

# Animal Health News

Veterinary News from the North Dakota State Board of Animal Health

Summer 2014

## Board News

### New member

Gov. Jack Dalrymple has appointed Gerald Kitto, DVM to serve as one of the veterinarians on the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH). Dr. Kitto is the owner of Sheridan Animal Health Hospital in McClusky. He succeeds Dr. William Tidball of Beach, who served on the board for two seven-year terms.

### E-mail updates

Veterinarians wishing to receive timely information regarding disease situations can sign up for periodic e-mail updates from the Board of Animal Health. To get on the list, contact [tcelley@nd.gov](mailto:tcelley@nd.gov), or call (701) 328-2655.

### Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the North Dakota State Board of Animal Health will be at 9 a.m. on **Wednesday, September 24** in the Peace Garden room at the State Capitol in Bismarck.



## *A note from the state veterinarian:* Future of disease prevention may change in light of recent outbreaks

Across the state and nation and around the world, an ever-increasing number of challenges are facing veterinarians, public officials, researchers and others involved in animal health. In North Dakota, the directives of the State Board of Animal Health and the North Dakota Century Code provide clear guidance on the focus of our efforts, but future disease prevention efforts will require more of all of us, than what is now being done. I do not believe we will be able to rely wholly on federal partners to protect the health of our animals, to the same extent as in the past. Risk management or risk mitigation are phrases we hear often these days.

Your help and your role in disease prevention will continue to be essential in helping to monitor the next 'transboundary disease' (also known as a foreign animal disease). People, animals, animal products and feed are all potential pathways for disease introductions. If porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) can make it to the U.S., then diseases such as African Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease could enter through similar pathways.

Stick to the basics. Encourage producers to seek a laboratory confirmed diagnosis when possible to help them prevent illnesses and death losses and to plan for the future. It will make practice more rewarding for you professionally, as well. Upon request and as funds are available, we try to help with diagnostic testing-related expenses for unusual cases.

It has been such a wakeup call when one considers how long it took to identify and confirm the diagnosis of PEDV. Through virus sequencing, it was determined that it was not transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), but a new corona virus.

The process took many months and during that time the disease continued to spread and leave behind 80 to 100 percent loss of litters in many circumstances. It is estimated that 2 to 2.5 million sows have been infected with estimated losses of 2 to 3.5 pigs for every sow. The actual number of pigs that have died is estimated to be as high as 8 million. Due to a federal order, new emerging swine enteric corona disease (SECD) viruses are now reportable. There have been several new swine corona viruses have been diagnosed in the U.S. this past year. There are ongoing research efforts to determine possible pathways of these new disease introductions.

The bottom line: do not hesitate to report any disease associated with odd clinical signs or greater than normal morbidity and/or mortality rates, which may be indicators of something new. Regardless of what the latest or newest

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# North Dakota, South Dakota linked in USDA-VS reorganization

Administration of regulatory animal health programs of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) in North Dakota and South Dakota has been combined under the agency's recent reorganization.

"VS's reorganization is designed to better align our organization with our animal health mission," says Dr. Lynn Anne Tesar, assistant district director for North Dakota/South Dakota. "It will take time, however, to get fully accustomed to the new structure, work out all of the details of the reorganization and establish new business processes."

The reorganization replaced the title of area-veterinarian-in-charge (AVIC) with assistant district director (ADD). Dr. Tesar, who had been South Dakota's AVIC, was appointed ADD for the two states. In addition to supervising APHIS VS field staff in both states, she works with Dr. Susan Keller and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division on regulatory animal health matters in North Dakota.

Dr. Tesar says VS staff at the Bismarck office still assists practitioners with preparing international health certificates. Health certificates will be endorsed there. Call 701-250-4210, #2 for assistance.

VS staff members at the same office in Bismarck can assist you with veterinary accreditation renewals and with ordering federal forms/supplies including tuberculin: Call 701-250-4210, #1, for assistance. To avoid a wait time, consider calling for an appointment.

"When you place tuberculin orders for TB testing, please order a 3- or 4-month supply," said Dr. Tesar. "The bottles of tuberculin will be shipped to your clinic from out of state, so please plan ahead to allow time for processing and shipping."

Official sheep eartags can be ordered by calling the Bismarck office or toll-free, 1-866-USDA-TAG. USDA still provides official sheep eartags and tagging pliers at no charge.

Veterinarians can reach Dr. Tesar by calling the Bismarck office or by calling the Pierre, SD, office at 605-224-6186. The email address of the Pierre office is [vssd@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vssd@aphis.usda.gov).

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label it's given, if it is out of the norm, the sooner it is reported, the sooner other practitioners and their producers can take protective action.

In light of these challenges, I am pleased that we now have a new Assistant State Veterinarian, Dr. Sara McReynolds, and a new Field Investigator, Nathan Boehm, on board with our staff working to continue to improve our emergency response planning efforts. More about them can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Animal Health Division staff – Dr. Beth Carlson, Dr. McReynolds, Nathan and I – are always available to speak to producer groups regarding disease concerns. We support a strong working relationship between producers and their veterinarians.

On behalf of the Board of Animal Health and the entire staff, thank you for your hard work and commitment to animal health through disease prevention.

Sincerely,

Susan Keller  
ND State Veterinarian

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## Emergency preparedness update

Staff from the Animal Health Division, Department of Emergency Services and Department of Human Services participated in the Multi-jurisdictional Animal Resource Coordination Exercise, a virtual exercise for animal responders across the U.S. in July. The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment hosted the exercise.

The exercise provided responders with a better understanding of obtaining resources for animal emergencies from federal, state and non-governmental organizations

during a disaster. The exercise focused on resources for pets, livestock and horses. Teams from 24 states operated their own emergency operation centers, with communication primarily by email and phone.

Areas of improvement in North Dakota include an updated emergency contact checklist and trained shelter teams that can be utilized during an emergency. Also the understanding, use, and development of mission-ready packages and pre-scripted mission assignments should be increased to streamline response activities.

# Disease updates

## Disease Surveillance

Veterinarians should remain watchful for potential foreign animal diseases, other reportable diseases, and especially any vesicular lesions. Please contact either the state veterinarian or the federal assistant district director if any of these conditions are noted. The State Board of Animal Health has limited funds to help with diagnostic costs associated with unusual disease situations. Veterinarians who have such a case should call (701) 328-2655 to learn if funds are available.

## Anthrax

The first 2014 case of anthrax in North Dakota was confirmed July 2, in a Barnes County beef cow.

Producers should consult with their veterinarians to make sure the vaccination schedule for their animals is up to date. Effective anthrax vaccines are readily available, but that it takes about a week for immunity to be established, and the vaccine must be administered annually. Producers should monitor their herds for unexpected deaths and report them to their veterinarians.

Anthrax has been most frequently reported in northeast, southeast and south central North Dakota, but has been found in almost every part of the state.

An anthrax factsheet is available on the North Dakota Department of Agriculture website at [www.nd.gov/ndda/disease/anthrax](http://www.nd.gov/ndda/disease/anthrax).

## Cyanobacteriosis

Blue-green algae toxicosis is suspected in recent cattle deaths in Sheridan County. Algae was visible on the water surface where cattle were drinking.

Normally found in many lakes and pasture watering holes in the state, blue-green algae can grow into blooms under certain conditions. Blooms are more common in late summer, but it only takes a few hot days to cause overwintering organisms to become active and bloom.

These blooms can produce poisonous cyanotoxins which have no known antidotes. People, livestock or other animals that swallow water containing a harmful algae bloom can become ill. Livestock producers who suspect blue-green algae toxicosis should contact their veterinarian.

The North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture - Animal Health Division recommend the following to avoid exposure to cyanotoxins:

- Consult with private veterinarians or county agents to determine if treatment of water sources or tanks is necessary.
- Do not swim, water ski or boat in the water that is discolored or if foam, scum or mats of green or blue-green algae can be seen on the water.
- After accidentally swimming in water that might have a cyanobacteria bloom, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Do not let pets or livestock swim in or drink water that is discolored or where you see foam, scum or mats of algae on the water.
- If pets (especially dogs) swim in scummy water, rinse them off immediately – do not let them lick the algae (and toxins) off their fur.
- Do not irrigate lawns or golf courses with pond water that looks scummy or smells bad.
- The North Dakota Department of Health should be notified prior to treating water. Contact Michael Ell at 701-328-5214.

## Tuberculosis

In May of 2013, the State Board of Animal Health was notified that a beef cow was shipped to North Dakota in 2011 from a Texas herd later identified to be affected by bovine tuberculosis (TB). The cow was identified in North Dakota, purchased, slaughtered, and tested for TB. Laboratory testing confirmed the presence of *M. bovis* in the cow. After the remainder of the herd were tested three times with no evidence of TB, the herd was released from quarantine in February 2014. The herd will be monitored and undergo at least two more herd tests in the next five years.

In October 2013, the State Department of Health notified the BOAH that a foreign-born employee on a dairy had tested positive for TB earlier in the year. This was later identified as an *M. bovis* infection. The livestock owner voluntarily agreed to a whole herd test in November. As a result of this testing, three positive cattle were identified. All three cattle were born and raised in the herd. Two negative whole herd tests have since been completed. Additional testing is planned for late fall. The herd remains quarantined until a third negative herd test is completed.

## North Dakota State Board of Animal Health

For more information on these and other topics, please contact us:

Office: (701) 328-2655 | Toll Free: 1-800-242-7535  
Email: [doa-bah@nd.gov](mailto:doa-bah@nd.gov)

# Animal disease traceability

USDA recently conducted a test exercise to measure traceability performance with 47 states, territories and tribes participating. The North Dakota staff was given a list of ten official tags that were distributed to North Dakota veterinarians between 2009 and 2012. The staff was asked to provide where and when the tags were applied to animals as quickly as possible. Thanks to excellent cooperation with veterinarians and their staffs, the completed list was provided less than 24 hours after receiving the tag numbers.



Overall the USDA received the location of tagging 63 percent of the time with an average of 112 hours to retrieve the information. Other states did have some problems because the exercise exceeded the five-year records retention requirement established in regulation.

The exercise emphasized the importance of record keeping by veterinarians and producers. A recently implemented rule in the Code of Federal Regulations, 9CFR part 86, states that "any state, tribe, accredited veterinarian, or other person or entity who distributes official identification devices must maintain records for five years which include the names and addresses of anyone to whom the devices were distributed." Veterinarians are encouraged to develop a record keeping system that also includes the specific address at which the tags were applied. Systems should enable veterinarians to rapidly trace tags on official request.

Official tags are accountable property of USDA. Their use is addressed in Standards of Accredited Veterinarian Duties (9CFR 161.4(j): "an accredited veterinarian shall be responsible for the security and proper use of all official certificates, forms, records and reports; tags, bands, or other identification devices; and approved digital signature capabilities used in his or her work as an accredited veterinarian and shall take reasonable care to prevent the misuse thereof."



## Animal Health News

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## Staff changes

Dr. Sara McReynolds is the new assistant state veterinarian. A native of Stockton, KS, Dr. McReynolds graduated from Dordt College in Iowa and received her doctorate in veterinary medicine from Kansas State University. She practiced in Laramie, WY, before returning to KSU to earn a doctorate in epidemiology. Dr. McReynolds oversees the John's Disease Control Program, Reserve Veterinary Corps, and Emergency Preparedness and Response program. She also assists with other day-to-day responsibilities for the board.

A former member and president of the State Board of Animal Health, Nathan Boehm is the new livestock field investigator. A Mandan native and a graduate of North Dakota State University, Nathan operated a dairy farm for 33 years before joining the public sector. Nathan's duties include investigating cases of illegal importation, assisting with humane treatment of animals complaints, performing inspections of markets,



*Dr. Sara McReynolds*



*Nathan Boehm*

modified live vaccine outlets and non-traditional livestock facilities, and assisting with livestock handling.

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## USDA announces funding, issues federal order to combat PEDv

USDA has announced that funding is available for producers and veterinarians for cases compatible with porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and porcine delta corona virus (PDCov) which causes similar signs to PEDv.

USDA will pay for diagnostic testing to support the initial diagnosis. The veterinarian must provide additional information with the sample including a premises ID (contact the state veterinarian's office if needed), date of sample collected and the type of unit being sampled (farrowing, sow, feeder). Herds that are positive for PEDv or PDCov will be further supported to monitoring the outbreak and management of herd plans. The development of a herd plan for herds with a positive confirmed case can be completed by the herd veterinarian. State and federal health officials will provide assistance with the herd plans.

Approved sample types submitted to the diagnostic lab include intestines, feces, fecal swabs, oral fluids and environmental samples (specifically associated with a farm site and live pigs).

USDA will not pay for samples submitted from truck washes, trucks, trailers, other transport vehicles, feed, feed mills and other non-farm sites samples including those submitted for research purposes.

USDA requires new detections of these viruses be reported to the state veterinarian's office. At last count 30 states had reported positive PEDv accessions, and 15 reported positive PDCov accessions.

North Dakota's one case of PEDv was confirmed by the



North Dakota State University Diagnostic Laboratory on Feb. 27, 2013. On March 4, 2014, the Board of Animal Health ordered that all swine coming into North Dakota be accompanied by a health certificate declaring that premises the swine are originating from has not had any signs or a diagnosis of transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE) or PEDv in the last 60 days. For questions about import requirements, call the state veterinarian's office.

USDA has issued a conditional license to Harrisvaccines, Inc. of Ames, IA, for a vaccine that may aid in the control of PEDv. More information about the conditional license can be found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/2014/06/pdf/sa\\_pedv\\_vaccine.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/2014/06/pdf/sa_pedv_vaccine.pdf).

More information about the federal order can be found on the USDA website and biosecurity information can be found at [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org).

# Vesticular stomatitis outbreak in the south central U.S.

Over 241 vesicular stomatitis positive premises have been confirmed in Texas and Colorado with 11 counties in Texas and eight counties in Colorado affected, according to the USDA.

Positive premises are eligible for quarantine release 21 days after lesions have healed in all affected animals. Veterinarians in Colorado have reported horses with severe clinical signs. It can also affect mules, donkeys, cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas and cervidae. Vesicular stomatitis is quite contagious. The most common form of transmission is through insects, specifically biting flies. It can also be spread from one animal to another through direct contact and sharing of supplies.

Due to the outbreak, all imports of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and cervidae from any states which have a confirmed vesicular stomatitis positive animal since the beginning of each calendar year, are required to be accompanied by a pre-entry permit number prior to

import into North Dakota, including North Dakota horses returning home. The permit number is to be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and is given to the veterinarian issuing the CVI.

A statement shall be written on the CVI by the issuing veterinarian that indicates that the animals on the CVI have not originated from a premises or an area under quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis or a premises on which Vesicular Stomatitis has been diagnosed in the last 30 days; and the animals in the shipment have no signs of Vesicular Stomatitis.

For shipments within a 10 mile radius of an infected area or premises, use the statement above except for the exam must be within a 24 hour time frame as well as the CVI issued within 24 hours.

These requirements shall remain in effect until notice is given by the North Dakota Board of Animal Health.

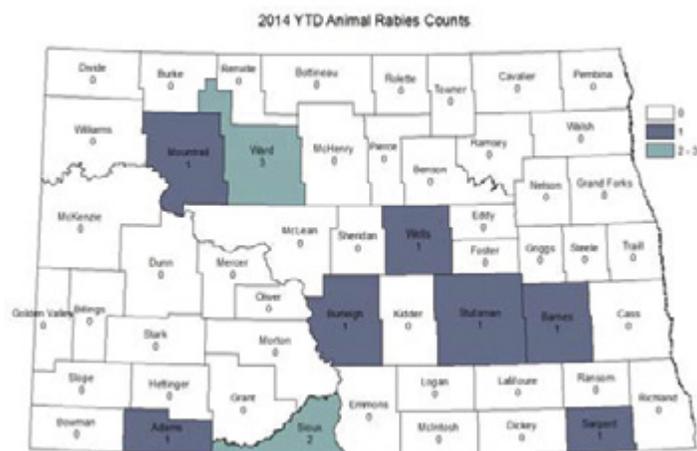
# Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act is now law

The long-awaited Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act (H.R. 1528), enabling veterinarians to provide complete medical care beyond their clinics and across state lines is now law.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has developed a list of frequently-asked questions and is updating

tools on Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration numbers to help members better understand how the new law directly affects them. In the meantime, any questions about compliance with the new law should be directed to the diversion control program manager at the nearest DEA field office.

# North Dakota weekly Zoonotic Report\*<sup>†</sup> 8/17 - 8/23



\* All reported cases are in humans, except where otherwise indicated.

<sup>†</sup> Data is preliminary.

<sup>^</sup> Includes Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, Babesiosis, Anaplasma and Ehrlichiosis

Images courtesy of the ND Department of Health

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