

Chapter 1 – Significant Animal Health Events in 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works in a variety of ways to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation's animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics. APHIS carries out this mission by coordinating responses to disease outbreaks and other epidemiological and animal health events that occur in the United States, collaborating with State, Federal, and Tribal agencies on animal health issues, and streamlining our regulations. This chapter highlights several important events from 2010. Included are summaries on animal disease traceability, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health, the proposed tuberculosis/brucellosis regulatory framework, and APHIS One Health efforts.

Animal Disease Traceability

On February 5, 2010, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new course for the Department's approach to animal disease traceability. Since that announcement, APHIS convened a State-Tribal-Federal Traceability Regulation Working Group to recommend the content of a proposed rule. To inform the public about the working group's efforts and to obtain feedback, APHIS will hold eight public meetings to review the new framework and to share the current thinking on the proposed rule, including the traceability performance standards. APHIS is working to publish the proposed rule in April 2011.

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health

On August 25, 2010, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the formation of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (SACAH). The SACAH reestablishes the former Secretary's Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases. The reestablished committee is broader in scope and will provide advice on agricultural matters including:

- Public health
- Conservation of natural resources
- Stability of livestock economies
- Livestock disease management and traceability strategies
- Prioritizing animal health issues

SACAH will hold its first public meeting in Washington, DC, in January 2011, and plans to hold four public teleconferences throughout the year.

Tuberculosis/Brucellosis Regulatory Framework

In September 2010, APHIS formed a working group of Federal, State, and tribal subject matter experts to discuss new directions for the bovine tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis eradication programs. Development of the proposed TB and brucellosis regulation is expected to take approximately 2 years and will require ongoing engagement with a wide group of internal and external stakeholders. The working group will discuss the overarching regulatory concepts that APHIS is considering as it develops the TB and brucellosis proposed rule. APHIS will hold public meetings in 2011 to review the proposed framework and to obtain feedback.

One Health

APHIS serves as co-leader of an international One Health training committee, which is one of seven committees formed to define specific actions for global One Health implementation. The training committee will build veterinarians' skills, expertise, and competencies through a specialized curriculum and identify opportunities to integrate One Health approaches into existing curricula. In May, APHIS completed development of an initial segment of the One Health training curriculum.