



# Animal Industry News

Volume 6, Issue 1

February, 2005

## From the Secretary's Office By Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge Continuing the Fight for Funding to Safeguard Animal Health

We continue to work on getting our fair share of federal dollars to help safeguard animal health and welfare.

One of the ways in which we can keep our livestock safe and secure is to implement the National Animal Identification System (NAIS.)

Why do we need a National Animal Identification System (NAIS)?

With animal disease outbreaks continuing to increase all over the world, it is imperative that Iowa's five billion a year livestock industry be protected. This system will improve our capabilities to survey, control and eradicate animal disease, should it occur in Iowa. Quick trace backs on animals during an animal disease outbreak could mean the difference between an early eradication and a lengthy, costly one (costly both to our loss of livestock, and our economy.)

We applied to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for NAIS grant money, and were turned down, which was a shock since Iowa is one of most livestock-dense states in America. Much of that initial money (30 million) was given to the southwest states which do not have the livestock numbers that Iowa has. I contacted our federal counterparts and expressed my disappointment. After months of phone calls exchanged, the USDA announced that more money would be allocated and that Iowa would get one hundred and thirty thousand dollars (130,000.00.) to begin the process of premise identification. To date, we have not received the funding promised. Rest assured that we will continue to work diligently to secure the funding needed to put this important biosecurity protection system in place.

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## 2005 Exhibition Regulations

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the 2005 exhibition regulations. The exhibition regulations are virtually the same as last year. All of Iowa is Stage V for pseudorabies. Some county fairs may be electing to hold non-terminal exhibitions—swine returning home from these exhibitions are quarantined under isolation until tested negative for pseudorabies not less than 30 nor more than 60 days after reaching the destination (Iowa Code section 166D.13(2)). The department will be monitoring this quarantine and retesting.

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## DISEASE STATUS

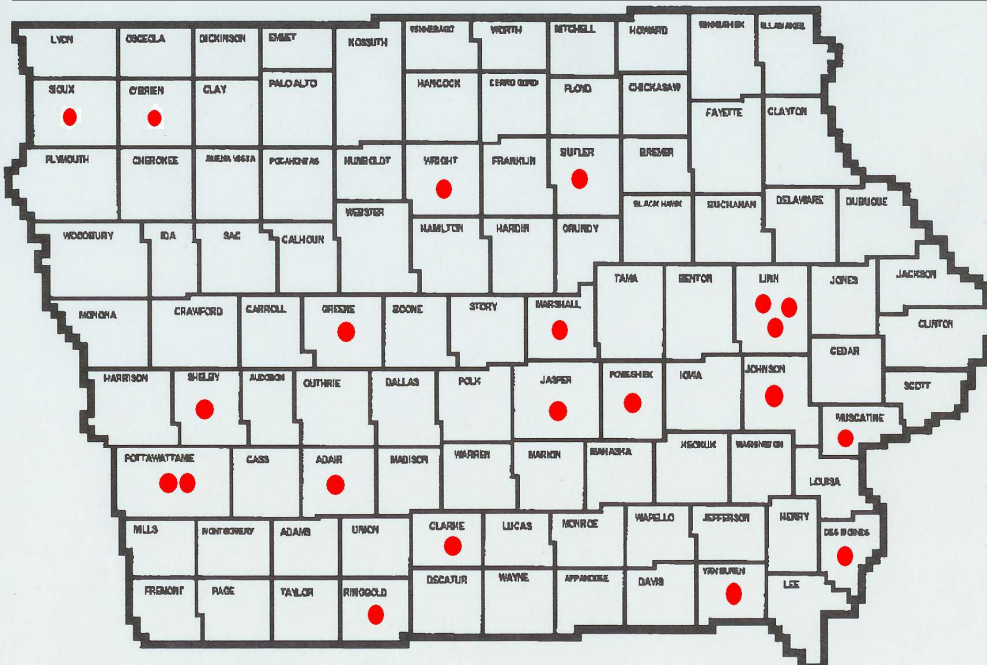
**Cattle Brucellosis:** Texas and Wyoming are Class A, rest of the country is Free.

**Swine Brucellosis:** Arkansas, Florida, and Texas are Stage 2, rest of the country is Free.

**Cattle Tuberculosis:** Michigan has split status: Modified Accredited and Modified Accredited Advanced. California, New Mexico, and Texas are Modified Accredited Advanced. The rest of the country is Free.

**Pseudorabies:** The entire country is Stage V.

## Iowa Scrapie Infected/Source Flocks



## Iowa Scrapie Program

Dr. Pamela L. Smith & Dr. Sharon K. Fairchild

Designated Scrapie Epidemiologists

The Scrapie Program, as we know it, began November, 2001. So far 21 infected flocks have been found in Iowa. Of those, five have been depopulated, and 16 have completed, or are currently completing a genetic flock plan. Depopulation is generally only an option with small flocks, where the owner wishes to discontinue raising sheep.

The genetic flock plan involves drawing blood on all breeding sheep in the flock. Then all "QQ" sheep, the genotype most susceptible to scrapie, may be purchased by USDA, and the animals are euthanized and sampled for the presence of prions. These sheep are generally incinerated or buried. Following the completion of cleaning and disinfecting the lambing and post-parturient areas, the flock is placed on a post exposure monitoring plan for five years. During this time animals exhibiting clinical signs will be sampled for scrapie. In some flocks all "found dead" may also be sampled. Since all QQ ewes have been removed from the flock, the remaining ewes are "QR" and "RR", which are generally resistant to scrapie. The use of "RR" rams is strongly encouraged, so as to prevent the production of "QQ" sheep, which makes a scrapie recurrence nearly impossible. The risk of scrapie transmission occurs only when susceptible (generally QQ) animals are exposed to the placenta and birth fluids of an infected ewe.

The following are a couple of actual case histories from the Iowa Scrapie Program:

### Flock #1

This flock is a commercial flock in NW Iowa. The flock consisted of 5 rams and 135 ewes which were primarily Polypay cross. 70% were white-faced sheep, and 30% were speckled or black-faced. Scrapie was diagnosed in the flock via a slaughter traceback; a ewe was tested and found positive at slaughter, and her official eartag identified her as originating from this flock. Her production tags had also been recorded, and the owner was able to say that she had been born in the flock, that she was a three year old, black-faced Suffolk-cross ewe, and that she had had three lambs, all of which had gone to slaughter.

All sexually intact sheep on the farm were tested for genetic scrapie susceptibility. One ram (Suffolk), 45 adult ewes, and 41 six month old replacement ewes tested as QQ at Codon 171. These were all removed from the flock. The lambs were marketed, and USDA paid the difference between market price and replacement ewe lamb price. The ewe and ram prices were calculated from the USDA scrapie indemnity calculator, which changes weekly and is generated based on current market prices. Today the price for a three year old commercial ewe is \$112, and a sire ram the same age is \$162 (prices for registered animals are \$200 more per head).

The adult depopulated animals were euthanized and sampled, and two more positive animals were found, both home-raised, white-faced poly-pay cross ewes, aged three years. This means that the overall prevalence was 2% in the flock. The producer completed the required cleaning and disinfecting of lambing and

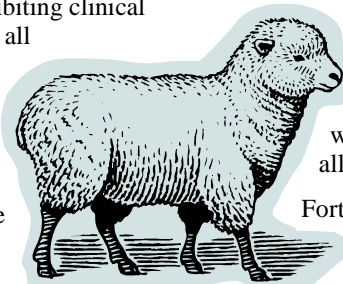
post-parturient areas, and began to use only RR rams, thereby reducing the risk of a scrapie recurrence to nearly zero by never

having another QQ animal on the farm.

A year following completing his flock plan, at his post exposure monitoring plan inspection, this producer was back to 100% production, doing well, and pleased with the outcome of the flock plan. He uses only RR rams, and has no QQ sheep on the premises.

### Flock #2

This flock is a club lamb flock in south-central Iowa, consisting of 120 ewes and 7 rams, primarily of the Suffolk breed. A positive ewe was found via slaughter testing, and she was a four year old, black-faced, home-raised animal, that had had three lambs in the flock. The owner never sold any ewe lambs, but did loan them for fair season showing, and did sell wether show lambs. This flock was contacted just prior to fair season, and all ewe lambs destined to be shown were bled for genetic testing, and QR and RR ewe lambs were allowed to be exhibited.



Forty-four QQ animals were removed, euthanized, and 26 of those were old enough to be tested. Seven tested positive for scrapie. That means the overall flock prevalence was 6%, but the prevalence among the adult genetically susceptible animals was a whopping 30%, and indeed clinical signs had been observed in this flock over the years, although the owner and the veterinarian had apparently not recognized the signs as scrapie. This flock is transitioning to the use of only RR rams, and will be observed closely while on its five year post exposure monitoring plan, since they may still be producing some QQ animals for some time.

### Conclusion

Our 21 infected flocks have been found by either: 1.) slaughter surveillance on adult animals, as in the two cases above; 2.) traces in or out of a flock (ie: trace-back: an infected animal is discovered on another farm and traced back to its flock of birth (this can result in two infected flocks if it lambed in the current flock!), or a trace-out: an animal was sold from an infected flock, and when found in the new flock it turns out that she tests positive for scrapie, and she lambed in the flock); 3.) testing of clinical suspect animals reported to IDALS or USDA (remember, scrapie is a reportable disease!). The prevalence in several of the flocks that we have "cleaned up" has been very low; no other positives found apart from the index animal. Other flocks, such as Flock #2 above, have had a significant number of positives (and not only club lamb flocks have had higher rates of infection; one commercial flock had an overall prevalence of 9%).

### Free Ram Testing Program

By continuing to discover and clean up infected flocks, *and by promoting the use of RR rams* we can continue to make progress toward eliminating scrapie in our Iowa flocks. We are very excited to announce that we have finally received funding approval from USDA for a program that will offer producers free genetic testing for up to ten rams per flock. Fliers will be distributed with details very soon. Talk to your state or federal district veterinarian for more information, and to refer flocks for testing!

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## Canine Brucellosis

In 2004 the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship had five cases of canine brucellosis reported.

Canine brucellosis is a contagious bacterial disease of canines. Natural infections occur most commonly after ingestion of contaminated placental materials or aborted fetuses, vaginal discharges from infected bitches that are in heat or who abort, and during breeding. Following an abortion, organisms may be shed for several weeks or, intermittently, for months following an abortion. Males also may shed organisms in the urine, but bacterial numbers are relatively low, except when urine is contaminated with seminal or prostatic fluids.

There are several tests employed to determine if a dog is infected with canine brucellosis. The Rapid Slide Agglutination Test (RSAT) is used as a rapid screening test. A negative slide test is strong evidence that the dog is not infected, but a positive slide agglutination test should not be considered infected until additional serological tests or bacterial culture are done. Supplemental tests include a RSAT that employs a mutant strain of *B. canis* that has high specificity (2-ME-RSAT); an agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGIDcpa), enzyme-linked immunosorption test (ELISA), an indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) and blood or tissue culture.

This disease has zoonotic potential. Humans are susceptible to *B. canis*, but infections are uncommon and they are usually mild. Symptoms are usually vague (prolonged febrile illness with lymph node enlargement). Most natural infections have been acquired through close contact with infected dogs. It is something to think about when handling infected dogs. Wearing gloves around any body fluids and being careful about contamination, in any way, is important for protecting yourself and dog owners. Immuno-compromised individuals, pregnant women, and children should not handle infected or suspect animals.

Brucellosis free kennels can be established and maintained as a closed kennel.

Purchased dogs should be isolated and tested twice at 30 day intervals. It may take 8 to 12 weeks for an exposed dog to seroconvert. Euthanasia is recommended for infected dogs in a commercial kennel.

*Since this disease is sexually transmitted, it is important for breeders to make sure all of the dogs in their kennel test negative for the canine brucellosis. If they are not, they should not be bred. The dog may show no clinical signs, but still transmit the bacteria in semen or vaginal fluid. Female dogs should be tested a few weeks before they come into heat and males should be tested twice a year. Any new animal brought into the kennel should be isolated until it tests negative twice. The second test should be done one month after the first one.*

Iowa Code Section 163.1 provides for quarantining animals affected with infectious or contagious diseases, or that have been exposed to such diseases, whether within or without the state. In addition, Chapter 163.2 includes brucellosis as an infectious and contagious disease.

## IDALS Licenses On-line

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) now has all of our licensees posted on the internet. This includes all of our Animal Welfare licensees (Commercial Breeders, Boarding Kennels, Commercial Kennels, Pet Shops, Animal Shelters, Pounds, Dealers, USDA Animal Care registered facilities, etc.), Livestock Dealers, Pig Dealers, Sheep Dealers, Hatchery/Chick Dealer, Poultry Buyers, Bull Breeders and Livestock Markets.

Licensee information may be found by accessing <http://www.kellysolutions.com/> and selecting Iowa in the State Data Search column. After selecting the appropriate license type, you may search by license name, license number, or city, county or zip code. The search will provide the Animal Industry Bureau license number, licensing name, contact, city, state, zip code, county, and license expiration date.

A search of this website is helpful in locating licensees who are located in your

county, city or zip code. This site also provides license information for the milk plant licensees, grain dealers and warehouses, meat and poultry licensees, pesticide dealers and applicators, and weights and measures licensees.

## Dog Day Care

There has been a growing interest in Iowa for dog owners to take their pet to a dog day care facility while they are at work. The dog day care concept is for dogs to be able to interact with both dogs and people and be placed in a playgroup that is best suited to the temperament and personality of the owner's dog.

Department officials met with a group of individuals pursuing dog day care operations in the state of Iowa and developed administrative rules in 2004 for the requirements of these facilities. Dog Day Care facilities are licensed per Iowa Code of Law Chapter 162 with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as either a commercial kennel or boarding kennel. The new dog day care administrative rules were added to Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) of Rules Chapter 21 - 67 (Animal Welfare) which are the requirements for all animal welfare facilities required to be licensed by Iowa Code of Law Chapter 162 (Care of Animals in Commercial Establishments). The new rules may be found in IAC Chapter 67.11(162).

All dogs at dog day care facilities must be subjected to a pre-entry screen to adequately evaluate the temperament of the dog, the dog's ability to interact with other dogs in a positive manner, and the dog's ability to interact with humans in a positive manner. Puppies must be at least eight weeks of age and all dogs over six months of age must be spayed or neutered. In addition, feeding dogs or giving snacks is prohibited in the playgroups, a playgroup may not have more than 15 dogs, and there must be a minimum of one staff member continually present and supervising each playgroup. Finally, all dog day care facilities must also meet all of the requirements of boarding kennels and commercial kennels and be inspected and approved before operation.



## Iowa Brucellosis Report

Currently, the states of Texas and Wyoming are the only states classified as Brucellosis Class A states. Wyoming's Brucellosis Free state status was reduced to Class A officially on February 13, 2004, after a second cattle herd was found to be infected. A total of four Wyoming herds have been reported to be infected with brucellosis since December of 2003.

Missouri received Brucellosis Free status February 26, 2004. However, one infected herd was discovered in May 2004. Missouri no longer requires brucellosis testing on test eligible bovine for farm to farm movement, but testing still continues and will continue for the next two years testing at their auction markets. All test eligible cattle from Missouri sold at Iowa auction markets are required to brucellosis tested before release.

Surveillance continues on slaughter cows and bulls and milk testing. In 2004 the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship investigated and blood tested 11 herds as a result of tracebacks. The advent of Brucella RB51 vaccine has reduced the number traces that occurred in the past when Brucella Strain 19 vaccine was used. In 2004, 159,061 calves were vaccinated for brucellosis in Iowa.

## Equine Infectious Anemia

In calendar year 2004, there were three horses testing positive for Equine Infectious Anemia in Iowa (EIA) on two premises. In 2002 there were two horses diagnosed with EIA in Iowa and three horses in 2003.

**Iowa requires all imported horses over six months of age be tested negative for EIA within the past twelve months.** The name of the testing laboratory, accession number, and the date of test must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for test eligible horses imported into Iowa.

## Electronic Health Certificates

Electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) originated through work done by Global Vet Link, Ames, Iowa, and the state of Florida. The program was piloted to Florida veterinarians as an alternative to the paper CVI for the movement of animals. In an agreement with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services the Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) web-based database was created and the program of electronic CVI's was expanded for use by veterinarians in the states of California, Colorado, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Iowa has received electronic CVI's from the states of California, Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Wisconsin for the movement of birds, horses, cattle and swine. Once a veterinarian has completed the electronic CVI, the state veterinarian is able to access the document on the GlobalVetLink or ICVI secure website by entering a unique password and login code.

In 2004, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship approved the use of GlobalVetLink's eEIA (Equine Infectious Anemia) laboratory reporting of test results and companion animal certificates of veterinary inspection.

## BSE Update

The national surveillance effort for BSE is continuing. Since June 1, 2004 and through March 4, 2005, there have been **7,241** samples collected and tested from Iowa cattle. All results have been negative. There have actually been almost 15,000 samples collected and submitted for testing in Iowa—almost 8,000 of those samples are from animals originating outside Iowa. Nationally, over 275,000 samples have been collected and tested negative since June 1st. Even though the original national goal was between 201,000 and 270,000 submissions, the testing scheme will continue for an indeterminate amount of time. Iowa has already met the original state goal of this national effort.

Your assistance is still needed. Practitioners are still encouraged to submit animals for testing from the farm. The USDA will pay the submitting veterinarian \$100 for collection, preparation, and submission of the sample (fresh samples go to Colorado, formalin samples go to NVSL). Contact Tim Solinger at 515-284-4140 if you have an animal eligible for testing. The case definition for participation in this program:

- 2 year old or older Iowa bovine that is:
  - non-ambulatory, or
  - exhibiting central nervous system clinical signs, or
  - chronic weight loss without diarrhea, or
  - recent deaths with history of above

IDALS will provide \$80 to the producer to offset disposal costs for an animal which is tested. We will need copies of the test submission form and the producer has to submit a form. Please contact Diana at 515-281-6358 for assistance and coordination of payment.

## Agroville training prepares Iowans for animal disease response

Over 400 people from local and state agencies took part in six Agroville training sessions during January and February. If a highly contagious foreign animal disease is ever found in our state, Agroville participants will be keenly aware of the issues facing producers, local responders, and the resulting impact on the agricultural economy.

Agroville presenter Dr. Patrick Webb of Ames received his foreign animal disease training at the National Animal Disease Laboratory at Plum Island, New York. He is also a veteran of the Newcastle's poultry disease outbreak in California several years ago. Dr. Webb candidly laid out the scenario if a livestock disease were to strike in Iowa.

The training was sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Department of Natural

## Emergency Disease Preparedness

### Mark Shearer

Resources. Participants included representatives from law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, public health, veterinarians, county extension, DNR, industry representatives and producers.

A tabletop exercise was set up to walk the various disciplines through a response scenario. As a followup, the group then assembled by counties so the disciplines could communicate as if working together in an incident command.

Mark Shearer, IDALS administrator for the Iowa Veterinary Emergency Response Services, is hopeful that funding can be found to sponsor another round of Agroville sessions in 2006. Shearer feels the publicity from this year's training will increase the participation of producers.

Agroville training was held in Atlantic, Alta, Mason City, Peosta,

Mt. Pleasant and Ames.

## Veterinarians sign up for rapid response team

If a foreign animal disease strikes Iowa, vast resources from local and state agencies will be needed to control the incident. A key group involved in disease eradication will be veterinarians.

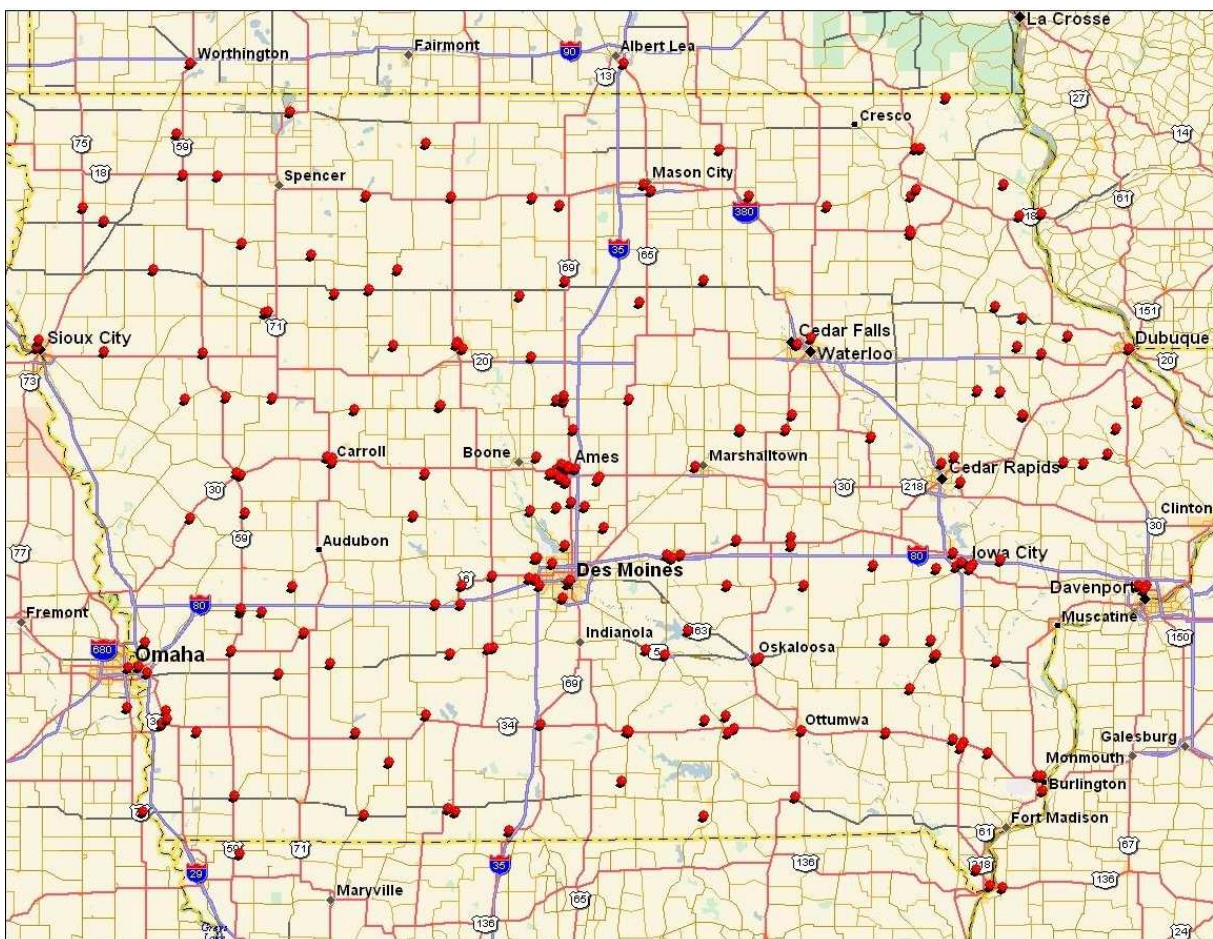
To date, over 230 local, state and federal veterinarians have signed up for the Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Team (IVRR). Members will receive specialized training in disease management, incident command, and depopulation strategies at seminars sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture, Homeland Security, and Iowa State University's Center for Food Security and Public Health.

Veterinarians will assist State Veterinarian Dr. John Schiltz and the district veterinarians at incident locations. They will help trace the movement of live-

stock, assist law enforcement, communicate with local response agencies, and direct depopulation efforts.

Introductory training will be held in early June, 2005. Veterinarians will receive specific foreign animal disease training and complete an incident exercise in August and September.

The map at left shows the location and distribution of veterinarians who have expressed interest in being part of the rapid veterinary response

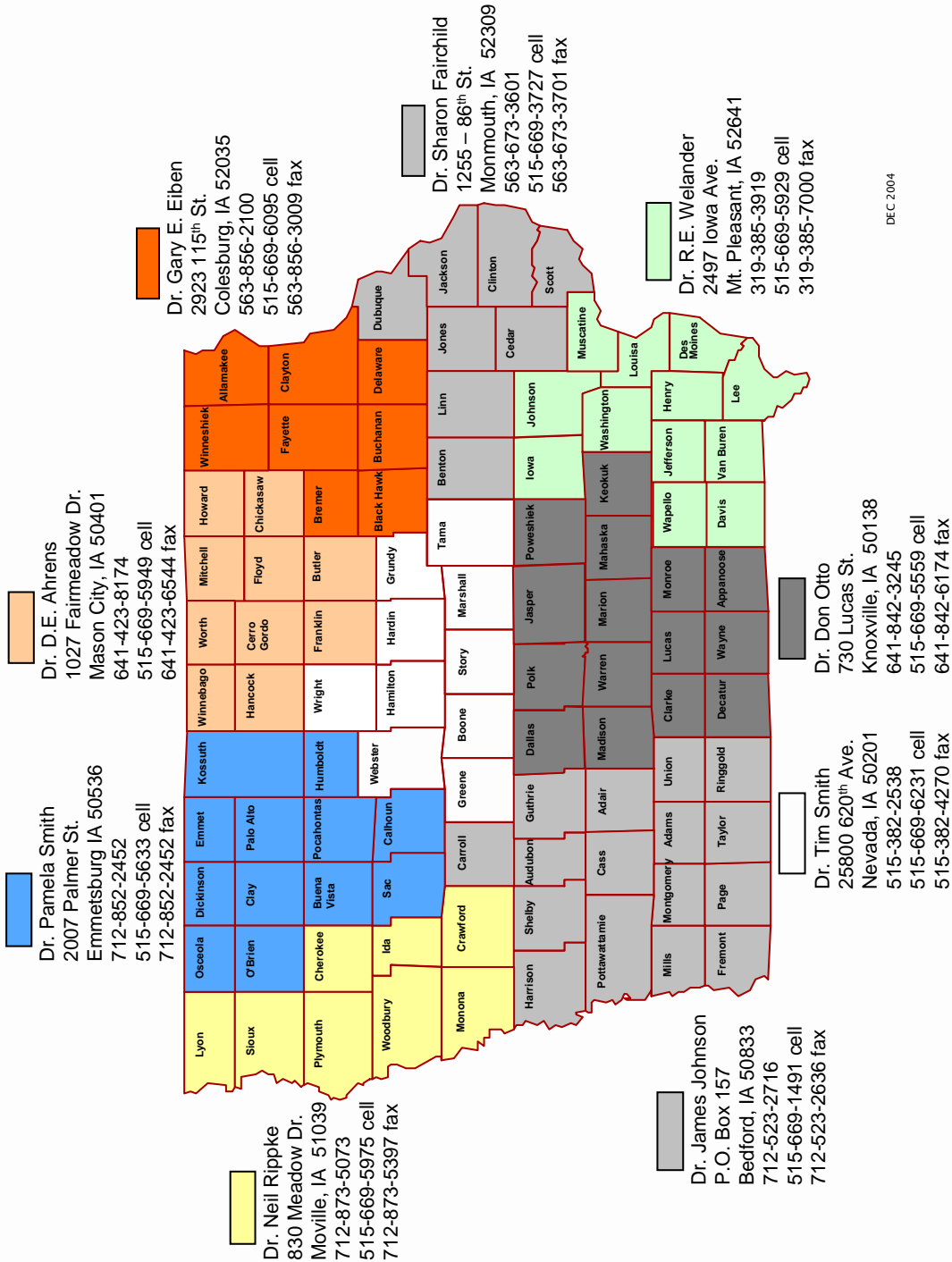




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## Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Scrapie, Pseudorabies



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## Tuberculosis Update

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that is close to being eradicated in the United States, but still poses a significant risk to domestic livestock, wildlife, companion animals and humans throughout the world.

Currently, the states of California, New Mexico and Texas are classified as TB Modified Accredited Advanced states. In 2004, Michigan was granted a TB split state status level of Modified Accredited Advanced for a majority of counties and Modified Accredited status for eleven counties and portions of two counties in an area of the state that has been the epicenter of their tuberculosis cases. Iowa is a Bovine TB Accredited-free state and has maintained this status since May 8, 1986.

In calendar year 2004 there was a steer from an Iowa feedyard slaughtered at a processing plant that had TB compatible lesions. Tissue specimens submitted to National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the animal positive for *Mycobacterium bovis*. The epidemiologic investigation found this animal was one of a group of cattle originating from New Mexico.

USDA has published new Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) that became effective January 1, 2005. As previous Bovine TB UM&R's, they were established for the maintenance of tuberculosis-free accredited herds of cattle and bison and the maintenance of State or zone status in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) tuberculosis eradication program.

Accredited-free States or zones have a herd prevalence of zero for bovine tuberculosis in cattle and bison. If two or more epidemiologically unrelated bovine tuberculosis-affected herds are detected and depopulated in an Accredited-free State or zone within a 24-month period, that State or zone will be administratively designated by USDA as provisionally Accredited-free. The USDA APHIS Administrator will immediately review the tuberculosis status of a provisionally Accredited-free State or zone and determine if the State or zone will be reclassified as Modi-

fied Accredited Advanced.

Some of the changes to the new Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication UM&R include:

- Semen for artificial insemination in Accredited herds must be from sires in Accredited herds or from sires with a negative result on an official test for tuberculosis performed within 12 months prior to the date of the semen collection.
- Any dealer who purchases, deals in, or sells cattle or bison; or who acts as a commission representative or broker; or who operates and conducts an auction in which cattle or bison are sold, must be registered or licensed with the appropriate State agency and maintain the records required to facilitate the traceback of affected, exposed, suspect, or reactor animals by State animal health officials to the herd of origin or other point of original infection.
- Performance Standards For Caudal Fold Testing (CFT) - Each individual authorized to conduct official CFT tests shall be in compliance with standards for CFT testing. The response rates of each individual authorized to conduct official CFT tests shall be calculated for the number of cattle or bison tested for each 1-year period. *Except that:* In the case of authorized individuals who test 300 or less cattle and bison in 1 year, the minimum response rates for the maximum number of CFT tests conducted shall be calculated on a cumulative basis from year to year.

Routine tuberculosis testing by accredited veterinarians will have one to two percent responders. These responders are to be reported to the department for follow-up Comparative Cervical Testing by a district veterinarian within ten days of the initial testing.

The program target for nationwide eradication was in 2003. However in that year, 10 infected herds were discovered in Texas, California, and Michigan. Last year, 6 more infected herds were detected, two of which were in New Mexico. Given the frequency of interstate cattle shipments, Accredited Free states cannot

afford to be complacent.

Therefore all states are now being held to demonstrate that their surveillance complies with a minimum standard. Two areas of surveillance have been sufficiently inconsistent nationwide to merit special attention. These include rate of granuloma submissions from slaughter plants and rates of responders reported from caudal fold testing.

The minimum standard for reporting of caudal fold test responders is 1% of tests. It has been shown repeatedly, despite region, age, season, breed, etc, that properly-administered caudal fold tests consistently return responder rates greater than 1%. The range over time has been as low as 1% extending to 4% and higher. Large-herd testing in Iowa by regulatory veterinarians last year returned a 1.75% responder rate. Responders typically respond as a false positive because of cross reactivity with *Mycobacterium avium* spp *paratuberculosis* (Johne's), to *M. avium*, or to other soil-related *Mycobacterium* spp. Hundreds of animals tested with no report of a caudal fold test response raises a question about whether the test was administered and read properly.

Properly administered tests include the following:

- Tuberculin must be stored in the refrigerator, must not be expired, and must not be kept in a nearly empty vial.
- Tuberculin cannot be exposed to heat, sunlight, or contamination.
- Injection must be 0.1 mL intradermal NOT subcutaneous (there should be a discernible bleb in the skin). SubQ injections are not appropriate.
- Palpation of the response is critical and required.
- There is no minimum size of response. You should report ANY response. Old criteria of limiting reporting to greater than "pea-sized" responses are not to be used.

Responders need to receive follow-up comparative cervical testing by an official veterinarian in less than 10 days from date of injection of the caudal fold test, so prompt reporting is important. Report caudal fold test responses to any state district or federal veterinarian, or to the State or Federal Office. If you have questions, please call 515-284-4140.

## eCVI from GlobalVetLink

New Online Health Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for Iowa are now available from GlobalVetLink.

The paper Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) process has been in use for decades, and hasn't changed much since its inception - until now. This is your invitation to take advantage of the biggest opportunity to hit the health certificate system in over 50 years. Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century in animal health regulatory management!

The Iowa Department of Agriculture has approved the GlobalVetLink (GVL) eHealth Certificate system. Online health certificates have been successfully implemented in a growing number of states. More than 55 million animals have moved to 48 states and three US territories via GlobalVetLink's online health certificates system developed in Ames, Iowa.

GlobalVetLink brings you online point-and-click Internet applications to create certificates of veterinary inspection (also known as health certificates) for Large / Small Animals and for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing / documentation with diagnostic lab connectivity. You will be able to include digital images for all species.

With this online system, authorized users may create certificates of veterinary inspection, online, any time you need them. No longer will you need to call during business hours to order certificates, wait for multi-part forms to arrive, worry, or incur the expense of mailing copies to State offices.

The web based system is secure and requires each practitioner with a USDA / APHIS Federal accreditation license to sign up for a secure User ID / Password.

All transactions created in your practice will be available to you real time, and are automatically sent to the appropriate animal health officials i.e., no more mailing in multi directions.

With GlobalVetLink eHealth Certificates for Animal Health Regulatory Management you will:

- Simplify your life and save administrative time, labor, and \$\$
- More cost effective than the current paper system
- Provide clients with clean professional forms with optional Digital Images
- Access a web-based animal health regulatory management system 24/7
- Access certificates from any computer with an Internet connection
- View regulations for all 50 states Online and other valuable links
- Documents auto submitted to the appropriate animal health authorities
- Run real-time, secured reports and historical data queries
- No software to load, no forms to inventory, reorder, stamp, separate, and shuffle

Join the new era of online health certificates! Discover the advantages of this streamlined system over the paper process. Contact GlobalVetLink, L.C. for more information:

[www.globalvetlink.com](http://www.globalvetlink.com)

515.296.0861 - Sales / Marketing

## Feral Swine

During the last year, reports of feral swine in Iowa have increased. The DNR and IDALS have been monitoring these reports and meeting to develop a plan to deal with feral swine. The reports have been substantiated in extreme SE and SW Iowa. A concerted effort by both departments has resulted in the testing of a number of these animals for brucellosis and pseudorabies. To date, test results from animals taken in Henry, Louisa, and Fremont counties have all been negative.

Neither the DNR nor IDALS want to see feral swine get established in Iowa. The reasons are fairly obvious: disease concerns which may impact our commercial swine industry, significant environmental damage and crop destruction/loss. There are no prohibitions on shooting feral swine.

**We do want to collect samples from any feral swine which are trapped or shot. We are testing the blood or meat samples for PRV and brucellosis. Please contact your state district veterinarian if you are aware of feral swine that may be sampled.**

The DNR and IDALS field staff are working cooperatively to identify feral swine problem areas and develop plans to eliminate the problem. We will need your assistance and the assistance of producers. We just achieved Stage V PRV status and are Brucellosis Free. Feral swine pose a threat to the hard work which has been done.

Iowa does not allow the importation of feral swine.

## *Chronic Wasting Disease*

*Karen Gideon, Farm Deer Program Coordinator*

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a chronic, progressive neurological disease of deer and elk that produces small lesions in brains of infected animals. It is characterized by loss of body condition, behavioral abnormalities and death. CWD is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), and is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep. Since 1997, CWD has been identified in captive deer and elk herds in Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada.

There are 147 premises currently enrolled in Iowa's CWD Program. Of these 147 premises, 79 herds are whitetail deer, 54 herds are elk, and 14 are mixed deer or deer/elk species. These herds have a total of 5,226 animals that are enrolled in the program, broken down into 2,768 elk, 2,369 whitetail, 33 fallow deer, 29 mule deer, 9 reindeer, and 7 sika deer.

The Governor, in 2003, signed legislation which included whitetail and other deer in the definition of farm deer. The department filed rules implementing this legislation, utilizing fees to cover the 4-5 fold increase in herds (no funding was appropriated).

The Iowa Attorney General's Office issued an opinion questioning the statutory authority of the department to adopt rules imposing a fee schedule upon farm deer producers. As a result, IDALS ceased the collection of the fees and refunded fees that had been collected.

The department was left with no other choice but to discontinue the CWD Farmed Deer Program. Emergency rules were filed to rescind the regulatory programs.

On August 17, 2004, the department was successful in getting one-time federal funding which permitted the reinstatement of the CWD Monitoring Program for one year, ending on August 17, 2005. The department only reinstated the CWD monitoring and surveillance program.

### Iowa's CWD Voluntary Program

requires annual inventory reconciliation recorded by a State District Veterinarian within 90 days of the CWD anniversary date. Inventory requirements are:

1. Records shall be kept to document the

- history/accountability of all animals in the herd. This includes identification, date of birth and sex of all animals born or received on the premise.
2. All animals must have two forms of official identification which are outlined in the Rules under 64.104 Definitions "Official Cervid Identification".
3. A copy of a health certificate properly filled out and signed by an accredited veterinarian shall be kept to document movement in or out of the herd.
4. Surveillance will be maintained by collecting and submitting appropriate samples from all cases of mortality, including slaughter, in animals 16 months of age and older.

The CWD Program herd producers with a current status have all received, or will receive, a billfold size certificate card with their herd's status, anniversary date, and expiration date.

### CWD Testing

The State Veterinarian's office has received new information from NVSL on the sampling for CWD. Originally, they requested submission of obex for testing and have learned that the medial retropharyngeal node is very important as well, so now the recommendation is submission of both tissues on all captive cervids (both deer and elk). For additional information or a Retropharyngeal Lymph Node Collection Procedure sheet contact this office at **515/242-5950**. The VS-10-4 form required for laboratory submissions must be completely filled out, mailed with the specimen submission, and a copy faxed to this office at **515/281-4282**.

### Intrastate Movement Requirements

**66.14(1)** All intrastate movements of Cervidae other than to a state or federally inspected slaughter establishment shall be accompanied by an intrastate movement certificate of veterinary inspection signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. Movement of CWD susceptible Cervidae, other than direct movement to slaughter, shall only be allowed from herds that have been enrolled in the Iowa CWD monitoring program and have successfully completed at least one year. As used in this subrule, "been enrolled" means that the herd owner has received from the department written notification of the herd's enrollment and participation in the program.

**66.14(2)** Such intrastate movement

certificate shall include all of the following:

- a. Consignor's name and address.
- b. Consignee's name and address.
- c. Individual, official identification of each animal.
- d. For CWD susceptible Cervidae, the certificate shall include the CWD herd premises number, the herd status level, the anniversary date, and the expiration date. The following statement must be included on the certificate:  
"There has been no diagnosis, sign, or epidemiological evidence of chronic wasting disease in this herd for the past year."
- e. For Cervidae other than CWD susceptible Cervidae, the following statement must be included on the certificate:  
"The animal(s) has not spent any time within the past 36 months in a zoo, animal menagerie, or like facility, or has not been on the same premises as a cervid herd which has been classified as a CWD infected herd, exposed herd, or trace herd."

### Import Requirements

CWD susceptible Cervidae shall only be allowed into Iowa from herds which have satisfactorily completed at least three years in an official recognized CWD monitoring program. However, Cervidae originating from an area considered to be endemic to chronic wasting disease shall not be allowed entry into Iowa. Cervidae that originate from a herd that has had animal introductions from an area endemic to chronic wasting disease during the preceding five years shall not be allowed entry into Iowa.

A permit number requested by the licensed, accredited veterinarian signing the certificate and issued by the state veterinarian prior to movement. For further import requirements, refer to CWD Rule **21—65.12(163)** posted on IDALS website.

All **cervidae leaving Iowa** must meet the state of destinations' entry requirements prior to movement.

The Chronic Wasting Disease rules can be accessed at the departmental web site.

If you have additional questions, contact Karen Gideon, Farm Deer Program Coordinator at 515/242-5950.



## Johne's

The Iowa Johne's program continues to make small but measured progress. All of the State District Veterinarians have successfully completed fairly rigorous training on developing Johne's risk assessments and herd management plans for dairy and beef herds. Currently, 27 dairy and 3 beef herds have been enrolled in the management phase of the program. Additional herds are in the process of being enrolled.

A couple of changes are imminent. Herds wishing to use Johne's vaccine will be required to conduct a whole herd tuberculosis test prior to gaining approval for vaccination (this is a requirement that the USDA is being insistent on), and herds wishing to vaccinate must have a risk assessment and herd management plan conducted. Both of these must occur before vaccination begins.

Currently, we are soliciting your ideas for generating interest and participation in the program. Do you think offering the producer 30 ELISA (with fecal culture of positives) samples would increase participation? Do you think offering the herd veterinarian a nominal fee to participate in the risk assessment and herd management plan development would generate increased participation? While I am not optimistic about USDA allocating much in the way of additional funding (the system rewards states with large programs, usually the result of state funding early on, and penalizes states trying to get something started), the need still exists to explore all options for moving the program forward and helping Iowa producers.

Contact your state district veterinarian (see map on page 6) and they would be happy to work with you and your producer to conduct a risk assessment and herd management plan for Johne's. While this is part of the Johne's program, it highlights biosecurity, aids in other disease concerns that may be present on the farm, and will improve herd health. It also allows us to market sound herd health management practices as part of the services we provide to clients.

Reminder: All cattle which are positive to an organism-based diagnostic test (PCR, culture) are required to be C-punched and can only move to slaughter. If you get one of these in your practice, contact your state district veterinarian to assist with identifying the animal. If you are conducting the testing prior to the animal leaving the herd, help make certain that the cow gets to slaughter—the owner can tell the auction market that the animal can only be sold to slaughter. Let's help keep someone else from inadvertently buying a problem.

## Animal/Premises ID

Iowa continues to be unsuccessful in obtaining any of the federal monies available for implementing a premises identification system in Iowa, the first step in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Proposals were submitted for both rounds of federal funding and neither proposal was funded. We will continue to work with our federal legislators and the USDA to get this important program initiated in Iowa.

Obviously, the first step will be to register premises, both producer and non-producer premises. Registration is still voluntary at this point. The next step will be to assign officially identified animals to those premises. Finally, the movement of animals will be incorporated. It is an immense undertaking, and a long ways from being fully implemented and operational. It is critical that we are successful in this endeavor.

The USDA has announced that the roll-out of official individual animal identification will be this summer (tentatively July, '05). This animal identification will be RFID tags with "840" coded into the first three digits of the 15 digit individual number—840 is the official code to identify the animal as USA origin. My advice to producers wishing to tag their calves is to wait for the official tags if possible. Thus far, the tags appear to be part of the plan for identification of cattle.

If we are successful in securing some federal funding, it will be insufficient to

accomplish much more than implementing a system, testing the functionality of the system, collaborating with our industry partners on possible options for expansion, and developing necessary forms, notifications, and procedures. Our ability to undertake any of these efforts without any funding is limited at best—it isn't going to happen.

We will use our burst e-mail (IRVIN), the IVMA, and the affected industries to keep you apprised of current happenings.

Premises and animal identification and tracking is long overdue. Veterinarians will be an important part in this process. It will be necessary to proceed deliberatively and thoughtfully.

## Administrative Rules

By the time you are reading this, the department will hopefully have filed rules intended to update, organize, and consolidate animal importation requirements for Iowa. Substantive changes in these rules includes:

- Recognizing movement of swine within a production system moving interstate. This is allowed interstate by the USDA and will bring our regulations in line with federal requirements.
- Eliminating the prior permit requirement for all feeder swine and feeder heifers. Permits are restricted to cervidae, and for livestock and poultry originating in states with less than a disease free status for selected diseases.
- Providing regulations for animals entering from states which have had a diagnosis of Avian Influenza (H5 and H7), Exotic Newcastle Disease, and Vesicular Stomatitis. These situations were previously handled through Executive Orders.
- Providing a regulation prohibiting the importation of feral swine and select African rodents and prairie dogs.
- Recognize electronic certificates of veterinary inspection and animal identification approved by the National Animal Identification System

The department will also be drafting changes to our reportable disease rules in the near future. The primary objective will be to eliminate currently endemic diseases from the list of reportable diseases.



Iowa Veterinarians—**REMEMBER**—2005 is a license  
renewal year!

**In This Issue...**

2005 Exhibition Regulations, CWD Update, Rabies summary, feral swine, Johne's, BSE, and more.

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