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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35      Approved**

**SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS, AND CAMELIDS**

**SUBJECT MATTER:          Johne's Disease Prevalence**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The current prevalence of Johne's disease in United States (US) sheep and goat herds is unknown. The infection rate in sheep based upon the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) 2001 Sheep Study was approximately 5 percent. This figure was based upon enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing of a sub-sample of up to 40 sheep within approximately 682 flocks, assuming test sensitivity of 50 percent. Based on knowledge of ELISA testing sensitivity today, the true prevalence of Johne's disease in US flocks and herds is likely to be much higher.

This study has never been performed in goats. Even though it was initially planned for the NAHMS 2009 Goat Study, Phase II biological testing was cancelled at the last minute. However, the NAHMS 2019 Goat Study indicates this disease is likely present on goat farms. It is critical that a new Johne's prevalence study be performed to provide an accurate assessment of the prevalence.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services conduct a *Mycobacterium avium* ssp. *paratuberculosis* prevalence study with the samples to be collected during the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) 2024 Sheep Study. In addition, a prevalence study utilizing banked serum and/or fecal samples from the NAHMS 2019 Goat Study should be conducted.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Sera and whole blood samples will be collected as part of the NAHMS Sheep 2024 study. VS will make aliquots of these samples available for research to estimate the prevalence of *Mycobacterium avium* ssp. *paratuberculosis* in sheep. Sera from the

NAHMS Goat 2019 study are stored at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for future research, and aliquots from this storage are also available for this purpose. No fecal samples were saved from the Goat 2019 study. VS will review the study design and budget to determine the possibility of using the fecal samples collected from Sheep 2024 to estimate the prevalence of *Mycobacterium avium ssp.paratuberculosis*.