Kansas Animal Health News

Winter/Spring 2021

Field Veterinarian Gerald Gibson Retires February 2021

Dr. Gerald Gibson graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1973. Following graduation he completed a one-year large animal medicine internship at OSU before moving to Dodge City where he worked at a mixed animal practice. He then had the opportunity to manage a 4,500 head backgrounding feedyard from 1976 to 1979.

Later, he started his own mobile practice until settling in Montezuma, Kansas, where he opened what was the area's only veterinary clinic. From 1981 to 2012 Dr. Gibson practiced mixed animal medicine in Montezuma, tending to literally any animal that walked or was carried through his door.

In 2012, Dr. Gibson accepted a position with the Kansas Department of Agriculture: Division of Animal Health (KDAH) serving as the Southwest Territory Field Veterinarian. During this tenure, he has routinely responded to over 20 different facilities on a monthly basis, occasionally driving in excess of 300 miles per day performing tuberculosis comparative cervical testing (CCTs) in support of export activities. It is estimated he has done well over 15,000 CCTs during his career. In addition to CCT activities, Dr. Gibson developed strong relationships with stakeholders in the region and supported many other veterinary regulatory related responsibilities.

Some career highlights include assisting with the Equine Infectious Anemia and Piroplasmosis incident in 2017, serving as the lead coordinator for KDA and USDA regulatory tuberculosis testing response efforts starting in 2018, and most recently aided with what is believed to be the first horse in Kansas to undergo treatment for Piroplasmosis.

Dr. Gibson and his wife Staci will be moving to the Grand Lake area in Oklahoma to enjoy much deserved golfing and fishing opportunities. We wish him all the best and appreciate his contribution to Kansas agriculture.

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Animal Health

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agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth

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

KANSAS Ag Stress Resources

www.kansasagstress.org

Providing Kansans the resources they need to help cope with ag-related stress. For free 24/7 support, call the Regional Concern Hotline: 1-800-447-1985.

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SFS Supply Updates

2021 Assessment Released

All participants of the Secure Food Supply (SFS) programs received an email about completing their annual assessment on February 1, 2021. In order to remain compliant with program guidelines, an assessment must be completed for 2021. The plan update consists of a five question survey, which provides livestock facilities the opportunity to update or change their enhanced biosecurity plan, request assistance for employee training, and connect with KDA staff. Consulting veterinarians are encouraged to assist in the completion of the plan update. It is incredibly important that plans are up to date as foreign animal disease response and preparation are always relevant. Click this link for the assessment: https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/hugkkshnkd/index.html.

SFS Plans Expand to Sheep Industry

As always, we are eager for program growth and look forward to working with producers across the state. Dairies, swine facilities, and feedlots are strongly encouraged to complete plans. The American Sheep Industry Association, along with Iowa State, recently rolled out a Secure Sheep and Wool Supply plan. These plans include the unique circumstances we might see within a sheep operation: for example, the lack of clinical signs in sheep, achieving enhanced biosecurity in certain management situations, and wool handling recommendations.

Secure Beef Permit Drill

On August 3, 2021, Kansas Secure Beef participants, along with neighboring states and industry stakeholders, will be testing the infrastructure of Kansas' permitting system. Contact KDAH to learn more about the drill or if you wish to participate.

Secure Food Supply Contact Person:

Emily (Voris) Davis, Animal Health Planner
785-210-7741, emily.voris@ks.gov

New AFI Inspector

KDAH welcomes the newest inspector for the Animal Facilities Inspection (AFI) program: Ben Lancaster. Ben is stationed in eastern Kansas.

Veterinarians: Commit to Record Keeping

Animal disease traceability efforts are only as successful as the records are complete and accurate. KDAH relies heavily upon accredited veterinarians to ensure efficient and accurate disease tracing.

Record keeping is essential for all business owners, whether it be financial records, herd records, or records required by regulations. Kansas regulations require the timely submittal of certain records and tests to the KDAH office which includes, but is not limited to:

- Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (within 7 days)
- Livestock market records
- Official Calfhood Vaccination charts (within 10 days)
- Tuberculosis test charts
- Official identification distribution records

KDAH is reaching out to veterinarians who, as records indicate, are not submitting such data regularly. Timely submittal of records as required by law is essential in maintaining accreditation status. Veterinarians may contact the KDAH office to verify records were received, or with additional questions and concerns.

Additional tips for successful records submittal:

- Details matter
- Legible handwriting
- Official identification listed (when applicable)

Free CE Webinar

Ames, Iowa (March 2, 2021) — GVL® and Utah Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Amanda Price will host a free CE webinar, Interstate Travel and Movement Compliance for Cattle, on **March 24, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. (CDT)**.

This program has been approved for one hour of continuing education credit in jurisdictions that recognize RACE approval.

In this webinar, Dr. Price discusses how to navigate the current rules and regulations around cattle movement, including:

- Identification, testing, and documentation requirements.
- Potential travel requirements and how they vary by state.
- How to ensure clients have what they need for compliant domestic travel.

Register for the webinar at www.globalvetlink.com/interstatetravel.

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RFID Reader Cost Share Program

KDA Division of Animal Health is providing a cost share program for RFID readers to bovine practitioners in Kansas. 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.

The intent of this cost share program is to reach the largest portion of the Kansas cattle herd with RFID technology utilizing monies received through USDA ADT (Animal Disease Traceability) supplemental funding. Application and payments due by March 15, 2021.

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

USDA's Free RFID Tags Continue

USDA continues distributing free low frequency RFID ear tags for the reproductive animals of the cow herd. Current tag contracts are through the manufacturers Allflex, DataMars, and Y-tex.

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

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

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

Quarantine Violation Ends in Three Charges

During the summer of 2020 a Butler County individual knowingly removed livestock from a premises that was under official quarantine by the Kansas Animal Health Commissioner for vesicular stomatitis virus. Upon request of the Animal Health Commissioner, Special Agents with the Office of Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, Kansas Livestock and Brand Investigation Unit were contacted for assistance.

Based on findings of the investigation, it was determined that the livestock had been moved across state lines after leaving the quarantined premises. The suspect was charged and convicted in Butler County District Court on 1 charge of Violation of Diseased Stock & Quarantine Regulations, K.S.A. 47-607 (c) (2); & K.S.A. 47-607 (c). He was sentenced to 30 days in jail and court ordered to pay $695 in fines, court costs, and attorney fees.

The Animal Health Commissioner utilizes quarantines to control and stop the spread of disease.

Which Tagger Do I Use?

As more RFID tags are distributed across Kansas, the question continues to arrive at the KDAH office, "Which tagger do I use?" Of the free USDA tags distributed, most in Kansas are Allflex or DataMars. While the preferred DataMars tagger is currently unavailable for purchase, we encourage you to use the Allflex Universal Total Tagger Applicator or Allflex Retractomatic Tagger for both brands of tags. The Universal Total Tagger is the winner for tagging a show animal over here and a trailer load of animals headed out of state over there (just make sure to remove the black clip!). The Retractomatic Tagger is the all around champion for those longer calfhood vaccinating days. Trust us, your tagging crew will thank you!

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Trich Training: A Necessary Protocol

Trichomoniasis continues to be an issue for Kansas cattle producers and the veterinarians who work with them. Seven affected herds with 25 positive bulls, spanning 8 Kansas counties, were documented in 2020.

Trichomoniasis can be crippling financially to a cattle operation through abortions, late bred cows, and replacing bulls. The disease also tends to stir up strong emotions, both for the herd owners and managers with the positive animal(s), their neighbors, and leased land owners.

Kansas first implemented regulations for trichomoniasis in 2010. These have been revised twice, with the current version published in 2016. The current regulations define what an "official trichomoniasis foetus PCR test" is, with part of the definition requiring each sample be collected by a veterinarian who has completed trichomoniasis training that is approved by the commissioner and must be repeated every 5 years [K.A.R. 9-7-4a(a)(6)].

KS TRICH CASES 2015-2020

Herds	Counties
42	29

(ksvdl.org/docs/resources/Trich-2020.pdf)

Situations KDAH sometimes faces concerning trichomoniasis positive herds include:

- Tested bulls not officially identified at sample collection.
- Practitioners submitting samples without being current on the required training.

There has been confusion with what constitutes proper training, how often the training needs to be done, and even the requirement for the training itself.

As of January 21, 2021, 7% of veterinarians who had completed trichomoniasis testing in the past are not current on their training, and only 20% of USDA Level II Accredited veterinarians in Kansas have current trichomoniasis training. Although not required for all Level II accredited veterinarians, approved Kansas trichomoniasis training is required for official trichomoniasis testing purposes.

Laboratories conducting the testing do not differentiate between veterinarians who have current trichomoniasis training and those who do not, but the results from test samples collected by veterinarians without current training are not considered "official" by state regulation.

The only training that meets the regulation is the Kansas Bovine Trichomoniasis Veterinarian Certification, available online at: ksvdl.org/resources/trich-certification/index.html.

The training consists of three steps:

1. Watch a series of video clips.
2. Read through a slide presentation.
3. Complete and pass an exam.

The video series is made up of 19 videos totaling less than 12 minutes. There are seven slides containing the state trichomoniasis regulations. The test is composed of a total of 15 questions that are either true/false or multiple choice. It can be taken as many times as needed to receive the passing grade of 100%. Once passed, a certificate will be issued and may be printed for record keeping purposes.

The value of the certification program is that veterinarians who complete and stay current on the training have been shown the proper ways of officially identifying animals being tested, collecting samples, and handling and shipping samples. Trichomoniasis testing has some unique caveats to it, and if not properly done, will greatly affect the sample quality and test accuracy. Also, by being certified, practitioners are abiding by state regulations pertaining to official trichomoniasis testing.

KDAH appreciates your help and cooperation in identifying and controlling this disease. Without the help of practitioners and livestock producers, regulating the disease is impossible. If you have questions about trichomoniasis training, your trichomoniasis training status, or trichomoniasis in general, please call your area regulatory field veterinarian or the KDAH office.

National Sheep Survey

The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducts national studies of various livestock sectors. In preparation for the upcoming national sheep study in 2023, NAHMS is seeking stakeholder input on the most important health issues facing the U.S. sheep industry through an online survey. Responses will be used to determine the focus and objectives analyzed in the national study.

The survey must be completed by **March 31, 2021,** and may be found at: https://aphisvs.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kY0fAAYRl3saou?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

For more information on NAHMS studies, visit: www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms.

Avian Influenza Remains a Concern

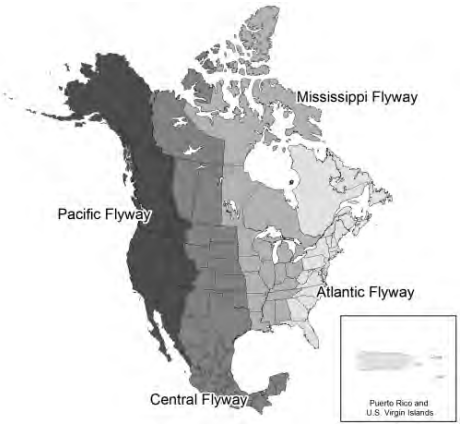
On November 18, 2020, KDAH hosted a workshop with poultry producers, Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL), and USDA with a focus on walking through a response to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

The workshop walked through the decision-making process that would take place if HPAI were diagnosed in Kansas and what would happen on the affected premises, including the depopulation and disposal plan. Participants discussed the role and capacity of KSVDL for surveillance of surrounding poultry, requirements for movement permits, and public communication.

The workshop was instrumental in expanding the state's response plan and honing details based upon participants' concerns:

- Early detection of any foreign animal disease is important for a timely response.
- Any unexplained increase in mortality, decreased egg production, respiratory issues, or neurologic (twisted necks or quiet) signs of disease should be investigated.
- Make sure the people who work with birds daily know what to look for.
- If poultry producers find one or two dead birds in their flock for two days in a row and they cannot explain their death, we ask they contact their veterinarian — even if all other birds look fine.

The detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in other countries is a good reminder that poultry in Kansas are at risk because of migratory pathways and the manner in which birds move around the world. The increase in HPAI detections in Europe and Asia was noted in wild birds and poultry during the fall 2020 migration period in Europe and Asia, which warrants increased vigilance by Kansas poultry owners.



(https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/flyways.php)

Survey: FMD Response Plan

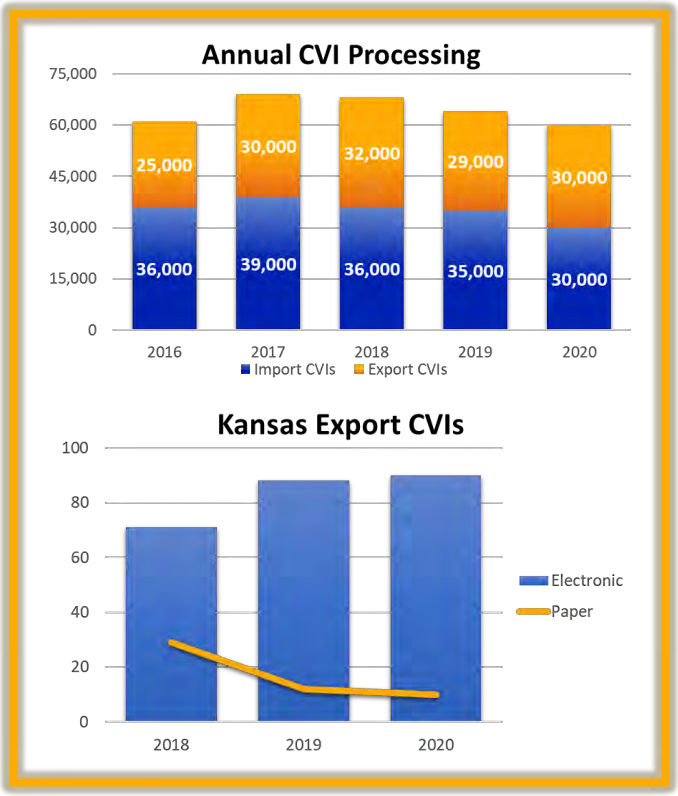
The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health developed a survey to assess the foot and mouth disease (FMD) response plan. KDAH plays a critical role in shaping the details of the FMD outbreak response strategy of Kansas in order to protect animal welfare and economic interests.

The purpose of the survey is to determine the understanding by producers and veterinarians of the FMD outbreak response strategy for Kansas. The information gathered in this survey will assist with the development of an information campaign to improve awareness of the plan and involvement in strategy development. Your input regarding general knowledge of the national and state response plans is greatly valued.

The survey should take approximately **5 minutes** to complete.

Producers: https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/1fnroef96t/index.html

Veterinarians: https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/usnucgow3l/index.html



Veterinarians: Student Debt Relief Program Available

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced on February 10, 2021, the opening of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) FY2021 application cycle and posted the approved shortage situation areas. The VMLRP, authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA), 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. NIFA will carry out NVMSA by entering into educational loan repayment agreements with veterinarians who agree to provide veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations.

If a veterinarian commits to at least three years of providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area, NIFA may repay up to $25,000 of student loan debt per year.

Applications will close on April 16, 2021, at 4:00 pm CST.

Please reference the VMLRP Applicants and Kansas Shortage Situations webpages for additional information.

For guidance on their application, applicants are encouraged to contact:

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