Greetings and thank you for all your hard work to make 2010 another great year at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. I appreciate all the hard work each of you put in to help protect animal health in our state and allow our critically important livestock industry to continue to grow.

Iowa agriculture continues to be a national leader. We are second in the nation in total sales of agriculture with more than $20 billion annually and lead the nation in the production in corn, soybeans, pork and eggs.

And, animal agriculture is a big part of that economic success, contributing $10 billion in sales annually. What you do is a vital part in allowing that to continue.

We have also successfully started the implementation the new legislation that allows us to inspect federally licensed breeders on a complaint basis. The smooth transition we have experienced to this point would not have been possible without your hard work and flexibility.

The budget continues to be a challenge, but we understand food safety and consumer protection must remain a priority, and the work of our Animal Industry Bureau is a central part of that.

Also, I will again be visiting each of Iowa’s 99 counties during the year and hope you will stop by when I’m in your area if it works with your schedule. You can follow where I’m going to be on the Department’s website at www.iowaagriculture.gov.

Thanks again for all you do and I look forward to continuing to work with you to promote animal health across the state.
Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine

Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine
Board Members: Dean Upton, D.V.M., Chair; Rexanne Struve, D.V.M., Rick Cooper, D.V.M.; Anne Duffy, RVT, Tom Colvin.

Licensure Renewal
Iowa Veterinary licenses will expire June 30, 2011. Renewal notices and continuing education record forms will be mailed to licensees with an expiration date of June 30, 2011. Please return the renewal notice with any corrections noted on the form, the continuing education record form completed and the licensing fee. Please note there is no grace period for renewal. The renewal must be post marked by June 30, 2011 to avoid a lapsed license. If the license lapses there is a $100 penalty fee and a $100 reactivation fee along with the licensing fee.

Current Address
Please keep the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine informed of your current mailing address.

Examinations Dates
North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE). Registration for the examination is on-line with the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (www.nbvmex.org).

Veterinary Technician State Examination is given once per year. Additional information will be forwarded to the veterinary technician programs in Iowa of the registration and examination date.

Veterinary Technician National Examination will be given on March 1-31, 2011 and July 15 – August 15, 2011. Registration is on-line through the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (www.aavsb.org).

Administrative Rules
The Board Members continue work on Administrative Rules 811, Chapter 8 Auxiliary Personnel and Chapter 12 Standards of Practice.

Disciplinary Action Taken by a Licensing Authority of another State, Territory, or Country
Please notify the Board office within 30 days of the final action of disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority in another state, territory, or country. Listed below for your reference and information is the specific code and rule.

Iowa Code of Law Chapter 169.13(4) states having the person’s license to practice veterinary medicine revoked or suspended, or having other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority of another state, territory, or country. A certified copy of the record or order of suspension, revocation, or disciplinary action is conclusive or prima facie evidence.

The Iowa Administrative Rules Chapter 811, 10.6(1) “failure to report a license, certificate, permit, or other credential revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action taken by a licensing or regulating authority of another state, territory or country within 30 days of the final action by such licensing or regulating authority. A stay by an appellate court shall not negate this requirement; however, if such disciplinary action is overturned or reversed by a court of last resort, such report shall be expunged from the records of the Board.”
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<td>CANADA</td>
<td>Dr. Brian Evans (director)</td>
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GOOSE & WELCOME:
Dr. Pam Smith, the IDALS half of the scrapie eradication program in Iowa has left IDALS to join USDA Animal Care in California. This gets her back to her home state and she sends warm greetings from warm California! IDALS will however, be well represented by Dr. Greg Schmitt, who just joined IDALS and he has an interest in small ruminants and will now be the co-Designated Scrapie Epidemiologist in Iowa. He resides in the NW part of the state and can be contacted at: 515-669-5633.

NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM (NAHMS) SHEEP STUDY 2011
Iowa sheep producers have already been randomly contacted by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) and been asked to participate in this year’s NAHMS Sheep study. IDALS and USDA Veterinary Services will be following up, starting in early M arch, with producers who indicated they might be interested in a follow up after the NASS visit. Please encourage any producers who ask you if they should participate, to do so. Participation is free, voluntary, and confidential. It will take about 1 hour of the producer’s time to answer the questionnaire and for this they will get a summary that they can use to compare their operation to others and also they can then participate in the biologics sampling where they can get results for fecal egg count and percentage of egg types for intestinal parasites, find if their weaned lambs have positive serology to Toxoplasma gondii, find if the ewes have positive serology to Q-fever & Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae, and find if those lesions they see on the sheep are ORF. In an effort to improve the ONE HEALTH concept, CDC is also hoping to be able to obtain some human blood samples to examine for positive serology to Q-fever.

SCRAPIE UPDATE
The United States and Iowa are making great progress in their efforts to eradicate classical scrapie. Hard work by producers, markets, dealers, slaughter plants, veterinarians, IDALS, and USDA have all contributed to the large decrease in scrapie. Iowa has had 77 total flocks found to have scrapie infected animals in them from the start of the program. Flocks with positive sheep have been found throughout the state. Iowa had the most new scrapie infected flocks found in FY 05 with 15 flocks found and the number found each year since then has decreased with 3 new scrapie infected flocks found in FY 10, and no new ones found in FY 11 to date. The nation has experienced a similar reduction in new scrapie infected flocks found each year and only 24 new flocks were found nationally in FY 10. The majority of these flocks were found by slaughter surveillance and this surveillance will continue until we have been able to demonstrate freedom from scrapie nationally. Thus, producers need to continue to apply free official scrapie ear tags which can be ordered by calling 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824). Please also continue to encourage producers to “scrapie proof” their flocks and use only RR rams to produce replacements and if they have to purchase females, make sure they purchase ewes which are QR or RR and be sure to remind them that ideally they will have an “OFFICIAL” genotype result for these.

FREE GENOTYPE TESTS FOR RAMS:
IDALS has some money to provide FREE genotyping of rams until M arch 31, 2010. This is a chance to see if a ram is RR, or if your client produces rams, a chance for them to find the OFFICIAL genotype of their rams. To have ram(s) tested, contact Jean Saner at 515-281-5305. Very short time to get this done and first come, first serve. Money is limited.

Looking for a RR ram? IDALS maintains a list of producers of RR rams at: http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/ and then search rams

GOATS AND SCRAPIE
Although there appears to be little scrapie in goats in the US with 21 cases of classical scrapie in goats being recorded between FY 02 and FY 10, there is scrapie in goats and thus, there will have to be enough surveillance in goats to demonstrate to the OIE that we have eradicated scrapie in goats as well as sheep. As a start in this direction, in FY 11, 3000 goats will be sampled at slaughter for scrapie. These goats will have traceable ID and come from the “epicenter” of goat scrapie. Long range plans are to increase surveillance in goats and require goats to have the same ID requirements as sheep.

CAUTIONARY NOTE FOR YOUR GOAT CLIENTS: All goats are considered to be susceptible to scrapie (no genetic resistance). Thus, if a goat producer decides to also have sheep, and if any of those sheep are either found positive for scrapie or were purchased from a flock found positive for scrapie, the goat producer stands to lose many if not all of his/her goats. The best way to prevent this potential problem is to either not have sheep on a goat premise or ensure any sheep purchased have an OFFICIAL genotype of QR or RR. Please contact your IDALS or VS district veterinarian to discuss what makes a genotype test OFFICIAL.

ONE HEALTH: Small ruminants, especially goats, are increasing in Iowa. IDALS reported 211 dairy goat farms in Iowa in 2009. Most any goat owners like to drink raw milk from their herd. If you do work for them, this might be an opportunity to discuss zoonotic disease as part of your herd health program.

CACHE VALLEY VIRUS: I recently heard a talk given by Dr. Cindy Wolf from the University of Minnesota where she discussed sheep producers experiencing stillbirths, poorer conception rates, and deformed and weak lambs in their flocks. After the talk, we discussed with one Iowa sheep producer who suspects this virus as a cause of reproductive problems in his flock. You might wish to keep this in mind as a differential diagnosis if contacted by sheep producers with any of the above signs in their flock.

QUESTIONS: Contact the Iowa Scrapie Program coordinators: Dr. Greg Schmitt with IDALS at 515-669-5633 or Dr. Sharon Fairchild with USDA at 515-669-3727
**Animal Industry Staff Updates**

**Retirees:**
- Karen Gideon – Chronic Wasting Disease Program Coordinator
- Janet Bowers – Import Clerk
- Bob Peterson – Supply Clerk
- Dr. Jim Johnson – District Veterinarian

**Moving on:**
- Dr. Pam Smith – Has taken a job with the USDA in California. Dr. Smith was a District Veterinarian in northwest Iowa.

**Losses:**
- Gary Allen – Started with the State of Iowa in August 1974 as a Compliance Investigator and has worked with the Iowa Board of Veterinarians and Animal Welfare. Gary passed away Saturday, February 26, 2011.

**New Staff:**
- Lisa Potter – Clerk Specialist
- Alissa Caltrider – Livestock Inspector
- Dr. Greg Schmitt – District Veterinarian

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**Premise Identification**

Protect Your Premises, Protect Your Industry — Premises Registered by County As of 2/8/2011

Dee Clausen, Coordinator

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<td>Mills</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Worth</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 27,888
**Animal Disease Traceability**
Dee Clausen, Coordinator

February 5, 2010 - USDA announced new framework for Animal Disease Traceability (ADT). The new ADT system is designed to be more flexible and provide the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. September 2010 - Implementation Plan came out and according to the USDA, cattle and bison traceability would be implemented in three stages:

Stage I - Foundation: Upon the effective date of the rule, the requirement for official identification is lowered from the current 24 months to 18 months while including dairy, rodeo, and show cattle when moving interstate.

Stage II - Assessment: In step II, an assessment of progress being made through the new disease framework will be conducted. Specific performance indicators for cattle over 18 months of age could include 75 percent of identification moving interstate are officially identified and 75 percent of identification is being collected in accordance with the traceability regulations at federally inspected slaughter plants.

Additionally, studies and surveys will be conducted at critical infrastructure points, including markets of various sizes, to evaluate the implementation of the regulatory requirements of Step I. Information on activities that may need to be adjusted to improve operations relating to the administration of the regulation will be documented.

Step III - Full implementation, will begin 1 year after the performance indicators are achieved. At that time, inclusion of nearly all cattle moving interstate will require official identification through the disease traceability framework. Several exemptions, based on the type of interstate movement, we will be maintained.

Published purposed rule approximately April 2011. Published final rule approximately 12 to 15 months after purposed rule is published.

For more information on animal disease traceability, please visit: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability)

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**Avian Influenza**
(High & Low Pathogenic AI Surveillance Programs)
Dr. Randy L. Wheeler and Jean Saner

*Avian influenza (AI)* continues to be of great concern and highly pathogenic avian influenza is a reportable disease. Iowa is number one in layers (60 million), 10th nationally in turkey production (over 9 million) and we are 5th in turkey processing. 2011 will be the fifth year IDALS has conducted the **High Path H5 & H7 AI Surveillance and Awareness Program** and a **Low Path H5 & H7 AI surveillance and educational outreach** with funding from USDA. This project includes surveillance of small flocks of poultry and birds at exhibitions such as county fairs, the Iowa State Fair and swap meets to aid in early detection of avian influenza in birds. The testing is voluntary and all testing has been negative. The primary focus for this testing has been concentrating on backyard ducks and geese due to the risk of potential exposure to migrating wild waterfowl which can be carriers of H5 and H7 avian influenza. Over 300 fair exhibition samples were tested in 2010.

Additionally commercial poultry producers are required to have surveillance testing for H5 & H7 avian influenza. AI surveillance testing is also performed in conjunction with the **FAST Eggs project (Federal And State Transport of Eggs)** involving IDALS, ISU Center for Food Security and Public Health and the egg industry. Additional AI surveillance is performed through its encephalitides sentinel flocks located around the state.

If you would like more information about avian influenza and biosecurity of backyard flocks, please contact our office 515-281-5305. We can help to provide you with educational materials for your 4-H and FFA exhibitors who raise poultry.
**Update - Iowa's CWD Voluntary Program**
There are 159 cervid herds currently enrolled in Iowa's CWD Program. Of these 159, 108 herds are whitetail deer, 33 herds are elk, 5 house deer/elk species, 10 are county conservation boards and 2 park/zoos. These herds have a total of 5,177 cervids that are enrolled in the program, broken down into 1,169 elk, 3,967 whitetail, 15 fallow deer, and 21 mule deer.

**Iowa CWD Program Annual Inventory Reconciliation**
A herd is certified for 12 months. Each cervidae herd enrolled in the CWD Program must have an annual inventory conducted by a state district veterinarian. Inventory requirements are:
1) Records kept documenting 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) Copies of all health certificates 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 CWD tissue specimens by a veterinarian from all cases of mortality, including slaughter, in animals 16 months of age and older and keeping copies of the laboratory reports.

**Iowa Intrastate Movement Requirements for Cervidae**
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.

**Iowa Import Requirements for Cervidae**
CWD susceptible Cervidae shall only be allowed into Iowa from herds which have satisfactorily completed at least three years in an officially 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 must be received by the licensed, accredited veterinarian signing the certificate and issued by Iowa’s State Veterinarian prior to movement. For further import requirements, refer to CWD Rule 21—65.12(163) posted on IDALS website, or contact the Department of Agriculture at 515/281-8236.

In 2010, Iowa permitted in from out of state 144 whitetail deer (82 into hunting preserves) and 38 elk from out of state (15 into hunting preserves).

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

**USDA Tuberculosis Testing (Cervidae) - January 11, 2006**
The following Tuberculosis Accreditation testing requirements have been changed:
1) Only two annual whole herd tests are required to achieve accredited status (formerly three annual tests were needed).
2) A accredited herds will test every three years to maintain their status (formerly it was every two years).

**Note** – All veterinarians must be accredited and certified by USDA to do TB testing on cervidae. Please contact the Federal Office at 515/284-4140.

**Iowa Brucellosis Requirements (Cervidae) - September 19, 2007**
Iowa recognizes new requirements for obtaining and maintaining Certified Brucellosis-Free Cervid herds.
1) Only two annual whole herd tests are required to achieve certified status (formerly three annual tests were needed).
2) Certified herds will test every three years to maintain their status (formerly it was every two years).

**CWD Testing**
The National Veterinary Services Laboratory requests that the obex be submitted in formalin, one medial retropharyngeal lymph node submitted in formalin, and the other medial retropharyngeal lymph node fresh in a whirl pack on ice. It is Iowa’s CWD Program requirements for submission of the obex as well as the medial retropharyngeal nodes on all captive elk and deer 16 months and older. The VS-10-4 form required for laboratory submissions must be completely filled in, showing all forms of identification, mailed with the specimen submission and a copy faxed to the State Veterinarian’s office at 515/281-4282.

(continued page 8)
**CWD Certified Status Program Changes**

Any cervid originating from a certified CWD herd (completion of 5 years or more in a state CWD Program) whether they are coming from out of state or within Iowa, moving into an Iowa certified CWD cervid herd, there will be no change in the anniversary date of the herd of destination. **Example:** Iowa CWD Program herd with a certified anniversary date of October 15, 2002 brings into the herd an animal with a January 1, 2003 certified anniversary date. The Iowa CWD Program herd anniversary date of October 15, 2002 will **not** be lowered to the January 1, 2003 date.

**The Deerhandler™**

In 2006, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship purchased a mobile Deerhandler™ and 20 black poly covered 7’ x 8’ panels to use for an alley way and/or a holding pen. The department will allow all deer producers enrolled in the CWD Program, or wanting to enroll in the Program to use this equipment for handling deer for CWD Program purposes and animal health related activities. To receive additional information, contact this office at 515/281-8236.

**Elk on the Loose**

In the last few years there have been several reports of elk running loose in Iowa. If any sightings are reported to you, please contact the State Veterinarian’s office at 515/281-8236 or your local DNR office.

**Contact Information:**

Dee Clausen, Farm Deer Program Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, Bureau of Animal Industry, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, 515/281-8236 or e-mail: delores.clausen@iowaagriculture.gov

The Chronic Wasting Disease Program information can be accessed on the State of Iowa’s, Department of Agriculture website: http://www.iowaagriculture.gov

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**Five Iowa Veterinarians Accepted by Federal Veterinary Loan Repayment Program**

In fiscal year 2010, NIFA received 260 applications, for a success rate of 23.8 percent. Below is a breakdown of the fiscal year 2010 awards:

- 62 awards totaling $5,998,080 (includes loan and tax payments)
- Average award: $96,582 (includes loan and tax payments)
- Average eligible debt for repayment: $98,672
- 65 percent of recipients received the maximum payment of $25,000 per year (plus taxes)
- 65 percent of awards went to those who obtained their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine within the last three years
- 34 states will fill at least one shortage area through VMLRP
  - Iowa will fill five shortage areas
  - Idaho, Kansas and Texas will fill four shortage areas
  - Kentucky, Michigan, Montana and South Dakota will fill three shortage areas

**Shortage type breakdown**

- Type 1 (at least 80 percent private practice): 24 awards
- Type 2 (at least 30 percent private practice): 32 awards
- Type 3: (at least 49 percent public practice): 6 awards

Participants are required to serve in one of three types of shortage situations. Type 1 shortage areas are private practice dedicated to food animal medicine at least 80 percent of the time. Type 2 shortages are private practices in rural areas dedicated to food animal medicine up to 30 percent of the time. Type 3 shortage areas are dedicated to public practice up to 49 percent of the time.

Veterinarians are critical to the national food safety and food security infrastructures, and to the health and well-being of both animals and humans; however, major studies indicate significant and growing shortages of food supply veterinarians and veterinarians serving in certain other high priority specialty areas. A leading cause for this shortage is the heavy cost of four years of professional veterinary medical training, which can average between $100,000 and $140,000. Congress established the VMLRP as a way to remedy this growing need.

To find out more information about the VMLRP please check out the following website: [http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp.html)
The Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Team is a Homeland Security-recognized state specialty response team of over 400 volunteer members. Members are trained to respond to animal emergencies and support the State Veterinarian in production agriculture or companion animal disasters. Volunteers include veterinarians, technicians, emergency management coordinators, industry leaders, producers, animal control personnel, veterinary students, biologists, epidemiologists, animal health students, and academic resources.

IVRRT purchased cattle-handling equipment, including a mobile high-pressure sprayer, and a deployable small animal emergency trailer complete with supplies & gear to utilize in the event of an animal emergency. Our annual IVRRT meeting and 2011 training is scheduled for September 14th at the Gateway Conference Center in Ames, the day prior to the IVMA annual meeting. The event will be a participatory tabletop animal disease emergency exercise similar to Agroville presentations. These trainings are free to members and offer CE credits.

Information, including membership application, can be viewed on the IDALS website: http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgSec/IVRRT.asp

Pseudorabies (PRV) 2011
Dr. David D. Schmitt and Ginny Eason

Iowa was granted Stage V status by USDA in 2004, but PRV surveillance continues. In 2010, the fee basis for drawing blood samples for PRV, in regard to the Pseudorabies Control and Eradication Project, will remain at $5.00. The herd stop fee remains at $20 for the accredited veterinarian.

Swine Exhibition requirements for 2011 involving PRV:

1. No testing is required for native Iowa swine at an Iowa exhibition that involves only market classes, provided all swine are consigned directly to a slaughtering establishment from the exhibition. Swine leaving the exhibition from a market class must be consigned and moved direct to a slaughtering establishment.

2. Swine that return from an exhibition to the home herd or that are moved to a purchaser’s herd following an exhibition or consignment sale must be isolated and retested negative for Pseudorabies not less than 30 and not more than 60 days after reaching their destination. (Code of Iowa 166D.13 (2).

For non-terminal shows, it is important that exhibitors follow-through with the isolation and testing. The serology form must state the reason for testing is post-testing after exhibition.

When completing the serum submission form that is sent to the diagnostic lab at Iowa State University with the sample, please make sure the name of the owner is included on the form. Please include the complete address of where the hogs are located, the sex and age of the hogs and official ID. By providing the information with the submission, this should lessen any telephone calls to your clinic for the information.
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Three NAHMS Studies Will Be Conducted in Iowa During 2011
Lowell A. Anderson, DVM, MS

During 2011, three different studies will be conducted by the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in Iowa. Other states are included based on the number of premises associated with the species of livestock being studied.

NAHMS conducts national studies on the health and health management of United States domestic livestock and poultry populations. Participation in these studies is voluntary. Responses, data and testing results collected from each operation are maintained in a manner to ensure confidentiality as are all NAHMS’ studies. Operators participating in the study will receive informational reports and summaries generated from a compilation of this information. There is no cost to the operator who volunteers to participate. Reports and Info Sheets summarizing the findings of each study are available to stakeholder groups including Industry, State, Federal and Academia.

The three studies include:
- NAHMS Sheep 2011
- NAHMS Dairy Heifer Rearing 2011
- NAHMS Cattle on Feed 2011

Past and future NAHMS’ studies are listed, to the left.

For more information about NAHMS direct your Internet browser to:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahms/

Iowa FAST Eggs Project
David Schmitt and Ginny Eason

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has been working with the Iowa Egg Industry and the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) at Iowa State University (ISU) on the development of the Federal and State Transport Plan (FAST Eggs Plan). The FAST Eggs plan is designed to facilitate movement of eggs and egg products from non-infected commercial table egg premises in a high pathogenicity avian influenza control area. It is a State/Federal/Industry partnership intended to protect poultry health, human health, business continuity, and the nation’s egg supply during an outbreak of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Educational materials will benefit the egg industry of Iowa, IDALS and other partners involved in egg production, movement and processing. A FAST Eggs process will help to protect the agricultural economy of Iowa and the food supply. The Iowa FAST Eggs Plan is a pilot project which will serve as a model for the nation’s egg industry to demonstrate implementation of a federal and state transport plan for eggs and egg products following an outbreak of HPAI.

Currently there have been six facilities audited and 16 employees trained to take samples for diagnostic testing that is sampled at the veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Iowa State University.
Equine Piroplasmosis Outbreak  
Lowell A. Anderson, Area Epidemiologist  
Timothy M. Smith, DVM

On July 30, 2010, a blood sample was collected from a 2 year old, Thoroughbred stallion at a training facility outside of Altoona, Iowa. The stallion was being tested for Babesia caballi and Equine Infectious Anemia to meet the entry requirements to Remington Park, a racetrack, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. On August 6, 2010, USDA, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), Ames, Iowa reported to the submitting veterinarian, that the sample was positive for Babesia caballi.

On August 7, 2010, Drs. Radechel and Anspach, veterinarians employed by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission contacted the State Veterinarian’s Office and a foreign animal disease investigation was initiated. A second blood sample was collected and submitted to USDA, NVSL to confirm the diagnosis. The investigation further determined that the positive stallion and a second stallion were being stabled at a training center at Bondurant, Iowa. The purpose of the training center was to temporarily stable race horses entering and leaving Prairie Meadows Race Track, Altoona, Iowa and to train young Thoroughbreds for racing.

The two horses were kept at the north end of the premise approximately 115 feet from other horse holding / handling facilities indicating no direct horse-to-horse exposure was likely. On physical exam, no ticks were found, horses were washed and groomed regularly and this area in Iowa was not known to harbor competent vectors of Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) per a parasitologist at NVSL.

Seven other horses at the training center were tested for EP on August 15, 2010 and submitted to NVSL. All seven horses were seronegative for Piroplasmosis. As six of the horses were moved from the training center, they were “scratched” or examined for ticks and moved to other training centers or racetracks.

Because there is no indemnification program for Equine Piroplasmosis, the owner of the positive stallion consented to voluntarily relinquish possession of the stallion to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for euthanasia and disposal purposes on August 18, 2010.

On August 31, 2010, arrangements were made for the seronegative cohort to leave Iowa under restrictive movement on a VS1-27 permit and seals applied to the transport vehicle to Oklahoma for further training.

2010 Feral Swine Report  
Dr. David Schmitt and Ginny Eason

During 2010, there were a total of eight feral swine shot in Johnson, Linn, Fremont, Page and Taylor Counties in the state of Iowa. One feral type swine was found dead by the road in Guthrie County.

The IDALS Animal Industry Bureau was notified about a private individual raising feral type swine in Davis County. The private individual slaughtered the swine for personal use. The animals tested negative for PRV, but two of the eight adult wild-type swine tested positive for Swine Brucellosis.

The USDA Wildlife Services, DNR and IDALS have worked together to prevent and continue surveillance with regard to this matter. It must be noted there are no hunting restrictions in Iowa on feral swine. They may be shot at anytime during the year and the hunter may keep the meat for personal consumption. We only ask individuals to report feral swine sightings or dispatched feral swine to the Iowa DNR or our office.
The National Voluntary Johne’s Disease Control Program revised its 2006 Program standards, including the Herd Classification component, in 2010. Iowa’s JD Control Program adopts these standards and we have additional regulations specific for our state. The IDALS Johne’s disease webpage, http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/animalIndustry/johnesDisease.asp, has information about these changes, along with other links, quarterly beef & dairy newsletters, and reference materials concerning Johne’s disease.

Iowa State University’s Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) continues to improve and revise its Johne’s testing methods. VDL uses the cELISA for Johne’s serology which has higher sensitivity than the previous ELISA.

Some practitioners are not aware of the fecal PCR testing and fecal pooling.

- Fecal PCR only takes a few days versus fecal cultures which can take up to 7 weeks to complete.
- Fecal pooling (where VDL groups five fecal samples to test as a composite sample) is one of the options for Johne’s testing.

Since Johne’s is a reportable disease, IDALS receives all lab reports with positive fecal results. Fecal-positive cattle are restricted by law. These animals can only be sold for slaughter and must be C-punched in the right ear by IDALS and movement is accompanied by an ‘owner-shipper statement’ document.

Johne’s disease has a huge national impact on the cattle industry. National studies estimate 68% of dairy operations (2008) and 8% of beef herds (1999) has Johne’s disease.

For additional information or questions please contact:
Randy Wheeler, Designated Johne’s Coordinator @ 515-281-0866

Currently, as many of you are aware, there is a calamitous Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in South Korea. At the time of this writing, close to 3 million animals (value: $1.3 billion) have been destroyed in an effort to stop the disease. The response initially relied on the strategies of movement controls and stamping out (depopulation). Unfortunately the disease continued to spread and vaccination was deployed (including 2 million antigen doses ‘borrowed’ from the North American FMD Vaccine bank). There is much agri-business and domestic traffic between the US and S Korea. Please consider this a reminder to review clinical signs of FMD (and other FAD’s); early detection is still one of our best defenses. Get to know your Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) who will be either your State (IDALS) District Veterinarian or the Federal (USDA/APHIS/VS) Section Veterinary Medical Officer.

It’s probably timely that the Siouxland SubArea (which includes counties in NW IA, NE Nebraska, SE SD, and SW MN) is planning an FMD exercise for September 2011. This Functional Exercise will focus in part on Local and Regional GIS support of an FMD response effort.

If you haven’t already, consider joining the Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Team (IVRRT) and/or the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC).

Sources: FAD: www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Animal_Response
FMD in S. Korea: www.usaha.org
IVRRT: Dr. Randy Wheeler (IDALS)
NAHERC: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/naherc

Dr. Steve L. Goff
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515-323-2175
Whereas “sensitive” may not be the first word that comes to mind with respect to the tuberculosis eradication program, it is nevertheless an important one. Skin testing continues to be the gold standard for on-farm screening detection of Mycobacterium bovis infection, but new developments are on the horizon. Surprisingly, the caudal fold test is not as sensitive as one may think. It finds around 84% of truly infected animals depending on a lot of things about the herd. Which means it still misses around 16% of the truly positive animals. Performing and reading the test correctly is therefore critically important. Other testing methods will have to compete with the sensitivity of the skin test even if they are easier to administer.

By itself, the caudal fold test is currently better at finding more truly infected animals than other tests. It does not detect M. bovis directly though; it detects whether the animal’s cellular immune response is currently activated and grossly apparent after a Mycobacterium-like challenge. With proper administration of the caudal fold test, around 2% of uninfected animals will still show up as false positive responders due to factors other than M. bovis itself. It is generally true for disease tests that specificity suffers for tests that are more sensitive. Follow-up testing with the comparative cervical test or with gamma-interferon testing (both with worse sensitivity but better specificity) and then post-mortem testing are needed to confirm that a particular responder animal is actually infected with M. bovis. The downside of skin testing is restraint of the animals twice, three days apart, and occasionally an uninfected animal still might have to be necropsied after continuing to respond non-specifically to ante-mortem tests.

The good news is alternatives are continuing to be developed. A better screening test would require only a one-time restraint, would be acceptably sensitive/specific, would not be influenced by or interfere with other tests, and would be both reliable and cost-effective. Several ELISA-type tests are already out there and moving through development and licensing, after which they will undergo validation for program use.

Developing such tests for program use in cervidae herds is a very high priority for animal welfare reasons. The test furthest along for cervidae is the ChemBio Cervid TB Stat-Pak screening test. It was recently licensed for testing in elk and red deer and is going through validation for official use in the program— but expanded to include white-tail deer and reindeer. For validation, the performance needs to be characterized under real-world conditions using a sufficient number of positive and negative animals and herds. And the results must be cross-checked with skin testing and with necropsy of the test-positive animals.

To that end, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories has called for voluntary participants this year for their validation project of the StatPak test for cervidae. Cervidae producers undergoing herd accreditation testing this year will be contacted separately with full details so they can consider participation. There are a number of administrative details to participate in the project, but the notable features to consider are: Blood samples must be taken by their veterinarian at the time of TB skin testing and sent to NVSL for trial with the StatPak test. Supplies, shipping, and the test are free of charge, but the skin testing and the non-sample-related veterinary costs are not covered. For the results to be meaningful, all animals with a positive response to the StatPak test, irrespective of the skin testing outcome, will need to be purchased under certain indemnification guidelines and necropsied. Other cervidae producers anticipating some TB testing this year and are interested in more information about participation can send an e-mail to lon.d.evans@aphis.usda.gov.

A unique opportunity to try alternative testing methods in cattle was very recently reported at the US Animal Health Association meeting in November, 2010. A 900-cow dairy herd in Colorado was discovered to be heavily infected with M. bovis (11-25% prevalence) after initial detection in one animal at slaughter. Caudal fold testing of 498 animals produced 162 responders (33%) to which 124 and 105 were positive by comparative cervical and gamma interferon testing respectively. Performance of four blood tests—gamma interferon plus three as yet unlicensed ELISA assays—was tested on this heavily infected herd and compared to tests simultaneously done in known negative herds. Unfortunately the sensitivity of the tests was not as high as for skin testing: 45-62% sensitivity for the blood tests vs. 85% for the caudal fold test. Specificity was, however, comparable or even better than skin testing.

Sensitivity and specificity alone are not the only factors to consider for deciding what place a prospective test could have in the tuberculosis program. Multiple test types performed in parallel or in series have a dramatic effect on sensitivity and specificity when considered in combination—even if one of the tests has a mediocre sensitivity or specificity parameter. Also, depending on the actual prevalence of infection in a herd a desirable level of detection may be reached with use of a less robust but easier test. Also, the benefits of a logistically superior test must be taken into account when animal welfare becomes an issue.

Iowa producers and accredited veterinarians are already avid participants in helping to move these efforts along. Last year, without exception all of those contacted last year were glad to help build up the dwindling NVSL serum bank with blood samples taken at the time of testing. That investment is now starting to pay off with companies developing more and more worthy tests that are moving up the process.
GlobalVetLink

Electronic Health Certificates Aide in Improving Paperwork Efficiency and Traceability for Veterinarians

Prominent issues facing the veterinary community include traceability and veterinarian and veterinary technician shortages. Moving your veterinary clinic to an electronic system for creating health documents such as OCVIs (health certificates) and EIA (Coggins) certificates can help with these issues. GlobalVetLink (GVL®), the nation's leader in electronic animal health documentation, offers an alternative to the traditional, paper-based system for writing and filing these documents. Since their inception, more than 154 million animals have moved using GVL electronic health documents.

Electronic documentation increases efficiency of veterinary paperwork. Documents are electronically available, in real-time, to state animal health authorities of both the state of origin and destination for health certificates and the state of origin for EIA certificates. Not only do the state animal health officials receive these certificates in real-time, but the option to make them available through MyVetLink.com, a secure, online site to the animal owner is also possible. This real-time availability drastically improves the speed of animal trace-back and certificate distribution.

Health documents generated through GVL’s secure, online system are approved to move animals into all 50 states and 3 US territories, on a standardized certificate. The GVL system is internet based, so there is no software to download and can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection. An important feature of the GVL system is that owner and animal information only needs to be entered once, and may be used over and over again.

Improved animal identification is another enhanced feature over traditional hand-written certificates. Photos on EIA certificates offer more accurate identification and eliminate hand drawn markings. The digital photo feature is easy to use, as pictures are stored in the database. Multiple Id types can be included on a certificate, including electronic ids. Ids can be quickly and easily uploaded to the system for food animal certificates.

In Iowa, GlobalVetLink offers two certificates geared toward equine clients, specifically EIA and health certificates. Swine specific certificates include veterinary prescription certificates, electronic VFDs, in addition to health certificates. An added feature for bovine veterinarians in Iowa is the electronic Preconditioning Certificate. Other species accommodated by GVL health certificates are: Avian, Bovine, Canine, Caprine, Cervid, Feline, Ovine and Poultry.

For more information on electronic animal health certificates, call GlobalVetLink at 515-296-0860 or visit our website at www.globalvetlink.com.

2010 Feral Swine Report

Dr. David Schmitt and Ginny Eason

The IDALS Animal Industry Bureau received federal funding for Classical Swine Fever (CSF) surveillance testing. Classical Swine Fever is still present in Asia, South and Central America, Mexico, parts of Africa and the Carribean Islands. The significance of US surveillance testing is to demonstrate to world pork export markets the US is indeed free of this disease and that surveillance testing is ongoing. To meet surveillance goals swine tonsils are being collected from no-value swine mortalities at markets. At this time there have been approximately 900 tonsils collected over the past two years with negative tests reported.
Included with this Newsletter are the 2011 Iowa exhibition regulations. Please keep these on hand to use when preparing health certificates for the State Fair. Please do yourself, our profession, the exhibitors, and the regulatory personnel a favor — do not issue a health certificate if the animal does not meet all the requirements. Exhibiting livestock is a high-risk activity with respect to possible disease transmission.

**DISEASE STATUS**

**Cattle Brucellosis:** All states have Brucellosis Free status.

**Swine Brucellosis:** Texas is Stage 2. The rest of the country is Free.

**Cattle Tuberculosis:** Michigan, Minnesota and New Mexico have split state statuses. California is classified as Modified Accredited Advanced. The rest of the country is classified as tuberculosis Free state status.

- **Michigan** has split statuses:
  - Free status in Upper Peninsula of MI
  - Modified Accredited in 11 counties and in 2 adjacent counties
  - Modified Accredited Advanced rest of the state

- **Minnesota** has split state status:
  - Modified Accredited Advanced in parts of Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Marshall and Roseau counties (northwest part of state)
  - Free status in remainder of the state

- **New Mexico** has split state status:
  - Modified Accredited Advanced in Curry and Roosevelt counties
  - Free status in remainder of the state

- **California:** Modified Accredited Advanced

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

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**In This Issue...**

2011 Exhibition Regulations, CWD Update, Rabies Map, Feral Swine, Johne's, and more.