

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD NEWSLETTER

Issue 17, Volume 3 July 2009

STATE OF WYOMING

1934 Wyatt Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-777-7515
Fax: 307- 777-6561

State Veterinarian and Assistant State Veterinarian Exchange Duties

During Friday evening's conference call, the Wyoming Livestock Board agreed to allow then State Veterinarian, Dr. Walter Cook to voluntarily exchange positions with Dr. Jim Logan, the Assistant State Veterinarian at the time. Dr. Cook will now serve as the Assistant State Veterinarian in

the Cheyenne office, and Dr. Logan will be the State Veterinarian working out of the Riverton office.

The State Veterinarian has a very demanding travel schedule; Dr. Cook told the Board that his family needs made such travel problematic. He had requested a

reassignment of duties so that he could spend more time at home. Dr. Logan agreed to the switch and is comfortable with the travel expectations. Dr. Cook stated that he and Dr. Logan had worked well as a team in the past and he expected that to continue.

Wyoming Livestock Board Notices

If you would like to receive Wyoming Livestock Board notices please send your email or mailing address to rkrako@state.wy.us

Rodeo Season ... Tuberculosis Testing Reminder

To import rodeo stock into Wyoming they are required to have a negative Tuberculosis test within the last 12 months.

If they are Mexican cattle they would be required to have two negative tuberculosis tests. The

first test would be when they crossed the boarder into the United States. The second test would be 60 to 90 days after the original test date. If the Mexican cattle have been in the United States for a year they would be

required to have one negative test in the last 12 months.

By Lindsay Johnson

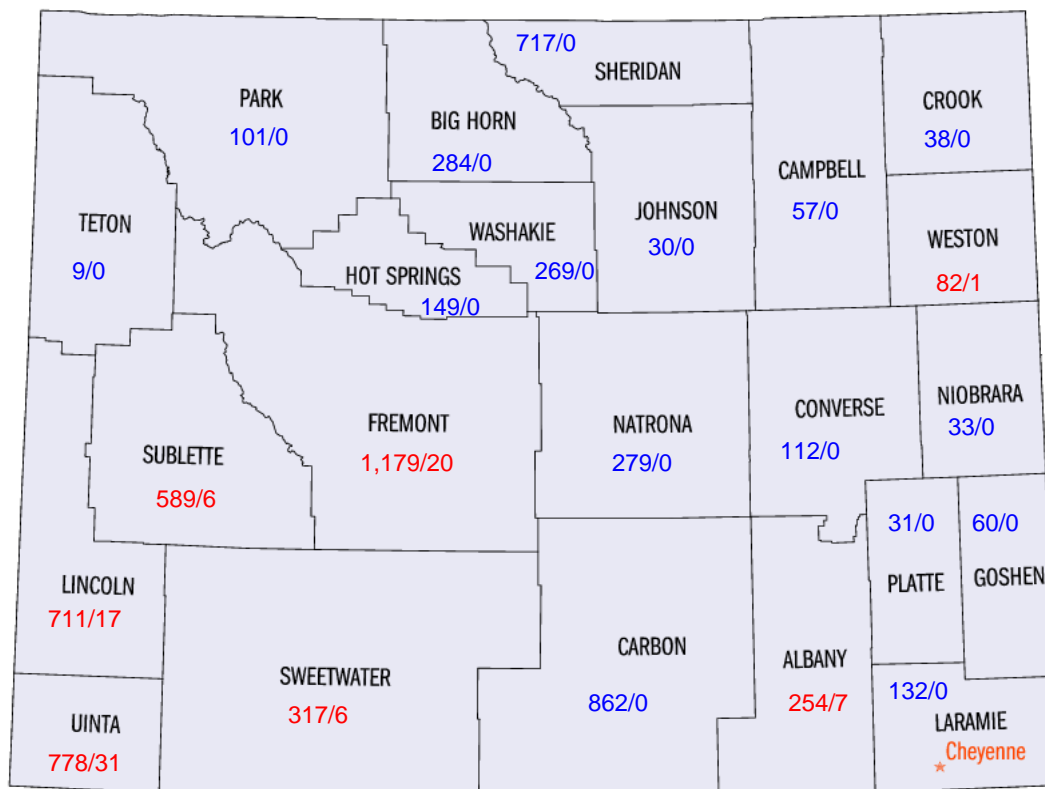
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Special points of interest:

- USDA/APHIS has renewed Wyoming's Brucellosis free status with the condition Wyoming does not receive another case before October 2010.
- Animal Health Unit welcomes two summer interns: Ashley Carr and Matthew Asay. Ashley just finished her second year of Vet School at CSU. Matthew is an undergrad at the University of Wyoming.

Trichomoniasis by the Numbers



September 1, 2008 through June 16, 2009

First number in boxes on map indicates total number bulls tested in the county, second number indicates the number Positive out of that total.

Positive Trich Cases are in Albany, Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Washakie and Weston counties.

Total number bulls tested in State of Wyoming: 7,073 Head
 Number bulls tested negative: 6,983 Head
 Number bulls tested positive: 90 Head
 Number bulls certified clean after 3 tests: 518 Head

Subsequent positive bulls after initially tested neg:
 Positive on 2nd test, after negative on 1st 14 Head
 Positive on 3rd test, after negative on 1st & 2nd 5 Head

By: Lindsay Johnson

Health Certificates Update

In efforts to abide by the Governor's request to cut budgets, we are asking veterinarians to directly send the canary copy of the Certificate of Veterinary Health Inspection to the state of destination.

The Animal Health Unit is in the ordering process for the health books and

expect to receive them the first of August. The new books will have the change printed on the canary copy. We are asking you to start sending the canary copies to the state of destination right away, but not necessary until the new books are here.

There is an insert of all the State Veterinarians and their addresses. The white copies must still be sent to the Wyoming Livestock Board.

Thank you for all of your understanding,

Animal Health Unit



Ellie Grace Leinart

April 1, 2009

7 Lbs, 1 Oz

19 Inches

Congratulations!

Doug and Tara Leinart
Big Brothers Dylan and Ross

2009 Vet Loan Recipients Selected

The Wyoming Livestock Board met in Riverton Wyoming on the 20th of May 2009. Many items were discussed, but one item of interest was the selection of the recipients of the veterinary loan repayment program funded by the State of Wyoming and participating sponsors.

The State of Wyoming allotted \$270,000.00 dollars in 2008 to fund this program. Recipients of the grants must practice food animal medicine in the state for 3 years to receive the grant. The percent of food animal medicine practiced may vary, but most recipients receive a grant of

\$15,000.00 per year if they practice 50% food animal medicine in an underserved area of the state. 25% of the yearly grant must be provided by a sponsor before the state monies are allotted. This sponsor can be a veterinary clinic, city, county, veterinary association, animal care facility or university.

During the 2008 grant year there were 8 applicants and 4 were funded. During the 2009 grant year 13 applications were received and again 4 were selected by the Wyoming Livestock Board. This program has helped to attract or maintain 8 food animal veteri-

narians to the State of Wyoming. If the program is funded by the legislature in 2010 it hoped more young aggressive veterinarians can be attracted to the state.

The veterinary loan repayment has done what it was intended to do and helped alleviate a food animal veterinarian shortage within Wyoming. As years progress I hope the program will bring young new veterinarians into under served areas of the state as older veterinarians retire and leave the work force.

Fred Emerich DVM

Wyoming Livestock Board, Field Veterinarian

Testing for *Mycobacterium bovis* in Wyoming Cattle

Brief epidemiology and history of tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious disease of animals and humans caused by three specific bacteria comprising the *Mycobacterium* group: *Mycobacterium bovis*, *M. avium*, and *M. tuberculosis*. *M. tuberculosis* causes tuberculosis in humans. *M. avium* infects birds, pigs, and occasionally other animals. *M. bovis* causes bovine TB, can infect all warm-blooded vertebrates, and can be transmitted to and among livestock, humans, and other animals. The bacterium is spread through respiratory secretion as airborne droplets, through nose-to-nose contact, through feed or watering sites contaminated by saliva or discharges, or by drinking unpasteurized milk from infected animals. Exposure risk is greatest in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas, and in crowded conditions.

There are often no signs of TB; thus disease can spread unnoticed through a herd. Signs possible in advanced disease are progressive emaciation, lethargy, weakness, anorexia, fluctuating low-grade fever, bronchopneumonia, and possible lymph node enlargement. Death can follow.

Early in the twentieth century, bovine TB caused more losses among U.S. farm animals than all other infectious diseases combined. Surveillance and herd testing through the Cooperative State-Federal Tuberculosis Eradication Program led to near-eradication of bovine TB from U.S. livestock. This program, along with advances in sanitation and hygiene, pasteurization of milk, and the discovery of effective tuberculosis drugs made bovine TB a very rare infection of humans. In recent years, the prevalence of bovine TB has increased in livestock in some states because of access to infected wildlife and contact with infected rodeo or feeder cattle. Bovine TB was also detected in some large U.S. dairies in the last few years, raising suspicion for TB in dairy cattle.

Wyoming TB

The Cooperative State-Federal Tuberculosis Eradication Program

provides for TB-testing cattle and bison and identifying animals for removal from herds. The WY program's participating Accredited Veterinarians help protect Wyoming's cattle industry from losses due to disease, protect animal handlers from acquiring TB, and protect Wyoming's TB free status, thus allowing unrestricted travel. Test records are individually entered into a database and are used at a statewide and national level to locate infected herds, improve surveillance, and demonstrate low risk for trade purposes.

Mycobacterium elicit cell-mediated responses in infected animals. A delayed hypersensitivity reaction to Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) tuberculin is detected in the caudal fold test

(CFT) 72 (plus or minus 6) hours after injection. An expected minimal percentage of cattle or bison tested with the CFT should show positive results

("responders"). Most positive CFT results are reactions to *M. avium*. In accordance with past experience, each Accredited Veterinarian should detect at least one responder for every 300 CFT-tested cattle or bison. Of the 5,553 CFTs performed in WY during fiscal year 2008, **43 responders were expected, but no TB responders were reported.** Three responders from 4,194 CFTs were reported in fiscal year 2007, whereas 29 responders were expected.

TB-status of a positive animal (responder) in WY is clarified through follow-up testing by State or Federal regulatory veterinarians performing the comparative cervical test (CCT) or the bovine gamma interferon test. The CCT must occur within 10 days of CFT injection or more than 60 days following the CFT injection. The bovine gamma interferon test should be conducted on blood samples collected between 3 and 30 days after CFT injection and arrive at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory within 24 hours of bleeding. WY cattle at increased risk for TB are rodeo stock – both roping steers and bulls – and dairy cattle. Rodeo stock have increased risk of importing TB into WY because some rodeo

animals originate from TB-endemic areas and are often housed in crowded conditions. TB can also be imported by purchase from as-yet undiagnosed, infected dairy herds.

WY TB testing by Accredited Veterinarians

The U.S. is unique in the world for the extent that we rely on private practitioners to perform regulatory work such as providing health certifications and maintaining extensive disease surveillance and monitoring. Accredited Veterinarians are crucial to WY disease surveillance and eradication activities. Veterinarians performing TB testing must meet and maintain USDA-APHIS-VS requirements for accreditation.

Below are some important suggestions and requirements regarding TB testing in WY:

- Plan ahead and educate producers to test well-in-advance of planned movement. When responders are detected, confirmatory tests can extend testing for one to four weeks.
- Use in-date tuberculin. Inaccurate results caused by injecting out-of-date tuberculin can promote TB spread and thus harm the WY cattle industry.
- Refrigerate tuberculin appropriately and protect from sun. Tuberculin should be stored at 39–46 °F (4–8 °C). Discard tuberculin immediately if frozen. In the field, a small cooler with ice keeps tuberculin cool and protected from sun.
- Use a 26 gauge, 3/8" needle on a tuberculin syringe. Proper needle and syringe size helps assure standardized dose and delivery.
- Identify individual animals on test charts. Record all identification.
- Read your own tests at 72 (plus or minus 6) hours after injection. The veterinarian who injected the animal also reads the test. Improper timing invalidates the test.

or bison tested.

○ Any visual or palpable response is classified "responder". Perform a thorough palpation of the caudal fold (both sides). As an example, a "BB" sized lump is a response. The size of response is not correlated to extent of infection.

● Compete test charts (VS Forms 6-22) entirely and legibly. Don't forget owner's signature, reason for test, and certification for payment. Each section of each test chart is individually recorded into a database.

● Report responders immediately to USDA or WLSB for follow-up testing and notify owner there should be no animal movement pending follow-up testing.

Resources for WY Accredited Veterinarians performing TB tests

Tuberculin and VS Forms 6-22 are available from:

USDA-APHIS-VS
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 209
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-432-7960
Hours: 8 am–4:30 pm, M–F

● USDA-APHIS-VS Veterinary Medical Officers can accompany Accredited Veterinarians and are available to observe and offer advice on TB test and reading procedures, and record-keeping. Telephone consultations are also encouraged.

● APHIS website: tuberculosis information: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tuberculosis/

APHIS website: accreditation information and CFT instructions:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/downloads/nvap_ref_guide.pdf

USDA-APHIS-VS and WLSB are grateful to WY Accredited Veterinarians for undertaking TB surveillance responsibilities. Thank you!

Chapter 6 Rules: Brucellosis Risk Mitigation Activities- Project Eligibility and Reimbursement

The Wyoming Livestock Board has been drafting rules that outline the distribution of funds allocated by the 2009 Wyoming legislature for Brucellosis Risk Mitigation Activities. The rules were reviewed by the Board at its' June 16th meeting, and will be out for formal public comment.

Brucellosis Risk Mitigation Activities that may qualify for funding assistance from the Board include (but are not limited to):

1. Adult Brucellosis Vaccination
2. Spaying
3. Surveillance Brucellosis testing
4. Strategic Fencing
5. Strategic emergency relocation of cattle that is not part of routine management
6. Strategic elk or bison feeding (authorized by the WGFD and WLSB)

7. Strategic water source development; and/or
8. Emergency feed necessary to comply with provisions of a Brucellosis quarantine

A completed application form (available from the offices of the Board) that includes cost estimates and a complete project description must be submitted to and approved by the Board BEFORE the project is started. The producer will be reimbursed only after:

1. The project has been completed;
2. All receipts for the project have been submitted to the Board; **AND**
3. The project has been inspected by the WLSB Director, State Veterinarian, or their designee.

The Board may pay up to 60% of the total cost of the Brucellosis Risk Mitigation Project, while the producer pays the

remainder. Up to 100% of the producers' required contribution may be an In-Kind contribution. (In-Kind is defined as payment made by contributing anything of ascertainable value, such as labor or materials, in lieu of money.)

Funds will not be available for distribution from the Board until the rules have gone through the public comment period and have been signed by the Governor.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Chapter 6 Brucellosis Risk Mitigation Activities – Project Eligibility and Reimbursement rules, please contact the Wyoming Livestock Board at (307) 777-7515 or (307) 857-4140.

By: Betsy Milek

Chapter 6 Rules are now out for public comment.
 Comment Period:
 June 23, 2009 to
 August 12, 2009

Check out our Website!
<http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

Emergency Support Functions

Emergency Support Functions (also called ESF's) provide the structure for coordinating Federal inter-agency support for a Federal response to an incident. They are mechanisms for grouping functions most frequently used to provide Federal support to States and Federal-to-Federal support, both for declared disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act and for non-Stafford Act incidents.

- There are 15 ESF's:
1. Transportation
 2. Communication
 3. Public works and engineering
 4. Firefighting
 5. Emergency Management
 6. Mass care, emergency assistance, housing and human services
 7. Logistics management and resource support

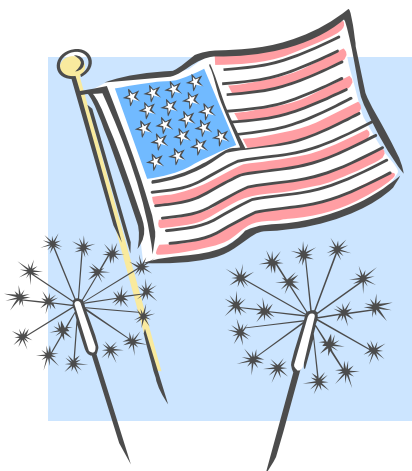
8. Public health and medical services
9. Search and rescue
10. Oil and hazardous materials response
11. Agriculture and natural resources
12. Energy
13. Public safety and security
14. Long term community recovery
15. External affairs

The Livestock Board operates under mainly under ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources: This ESF supports State, tribal, and local authorities and other Federal agency efforts to provide nutrition assistance; control and eradicate, as appropriate, any outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic (i.e., transmitted between

animals and people) disease, or any outbreak of an economically devastating plant pest or disease; ensure the safety and security of the commercial food supply; protect natural and cultural resources and historic properties resources; and provide for the safety and well-being of household pets during an emergency response or evacuation situation.

Although there are five functions in this ESF, the Livestock Board concentrates its efforts to three of them: animal disease response; food safety and security; safety and well-being of household pets. The Livestock Board encourages everyone to be familiar with emergency preparedness, response, and recovery by going to the web link www.fema.gov.

By Dale Bratton



Brand Recording Unit

The 2009 abandoned brands are now available on CD. They are combined with the 2005 and 2007 abandoned brands. The cost of the CD is \$15.00 which includes postage and handling. To order mail a check or money order to: The Wyoming Livestock Board, 1934 Wyott Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82002. You may also order by the phone using Visa or Master Card.

When purchasing a brand make sure the brand is currently recorded. If you purchase a brand that has not been renewed we can not transfer the brand. You may call our

office at 307- 777-7517 to verify the renewal period of the brand you're purchasing.

Just a few short months ago we were welcoming Sarah Fry to the Brand Recorded Unit and now we will miss her for six months. Sarah is in the Air National Guard and will be deployed for six months. We will miss her but greatly appreciate her service to our Country.

The brand recording unit will be publishing a 2009 brand book this year. It won't be available to purchase until October or November of this year. We will advertise when the 2009 brand book is

available.

Once again a big thanks to all the brand inspectors for helping make the 2009 brand renewal a great success.

Thank you,
Brand Recording Unit

NEBZ Alternative

Recently, representatives of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming State Livestock, Agriculture, and Fish and Wildlife Departments, Offices of the Governor for Idaho and Wyoming, Congressional staff for each State, APHIS Veterinary Services and Legislative and Public Affairs, and the National Park Service met to discuss an alternative to the USDA's APHIS NBEZ concept. Generally, the group believes that the agreements for revising the Brucellosis program, through cooperative efforts, will protect livestock and maintain viable wildlife populations. The following is a summary and the outcomes of the meeting.

APHIS NBEZ Concept

APHIS had earlier proposed an effort entitled the National Brucellosis Elimination Zone (NBEZ) which would "zone or regionalize" the Greater Yellowstone Area of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. This concept would allow the area of the state outside the GYA to remain "Brucellosis Free" even if cases of Brucellosis were found in cattle herds within the zone. There would be test requirements for cattle within the zone. The state livestock agency and APHIS would conduct a risk assessment on each herd in the area and the test requirements would be dependent on the level of risk found. Livestock identification and vaccination requirements would likely remain the same as current Chapter 2 Brucellosis Rules, and herd plans would be encouraged.

The Wyoming and Idaho state veterinarians presented an alternative proposal to the NBEZ which the meeting

participants appeared to be in general agreement with. This proposal suggested some long overdue and prudent changes to the Brucellosis Uniform Methods & Rules (UMR) and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Among the changes suggested are giving state control to defining the surveillance area, utilizing rules currently in place in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and enabling the states to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with APHIS on how the individual state will manage Brucellosis.

Core principles for revising the Brucellosis program were agreed to at the meeting. These include:

The United States is currently free of Brucellosis in livestock and soon all U.S. States will be classified as Brucellosis-free. Today, the only remaining reservoir of Brucellosis is in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) where it is an endemic wildlife disease that is periodically transmitted to livestock. The management of the disease in livestock and wildlife should reflect this reality and should not be based on an assumption of a prevalence of the disease in livestock. A comprehensive approach should contain three very distinct components – prevention/surveillance, disease response, and disease management. State and federal animal health officials and wildlife managers have and must continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to each of these components.

Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming currently have compre-

hensive prevention and surveillance programs within designated surveillance areas (DSA) located in the GYA. These programs incorporate the key components of risk assessment, mandatory calfhood vaccination, adult vaccination on a risk-assessment basis, individual identification, testing, and herd plans. The flexibility to adjust the DSA would remain with the state. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will have the opportunity to review and approve the DSA boundaries and determine that the surveillance and mitigation activities that occur within the zone are adequate and appropriate. The purpose of the DSA would be for prevention and surveillance only. The DSA will not be used as a boundary to effectuate a different classification or status than that held by the rest of the state or nation.

The response to an outbreak of Brucellosis in a cattle herd will be isolated to that herd and to related potentially exposed herds. Such herds will be quarantined by the State Veterinarian in consultation with APHIS until such time as adequate testing & removal and/or depopulation have occurred. Herds within the DSA, but outside of the quarantine, will not be affected by the issuance of the quarantine. So long as the quarantine is rigorously enforced, the classification or status of other livestock both within and without the DSA will remain unaffected. If Brucellosis is found outside of the DSA (this includes Idaho, Montana and Wyoming as well as the other

47 States), it will be treated as a foreign animal disease.

Eradication of Brucellosis in the GYA remains the long-term goal, with disease management and prevention as the short-term goal. While many tools are available, research is still needed on topics including but not limited to improved livestock and wildlife diagnostic tests, vaccines and vaccine delivery systems. Finding cooperative solutions in the area of disease transmission from elk/bison to cattle is the number one short-term goal.

The states should support APHIS in its efforts to

declare the U.S. Brucellosis free. Given the current sporadic occurrence of Brucellosis in livestock, there is no longer a need for a classification system that adjusts the status of either entire states or regions within states. The Brucellosis program would instead focus on criteria that must be met in a joint state-federal response to a disease risk in livestock utilizing a practical quarantine process which protects the industry, and the individual/producer's viability.

There will be follow up public meetings in the GYA to discuss the UMR/CFR with stakeholders. This will also be a topic at the United States Animal Health Association Brucellosis Committee Meeting in October.

By Dr. Jim Logan and Betsy Milek

State Veterinarians Addresses

Alabama

Dr. Anthony G. Frazier
State Veterinarian
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
1445 Federal Dr., Room 110
PO Box 3336
Montgomery, AL 36109-0336
Phone: 334-240-7253
Fax: 334-240-7198
E-mail: stvet@agi.alabama.gov
Website: www.agi.alabama.gov

Alaska

Robert Gerlach, VMD
State Veterinarian
5251 Hinkle Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: 907-375-8214
Fax: 907-929-7335
E-mail: bob_gerlach@dec.state.ak.us
Website: www.dec.state.ak.us

Arizona

Dr. Richard D. Willer
State Veterinarian
1688 W. Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602-542-4293
Fax: 602-542-4290
E-mail: rwiller@azda.gov
Website: www.azda.gov

Arkansas

Dr. George Pat Badley
State Veterinarian
Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
PO Box 8505
#1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72215
Phone: 501-907-2400
Fax: 501-907-2425
E-mail: pbadle@arlpc.org
Website: www.arlpc.org

California

Dr. Richard E. Breitmeyer, State Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Suite 409
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-651-6870 - Dr. Breitmeyer
PERMIT LINE: 916-651-6278
Fax: 916-651-0713 Dr. Breitmeyer
E-mail: CaVet@cdfa.ca.gov
Website: www.cdfa.ca.gov ("under programs and services")

Colorado

Dr. Keith Roehr
State Veterinarian
Colorado Department of Agriculture
700 Kipling St., Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
Phone: 303-239-4161
Fax: 303-239-4164
After Hours: 303-425-5427
E-mail: keith.roehr@ag.state.co.us
Website: www.ag.state.co.us

Connecticut

Dr Mary J. Lis
State Veterinarian
Connecticut Department of Agriculture
165 Capitol Ave.
Room G-8A
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-713-2505
Fax: 860-713-2515
E-mail: mary.lis@po.state.ct.us
Website: www.ct.gov/doag

Delaware

Sara Busch, DVM
State Veterinarian
Delaware Department of Agriculture
2320 S. DuPont Hwy.
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-739-4811 or 302-698-4560
Fax: 302-697-4451
E-mail: sara.busch@state.de.us

Florida

Dr. Thomas J. Holt
State Veterinarian and Director
Division of Animal Industry
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
407 S. Calhoun St., Mayo Bldg., MS-M7
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
Phone: 850-410-0900 or 850-410-0959(Permits)
Fax: 850-410-0915
E-mail: holt@doacs.state.fl.us
Website: <http://doacs.state.fl.us/ai/>

Georgia

Dr. Judy Webb
Associate State Veterinarian/Assistant Commissioner of
Animal Industry
Georgia Department of Agriculture
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. S.W. Room 106
Atlanta, GA 30334-4201
Phone: 404-656-3667
Fax: 404-651-9024
E-mail: jwebb@agr.state.ga.us
Website: www.agr.georgia.gov

State Veterinarians Addresses

Guam

Dr. Thomas Poole
Territorial Veterinarian
163 Dairy Rd.
Mangilao, GU 96913
Phone: 671-734-3943

Hawaii

Dr. James Foppoli
State Veterinarian and Division Administrator
Division of Animal Industry
Hawaii Department of Agriculture
99-941 Halawa Valley St.
Aiea, HI 96701-5602
Phone: 808-483-7111
Fax: 808-483-7110
E-mail: james.m.foppoli@hawaii.gov
Website: www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa

Idaho

Bill Barton, DVM
Administrator
Division of Animal Industries
Idaho Department of Agriculture
PO Box 7249
Boise, ID 83707-9985
Phone: 208-332-8540
Fax: 208-334-4062
E-mail: bbarton@agri.idaho.gov
Website: www.agri.state.id.us

Illinois

Mark J. Ernst, DVM
State Veterinarian
Division of Food Safety and Animal Protection
Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare
Illinois Department of Agriculture
PO Box 19281, State Fairgrounds
Springfield, IL 62794-9281
Phone: 217-782-4944
Fax: 217-558-6033
E-mail: mark.ernst@illinois.gov
Website: www.agr.state.il.us

Indiana

Dr. Bret D. Marsh
State Veterinarian
805 Beachway Dr., Suite 50
Indiana State Board of Animal Health
Indianapolis, IN 46224-7785
Phone: 317-227-0300
Fax: 317-227-0368
E-mail: bmarsh@boah.in.gov
Website: www.boah.in.gov

Iowa

David D. Schmitt, DVM
Acting State Veterinarian
Bureau of Animal Industry
State of Iowa Department of Agriculture
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-8617
Fax: 515-281-4282
E-mail: david.schmitt@idals.state.ia.us
Website: www.agriculture.state.ia.us/

Kansas

Mr. George Teagarden
Livestock Commissioner
Kansas Animal Health Department
708 SW Jackson
Topeka, KS 66603-3714
Phone: 785-296-2326
Fax: 785-296-1795
E-mail: gteagarden@kahd.ks.gov
Website: www.accesskansas.org/kahd

Kentucky

Dr. Robert C. Stout
State Veterinarian
100 Fair Oaks Ln., Suite 252
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: 502-564-3956
Fax: 502-564-7852
E-mail: robert.stout@ky.gov
Website: www.kyagr.com

Louisiana

Dr. Henry Moreau
State Veterinarian
Office of Animal Health Services
Livestock Sanitary Board
PO Box 1951
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Phone: 225-925-3980
Fax: 225-925-4103
E-mail: hmoreau@ldaf.state.la.us
Website: www.ldaf.state.la.us

Maine

Dr. Donald E. Hoenig
State Veterinarian
Department of Agriculture-Food and Rural Resources
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Phone: 207-287-3701
Fax: 207-624-5044
E-mail: donald.e.hoenig@maine.gov
Website: www.state.me.us/agriculture

State Veterinarians Addresses

Maryland

Guy Hohenhaus, DVM, State Veterinarian
Animal Health Program
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-841-5810
Fax: 410-841-5999
E-mail: hohengs@mda.state.md.us
Website: www.mda.state.md.us

Massachusetts

Mr. Doug Petersen, Commissioner
Division of Biosecurity and Regulatory Services
251 Causeway St., Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114-2151
Phone: 617-626-1795
Fax: 617-626-1850
Website: www.mass.gov/agr

Michigan

Steven L. Halstead, DVM, MS
State Veterinarian
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Animal Industry Division
PO Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-373-1077
Fax: 517-241-4502
E-mail: halsteads@michigan.gov
Website: www.michigan.gov

Minnesota

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director and State Veterinarian
State of Minnesota
Board of Animal Health
Orville L. Freeman Building
625 Robert St. North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6826
Fax: 651-296-7417
E-mail: bill.hartmann@bah.state.mn.us
Website: www.bah.state.mn.us

Mississippi

Dr. James A. Watson
State Veterinarian
Mississippi Board of Animal Health
PO Box 3889
Jackson, MS 39207
Phone: 601-359-1170
Fax: 601-359-1177
E-mail: jimw@mdac.state.ms.us
Website: www.mbah.state.ms.us

Missouri

Taylor Woods, DVM
Acting State Veterinarian
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Health
PO Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630
Phone: 573-751-3377
Fax: 573-751-6919
E-mail: taylor.woods@mda.mo.gov
Website: www.mda.mo.gov

Montana

Martin Zaluski, DVM
State Veterinarian/Administrator
Montana Department of Livestock
Animal Health Division
PO Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001
Phone: 406-444-7323
Fax: 406-444-1929
E-mail: MZaluski@mt.gov
Website: www.mt.gov/liv/

Nebraska

Dr. Dennis A. Hughes
State Veterinarian
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
PO Box 94787
Lincoln, NE 68509
Phone: 402-471-2351
Fax: 402-471-6893
E-mail: dhughes@agr.ne.gov
Website: www.agr.state.ne.us

Nevada

Dr. Philip LaRussa
State Veterinarian
Division of Animal Industry
Nevada Department of Agriculture
350 Capitol Hill Ave.
Reno, NV 89502
Phone: 775-688-1182 Ext. 261
Fax: 775-688-1733
E-mail: plarussa@agri.state.nv.us
Website: <http://agri.state.nv.us>

State Veterinarians Addresses

New Hampshire

Dr. Stephen K. Crawford
State Veterinarian
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
PO Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302-2042
Phone: 603-271-2404
Fax: 603-271-1109
E-mail: scrawford@agr.state.nh.us
Website: www.agriculture.nh.gov

New Jersey

Dr. Nancy E. Halpern, Director
Division of Animal Health
Department of Agriculture
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 609-292-3965
Fax: 609-777-8395
E-mail: nancy.halpern@ag.state.nj.us
Website: www.state.nj.us/agriculture/animal.htm

New Mexico

Dr. Dave E. Fly
State Veterinarian
New Mexico Livestock Board
300 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Suite 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87108-1500
Phone: 505-841-6161
Fax: 505-841-6160
E-mail: dave.fly@state.nm.us
Website: www.state.nm.us

New York

Dr. John P. Huntley
Director
Division of Animal Industry
Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Dr.
Albany, NY 12235
Phone: 518-457-3502
Fax: 518-485-7773
E-mail: john.huntley@agmkt.state.ny.us
Website: www.agmkt.state.ny.us

North Carolina

Dr. David T. Marshall
State Veterinarian and Director of Diagnostic Laboratories
Veterinary Division
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030
Phone: 919-733-7601
Fax: 919-733-2277
E-mail: david.marshall@ncmail.net
Website: www.agr.state.nc.us/vet

North Dakota

Dr. Susan J. Keller
State Veterinarian
North Dakota State Board of Animal Health
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020
Phone: 701-328-2655
Fax: 701-328-4567
E-mail: skeller@nd.gov
Website: www.state.nd.us

Ohio

Dr. Tony M. Forshey
Chief, Division of Animal Industry
Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 E. Main St., Bldg. 6
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-728-6220
Fax: 614-728-6310
E-mail: forshey@mail.agri.state.oh.us
Website: www.ohioagriculture.gov

Oklahoma

Dr. Becky Brewer-Walker
Director and State Veterinarian
Oklahoma Animal Industry Services Division
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
PO Box 528804
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Phone: 405-522-6131
Fax: 405-522-0756
E-mail: becky.brewer@oda.state.ok.us
Website: www.oda.state.ok.us

Oregon

Dr. Donald E. Hansen
State Veterinarian
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-986-4680
Fax: 503-986-4734
E-mail: dhansen@oda.state.or.us
Website: www.oregon.gov/oda/ahid

Pennsylvania

Dr. Paul E. Knepley
State Veterinarian
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
Phone: 717-772-2852
Fax: 717-787-1868
E-mail: pknepley@state.pa.us
Website: www.pda.state.pa.us

State Veterinarians Addresses

Puerto Rico

Dr. Hector J. Diaz
State Veterinarian
Department of Agriculture
Hwy 693-Kilometer 40 Barrio Higuillar
Dorado, PR 00646
PO Box 10163 (mail)
San Juan, PR 00908-1163
Phone: 787-796-1650
Fax: 787-796-5873
E-mail: hjdiaz_veterinaria@yahoo.com

Rhode Island

Peter Belinsky, VMD, Public Health Veterinarian
Scott Marshall, DVM, Public Health Veterinarian
Department of Environmental Management
Division of Agriculture/Animal Health
235 Promenade St., Room 370
Providence, RI 02908-5767
Phone: 401-222-2781 Ext. 4503 (Marshall)
Ext. 4508 (Belinsky)
Fax: 401-222-6047
E-mail: peter.belinsky@dem.ri.gov – or –
scott.marshall@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov

South Carolina

Dr. John A. Caver
State Veterinarian & Director
Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health Division
PO Box 102406
Columbia, SC 29224-2406
Phone: 803-788-2260, Ext 234
Fax: 803-788-8058
E-mail: jcaver@clemson.edu

South Dakota

Dr. Dustin Oedekoven
State Veterinarian and Executive Secretary
South Dakota Animal Industry Board
411 S. Fort St.
Pierre, SD 57501-4503
Phone: 605-773-3321
Fax: 605-773-5459
E-mail: Dustin.Oedekoven@state.sd.us
Website: www.state.sd.us/aib/

Tennessee

Dr. Charles Hatcher
State Veterinarian
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
PO Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: 615-837-5120
Fax: 615-837-5250
E-mail: charles.hatcher@state.tn.us
Website: www.state.tn.us/agriculture/regulate/animals/index.html

Texas

Dr. Bob Hillman
State Veterinarian
Texas Animal Health Commission
2105 Kramer Ln. -zip 78758
Mail: PO Box 12966
Austin, TX 78711-2966
Phone: 512-719-0700
Fax: 512-719-0721
E-mail: bhillman@tahc.state.tx.us
Website: www.tahc.state.tx.us

Utah

Dr. Bruce King
State Veterinarian
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
PO Box 146500
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
Phone: 801-538-7162
Fax: 801-538-7169
E-mail: BKING@utah.gov
Website: www.ag.utah.gov

Vermont

Kerry A. Rood, MS, DVM
State Veterinarian
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
116 State St., Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
Phone: 802-828-2421
Fax: 802-828-5983
E-mail: drrood@agr.state.vt.us
Website: www.state.vt.us/agric

Virginia

Dr. Richard Wilkes
State Veterinarian/Director
Division of Animal and Food Industry Services
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
102 Governor St., Suite 165
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-692-0601
Fax: 804-371-2380
E-mail: richard.wilkes@vdacs.virginia.gov
Website: www.vdacs.virginia.gov

Virgin Islands

Dr. Bethany Bradford
Director of Veterinary Medicine
Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture
Estate Lower Love
Kingshill, St. Croix, VI 00850
Phone: 340-778-0997, Ext. 241
Fax: 340-778-7977

State Veterinarians Addresses

Washington

Dr. Leonard Eldridge
State Veterinarian
Animal Services Division
Washington State Department of Agriculture
PO Box 42577
Olympia, WA 98504-2577
Phone: 360-902-1878
Fax: 360-902-2087
E-mail: leldridge@agr.wa.gov
Website: www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/default.htm

West Virginia

Dr. Gary Kinder
State Veterinarian
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25305-0172
Phone: 304-558-2214
Fax: 304-558-2231
E-mail: gkinder@ag.state.wv.us
Website: www.wvagriculture.org

Wisconsin

Dr. Robert G. Ehlenfeldt
State Veterinarian
Division of Animal Health
Department of Agriculture
Trade and Consumer Protection
PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
Phone: 608-224-4872
Fax: 608-224-4871
E-mail: robert.ehlenfeldt@datcp.state.wi.us
Website: www.datcp.state.wi.us

Wyoming

Jim Logan, DVM, State Veterinarian
Wyoming Livestock Board
1934 Wyoott Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0051
Phone: 307-777-6443
Fax: 307-777-6561
E-mail: JLOGAN1@state.wy.us
Website: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>