UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2026 Resolution

130th Annual Meeting
October 15-21, 2026
Madison, WI

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9 APPROVED

Source: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER: National Animal Health Monitoring System Equine Event Study

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to proceed with Phase Two of the Equine Event Study as part of the 2026 National Animal Health Monitoring System Equine Study.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Equine Study provides nationally representative, science-based data on equine health, management, disease occurrence, veterinary care, biosecurity, emergency preparedness, and welfare. These data help the equine industry identify trends and gaps, guide education and research priorities, and align future resources with the needs of United States equine owners and operations.

The proposed 2026 NAHMS Equine Event Study is important because equine events bring together horses from diverse regions, disciplines, and management backgrounds in temporary, high-density settings. An event-focused study would provide needed information on horse movement and event-level practices related to stabling, sanitation, health monitoring, isolation, communication, and emergency response.

The 2025 equine herpes virus-1/ equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy outbreak associated with the Women's Professional Rodeo Association World Finals and Elite Barrel Race in Waco, Texas, demonstrated how quickly a disease event at a large gathering can affect the broader equine industry. The outbreak disrupted competition schedules, travel, venue operations, and communications while creating animal health, economic, and reputational impacts across the barrel racing, rodeo, and broader equine event sectors.

The proposed Event Study would help the industry prepare for and prevent future disease outbreaks by identifying how horses move through events, how facilities manage biosecurity, and where practical disease-prevention gaps exist. By combining event questionnaires with biological and environmental sampling, the study could support earlier detection, development of practical event-specific guidance, improved response planning, and stronger coordination among event managers, veterinarians, regulators, and participants.