



2024 Resolution
128th Annual Meeting
Oct. 10-16, 2024
Nashville, TN

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON

SUBJECT MATTER: Research Support for National Regulatory Programs

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To protect public health, billions of dollars have been invested in national eradication programs for brucellosis and tuberculosis over the last 90 years. This monumental effort has resulted in extremely low prevalence of these diseases in livestock in the United States and dramatic reductions in human infection. However, the presence of wildlife reservoirs of brucellosis and tuberculosis has complicated disease eradication efforts with regular transmission of these diseases from wildlife to domestic livestock. Addressing these zoonotic diseases in wildlife reservoirs requires continued investment in research to develop new vaccine technologies and diagnostic tools for use in intervention strategies that protect both domestic livestock and public health. Over the last 20 years appropriated funding for brucellosis and tuberculosis research in support of national eradication programs has decreased both in total and inflation adjusted dollars, resulting in slowed scientific advancement.

A renewed and enhanced commitment is needed to complete these eradication programs for the betterment of animal health, public health, and the economic outlook of the Nation's farming and ranching families. Additionally, we jeopardize the progress that has come at an intense personal and financial cost over nearly a century.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to increase its support of brucellosis and tuberculosis research at the USDA, Agricultural Research Service National Animal Disease Center in Ames, IA. This investment is critical to supporting ongoing and future national eradication programs for these diseases. The USAHA supports priorities that ensure adequate funding for scientific personnel, high-containment facilities, and equipment to enable continued advancements in disease prevention and control. Financial support of brucellosis research should occur regardless of select agent status. The USAHA encourages USDA to work with USAHA to prioritize research that includes this need.