



VESICULAR STOMATITIS VIRUS

On June 16, 2020, the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health (KDA-DAH) confirmed vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) in horses in Butler County, Kansas. VSV has been confirmed in six states in 2020. Current Status: VSV has now been confirmed on 60 premises in Butler, Chase, Cowley, Greenwood, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Morris, Sedgwick, and Sumner counties. Many of the cases are near the Walnut River or the Arkansas River.



KDA has actively responded to more than 120 other premises in the area with animals showing clinical signs consistent with VSV; we are awaiting laboratory test results. All infected premises are placed on quarantine for a minimum of 14 days from the date the last affected animal on the premises developed lesions.



What is VSV? VSV is a viral disease that primarily affects horses, also cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. On rare occasions, humans can also become infected with the disease when handling affected animals, resulting in flu-like symptoms. VSV is known to be an endemic disease in the warmer regions of North, Central, and South America, and outbreaks of the disease in other temperate geographic parts of the hemisphere occur sporadically. The southwestern and western United States have experienced a number of vesicular stomatitis outbreaks, including a significant outbreak in 2015. Outbreaks usually occur during the warmer months, often along waterways.

VSV is a state reportable disease. Suspect VSV cases often involve crusted scabs, blisters, erosions, and sloughing of skin in the mouth, on the tongue, on the muzzle and ears, and above the hooves. To report a suspected case, contact KDA-DAH at 785-564-6601. For additional resources and to view the current status of VSV in Kansas, visit www.agriculture.ks.gov/VSV.

GUIDANCE FOR FAIRS & SHOWS

The ever-changing environment of 2020 led KDA-DAH to produce guidance documents for use in planning and conducting fairs and shows in 2020. Information was shared directly with K-State Research and Extension and county fair boards. These documents, available on the KDA website, will also assist the many veterinarians serving in official or unofficial advisory roles for many county fairs:

- Guidance for Livestock Competitions and Shows
- RHDV2 Guidance for Shows and Fairs
- VSV Guidance for Shows and Fairs

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published an article "COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events" which may be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/events-animal-activities.html>.



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KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

TIPS FOR THE KANSAS PAPER CVI USER

Although KDA-DAH places great emphasis on moving to electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), support is still available for paper CVI forms. In the Winter 2020 KDA-DAH newsletter, it was reported that Kansas veterinarians' usage of paper CVI forms decreased from 29% in 2018 to only 12% in 2019.

Paper CVIs reportedly still have a place for practitioners. And, regardless of CVI type (paper versus electronic), accuracy and completeness are essential. Please read on for details to conquer the paper CVI with class:

1. Verify the last copy of the CVI set is clear and readable. If the copy is not, increase pressure used, try a pen of a different type or point size, or write directly on the pink copy. Fine tip ball point pens are recommended.
2. Fill the form out completely. Lack of information can jeopardize a veterinarian's licensing. It is worth your time to be clear and complete. The most frequently overlooked details are:
 - Dates: inspection date, issue date
 - Complete consignor and consignee information. The consignor's address must be a Kansas address. No PO boxes or rural route addresses.
 - Complete veterinarian information
 - Complete Rabies Vaccination information. Clearly state age of animal. If animal was vaccinated elsewhere, owner must provide details and attach proof to the CVI.

3. If it is stated an ID list is attached, be sure the list is included and write the date and CVI number atop the list.
4. The animal identification number needs to be clear, so partial numbers like "48VFT2340 -5" may cause your client difficulty. If you must use a range, then write "48VFT2340 to 48VFT2345 (6 head)."
5. APHIS Form 7001 is NOT accepted by Kansas in replacement of a state-issued CVI form and is rejected by many other states. New York City is the primary domestic location requiring the 7001 form.
6. For animals traveling out of state, CVIs must arrive at KDAH within seven days of issue. All states need the information promptly to assist with trace backs during a disease event. Mailing in weekly is recommended.

Neat, legible forms help everyone to do their jobs quickly and efficiently.

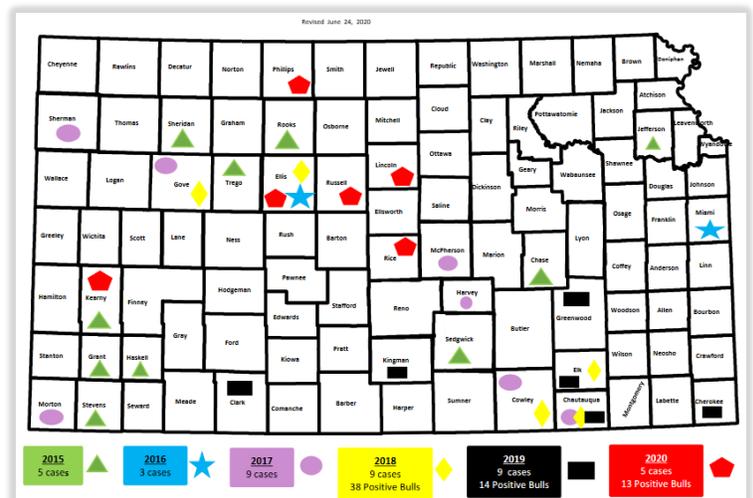
Make sure to contact the state of destination for the correct import requirements. Interstatelivestock.com is a great tool for looking up general rules and regulations. For updated rules regarding recent disease outbreaks, contact the state of destination directly.

Thank you for preventing the spread of disease and helping KDA-DAH be able to quickly contact owners whose animals may be affected by a disease exposure.

TRICHOMONIASIS FAQs

Although the case numbers are low, Kansas Trichomoniasis cases continue to appear in 2020. The following information answers many of the most frequently asked Trich questions:

- **2020 Status.** Kansas has confirmed 13 Trich positive bulls from five operations.
- **Clinical Signs.** Producers may notice an increased open rate or prolonged calving interval.
- **Immunity.** Most cows are able to develop an immune response and clear the infection. It is not rewarding to test cows.
- **Testing.** Kansas utilizes PCR testing to test the bull. To be official, bulls must be tested by a Kansas Trich Certified Veterinarian and have Official Animal Identification.
- **Tagging.** Trich positive bulls must be tagged with a red "KS TRICH POS" tag within 7 days of being confirmed positive and may only be sold for slaughter. The meat is safe for human consumption.



KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

KDA's COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Kansas Department of Agriculture has made an effort throughout this pandemic to not only continue the agency's operations and provide important services to our communities, but also to contribute to the successes of other organizations and states.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic response efforts, KDA staff participated in state agency collaboration through vital statewide and national conference calls and worked in the State Emergency Operations Center. KDA dedicated 60 employee volunteers to work on the Kansas Department of Labor's phone bank to assist Kansans who were applying to receive unemployment benefits.

KDA's mission is to serve the state's largest industry. During these uncertain times, daily contact was made with packing plants in Kansas, and staff reached out to producers and industry associations to ensure everyone's essential needs were met. As the swine overpopulation due to COVID-19 quickly became an issue, KDA's leadership team stood up portions of the Incident Management Team (IMT) and significant resources to mitigate these challenges throughout the state and to plan response assistance if or when necessary.

The main focus of the IMT is setting up centralized sites for swine euthanasia according to AVMA standards and for utilizing environmentally friendly composting methods for disposal. Kansas was the first state in the nation to complete and submit a FEMA application which resulted in a USDA mission assignment for direct technical assistance to be provided. Many other states reached out to the KDA team for best practices and suggestions for pursuing these opportunities.

All of these efforts would not have been possible without the collaboration of private practitioners, associations, producers, industry, packers, and the USDA. Throughout this pandemic, communication and community were necessary to each and every one of KDA's successes. Personally and professionally, this has been a difficult time for many friends, family members and neighbors throughout the agriculture community. However, it is because of relationships, communication, and collaboration efforts that Kansas has been able to avoid many challenges other top swine-producing states have been forced to bear.

Although KDA is encountering many new issues, we are thankful for the feedback and teamwork received from industry stakeholders and anticipate more opportunities to strengthen these partnerships.

KANSAS SWINE

1K	Swine Operations
#10	State in Hog & Pig Inventory
3M+	Pigs Sold in 2019
600M	Pounds produced in 2019 <i>(Kansas Pork Association)</i>

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KDAH OFFICE UPDATES

As with many businesses and state agencies, the Kansas Department of Agriculture is conducting business under modified operations. This includes updated building guidelines, travel arrangements, and inspection schedules.

In the Division of Animal Health, most team members continue working from home with decreased staffing in the Manhattan office. As the state continues the re-opening process, so does KDA-DAH. Starting in June, routine inspections and testing are returning to the schedule.

While some projects were put on hold, most of the daily office functions have continued in a new environment. KDA-DAH has worked to ensure "business as usual" in a very unusual environment. Veterinarians may continue contacting KDA-DAH staff for questions and guidance. The website contains updated staff contact information, disease guidance and other timely resources. Visit our home page at agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth.

AFI PROGRAM UPDATES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Animal Facilities Inspection staff are taking extra precautions to keep the health and welfare of the public a main priority. Since March, the team has responded to health, safety and welfare complaints. Staff members also volunteered to provide services to the Kansas Department of Labor to assist in unemployment benefit inquiries. Each staff member provided the KDOL approximately 15 hours per week and significantly helped during the time of need.

Recently, inspectors began performing routine inspections that were due during the statewide stay at home orders. Facilities are welcome to contact their area inspector to update preferred business hours, a designated representative or inform of any closure dates. Inspectors will continue to increase their activity within safety guidelines.

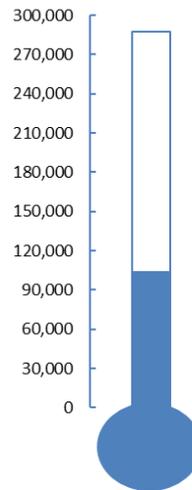
KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

USDA'S FREE RFID EAR TAGS AVAILABLE

USDA continues distributing free low frequency RFID ear tags for the reproductive animals of the cow herd. Approximately one-third of Kansas' allocated 287,092 tags have been requested by accredited veterinarians.

As of June 19, 2020, all tags requested by veterinarians had been shipped. USDA Veterinary Services personnel in Kansas made changes to the shipping system to decrease transit time and increase accuracy.

All tags shipped were manufactured by DataMars. Going forward, USDA added contracts with Allflex and Y-tex. Currently, tags may not be requested by manufacturer. Consider purchasing a universal tagger to use with the RFID tags, and preferably the tag applicator should be sourced from the tag manufacturer. Incorrect tag applicators may damage the tags.



For additional details and to order the tags, contact:

Karaline Mayer

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785-313-0266

Kelly McDonald

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785-228-6579

Lindy Trapp

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Free RFID Tags Ordered as of 07/9/2020

RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE

Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas have recently reported cases of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2) in domestic rabbits, wild cottontails and jackrabbits. RHDV2 is a highly contagious and fatal disease of domestic rabbits and wild rabbits of the genus *Oryctolagus*. This disease is considered a foreign animal disease and is of high concern at the state and federal levels. The recent involvement of wild cottontails and hares is of particular concern.

Many times, the only signs of the disease are sudden death and possibly blood stained noses caused by internal bleeding. Infected rabbits may also develop a fever, be hesitant to eat, or show respiratory or nervous signs.

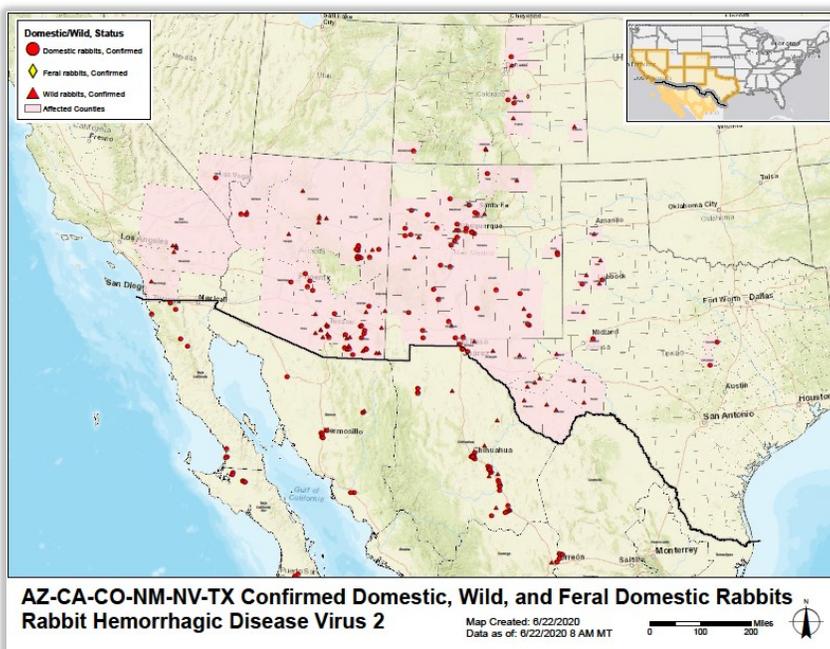
Due to the proximity and progression of RHDV2 cases in neighboring states, veterinarians and rabbit owners should be aware of the disease risks because of the highly

contagious nature of this disease. At this time RHDV2 has not yet been reported in domestic or wild rabbits in Kansas.

Veterinarians must report suspected RHDV cases in domestic rabbits to the Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.

For additional information and resources, visit

www.agriculture.ks.gov/RHDV2.



Kansas COVID-19 Resources

KDA centralized its resources for COVID-19. To access the information, visit:

www.agriculture.ks.gov/coronavirus. State of Kansas Covid-19 Response and Recovery information may be accessed at covid.ks.gov.

APHIS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sent this bulletin at 07/02/2020 10:15 AM EDT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is seeking public comment on a proposal where APHIS would only approve Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as the official eartag for use in interstate movement of cattle that are required to be identified by the traceability regulations.

An official eartag is defined as an identification tag approved by APHIS that bears an official identification number for individual animals. Regulations allow APHIS to approve tags that can be used as official identification, and both metal and RFID tags are current options.

A transition to RFID tags would support APHIS' ongoing efforts to increase animal disease traceability by more accurately and rapidly allowing animal health officials to know where affected and at-risk animals are located. While this would not prevent disease outbreaks, it would allow animal health officials to more quickly contain outbreaks early before they can do substantial damage to the U.S. cattle industry.

APHIS is also seeking comment on a proposed timeline for implementation, which the agency would use if this transition occurs. The timeline would make RFID tags the only option for use in cattle and bison requiring official identification on January 1, 2023. APHIS would "grandfather in" animals that have metal tags already in place on that date – their metal tags would serve as official identification for the remainder of their lifespan.

This transition timeline would not alter the existing regulations. The cattle and bison that must be identified will not change, nor will the option for animal health officials in shipping and receiving states to agree to accept alternate forms of identification, including brands and tattoos, in lieu of official identification.

Public comments will be accepted through October 5, 2020 at the following site: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-14463>. After reviewing all comments, APHIS will publish a follow up Federal Register notice. This notice will respond to any such comments, announce our decision whether to only approve RFID tags as the only official identification devices for cattle, and, if so, provide the timeline for such a transition.

