

2017-2018 NIAA Resolutions

Equine Committee

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

EQ1 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 | Reaffirmed: 2012 | Reaffirmed: 2015

EQ2 Facilitate International Movement of Equine

BACKGROUND: At the present time we have limited knowledge of the disease status or veterinary infrastructure of member countries of the OIE. Prior to reaching agreement on equine movement to the United States (U.S.) from the import/export countries, 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 import/export countries to consider and solicit industry feedback on any 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 | Reaffirmed: 2012 | Amended: 2016

EQ3 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. NIAA encourages a current test for EIA when there is a change of equine ownership.

Adopted: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2006 | Reaffirmed: 2011 | Amended: 2013

EQ4 National Forum on Selected Equine Infectious Diseases with Federal/State Regulatory Implications

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) understands the current economic limitations and budgetary restraints of industry, state, and federal entities; however, NIAA strongly supports a national equine meeting to be held when considered appropriate. 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 should 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. The Equine Committee suggests that NIAA co-host the 2017 Equine Identification Forum with USAHA.

Adopted: 2005 | Amended: 2006 | Amended: 2007 | Amended: 2012 | Amended: 2016

EQ5 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 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

EQ6 The National Equine Health Plan and the Equine Disease Communication Center is important to the health, welfare and economic viability of the U.S. equine industry.

BACKGROUND: Outbreaks of contagious diseases such as Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) at equine events with high number of attendees has prompted the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the American Horse Council (AHC) to acknowledge the need for a National Equine Health Plan (NEHP) and Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) in order to facilitate in the education and optimal dissemination of information amongst the equine community in a timely manner.

The NEHP will focus on the role of industry, state and federal animal health officials and tribal leaders in protecting the health and welfare of the horse, facilitation in equine movement and ensuring the diagnostic, inspection, and certification services through an electronic identification database to protect the economic viability of the equine industry.

Contained within the NEHP is the EDCC which will provide accurate information about disease outbreaks in a timely fashion, information about diseases for those involved in the equine industry and other information used for proper health and welfare practices.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), AAEP and AHC have all passed resolutions supporting the development of the NEHP including the EDCC.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the establishment of a National Equine Health Plan and an Equine Disease Communication Center in order to protect the health, welfare and economic viability of the U.S. equine industry.

Adopted: 2014 | Reaffirmed: 2015

EQ7 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) and Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) Testing Requirements

BACKGROUND: Racing Quarter Horses have been identified as a high-risk population of horses which pose a significant risk to the health of the national equine population. Since 2009, there have been 268 racing Quarter Horses confirmed positive for equine piroplasmosis (EP), with 56 of the 268 confirmed since October of 2015. The 56 positive horses were located all across the country including in the states of Arkansas (2), Arizona (3), California (1), Illinois (1), New Mexico (1), North Carolina (1), Tennessee (19), Texas (10) and Wyoming (14). Additionally, since 2012, at least 59 racing Quarter Horses have been confirmed positive for equine infectious anemia in states of California (39), Texas (5), Washington (10), Oregon (4), and Oklahoma (1). Epidemiologic investigations into these cases have indicated iatrogenic transmission of disease through high risk practices of trainers and owners. The failure to promptly identify positive animals poses a significant risk to the United States (U.S.) equine population as the retired racing Quarter Horses travel across the U.S. to be used as pleasure horses, roping or rodeo horses, barrel horses, show horses or ranch horses. Of concern regarding equine piroplasmosis, the U.S. free status is at risk if identification and control measures are not implemented. Although it is acknowledged that imposing testing requirements on racing Quarter Horses prior to entry into a racing

13570 Meadowgrass Drive, Suite 201 | Colorado Springs, CO 80921 | Phone: 719-538-8843 | Fax: 719-538-8847

Email: NIAA@animalagriculture.org | Web Address: www.animalagriculture.org

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venue will impose an increased owner expense, the threat of the loss of US free status for EP, and the threat of allowing permanent establishment of a new disease into the US horse industry poses an even greater economic risk to the U.S. equine industries.

RESOLUTION: National Institute for Animal Agriculture urges state animal health officials and Quarter Horse racing jurisdictions to impose equine infectious anemia (EIA) and equine piroplasmiasis (EP) testing requirements for Quarter Horses entering a racing venue. Test samples should be correlated to permanent identification of the horse being tested; and that identification indicated on the test chart. Additionally, NIAA urges the American Quarter Horse Association to encourage the EIA and EP testing of racing Quarter Horses and assist in the education of the racing Quarter Horse owners and trainers as to the risks of the diseases. Lastly, the NIAA urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to continue to compile national epidemiologic EIA and EP data for the high-risk group of horses and provide outreach information to states and industry regarding this issue.

Adopted: 2017