

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

**SUBJECT MATTER: Acceptance of the Dual Path Platform Test for
Tuberculosis in Exported Cervids**

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to negotiate with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on amending Canada's importation protocol to recognize the Dual Path Platform tuberculosis (TB) test as an approved option for meeting TB testing and herd accreditation requirements for live farmed cervids and frozen cervine semen exported from the United States to Canada.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently requires that farmed cervids exported from the United States undergo two tuberculosis (TB) tests: one between 60 and 100 days prior to movement, and another within 30 days of export. Both tests must use the single mid-cervical tuberculin skin test (MCT). Additionally, the CFIA mandates that the exporting herd be enrolled in a tuberculosis herd certification program, which is also based solely on the MCT. Under CFIA's current protocol, the Dual Path Platform (DPP) blood test is not accepted for either herd certification or individual animal export clearance.

This approach differs significantly from that of the United States Department of Agriculture, which has approved the DPP test as a supplemental TB test for cervids for over a decade. The DPP blood test offers advantages in cost, animal welfare, and logistical flexibility, and has been widely adopted within the United States (US) cervid industry. Notably, the CFIA now permits the use of the DPP test for tuberculosis screening in Canadian cervid herds within Canada, indicating its recognition of the test's reliability.

Despite this, the CFIA does not allow the DPP test to satisfy import requirements for US cervids, creating an inconsistency that presents a regulatory barrier for American producers. These duplicative and outdated requirements hinder cross-border trade, increase costs, and offer no additional animal health benefit.

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 previously asked CFIA to update the health certificates for export of cervids and cervine semen from the United States to Canada, including adding the DPP test as an option. At a bilateral meeting last year, CFIA indicated they needed more time to review APHIS' proposal and noted that the DPP test is less sensitive than the skin test based on a field study in Canada.

APHIS asked CFIA for a copy of their field study report and shared a different study that evaluated serodiagnostic assays for *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in elk, white-tailed deer, and reindeer in the United States, which indicates that rapid serologic tests used in series are comparable to the single cervical tuberculin test (SCT) and comparative cervical tuberculin test (CCT) and may have a greater ability to detect TB-infected cervids.

APHIS is waiting for CFIA's response and will continue to pursue CFIA's acceptance of the DPP test for the purposes of export.