

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 18      APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:              Foot and Mouth Disease Hour 73: Planning Options for Resumption of Movement following 72-Hour National Movement Standstill**

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**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services adopt the following policy changes to minimize negative consequences of the 72-hour National Movement Standstill:

**1. Hour 73 Slaughter Establishments in Free Areas:**

- After the 72-hour National Movement Standstill, at hour 73, slaughter establishments in the free area should be removed from any extended national standstill order and be allowed to resume operations.

**2. Hour 73 Scenarios for Production Premises:**

- Continue National Movement Standstill for an additional period beyond hour 73, exempting livestock movement to slaughter establishments in free areas; or
- End the 72-hour National Movement Standstill at hour 73, whereby:
  - Premises in free areas resume intrastate and interstate movement at hour 73 without permits unless movement is into an established control area; and
  - Premises in established control areas need permits for intrastate and interstate movement; or
- Establish a smaller geographical or jurisdictional movement standstill area (such as part of a state, or an entire state, or a region) for intrastate and/or interstate movement at hour 73, whereby:
  - Premises in free areas resume regular intrastate and interstate movement at hour 73 unless movement is into an established control area, and
  - Premises in established control areas need permits for intrastate and interstate movement.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On any given day, the United States (US) livestock industry moves millions of animals. If foot and mouth disease (FMD) were introduced into this system, it could spread across the US in a very short period of time. Upon the initial detection of FMD, the current policy is to implement a 72-hour standstill order, designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Halt animal movements to slow the spread of the disease.
- Provide producers and other stakeholders time to assess biosecurity measures and make necessary adjustments before movement resumes.
- Give regulatory officials time to conduct epidemiological tracing on infected premises and determine the appropriate control areas to establish once the standstill expires.

It is also recognized that a standstill order will have additional consequences. The COVID-19 pandemic taught us that while movement can be halted, it must resume as soon as possible to avoid a significant cascade of negative impacts on livestock production sites.

#### **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.

APHIS is updating the draft National Movement Standstill requirements and will include Hour 73 response options into APHIS, state, and private-sector response planning. APHIS will also remove slaughter establishments in the Free Area from any extended National Movement Standstill order at Hour 73. APHIS agrees that a stop movement of livestock to harvest establishments in Free Areas longer than the initial 72-hour National Movement Standstill could result in significant problems and harm for non-infected production premises in Free Areas.

APHIS also agrees to consider adding the two options listed in the resolution, for production premises, to APHIS, state, and private-sector response plans. APHIS will continue discussions on these recommendations, as well as additional Hour 73 options with the USAHA Committee on Sheep, Goats, and Camelids and stakeholders.