UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 40 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT MATTER: INTERMEDIATE STEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
                         NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is an urgent need to move forward expeditiously with implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in order to be better prepared to respond to an animal disease emergency.

The livestock industry has voiced concerns about the costs of implementing the NAIS as currently proposed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Implementation of data collection infrastructure and information systems to collect animal movement data and submission of the data to animal tracking databases will constitute a major part of the NAIS, and is the most difficult and expensive to implement.

An alternate animal identification system, often described as the bookend approach, collects animal identification information at the point of origin and the point of termination. Such a system has been recommended by the National Animal Identification System Advisory Subcommittee and endorsed by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to proceed to implement premises identification and animal identification, and utilize the current Animal Identification Numbering system to collect the animal identification information at the point of origin and the point of termination, which is often described as the "bookend approach."