

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

In the wake of the equine herpesvirus (EHV-1) infection that affected the western portion of the United States, biosecurity is back in the headlines. Time and again, we see situations like the EHV-1 event. Animal owners gather to showcase their stock (or cats and dogs) and they go home with more than trophies and memories. The unfortunate part of disease outbreaks, beside the fact that animals may die, is that many of these problems can be prevented.

Here are a few simple steps that can prevent the spread of diseases at exhibitions:

- Verify the show animals are up-to-date on all their vaccinations.
- Do not share needles and equipment (including feed and water buckets) among animals.
- Clean and disinfect equipment (like show boxes, clippers, etc.) when returning home.
- As you are traveling from show to farm, thoroughly wash your boots (or use disposable boot covers) to avoid transferring diseases. Follow this practice when visiting other farms.
- Once at home, keep returning animals apart from the rest of the herd/flock/group for a few days to allow time to observe any potential illness that may break after the event.
- Watch animals for any signs of illness or pests (such as mites) in the first two weeks after a show.
- Think about simple action steps that could lead to spread of disease. For example, several cases of strangles at an Indiana horse track a few years ago were traced to a water hose that was placed inside the horses' water buckets, instead of being held above the water line.

TV reality host, Mike Rowe (of *Dirty Jobs* fame), stresses "Safety Third" with his television crew. Why the unusual slogan? Rowe said the message "Safety First" became so redundant that they began to ignore the warnings, and accidents were occurring more than they should. For that reason, he created the unique saying "Safety Third" to regain their attention.

The same could be said for biosecurity to everyone involved in the exhibition industry. Biosecurity has been talked about so many times that it has become background noise. Improper biosecurity often happens when people fall into habits and routines over time.

While we do not recommend placing biosecurity third, we do recommend finding a way to keep it a priority in your operations. Proper show biosecurity is the easiest line of defense against the spread of disease this time of year.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular April 14 meeting, Board members:

- passed the final version of the new animal carcass disposal laws;
- conducted a public hearing and passed the final version of the permanent equine piroplasmosis testing rule for quarter horses and Thoroughbreds entering racing facilities in the state;
- extended the emergency rule for Thoroughbreds and quarter horses to test negative for equine piroplasmosis before the animals can enter a racing facility so the requirement will last until the permanent rule takes effect; and

Board Members:

Sandra Amass, DVM
John E. Baker, DVM, Chair
Kay Boyd, DVM
Brent W. Harnish
Ted Harpold, DVM
Jay Houchin
Pearce McKinney
Clark Sennett
Larry Stauffer, DVM
Sarah Wagler

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- held the first reading on the proposed standards of care for livestock and poultry.

NOTE: The next board meeting will be held in the Indiana Farm Bureau building at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on July 28, 2011.

Companion Animal

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) has been denying entrance into the continent for pets that were microchipped after they were vaccinated for rabies, because owners cannot prove the rabies vaccine is tied to that particular animal. Pets that did not meet the requirement have been placed under quarantine for six months. Many other countries, not just the EU, require the rabies vaccination date on the pet's certificate, so check with the country of destination before travel.

BEGINNING AUGUST 2011, the Partnership for Food Protection will be launching the Pet Event Tracking Network (PETNet) System. This new system will allow federal, state and territorial governments to enter information regarding trends or suspicious incidents in their jurisdictions that need to be reported to their regulatory counterparts. This information will help identify if illnesses related to tainted animal foods are occurring in more than one state. Then, USDA can identify an outbreak and possibly order a recall of the food product. Previously, the ability to identify such trends was not available.

FOUR BATS in Indiana have tested positive for rabies in 2011. The positive bats have been located in Posey, St. Joseph, Marion, and Elkhart counties. One of the pets exposed was not current on its rabies vaccine, and now the owners are required to quarantine their dog for six months. The state of Indiana still requires all dogs, cats and ferrets **three** months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian. Anyone who may be confused about when to quarantine or euthanize an animal may call the BOAH office for guidance.

Premise ID

THE CURRENT number of Indiana premises registered as farm sites are as follows: avian: 6489; bovine: 24,126; camelid: 472; caprine: 7455; cervids: 942; equine: 7292; fish: 953; ovine: 5371; and porcine: 11,693. The total number of farm sites registered in the state is 48,726.

Equine

EQUINE HERPESVIRUS (EHV-1) was diagnosed in several horses after an infection began spreading rapidly following the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah in early May. Due to concerns of further spread, NCHA temporarily shut down all the cutting horse shows; but, as of June 11, 2011, the association had restarted the shows. In all, nearly 100 horses were diagnosed with the virus and 12 died. The infection remained isolated to the western portion of the United States and Canada; therefore, Indiana never changed its equine import requirements.

WYOMING REQUIRES an official certificate of veterinary inspection for horses within 72 hours of entry into the state. This order is a result of the recent increase in equine herpesvirus, and became effective May 19, 2011. (Wyoming is also the latest state to confirm a case of EHV-1. The positive horse was found in late June.) The state gives several specifics for the certificates, which includes recording the temperature for each horse listed and the statements, "No horses listed have been exposed to any horse infected with or exposed to EHV-1." And "No horses listed are showing any clinical signs of EHV-1." Contact the Wyoming Livestock Board for more information at 307/777-7515 or 307/857-4140.



GLOBAL VET Link (GVL) has partnered with HVMS, of Business Infusions, to give equine practitioners a new electronic certificate feature, which is now available in the HVMS Practice Management Software. The new partnership will allow GVL electronic health certificates within HVMS.

Cattle/Ruminants

RINDERPEST, ALSO known as the 'cattle plague', has been eradicated from the globe. The World Organization for Animal Health made the official declaration at its annual meeting in June. This occurred after the 14 remaining countries were able to prove they were free of the disease. Rinderpest is only the second disease to be officially eradicated from the world, after smallpox, which affects humans, and is the first animal disease to reach this milestone.

IDAHO HAS modified its import requirement for trichomoniasis testing. Effective April 13, 2011, all bulls 12 months of age or older will be required to have tested negative for trichomoniasis within 30 days prior to entering Idaho, unless covered under one of the exceptions. A complete list of the exceptions can be found on Idaho's website: www.agri.idaho.gov. Practitioners should still call the state of destination before shipping cattle to be sure the information posted on the website is up-to-date.

THE ARIZONA Department of Agriculture announced a rodeo stock steer tested positive for bovine tuberculosis in June. Although the steer tested negative for TB when it entered the state, the animal turned up positive after a retest to meet another entry requirement. The rodeo stock herd was placed under quarantine after the positive steer was discovered.

Meat & Poultry

NEBRASKA'S LEGISLATURE is trying to pass a bill that would establish a state meat inspection program. The initial start up costs were estimated at \$300,000, but amendments to the bill moved the responsibilities of enforcement to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture making the initial cost \$25,000. The introductory amount covers the cost to conduct a study assessing the work needed to implement the program, the resources required and a possible fee system. Lawmakers hope the implementation of a state meat inspection program will help their local economy by allowing local farmers to process and sell meat products in niche markets. The meat inspection program could also open the door for horse processing to start up again. Indiana is just one of 27 states in the country that currently runs a state meat inspection program.

Dairy

AN INCREASE in the popularity and consumption of raw milk has resulted in an increase in the number of illnesses related to this dairy product. Late in June, three women from the Detroit area were diagnosed with a rare bacterial infection—Q-fever. The women obtained the raw milk, and its unwelcome friend, through cow shares they purchased from a Livingston County, Michigan farm. This latest case of infection is one of many recent outbreaks of illness tied to raw milk.

LAST APRIL, BOAH Dairy Division Director, Terry Philibeck, was elected to serve on the executive board for the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS). The NCIMS convenes every two years to reanalyze the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), which regulates all milk pasteurization in the United States. As a member of the executive board, Philibeck will regularly meet with other dairy representatives from across the country to follow up on the PMO proposed changes that passed during the last conference.

Wildlife

INDIANA BOAH has partnered with other state agencies to assist with the National Wildlife Disease Program. Due to the small number of USDA-Wildlife Services employees in Indiana, collecting samples for routine disease surveillance is difficult to complete. Currently, the Indiana Wildlife Disease Surveillance Network collects samples for tularemia and other pathogens that can be detected through serology.

The network provides reports of unusual bat activities to monitor for white-nose syndrome, as well as gathering information about feral swine sightings. General practitioners that are interested in assisting USDA-WS collect samples can e-mail Dr. Joe Caudell at joe.n.caudell@aphis.usda.gov. Dr. Caudell will provide interested individuals with more information about the projects they are currently working on, and how volunteers can help.

Food Safety

USDA LOWERED the proper cooking temperature of pork from 160° F to 145° F, and added a three-minute rest time. Now, all whole cuts of beef and pork are recommended to reach the same cooking temperature. Ground meat products remain at 160° F, and poultry should be 165° F before consumption. The internal appearance of meat is not a good indicator of its safety or risk. Using a meat thermometer is the only way to determine if the product has reached a safe temperature, where all the harmful pathogens have been destroyed.

Cervids

MICHIGAN VOTED to end a ban on baiting and feeding of white-tailed deer in the state's Lower Peninsula from October 1 to January 1 each year. The exception is in northeastern section where bovine TB continues to be a problem. Baiting and feeding were banned in August 2008, after a captive cervid in Kent County was diagnosed with chronic wasting disease. Since that time, no other cases have been reported, which caused many citizens to ask for the end of the ban.

SHELLY CHAVIS, BOAH veterinarian in charge of Indiana's cervid programs, reminds veterinarians about the requirements surrounding interstate shipments of cervids. Most importantly, veterinary clinics should always check the state-of-destination before shipping animals, as the entry requirements can change on a daily basis. Questions about Indiana's entry requirements can be directed to Paula Livers at 317/544-2395.

Avian

USDA RECENTLY conducted a survey of backyard chicken flocks in large metropolitan cities across the United States. The massive increase in backyard flocks has caused great concern for USDA, fearing the disease threat posed to humans and chickens is also on the rise. The results revealed backyard flocks in Denver and New York City averaged fewer than 10 chickens, but most flocks in Los Angeles and Miami averaged more than 10 chickens. Also, worth noting, only about half of the respondents were aware of a link between poultry and Salmonella infection in people.

Swine

FOUR DAYS after downgrading the foot and mouth disease (FMD) alert level from 'orange' to 'yellow', South Korea has confirmed another outbreak of the disease. The latest infection occurred in six pigs on a farm approximately 215 miles southeast of Seoul, where the major outbreak occurred last winter. The farm was ordered to stop movement of all animals and cull the contaminated pigs with hopes of stopping the spread of FMD through the country.