



## Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

1101 Vermont Avenue NW • Suite 710 • Washington, DC • 20005-3521

TEL: 202/371-9195 • FAX: 202/842-0773 • <http://aavmc.org>

### **Homeland Security Appropriations Request** *Animal Health Protection*

#### **Request**

**\$5 million for animal health and disease research programs (USDA §1433 formula funds) to improve prevention, surveillance, diagnosis and control measures for high-consequence disease agents such as foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and monkeypox.**

#### **Issue**

- There is an immediate and critical need to build local, regional and national capacity in prevention, surveillance, diagnosis, geographic information systems (GIS) tracking, control procedures and recovery management to respond to infectious animal disease outbreaks.
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive #9 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to coordinate the development of new methods for detection, prevention technologies, agent characterization, and dose-response relationships for high-consequence agents in the food supply.
  - \$5 million will match the FY 2005 Agriculture appropriation for this program
- The USDA §1433 formula funds program for animal health and disease research was created specifically to provide resources for this type of applied research.
  - Funds are distributed to all states based on animal inventory and research capacity.
  - The nation's agriculture experiment stations and colleges of veterinary medicine have the necessary expertise and infrastructure to effectively respond to this critical need.

#### **Approaches**

- Develop vaccines and other biosecurity countermeasures to protect animal herds and flocks.
- Develop and apply rapid diagnostic technology and field tests for priority disease agents.
- Develop tests to detect the presence of ruminant proteins in ruminant and other animal feeds.
- Strengthen animal surveillance and animal census and tracking, integrated with GIS tracking.
- Develop models for target diseases to determine risk, economic impact and risk management.
- Devise plans for recovery after a disease outbreak, including effective carcass disposal and safe repopulation of affected premises.

*Animal health protection requires strong preventive measures and effective veterinary response at the local level. These measures will not be adequately available unless additional funds are available to support the necessary research needs. In the event of a disease outbreak, veterinarians are responsible for diagnosis and risk management leading to disease control or elimination. Failure to accurately and rapidly diagnose foreign animal diseases, emerging infectious diseases and zoonotic agents, whether intentionally introduced or naturally occurring, can lead to catastrophic loss of human and animal lives, as well as severe economic losses.*

July 1, 2004

