

## 51. ANIMAL HEALTH AND IDENTIFICATION

We support:

1. Illinois State Fairs having a zero tolerance for animals testing positive for illegal drugs. The Illinois State Fairs should work with the livestock industry and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to regularly update a public listing of these illegal drugs.
2. The Illinois State Fair allowing approved compounds to be present in tissue tests provided they exist below tolerance levels established by the Food and Drug Administration at the time of slaughter.
3. The Illinois State Fair allowing for the tissue presence of compounds administered off-label under veterinarian guidance in consultation with Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) and Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) protocols. Withdrawal time prior to slaughter must still be met for these off-label compounds.
4. Changing U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response plan from a focus on eradicating infected animals to implementing a widely-available vaccination control program.
5. State and federal disease eradication programs for livestock, and research designed to develop and utilize swift and accurate tests to diagnose these diseases.
6. The quarantine of animals from herds and flocks known to be infected with reportable diseases and the destruction of animals which are infected with zoonoses which may enter the human food chain.
7. USDA assistance for farmers with infected herds and flocks to develop an approved plan to clean up or depopulate their herds and flocks within a reasonable period of time.
8. Federal legislation, regulations or programs which will:
  - A. Encourage greater uniformity and reciprocity among states for the health requirements necessary for interstate transportation of livestock.
  - B. Provide, at the state and federal levels, a voluntary management program for Johne's Disease.
  - C. Encourage beef, dairy, goat, sheep, and cervid farmers to test their animals for *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, the causative organism for Johne's Disease.
  - D. Encourage cooperation between livestock farmers and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in identifying animals from herds originating from nations which have confirmed cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).
  - E. Provide for regionalization by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to modernize animal movement regulations.
  - F. Work with stakeholders to develop a process which provides assurance among livestock producers, veterinarians, and packers which will allow for the timely marketing of animals from herds that have been infected with a non-reportable disease, yet are deemed safe to travel, will not spread the disease, and will not negatively impact the food supply.
  - G. Allow farmer/owner consumption of fallen stock.
  - H. Allow slaughter of injured stock at either a federal inspected packing house or a state inspected local slaughter plant to be used for human consumption.
9. Implementation of an animal disease traceability program that:
  - A. Does not create a burdensome cost to livestock farmers.
  - B. Encourages uniformity between states.
  - C. Can quickly and accurately trace an animal in the event of a disease outbreak.
  - D. Initially uses minimal standards for identification and tracking.
  - E. Meets the expectations of foreign governments and our customers overseas.
  - F. Places a high priority on ensuring the U.S. reputation as a reliable supplier of meat to foreign markets.
  - G. Uses low-cost tags and a "bookend" approach (the times an animal enters commerce and harvest) to track an animal's movements and allows for the replacement of lost tags.
  - H. Allows for private sector incentives and disincentives for livestock that are uniquely identified.
  - I. Requires all exhibition livestock in Illinois to have a unique identification number (appropriate for each species) and premises number before allowing the animal to show.

10. Encouraging the Illinois Department of Agriculture to appoint a food animal practitioner to the position of Illinois State Veterinarian.
11. Encouraging USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to make any announcements related to BSE testing after the markets have closed.
12. Encouraging the use of electronic animal health papers with the ability to include actual digital photos of the animal for relevant species.
13. Encouraging producers to take advantage of educational opportunities regarding biological risk management (BRM), and implement these procedures in their operations.