formula Funds. In addition, the 2014 “Farm Bill” provides support for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The “Farm Bill” also established the Foundation for Food and Agriculture (FFAR), which leads a cost-shared program, Rapid Outcomes in Agricultural Research (ROAR). This program also focuses on emerging and unanticipated plant or animal disease or pest issues.

Recent incursions of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus and highly pathogenic avian influenza along with international circulation of other pathogens of high consequence to animal agriculture are reminders of the importance of maintaining this funding for veterinary research, veterinary laboratory capacity, and integrated research and outreach. Congressmen in the House and Senate need to hear from their stakeholders about the importance of these lines.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) joins with other stakeholders to support continued funding for emerging animal disease research, diagnostic capacity, and outreach. NIAA supports having both formula and emergency funding mechanisms. Accordingly, NIAA urges that funding continue for NIFA, Section 1433, and FFAR with automatic annual increases to account for inflation.

Adopted: 2017

**GAHED10 Animal Disease and Disaster Preparedness Program**

BACKGROUND: New, emerging, and foreign or transboundary animal diseases and pests continue to threaten animal agriculture in the United States. Recent incursions of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, highly pathogenic avian influenza, and New World screwworm are reminders of the need to be prepared. Preparedness involves ensuring we have a sound border inspection program, strengthening surveillance systems, developing technologies and tools to enhance detection and response, enhancing the development and stockpiling of countermeasures including vaccines, and incentivizing biosecurity throughout livestock and poultry production chains. As discussions for the 2018 Farm Bill get underway, it is important for animal agriculture stakeholders to communicate the importance of such efforts.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) joins with other stakeholders to support the inclusion of an Animal Disease Disaster Preparedness Program. The National Animal Health Laboratory Network, the Extension Disaster Education Network, vaccine banks, and rapid response funding (through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research) are existing programs that should be prioritized for continued or enhanced support.

Adopted: 2017

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**GAHED11      Zoning and Compartmentalization Cooperative Guidelines**

BACKGROUND: The United States (U.S.) needs additional capabilities to implement zoning and compartmentalization, as defined by the OIE, relevant to disease status. Should we have a foreign animal disease and/or emerging disease, it would be critical to the economic survival of our livestock and poultry industries to prove we had the disease contained to a specific zone, and just as important, that the remaining zones of the U.S. were free of the particular disease and not at risk for international trade restrictions.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Industry stakeholders, and the states to cooperatively develop adaptable zoning and compartmentalization guidelines for a foreign or emerging animal disease incident in the United States that are acceptable to our trading partners.

Adopted: 2002 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Amended: 2016 | Amended: 2018 | Amended: 2019

**GAHED13      Importance of the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South America**

BACKGROUND: The eradication of FMD in South America is an important goal in safeguarding animal health in the United States (U.S.).

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture encourages the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the private sector, to continue to collaborate with U.S. agencies, international organizations and other groups to support, coordinate and enhance the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (GIEFA) hemispheric plan for FMD eradication.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2007 | Reaffirmed: 2012 | Reaffirmed: 2017 | Reaffirmed: 2018

**GAHED16      Support for National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Livestock Surveys**

BACKGROUND: The health of livestock in the United States is of prime importance to the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Qualification of health and management of animal agriculture is critically needed with the help of producer groups and government.

RESOLUTION: The NIAA supports the development of NAHMS surveys, special projects, and surveillance programs and their successful completion, proper evaluation, and dissemination of results.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Reaffirmed: 2009 | Reaffirmed: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018

**GAHED17      Preventing Exotic Ticks and Hemoparasitic Disease Establishment in the United States (U.S.)**

BACKGROUND: There is an increased risk of the introduction and establishment of exotic animal pests and diseases as a result of the changing dynamics of animal movements and transmission of hemoparasitic diseases. A particular focus on the risks associated with the Mexican and Caribbean

Region is required. There are reports that ticks are developing resistance to commonly used ascaricides. Therefore, actions to prevent the establishment of exotic ticks that infest livestock and other animals including wildlife in the U.S. are a continuous task. Such action requires vigilance, diligence and singleness of focus from scientific, animal (domestic and wild) and regulatory communities.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) to enter into a joint effort with state animal health officials, animal industries and wildlife interests to define and support a core organization or commission to facilitate the acquisition and allocation of continual funding for preventing the establishment of exotic animal pests and hemoparasitic diseases in the U.S. NIAA recognizes and supports the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Fever Tick Committee to combat ticks in the U.S. and Mexico.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2008 | Reaffirmed: 2013 | Reaffirmed: 2018

#### **GAHED17      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 Piroplasmiasis, 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 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 and captured in a searchable database accessible to state animal health officials during a disease investigation.

Adopted: 2007 | Reaffirmed: 2012 | Amended: 2015 | Reaffirmed: 2018

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**GAHED18      Comprehensive National Surveillance Plan for Swine Diseases**

**BACKGROUND:** Implementation of a comprehensive national surveillance plan for swine diseases is critical to maintenance of United States (U.S.) free status and early detection in case of introduction or re-emergence.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture requests the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services (USDA/APHIS/VS) immediately take the following actions concerning surveillance for swine diseases.

Evaluate and redesign surveillance programs for pseudorabies, swine brucellosis and other diseases identified by the National Pork Board's Swine Health Committee, with the goal of evolving the programs into a comprehensive swine surveillance program based on risk assessments.

Assign staff to be responsible for program analysis and implementation.

Coordinate work between the National Surveillance Unit and Animal Health Programs staff.

Reassign pseudorabies funding and secure additional funding to better implement these ongoing surveillance efforts.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2008 | Reaffirmed: 2013 | Reaffirmed: 2018

**GAHED20      Research Needed to Address Emerging Diseases of Swine**

**BACKGROUND:** At least four previously exotic viruses emerged in the United States (U.S.) swine herd in 2013 and 2014. This raises concern within the pork industry regarding the frequency with which this is happening and the apparent inability to prevent their introduction, monitor their movement or mitigate their impact.

Emerging diseases potentially pose a significant economic impact on U.S. swine producers and may adversely affect access to international markets for U.S. pork products and live animals. As newly emergent, non-reportable, non-regulatory diseases, there is a need for significant funding to support response planning, basic and applied research as well as the development of control strategies, epidemiology and prevalence studies.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide program funding to be used in collaboration with the swine industry for response planning, basic and applied research, field studies, control and elimination protocols, and national prevalence studies for emerging swine production diseases.

Adopted: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2018