



KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

Fall 2017

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EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA IN KANSAS

In August 2017, the Kansas Animal Health Commissioner was notified that a horse near Garden City tested positive for Equine Infectious Anemia after a routine Coggins test. This initiated follow-up testing of all horses on the index premises, which resulted in the discovery of five additional EIA-positive horses, and one Equine Piroplasmosis positive horse. All positive horses on this premises were humanely euthanized.

All horses within a half-mile surveillance zone surrounding the index positive premises were tested, and no additional positives were detected in that zone. However, the trace-out investigation from the initial premises found more than 80 exposed horses on 12 different premises, including additional EIA-positive or EP-positive horses.

All confirmed EIA-positive horses had recently been on the index premises. All EIA-positive horses have been humanely euthanized, and the remaining exposed horses were placed under official quarantine pending retest.

In late October, the index quarantined premises began the protocol for 60-day retesting. Two horses, which were previously EIA-negative, tested positive at this retest.

Both of the confirmed EIA-positive horses have been humanely euthanized.

Both horses were maintained on the premises under the official quarantine since August 2017. All other horses from this premises will remain under official quarantine for an additional 60 days, pending a negative EIA test.

State, federal and accredited veterinarians performed confirmation and surveillance testing. Horses are confirmed EIA or EP positive by the National Veterinary Service Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

Kansas has had nine positive horses in the past ten years; three in 2007, two in 2008 and four in 2016. There has been a total of 12 EIA-positive horses in 2017.

Additional information is available at agriculture.ks.gov/EIA.

OTHER REPORTABLE EQUINE DISEASES

VS - Vesicular Stomatitis

EHM - Equine Herpesvirus
Myeloencephalopathy

WEE, EEE, or VEE - Western,
Eastern and Venezuelan
Equine Encephalomyelitis

WNV - West Nile Virus

Talk to your local veterinarian with any questions about equine diseases.



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USDA NO LONGER PROVIDING FREE PLASTIC SCRAPIE TAGS

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service Bulletin - October 24, 2017

To support animal disease traceability and scrapie eradication efforts, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has provided both metal and plastic ear tags and applicators to sheep and goat producers - at no cost - since fiscal year 2002.

After a funding reduction in fiscal year 2012, APHIS used specific, no-year funding (for scrapie and ADT) to continue purchasing the tags and distributing them free of cost to producers. These no-year funds were exhausted in fiscal year 2017.

Beginning Oct. 1, APHIS is providing only metal tags free of charge to producers and others who handle sheep and goats. Plastic tags and applicators for metal and plastic tags will remain available for purchase directly from approved tag manufacturers.

These changes will reduce APHIS tag and applicator costs while still providing sheep and goat producers with a free identification device. APHIS will provide a limited number of plastic tags to producers newly enrolled in the Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program who submit tissues for scrapie surveillance in order to encourage on-farm scrapie surveillance.

For more information on how to purchase tags and applicators, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/scrapie-tags.

UPDATED ID REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTING BREEDING CATTLE TO CANADA

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service Bulletin - October 25, 2017

Effective February 1, 2018, the identification requirements for export of U.S. breeding cattle to Canada will change. After this date, Canada will require an 840 radiofrequency identification (RFID) tag AND a USA tattoo in the right ear. The USDA metal tag will no longer be accepted as an option for identification of cattle for export to Canada.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has begun issuing import permits for breeding cattle to reflect these new requirements. The protocols and certificates for breeding cattle are updated accordingly on the APHIS IREGS website and Veterinary Export Health Certificate System.

This change will significantly reduce time during inspection at the Canadian border, as well as eliminate the need for U.S. animals to be retagged with Canadian identification upon reaching their destination in Canada.

Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

Veterinarians:

Call us to learn about electronic options for creating CVIs. Desktop and mobile applications are available!

NOTICE:

Kansas Animal Health *does not* recognize the *APHIS Form 7001* as an acceptable CVI for interstate movement.

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

DR. ANDY HAWKINS AND DR. SARA McREYNOLDS HIRED AS ASSISTANT ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSIONERS

Andy Hawkins grew up on a family farm and ranch in rural southeast Kansas. He received a BS in Animal Science and Industry, and then a DVM in 2006, both from Kansas State University.

Dr. Hawkins worked for one year in private practice before specializing in equine surgery and medicine in Sheridan, Wyoming and later at the Cody Equine Hospital in Cody, Wyoming. This afforded him the opportunity to receive continued specialized training in equine medicine, referral lameness and surgery.

In 2011, Dr. Hawkins returned to Kansas and started the Kansas Equine Centre near Wichita, where he practiced until accepting a position with the USDA as an Import Export Veterinary Medical Officer.

In July of this year, Dr. Hawkins was hired as an Assistant Animal Health Commissioner with KDA. He also currently serves as Vice President of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association. He and his wife, Kristy, live in Auburn with their new baby girl, Jaxie.

Sara McReynolds grew up on a farm near Stockton, Kansas and graduated from the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008. She spent just over two years in mixed animal private practice in Laramie, Wyoming before returning to KSU for a PhD in Epidemiology. Her research focused on Foot and Mouth Disease response strategies.

Most recently, Dr. McReynolds served as the Assistant State Veterinarian for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and Board of Animal Health in Bismarck, North Dakota. While there, she had the opportunity to help with the state's response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, on two large-scale commercial turkey operations.

Dr. McReynolds joined KDA as an Assistant Animal Health Commissioner in July 2017. Her experience in private practice, coupled with her regulatory experience with the National Poultry Improvement Program, Johne's disease, and emergency response, including foreign animal diseases, make her a valuable addition to the Kansas Division of Animal Health.

KANSAS BRANDS RECORDER PAT SCHUMAKER RETIRES

Kansas City, Kansas, native Pat Schumaker has been responsible for recording one of the deepest traditions in agriculture history - the registered livestock brand. For the past 19 years, Pat has been the Kansas livestock brand recorder, and she has decided to retire at the end of this year.

One of the projects Pat has worked on recently is the re-distribution of historic brand applications to families of the original applicants. The patience Pat exhibited working with these requests is admirable, gathering as much information as the requestor can find (or remember) and finding all the historical documents related to the original brand application.

Please join us in congratulating Pat on her retirement and wishing her well on her new adventures!



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING AND EXERCISE



KDA is preparing for the annual Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) exercise in November and December. This year's exercise will be named Phoenix, and more than 200 participants nationwide will work through a notional disease outbreak affecting cattle.

Several feedyards, dairies and other animal facilities will be participating from their locations across Kansas, along with emergency management and state/federal animal health officials in Kansas and across the nation. KDA has been conducting these exercises for more than a decade, adjusting the scenario to test response plans for various aspects and timelines of a potential emergency event.

Kansas strives to be a leader the nation in FAD planning, training and exercising. An FAD outbreak could have a devastating effect on the Kansas economy, resulting in major impacts to farmers, ranchers, and allied industries.

This summer, KDA used KSU interns to work with individual feedyards and dairies to develop contingency biosecurity plans that would be implemented in an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, one of the most economically damaging animal diseases in the world. This exercise will help test those plans and identify gaps.

Phoenix began in November with a tabletop exercise, which served as an orientation to the Kansas Food and Agriculture Incident Annex and demonstrated what the response to the first few days of an FMD outbreak in North America would look like in Kansas. The decisions made in the tabletop will drive the three-day full-scale exercise in mid-December.



KDA personnel are actively recruiting volunteers to join the Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps.

Over the last few months, volunteer corps representatives have been actively engaging the Kansas ag industry through a number of forums and events including the Kansas State Fair, Kanas Junior Livestock Show, Kansas Ag Growth Summit, the 3i Show, and numerous regional and local trainings, meetings, and exercises.

Volunteers are being sought to fill a number of roles that would be needed to assist state employees in responding to a high-consequence agricultural incident.

As part of the continued efforts to both utilize and grow the volunteer corps, participants will be integrated into the upcoming KDA Phoenix exercise December 18-20.

Volunteer corps members will work alongside KDA employees in Manhattan, at participating counties across the state, and virtually through an online platform.

More information about the volunteer corps, including how to sign up, can be found at agriculture.ks.gov/kaerc.



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REVISIONS TO ANIMAL FACILITIES INSPECTION REGULATIONS

The Animal Facilities Inspection Program, along with the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board, has worked for several years and have put in many hours to produce a new set of regulations for the Kansas Pet Animal Act.

These new regulations were proposed to place all facility types regulated under the Pet Animal Act on the same level of expectations.

In the past, the Kansas Pet Animal Act had seven different sets of regulations under which different facilities were inspected. The new regulation has reduced the number to two sets.

The AFI inspectors will now inspect facilities that are licensed as Animal Breeders and Distributors under one set of regulations. Retail breeders, hobby breeders, shelters, rescues, pet shops, research facilities, and boarding facilities are under a separate set of regulations.

Webinars to explain the new regulations are being presented to licensees in December. Visit the KDA AFI website for more information and to listen to a recording of a webinar at agriculture.ks.gov/AFI.

The program feels that these new regulations place each facility type on the same level. The regulations were printed in the Kansas Register on November 2, 2017 and became law on November 17, 2017.

The revised regulations are available on our website at agriculture.ks.gov/docs/default-source/statutes-ah/animinal_health.pdf. The AFI-specific regulations begin on page 158 of this document.

CDC AND KDHE INVESTIGATE MULTI-STATE CAMPYLOBACTER OUTBREAK

The Animal Facilities Inspection Program, along with Dr. Ingrid Garrison, Public Health Veterinarian for the state of Kansas, notified the Division of Animal Health of a Campylobacter outbreak investigation in humans involving seven states in late August 2017.

The Campylobacter investigation includes a link between the human cases and their association with puppies from Petland stores. Since August, the number of states involved has grown to 15 states, with a total of 67 human cases reported. So far, 93% of those cases are linked to contact with Petland puppies.

CDC determined during this investigation that the human cases of Campylobacter were infected with an antibiotic-resistant strain.

Kansas has had a total of eight human cases associated with five Kansas stores during this investigation.

The Animal Facilities Inspection Program willingly assisted the KDHE investigation, including collection of stool samples from the puppies in each store, an in-depth review of store sanitation practices and records, and observation of handwashing practices and signage.

This Campylobacter investigation is still ongoing, but all fecal tests for Campylobacter at Kansas Petland stores have tested negative. None of the stores have been required to hold or quarantine any puppies during this investigation.

If you have items to add to the next issue or would like added to our distribution list, please email Kendra Frasier at kendra.frasier@ks.gov.

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY: PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS ON KEY ISSUES

During the spring and summer of 2017, USDA APHIS hosted a series of public meetings across the country to gain feedback from industry and animal health officials about the successes and challenges of the current Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) framework.

A state/federal ADT working group reviewed the comments and feedback from the ADT public meetings and applied their extensive experience and knowledge of disease traceability to provide the following preliminary recommendations, specifically pertaining to the cattle sector. These recommendations will be considered as USDA APHIS works to update the federal ADT rule.

1. Maintain policy that interstate movements to a custom slaughter facility do not apply to the traceability rule.
2. Maintain the current population of livestock covered by the official ID requirements and continue to exclude beef feeder cattle less than 18 months-of-age until current issues are fixed.
3. USDA recognizes that the regulations need revisions to include interstate commerce, so that cattle are identified to their birth premises, and the following triggers would require official identification: a. change of ownership, b. first point of commingling, or c. interstate movement (may reflect no-sale and no commingling).
4. The U.S. must move toward an EID system for cattle with a target implementation date of January 1, 2023 and set a date for when visual-only (metal) official tags will no longer be available (manufactured, distributed, sold or provided, including “brite” NUES tags from USDA).
5. APHIS and States must prioritize electronic records for full utilization of electronic records to effectively administer the ADT program.
6. There is a need for greater uniformity and timely enforcement between states. Current identification exemptions for various classes of cattle create confusion.
7. APHIS needs to continue the efforts of the State/Federal Slaughter Plant Working Group to improve the rates of ID collection and correlation at slaughter.
8. APHIS and States need to establish a partnership with industry that would enable private information systems to be utilized for disease surveillance and response events.
9. The timeline for full implementation of an EID solution may warrant that the official identification exemptions for direct-to-slaughter movements be phased out over a transitional period. This will ensure all cattle covered in the traceability regulation are identified with the same tag as will be accepted when they arrive at slaughter.
10. The use of other movement documents as alternatives to ICVIs should continue to be examined to account for anticipated changes in technology, in particular EID, as well as regional differences regarding the availability of accredited veterinarians.
11. Uniformity of State regulations is important to increase understanding of and compliance with import regulations. However, because disease issues are unique to certain areas of the United States, animal health import requirements need to be regionalized.
12. The Working Group feels there is value in considering a standard, or uniform, official eartag. Also, there is a need to increase the awareness and understanding that it is unlawful to remove the tag.
13. The ability to maintain the identity of imported cattle is essential, and the retagging of such animals with an official 840-EID should be made possible (in the event of loss of the original tag).
14. The inclusion of feeder cattle in the traceability regulations is an essential component of an effective traceability system in the long term, however, there are other fundamental gaps in the traceability framework that need to be addressed first.