

## National Reportable Animal Disease List moves forward

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Veterinary Services, in conjunction with the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), is exploring the development of a United States National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD).

In 2007, the USAHA approved a resolution, submitted by the joint AAVLD/USAHA Committee on Animal Health Information Systems, which supported the development of a NLRAD. The resolution indicated that the list would:

- Provide one standardized national reportable animal disease list,
- Demonstrate to trading partners and other countries that the United States has a uniform national list of reportable diseases,
- Assist in meeting international reporting obligations and validate required U.S. international reporting to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as required export certifications, and
- Improve zoonotic and endemic animal disease reporting in the United States.

VS' response to the USAHA resolution was positive and indicated support for the concept of the list. The response stated that a NLRAD "would help to strengthen and support the VS mission to protect the health of livestock in the United States and improved trade of animal products."

During the 2008 USAHA meeting in Greensboro, NC, further discussions on the NLRAD occurred in several committees. In addition, the following USAHA resolution was approved:

*The USAHA requests that the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-VS task the existing National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) Subcommittee of the USAHA/AAVLD Committee on Animal Health Information Systems, with support from the National Surveillance Unit (NSU), with developing the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD). This list should include identification of the diseases to be included on the NLRAD as well as the case definitions and reporting criteria for each disease on the list.*

NSU is charged with leading the effort to develop the NLRAD. NSU is forming a working group of stakeholders; principal participants include the members of the NAHRS Steering Committee. The working group will develop procedures to review, make changes, and approve the reportable disease list.

NSU has also conducted background research on current authority related to a national reportable list, as well as reporting processes in States and other nations, options for the structure of a national reportable list, and a draft list of diseases. NSU is developing case definitions.

The current NAHRS reporting criteria will be used to develop the NLRAD criteria. Periodic progress reports on the NRADL will be provided to the VS Management Team and the USAHA/AAVLD Committee on Animal Health Information Systems.