

# Animal Health Alert Network

*Your Local Information Link for Animal Safety and Security*

The **Animal Health Alert Network (AHAN)** is Iowa's version of a nation-wide project designed to improve outreach and communication channels to commercial and non-commercial livestock and poultry owners. In Iowa, the project is being accomplished through collaborative work between the State Vet office and ISU Extension and Outreach.

This project focuses on building a network of feed retailers who agree to receive animal health messages from the State Vet, and pass this information along to their customers via various methods including mass e-mails and posting the messages in their feed stores. This method of addressing Animal Health Alert messages on the local level will enhance delivery of information from the State Vet to livestock owners, particularly the owners of non-commercial herds and flocks who may not be connected to current information channels established by commodity groups and veterinary clinics.

West Nile Virus (WNV) has been in the US since 1999 and WNV is a disease primarily of birds but can infect horses, dogs and humans, as well as several other animal species.

WNV is transmitted from the bite an infected mosquito (vector). Most animals and humans do not show clinical signs of being infected or a fever but horses may show encephalitis (brain infection) with signs such as lethargy, weakness, incoordination/[staggering](#), paralysis or even death.

The best treatment for West Nile Virus is vaccination and mosquito control. Contact your veterinarian for information on WNV, vaccines & vaccination and prevention in horses and other animals.

Contact your physician if you are concerned about the WNV infection in humans.

## **For more information on West Nile Virus ( West Nile Encephalitis):**

Contact the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) Technical Fact Sheets. West Nile Encephalitis at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/>

## **For more information on the Animal Health Alert Network (AHAN):**

Contact Dr. Randy Wheeler, Assistant State Veterinarian @ 515-281-0866 [Randy.Wheeler@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Randy.Wheeler@iowaagriculture.gov)

