

Executive Summary

CY 2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

APHIS-2014; United States-Mexico Joint Strategic Plan for Collaboration on Bovine Tuberculosis 2013-2018

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S./Mexico Joint Strategic Plan was signed in January 2014 by the Chief Veterinary Officers of both countries as part of a joint effort to effectively decrease the number of bovine tuberculosis cases associated with the high volume and valued trade between the United States and Mexico. A working group comprised of federal veterinarians from USDA APHIS and SAGARPA was created to develop this document which describes the goals and objectives for the next 5 years and beyond. The U.S. and Mexico are executing the document in a spirit of cooperation and transparency. Any modifications and adjustments in timeline, scope or ideology are mutually agreed upon during regular working group teleconferences, Federal to Federal meetings and Binational Committee meetings thus keeping the document relevant and effective.

PROGRESS

There have been encouraging progress and numerous accomplishments of note in this first calendar year since the signing of the Strategic Plan. Among the highlights is a paradigm-shifting regionalization overhaul to streamline the way that we evaluate States in Mexico, and indeed all exporting regions of the world, for tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis. The APHIS proposed rule for TB and brucellosis is in departmental clearance with an estimated publication of CY 2015. We have been working jointly with Mexico and have redefined the regions to be evaluated from state-by-state to 12 combined state regions for review and approval. There has also been a completed TB vaccination research trial by SENASICA using BCG vaccine in dairy cattle in the State of Jalisco, Regions Lagunera and Queretaro. The results were promising, so vaccine registration has begun and the technical evaluation to determine registration possibilities is ongoing. The focus on laboratory harmonization and evaluation of diagnostics tests for licensure, program approval, and additional program uses is fully underway. In FY 2013-14, the

IDEXX test was evaluated in 3 affected herds. FY 2015 will use in selected affected herds. In FY 2014-15, we will continue to develop a proposal to evaluate IDEXX in Mexican origin fed cattle in collaboration with Texas Animal Health Commission. The final highlight for this year one summary is a joint commitment and ongoing activities to continue to develop, implement and standardize genotyping methods as well as interpretation of results between the United States and Mexico.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The U.S. and Mexico will continue to make excellent and notable progress toward the objectives and goals with cooperation and transparency. Regular working group teleconferences and live meetings will serve to keep the document alive with updates and adjustments as needed. The ultimate goal is to maintain relevancy of the document up to and beyond the 2018 benchmark with an eye toward theoretical disease status equivalency for bovine health in trade.