

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

The Board of Animal Health (BOAH) remains busy as testing continues on the animals traced into and out of three farms infected with bovine tuberculosis (TB). So far, testing has not found any positive animals outside of the three premises. On an interesting note, the only test-positive animals are cervids (deer or elk) originating from the index farm located in Franklin County.

To date, two of the three infected herds have been depopulated and are beginning the cleaning and disinfection process. The infected premises will remain under quarantine until the clean-up process is complete to BOAH satisfaction.

DNA typing of the TB isolates for the index cervid herd in Franklin County and the positive cow that was traced in December to a nearby cattle herd are similar. Now BOAH's focus concentrates on "how" was the disease spread. Neither farm frequently transported animals on or off site, so the focus has shifted to the wildlife in the area to determine how the disease moved between sites.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) harvested 30 wild white-tailed deer immediately outside the index premise for testing. Of those animals, no gross lesions were found; laboratory culture test results are still pending.

Testing will begin soon on cattle located within a 3-mile area of the index herd in Franklin County. Notification letters are going out to the 29 operations in the testing zone. TB testing is being focused on that region because we have seen community spread. We want to ensure Indiana's TB-free status is maintained.

The comment period for a new rule increasing TB testing requirements for cervids prior to movement has almost ended. At the October board meeting, board members will vote. The rule will increase the requirements for cervids moving intrastate, with the goal being to prevent any further spread of TB. Details about the rule are available online under BOAH's "What's New" section.

Premise identification has been key in the rapid response to locating and tracing the TB cases. Almost all of the herds traced during our investigation have been registered sites. The system has proven to be a valuable tool in this instance, saving countless hours and resources.

BOAH is working with DNR to develop a surveillance program for wild deer during the upcoming hunting season. Details will be available soon. As in past years, BOAH veterinarians will be on-call 7 days a week to answer questions from hunters who notice something unusual in their field-dressed deer. If necessary, BOAH will dispatch a veterinarian to collect samples and make a determination on the carcass.

For more information go to the BOAH web site at www.boah.in.gov.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

BOAH Board Actions

NEXT REGULARLY scheduled board meeting will be January 21, 2009.

Board Members:

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

Bret D Marsh, DVM
State Veterinarian

Companion Animal

WORLD RABIES DAY is September 28, 2009. This day emphasizes the need for ongoing vaccinations and prevention of rabies in our human and animal populations. While 30,000 people a year die from the disease in Asia and Africa, the United States records few human cases of rabies and identification of primarily wild animals as vectors. Wild animal reservoirs means continuing vaccination is necessary to protect ourselves and our pets against this fatal disease. The availability of one-year and three-year vaccines, as well as special products for cats, makes this vaccine inexpensive and convenient insurance for all animals. State law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets 3 months of age and older to be currently vaccinated for rabies. Help protect public health and administer rabies vaccine to all your patients.

THE NUMBER of animals positive with rabies has greatly increased during 2009. Typically, Indiana averages 12 to 15 positive reports annually, but this year Indiana has had 37. All of the positive results have been from bats, with cats and people the most-often exposed species. A large spike in the number of positives tends to occur every seven years in Indiana. No reason is known for the increase, but citizens should not be overly concerned about the influx. Veterinarians are key to helping local health departments to work through these issues and submit samples. The submission form is located at www.in.gov/rabies. The entire bat should be sent for testing; otherwise the head or brain is all that should be submitted. Please call 317/227-0322 with any exposure questions that need clarification.

THE COMMERCIAL Dog Breeders and Brokers program, passed by the legislature in April, will go into effect January 1, 2010. BOAH has been working on guidelines for breeders and registration information. Watch the web site www.boah.in.gov for updates as new information is available, or contact BOAH at 317/227-0300 or animalcare@boah.in.gov.

Premise ID

AS OF September 11, the number of livestock premises currently registered in Indiana are: avian: 5925; bovine: 25,296; camelids: 503; goats: 7641; cervids: 755; equine: 6796; fish: 440; sheep: 5996 and swine: 11,211. The current total of registered premises is 47,027.

Avian

THE NOVEL strain of H1N1, infecting humans across the world, was found on two turkey farms in Chile in late August. The case was contained to the two farms. Poultry are susceptible to H1N1, but no other operations have detected this virus.

A MILD strain of avian influenza, typed H7N9, was identified in a turkey flock in Minnesota. The birds appeared healthy and showed no signs of influenza, so the flock was quarantined. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is testing all flocks within 3 miles of the infected farm for 6 weeks to be sure the virus has not spread. This protocol follows the Minnesota's response and containment plan.

Cattle/Ruminants

A 3-MILE radius has been drawn from the bovine tuberculosis index cervid farm, located in Franklin County, to begin testing on the cattle farms located inside the circle. Producers in the testing area will receive packets of information about the process. The radius includes farms in Franklin and Fayette counties and is defined by sections and townships within those counties. A map highlighting the areas to be tested can be found on the BOAH web site. Any producer with cattle inside the testing area who has not received a packet should contact the BOAH office at 317/227-0310.

TESTING CONTINUES in Nebraska after a beef herd tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. No more positive animals have been identified. Because of the recent rash in outbreaks of TB across the United States, USDA has cut back on compensating owners for the loss of cattle. The Nebraska herd owner who slaughtered 200-head as a precautionary measure was denied indemnity of approximately \$1 million. For this reason, Indiana continues to work swiftly to resolve the TB issue in cervids that has occurred.

A GOVERNMENT laboratory worker, in the United Kingdom (UK), is suspected of contracting bovine tuberculosis from an infected badger in early August. The lab worker is a member of a team studying how bovine TB is spread between badgers and cattle. Approximately 30 other staff members are being tested for the disease.

Equine

STRANGLES WAS diagnosed in several horses stabled at the Hoosier Horse Park in Anderson, Ind. in mid-September. The illness was contained to horses handled by one trainer. Since strangles is not a reportable disease, the racing commission has control over the situation and BOAH is providing support as needed.

EQUINE PRACTITIONERS are reminded to check interstate requirements before sending horses out-of-state. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection need to meet the state of destination requirements for equine entry. Contact information for other states may be found at www.in.gov/boah, by calling 317/227-0300, or toll free at 877/747-3038. There are various viruses and vector borne illnesses that have vaccines available for preventive medicine, that may be required in other states. Questions can be directed to Dr. Tim Bartlett at 317/460-1235 or tbartlett@boah.in.gov.

Meat & Poultry Inspection

THE MEAT and Poultry Division will be conducting Food Safety Assessments (FSAs) of all official processing plants in Indiana over the next four years. Meat and Poultry Division Deputy Director Dr. David Bough recently attended a four-week course in Texas, training him to manage the FSAs. An FSA is a comprehensive evaluation of a plant's food safety system. FSAs will serve as barometers of not only an establishment's effectiveness in the production of safe meat and poultry for the citizens of Indiana, but also as an internal audit mechanism for the division to evaluate inspection services.

Cervids

TWO OF the three cervid farms that tested positive for bovine tuberculosis have been depopulated. Testing continues on the traces into and out of the index herd, and all laboratory results thus far have been negative. Results of tests still pending will be reported as they are available.

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. Tags are intended for breeding stock only.

BRUCellosis CALFHOOD vaccination 840 tags are also still being offered to Indiana licensed/accredited veterinarians who administer the vaccine. Contact Dr. Kerry Peterson at kepeterson@boah.in.gov and indicate the number of tags needed.

Sheep/Goats

THE MAILING sent to sheep and goat producers this spring to update the BOAH database was a success. Nearly 6,000 of more than 10,000 producers who received a letter responded. Most replies came via postcard, which was included in the letter. If you, or someone you know, did not receive a letter please contact the BOAH office at 317/227-0327. We had many returned because of inaccurate address information that needs to be corrected.

SCRAPIE IS a fatal, degenerative disease of the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is estimated to cost the U.S. sheep industry over \$20 million a year. To eradicate the disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has an accelerated program to eradicate scrapie in the nation's sheep flocks and goat herds. Producers can enroll their flocks/herds in the voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). There are many benefits of the program, including increased biosecurity, detailed record-keeping and increased surveillance, all benefiting the bottom line for producers. If you would like to know more about SFCP please visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>, or call the BOAH office at 317/227-0327.

Dairy

INDIANA DAIRY Division hosted the Food and Drug Association (FDA) Regional Milk Specialist training session. Approximately half of the Regional Milk Specialists in the United States came to Indiana to undergo training conducted by the head of the Milk Safety Team from Washington, DC. FDA Regional Milk Specialists spent the week in Indiana visiting a dairy plant, a single-service plant, three dairy farms and several milk haulers.

FDA HAS certified four Dairy Division employees as Sample Surveillance Officers. These four individuals will be responsible for certifying the dairy staff as official samplers of raw milk and dairy products.

TWO PRODUCERS have submitted plans to start farmstead operations in the state. Farmstead dairy operations are those facilities that both produce and process dairy products at the same location. These two locations will be producing dairy goat items such as milk, yogurt, cheese, butter and kefir.

Swine

A CANADIAN swine herd that was quarantined for having H1N1 has been released. The herd was placed under quarantine after 10 percent of the herd exhibited signs of H1N1, believed to have been passed to the animals from a worker who had returned from a trip to Mexico. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) also said it will no longer quarantine swine herds when the virus is detected. CFIA said its protocols follow the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health because H1N1 does not present a food safety risk.