

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

We are only three months into 2009 and, already, this has been a busy New Year. But, that could be expected with the way we closed out 2008.

During the final weeks of last year, BOAH was tracing beef cattle from a Southern Indiana herd that was linked to a case of bovine tuberculosis (TB) identified at slaughter. While the initial whole-herd test in early December was negative, the BOAH staff still had to identify the locations of several animals sold out of the herd, as well as prepare for a second whole-herd test in March. That second test, I have to say, proved negative—a great relief to everyone involved.

Overlapping our TB adventures was contagious equine metritis (CEM). Indiana has played a primary role in a nationwide investigation that ultimately required traces and testing of 715 horses in 46 states. Indiana was pulled into the investigation very early, after a Hoosier stallion was identified as one of the animals that stood on an infected Kentucky breeding farm. I am please to report that we are close to closing out the CEM investigations, with all of the quarantined stallions tested, treated and released, and fewer than 10 mares that will complete the treatment protocol after foaling over the next several weeks.

The Indiana General Assembly has had the attention of our Companion Animal Division and Legal Affairs staff members as they closely watch legislation proposing to regulate dog breeding operations. The issue, still under debate as this is written, could have a significant impact on the duties and resources at BOAH.

Not to be left off the busy agenda, our Dairy Division has been undergoing a federal check rating to recertify Indiana's inspection program. This is a once-every-three-years event that holds BOAH staff up for close reviews. All the while, the Division has been monitoring the still on-going nationwide peanut product recall, because ice cream manufacturers often use peanut-based ingredients. BOAH has had good cooperation from plant operators in reviewing additive sources to verify the safety of the products being shipped.

What lies ahead for the next quarter of 2009? Likely a busy spring and early summer.

We are looking forward to this year's class of veterinary interns in May. The applicant pool made selecting only five individuals extremely difficult. The BOAH staff is committed to making their experience productive, as well as meaningful, until they return to Purdue in August.

I mention our intern program because, traditionally, like the swallows that return to Capistrano and the buzzards roosting in Hinckley, OH, we can be sure that something interesting will happen this summer while our interns are with us. I can't say that we've planned it that way, but in past summers our interns have helped trace monkeypox cases, unearth rabbits with a foreign hemorrhagic disease, and test quarantined race horses for strangles. The BOAH staff just knows we need to hold tight and wait and see!

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

Board Members:

John E. Baker, DVM
Kay Boyd, DVM
Ted Harpold, DVM
Brian Humphrey
Jay Houchin
Merrill Kelsay
Bruce McDavitt, DVM, Chair
Pearce McKinney
Clark Sennett
Larry Stauffer, DVM
H. Leon Thacker, DVM

Bret D Marsh, DVM
State Veterinarian

BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular January 15 meeting, Board members:

- Adopted a resolution to delegate authority to the State Veterinarian.

NEXT REGULAR Board meeting will be April 16, 2009.

Animal Health

WYOMING LIVESTOCK Board has updated phone numbers for the entry permit/regulation desks. The new numbers are 307-777-3660, 307-777-7517 and 307-777-7515 for the main desk. Permits are required on all imported cattle, sheep, swine and bison. An automated permit number, for after hours, is available at 307-777-7515.

Companion Animal

AS A reminder, Indiana's State Department of Health changed its rabies sample submission policy in 2008. Please be aware of the changes; guidance is available on the BOAH web site at www.in.boah.gov.

THE NEW Compendium for rabies has been delayed from December until the end of March. Also, the short supply of rabies vaccine for humans is returning to normal levels, improving accessibility for veterinary staff to be vaccinated.

Premise ID

AS OF March 20, the number of current livestock premises registered in Indiana are: avian: 5407; bovine: 23,159; camelid: 470; goats: 6913; cervids: 652; equine: 6383; fish: 205; sheep: 5558; and porcine: 10,452, for a total of 37,902 premises.

LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION reminder: Premise identification (PremID) numbers continue to be required for all cattle, hogs, goats, sheep and cervids that are exhibited, purchased or sold in Indiana. This is a *state* requirement, whether the local exhibition/fair organizer tracks the information or not. Also, several hog packers are requiring ID numbers for animals sold at fair auctions, even if the county is not collecting the information. PremID request forms are available online at www.in.boah.gov.

4HERS AND others who may need a premise identification number for the fair season need to apply early for their number. Requestors need to allow at least 10 business days for BOAH to process these requests. The process usually does not take that long, but last-minute requests by phone may not be fulfilled.

Avian

BOAH FIELD veterinarians and the Indiana State Poultry Association (ISPA) continue to organize county poultry meetings and egg collections for the Test-12 program. A mailing system that would allow producers to send eggs directly to ADDL for testing is being coordinated. Flyers and fact sheets are available upon request from ISPA or BOAH. Those with questions should contact Kyle Kohlhagen with ISPA via phone, 765-494-8517, or e-mail, kkohlhag@purdue.edu.

DR. MICHAEL KOPP, Avian Director at BOAH, received the Golden Egg Award in February during the annual Indiana State Poultry Association banquet. The award is given to an outstanding advocate of the poultry industry for the year. BOAH congratulates Dr. Kopp on this outstanding achievement.

Cattle/Ruminants

VACCINATION RECORD forms for brucellosis calfhood vaccines have changed. Until the new electronic version of the form is made available, veterinarians must use the federal VS

form 4-24. A letter explaining the changes will be enclosed with the shipment of new forms. Direct questions to the BOAH Cattle and Ruminant Division.

TEXAS ANIMAL Health Commission adopted, on April 1, 2009, a program requiring breeding bulls entering Texas be either: 24 months of age and younger and certified as virgin, or tested negative for cattle trichomoniasis within 30 days prior to entry. The venereal disease causes infertility and abortions, which results in diminished calf crops and negative cost to producers. A second phase of the program, regulating in-state movement of cattle, will begin in 2010.

VETERINARY SERVICES has issued new guidelines for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance. Cattle that show signs of central nervous system (CNS) disease and test negative for rabies must be tested for BSE as well. Be aware of this testing protocol when submitting laboratory test samples.

NEW MEXICO has attained split-state status for bovine tuberculosis. All but a small portion of the state, located near the eastern border, is classified as accredited free. The counties of Curry and Roosevelt are classified Modified Accredited Advanced.

THE FOOD and Drug Administration (FDA) has postponed implementation of its enhanced feed rule that bans the use of some cattle carcass parts deemed high-risk for containing BSE. Originally scheduled for an April 27 effective date, the rule has been delayed by 60 days. Many cattle producers, slaughter plant owners and renderers have expressed concern about what will happen to carcass material that can no longer be rendered for feedstuffs as it has been in the past. This FDA rule extends the ruminant-to-ruminant feedban that was previously adopted by the USDA to halt the processing of specified high-risk materials (SRM) in any type of animal feed.

Equine

CONTAGIOUS EQUINE metritis (CEM) was discovered in late 2008 and the national traces continue as totals for positive and exposed horses passes 700. As of March, 13 stallions and four mares have been confirmed positive for the disease nationally. Three of the positive stallions are located in Indiana; all have completed testing, treatment and have been released from quarantine. The most current information can be found on the BOAH web site.

Meat & Poultry Inspection

THE MEAT and Poultry Inspection Division at BOAH conducted meetings across the state to discuss the Curtis Amendment with plant owners. Curtis Amendment allows inspected establishments to operate as custom-exempt facilities at specific times when full inspection is not necessary. The purpose of the meetings was to help facility owners decide if a move to custom-exempt status is possible to save program money by streamlining inspections.

Cervids

THE NEW cervid CWD program is underway and changes are beginning to take effect. Currently, herds are being distinguished between CWD-susceptible and CWD-non susceptible. The susceptible species are white-tailed deer, elk, moose, sika, red deer and hybrids of the listed species. Regulations for non susceptible cervids are minimal, although herd owners may voluntarily join the CWD Certification Program (or CWD Monitoring). The Certification Program allows cervid herds to gain status in a CWD program so they can meet interstate requirements. The Monitoring Program provides minimal regulations for pet and hobby herds not interested in moving interstate.

PLEASE REMEMBER to check the state of destination import requirements for cervids when writing CVIs. Requirements vary from state to state. Official identification must be in the cervid's ear and recorded on the CVI before the animal leaves the state.

Biosecurity/Planning

BOAH STAFF thanks those ASERT veterinarians who participated in the District 1 tabletop exercise in January. The event, held in Newton County, brought together individuals from a broad range of state, local

and federal agencies. The exercise looked at how animal health and public health worked together, as well as interacted with local/county agencies to protect the health of cattle, as well as people.

A FULL-SCALE animal health exercise will take place in late summer of 2009 as a follow-up to the tabletop in January. District 1 (counties in northwestern Indiana) will be practicing emergency response for a zoonotic disease in dairy cattle. Like November's avian flu exercise, the assistance of local veterinarians and/or ASERT members may be needed. More information will come as the details of the exercise are finalized. Veterinarians interested in becoming an ASERT member should contact a district BOAH veterinarian.

840 Tag Pilot Program

FREE 840 RFID tags are still available for cattle producers. Full-duplex, standard performance button tags are provided for beef producers, while half-duplex, high-performance button tags are being offered for dairies. All tags contain a 15-digit identification number beginning with the U.S. designation code "840". More detailed information and an application for the tags is available on the BOAH web site.

BRUCELLOSIS CALFHOOD vaccination 840 tags are also being offered to Indiana licensed/accredited veterinarians who administer the vaccine. Contact Dr. Kerry Peterson at 317-227-0314 to order tags.

Sheep/Goats

HOOSIERS REGISTERED with BOAH as sheep and/or goat owners can expect a mailing this spring to verify their status and contact information. Because of the scrapie program, many sheep and goat owners registered their premises years ago. BOAH's staff wants to ensure that premise information stays up-to-date.

Dairy

NESTLE-ANDERSON has now been approved for aseptic filling of their dairy products. This process enables Nestle to produce products which do not require refrigeration until opened. The Nestle-Anderson facility has been in operation since May 2008 and produces CoffeeMate®, flavored coffee supplements, and various flavors of NesQuick® milk.

ACROSS THE United States, more than 2,600 products have been recalled from 200-plus companies because of tainted peanut ingredients. In Indiana, nine reported human cases of *Salmonella Typhimurium* have been linked to nuts. Several ice cream products have been recalled in Indiana. Sundae cones and Tin Roof Sundae ice cream were recalled by separate processors. Complete information about the recalls can be found on the BOAH web site "Newsroom" under "What's New".

Aquaculture

THE USDA Interim Rule on viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) has been delayed indefinitely. As a result, BOAH's VHS requirements, when importing fish into Indiana, remain unchanged. See the BOAH web site for details concerning the current requirements.

BOAH, THE Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Purdue-ADDL are cooperating with USDA to accomplish surveillance testing for VHS in Indiana's fish populations. Sampling is currently underway, but no results have been returned. Thus far, the disease has not been found in any inland Indiana waters.

Animal Issues in Disaster

ANIMAL ISSUES in Disaster classes allow area first responders to come together and discuss what they could do in the case of an animal health emergency. If you would like to host a course please contact Dr. Sandra Norman at 317/227-0323 or snorman@boah.in.gov for more information. Classes are offered at no charge. BOAH only requires a minimum of 25 registered students and a classroom for the day-long event.