

Protect your horses and cattle from Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)

Your horse plays a critical role in your success — protect this valuable piece of equipment! Prevent your horses and cattle from being exposed to VSV which can be painful for them and can have costly and time-consuming consequences for horse and livestock owners. VSV is a reportable disease and carries a 14+ day quarantine. More than 100 farms and ranches in Kansas have reported animals with signs of VSV within the past month, and it continues to spread. Take action now to protect your herd!

Change your habits to protect your animals

A few changes to your daily routine can make a huge difference. Consider these best practices before loading your horse in the trailer:

- 1. Vigilantly inspect your horse for blister-like lesions in/around mouth, nose, feet, ears, coronary band and/or sheath/udders; crusting scabs; excessive salivation; fever; reluctance to eat; lameness.
- 2. Strict fly control. This disease is transmitted by black flies and midges. Keep pens clean, remove manure. Use appropriate fly sprays and traps. Minimize bright lights that attract insects at night.
- **3.** Social distancing is for horses, too! Don't tie up your horse with other horses, and minimize accessibility of your horses to other horses, trailers, barns, arenas.
- 4. Do not share equipment, tools, tack, or water buckets.
- 5. Haul your own stock. Your horses and cattle should only travel in your trailers.
- 6. Consider what other horses will be at the same location. Are they following the same protocols as you? If not, consider staying home. It's a long shipping/rodeo season, and you don't want to miss it with sick horses or a quarantine!
- 7. Consider housing your horses at separate locations to minimize disease spread.
- **8.** Monitor cattle for VSV symptoms before loading out. If VSV is suspected at the livestock market or processing plant, the entire shipment will likely be quarantined.
- **9.** Call before you travel out of state. Some states restrict access into the state if an animal is coming from a VSV-infected county or near a quarantined premises. Check with your vet or call your destination state.

Stop VSV: Keep your horses healthy. Keep your shipments moving. Keep winning buckles!











