



Kansas
Department of Agriculture
Division of
Animal Health

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Interested in receiving updates directly from the Division of Animal Health? To subscribe: <https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/eabpin3ngv/index.html>

New, Free Electronic CVI Option Available for Veterinarians

Funded, in part, by the Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Animal Health (KDA-DAH), the VET-CVI is an electronic health certificate program offered in both mobile and desktop applications.

- It is approved for submitting certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) to all U.S. states.
- Connect an existing email address book for auto-fill options.
- There is a clone option for quick submissions.
- Once completed, it has immediate submission to state animal health officials.
- CVIs may be easily shared with clients.
- Download VET-CVI in the app store for your device or computer.

For questions about VET-CVI, contact KDA-DAH at 785-564-6601.



Statewide FMD Exercise “ARMOR” a Multi-Agency Effort

The Kansas Department of Agriculture hosted its annual Foreign Animal Disease exercise in December 2021, referred to as “ARMOR.” There were 130 participants from state, federal and private organizations working together through a national disease outbreak scenario. Representatives from other Kansas agencies worked alongside KDA employees onsite in Manhattan to fill roles within the Incident Management Team. ARMOR’s goal was to focus on refining processes to initiate and enforce a standstill order, logistics and resource management, and information sharing with stakeholders and policy makers.

The 2022 annual Kansas FMD exercise is scheduled for December 12-14, 2022. KDA welcomes participants and observers; if interested, please contact KDA-DAH.



Biosecurity Practices Critical to Prevent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

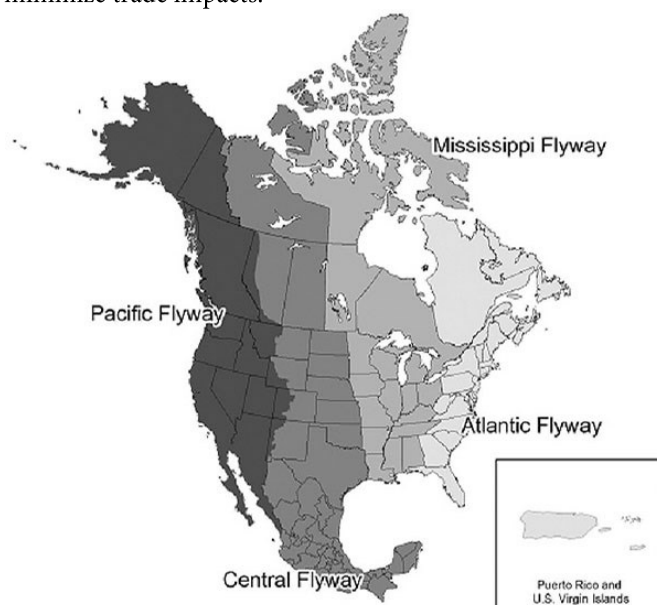
Source: www.aphis.usda.gov

As of March 1, 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial operations in Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

As part of existing avian influenza response plans, federal and state partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flocks. The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, and USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets and migratory wild bird populations.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. USDA-APHIS has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available [here](#).

USDA will report these findings to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as well as international trading partners. USDA also continues to communicate with trading partners to encourage adherence to OIE standards and minimize trade impacts.



Source: [2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds](#), USDA

USDA-APHIS will continue to announce the first case of HPAI in commercial and non-commercial backyard flocks detected in a state but will not announce subsequent detections in the state. All cases in commercial and non-commercial backyard flocks are listed on the [APHIS website](#).

USDA-APHIS urges producers to consider bringing birds indoors when possible to further prevent exposures. In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to the KDA Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.

Welcome New Employees, Student Workers



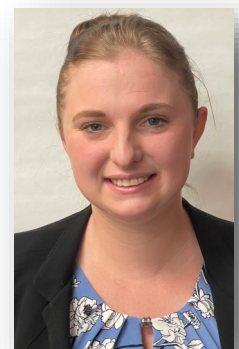
Scott Steele
Resource Identification Specialist



Dr. Sasha Thomason
Animal Facilities Inspection Director



Lakin Cherry
Student Worker



Haley Plaschka
Student Worker

KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

US SHIP Certifies Swine Health



A two-year pilot project to develop and implement an African Swine Fever-Classical Swine Fever (ASF-CSF) certification for U.S. hog operations is underway. The U.S. Swine Health improvement Plan (US SHIP) is modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPIP) which is a collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal partners providing standards for certifying the health status of greater than 99% of commercial poultry and egg operations across the U.S.

US SHIP aims to establish a similar platform for safeguarding, improving, and representing the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions. Such a working system is needed to support the current and future health assurance needs of the 21st century U.S. pork industry.

The US SHIP ASF-CSF monitored certification aims to:

- Mitigate risks of disease introduction,
- Provide a practical means for demonstrating evidence of freedom of disease (outside of foreign animal disease, control areas) in support of ongoing interstate commerce
- Provide a pathway toward the resumption of international trade over the course of a trade impacting disease response and recovery period.

As U.S. pork producers remain concerned about African Swine Fever and the current global challenges, this program would recognize farms as certified for ASF and CSF in the hopes of providing heightened biosecurity, including traceability, and eventually sampling and testing at the farm level to maintain certification. This voluntary program is applicable across the broad spectrum of various types of pork production operations.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is acting as the official state agency for Kansas. If you would like to enroll your operation in the program, please contact Sara McReynolds at Sara.McReynolds@ks.gov or 785-564-6792.

More information about US SHIP can be found at: <https://usswinehealthimprovementplan.com>.

RFID Reader Cost Share Program

The Division of Animal Health (KDA-DAH) is providing a cost share program for RFID readers in Kansas. The cost share program is offered to bovine veterinary practitioners in Kansas, K-State Research and Extension programs, and college and university ag programs in Kansas for the purpose of student and public education.

In the cost share arrangement, KDA will provide 50% of the RFID reader cost (capped at \$500). There are three reader options: Allflex Livestock Pocket Reader (LPR), Allflex AWR300 Stick Reader, and a free choice reader option. For the last option, if you recently purchased an RFID reader (July 1, 2021 or after), submit appropriate paperwork to be reimbursed 50% of that reader's cost (capped at \$500).

Submit applications by Friday, March 18, 2022. The cost share program is not expected to continue.

To learn more, contact Karaline Mayer, ADT coordinator, at Karlaine.Mayer@ks.gov or 785-313-0266.

Interested in receiving updates directly from the Division of Animal Health?

Click [HERE](#) to subscribe!

USDA's Free RFID Tags Continue

USDA continues distributing free low frequency RFID ear tags for the reproductive animals of the cow herd. Orders must be placed by an accredited veterinarian. Order soon as tags are limited. When placing the order, request a one-year supply. No stockpiling is allowed.

For additional details and to order tags, contact:

Karaline Mayer — Karlaine.Mayer@ks.gov, 785-313-0266

Kelly McDonald — Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov, 785-228-6579

Lindy Trapp — Lindy.Trapp@usda.gov, 785-250-7830

African Swine Fever: How Can You Prepare?

Article submitted by Dr. Sara Ford, Kansas Emergency Coordinator, USDA-APHIS-VS

What is African Swine Fever?

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a deadly, highly contagious virus affecting both domestic and feral (wild) pigs of all ages. ASF causes abnormal bleeding throughout the body and can cause sudden death. Early signs to look for in infected pigs include:

- High fever
- Decreased appetite and weakness
- Red, blotchy, bruised skin or ears
- Diarrhea and vomiting
- Coughing and difficulty breathing

ASF is not a public health threat and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. It is not a threat to food safety and pig meat and products are safe to eat and use.

Where in the world is ASF?

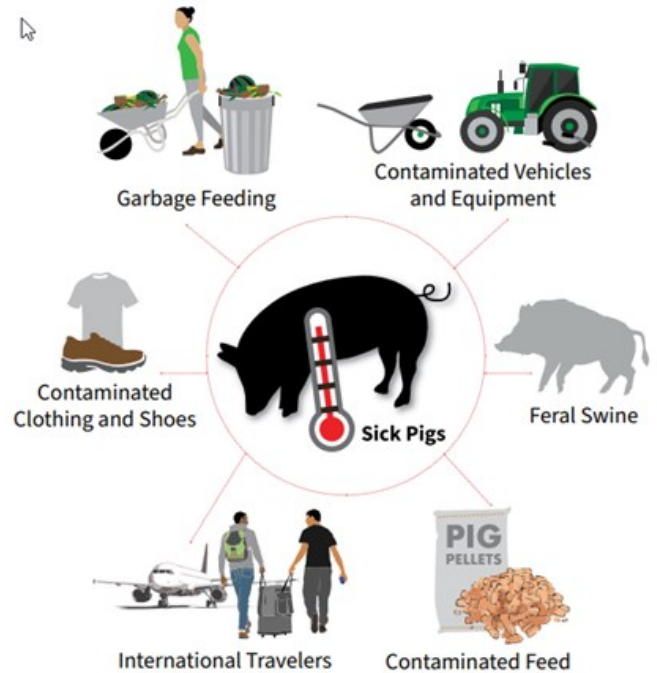
African Swine Fever is not currently in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. This disease originated in Africa and is commonly found throughout that region. Since 2018, ASF has spread quickly to China, Russia and much of Southeast Asia in domestic and wild pigs, and in Central to Eastern Europe in wild hogs. Most recently in 2021, the disease was found in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, just 60 miles from American soil (Puerto Rico).



International travelers could unknowingly bring back this disease from an ASF-affected country by visiting farms or bringing back pork products from these areas. Make sure anyone who has traveled internationally thoroughly cleans and disinfects, or disposes of, any clothing or shoes that were worn around pigs, before returning to the U.S. Travelers should avoid any pig or farm contact for at least 5 days after they return.

How can I protect my pigs?

Biosecurity is the most important thing to perform early, well, and consistently. There are many potential pathways the virus could take to enter the country.



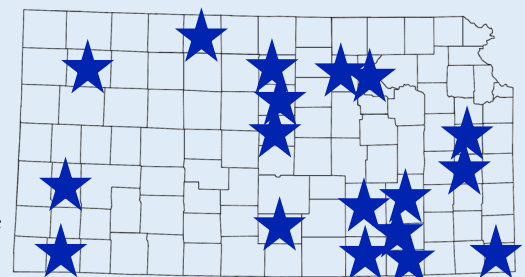
ASF: Don't Spread This Deadly Disease, USDA

The virus can travel on contaminated clothing, equipment, or in infected animal feed. Know where your feed is coming from, and who is entering your farm. Make a biosecurity plan with your veterinarian to ensure your farm is safe. Remember, garbage feeding (feeding food waste to swine) is illegal in Kansas, and can be a dangerous source of ASF or other viruses and bacteria that make pigs sick.

Most importantly, call your area veterinarian if you suspect your pigs are sick. To learn more about ASF, please visit [USDA APHIS | African Swine Fever \(ASF\)](https://www.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever).

Trichomoniasis (Trich) cases continue in Kansas, despite livestock industry and regulatory efforts.

This map reflects counties with positive Trich herds since 2019. To learn more about Trich, visit the [KDA-DAH website](https://www.kda-dah.com).



KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

Livestock Brands Amidst Renewal Season

The Kansas Livestock Brands program manages 17,000 active livestock brands in Kansas. Livestock brands are renewed every 5 years, and this year's renewal season includes over 3,000 livestock brands.

Brand renewal notices were sent via postal mail and email to all livestock brand owners. Livestock brands eligible for renewal must be paid by **April 1, 2022**, to avoid cancellation.

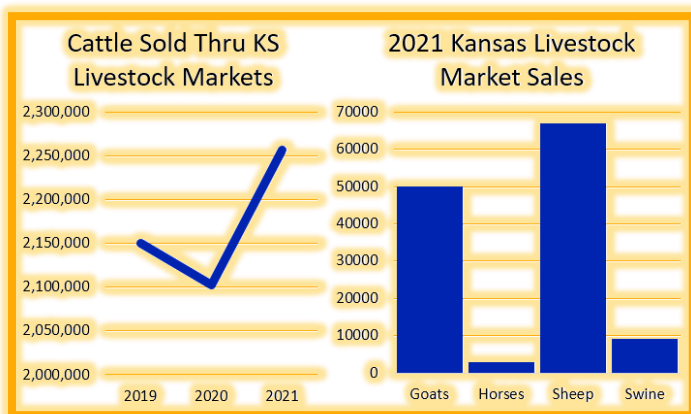
A major purpose of the Livestock Brands program is for identification of livestock. Through registration of a livestock brand in the Livestock Brands program, this means of identity continues to play a special part in the livestock industry and its history. As livestock thefts are on the rise statewide, branding is a permanent form of identification that aids investigators in locating rightful ownership.

Logos and other designs are not considered livestock brands; therefore, they do not constitute registration in the Kansas Livestock Brands program.

Due to the popularity of the Kansas Livestock Brands program, the approval time for new livestock brands continues to increase; the current estimate is 4-6 weeks between submitting an application and confirmation.

To ensure that the goals of the Livestock Brands program are being upheld, modifications were made January 1, 2022, to the new livestock brand approval process. For detailed guidance in creating and submitting a new livestock brand application, click [here](#).

For additional information regarding the Livestock Brands Program, contact Mariah Louderback, Brand Recorder, at kda.brands@ks.gov or 785-564-6609.



Student Debt Relief for Veterinarians

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act, helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations.

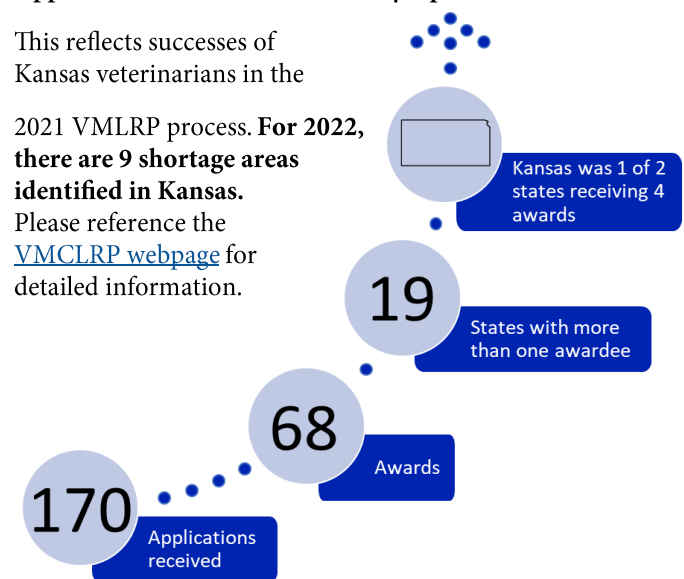
If a veterinarian commits to at least three years of providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture may repay up to \$25,000 of student loan debt per year.

If interested, applicants should begin the application process promptly after the application period opens February 2022. **Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2022.**

This reflects successes of Kansas veterinarians in the

2021 VMLRP process. **For 2022, there are 9 shortage areas identified in Kansas.**

Please reference the [VMCLRP webpage](#) for detailed information.



For guidance on the application, interested applicants are encouraged to contact:

- Dr. Randall Norton, doclarge@gbta.net
- Dr. Cody Garten, cody.garten@usda.gov
- Dr. LewAnn Schneider, lewann.g.schneider@usda.gov
- Dr. Andy Hawkins, andy.hawkins@ks.gov

The KDA website is experiencing ongoing security and performance updates. Viewers may notice changes to content and formatting along the way. Please reach out directly to KDA-DAH at 785-564-6601 with questions or concerns.

KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

2022 AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY



Lack of a skilled agriculture workforce is a top inhibitor of growth and expansion for many Kansas agriculture operations. An agriculture workforce needs assessment survey will help the Kansas Department of Agriculture work toward solutions for the Kansas ag industry.

We are seeking Kansas farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, manufacturers and producers of agricultural products to help KDA identify the number and types of jobs, and specific skills required for those jobs. We need your input — please complete this survey by April 8.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



Please scan the QR code to get started or you can go directly to the survey at

tinyurl.com/workforce2022

Paper survey copies are available by contacting Russell Plaschka, agribusiness development director, at 785-564-7466 or Russell.Plaschka@ks.gov.

A complete survey report will be made available later this year. Thank you for your investment in Kansas agriculture.