



Mission Statement

The Animal Health Branch is California's organized, professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and the State's economy from catastrophic animal diseases and other health or agricultural problems.

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Animal Health Branch Newsletter

Volume 39

April 2018

Alex A. Ardans Tulare Branch Laboratory Now Open and the Tulare Animal Health Branch District Office has Moved!

The new California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory in Tulare, the **Alex A. Ardans Tulare Branch Laboratory**, opened for submissions on Monday, March 26, 2018. The facility will expand services including on-site serologic testing for avian and mammalian diseases; on-site PCR testing for cattle diseases; increase capacity, integrity, and rapidity of test results; and provide a safer work environment.

The CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) - Tulare District Office has moved into the same building as the new laboratory, allowing for the continuation of a close working relationship that has proved invaluable in previous animal disease outbreaks.

The new laboratory and CDFA/AHB office is located just south of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Medical Teaching and Research Center (VMTRC), where the CAHFS-Tulare laboratory was originally located.

New Address for the CAHFS Tulare Branch Laboratory and the CDFA AHB Tulare District Office: 18760 Road 112, Tulare, CA 93274: *the phone numbers for the laboratory (559-688-7543) and the Tulare District Office (559-685-3500) have not changed.*



Equine Health Program Updates

By Katie Hatch, Research Scientist I and Dr. Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) in California

On Friday, February 16, 2018, a 10-year-old stallion pony horse at the Los Alamitos Race Course began showing neurologic symptoms. The horse was given supportive care until it was euthanized on Sunday, February 18, 2018. At the time of euthanasia, a nasal swab was submitted and the horse was submitted for necropsy. The nasal swab came back positive for the wild type strain of EHV-1. On Wednesday, February 21, 2018, a quarantine was placed on the barn where the pony horse had resided. All exposed horses had their temperature monitored twice daily. The pathologists at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory reviewed the necropsy report and laboratory findings and concluded that the EHV-1 PCR positive nasal swab result was an incidental finding as the pathology did not support evidence of EHV-1 infection as primary cause of neurologic symptoms. Severe myositis appeared to be the primary insult causing the neurologic symptoms.

As no other exposed horses presented with a fever or any other symptoms, quarantine was released at Los Alamitos on Monday, March 5th, 2018.

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Drug Rules Reminder

The intent of the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) is to ensure the integrity of public horse shows, competitions and sales through the control of performance and disposition-enhancing drugs; and to allow limited therapeutic use of drugs at an equine event. The EMMP monitors equines in public shows, competitions, and sales through random collection of blood or urine for chemical analysis.

Here are some of the highlights of California Equine Medication Rules:

1. All drugs shall be used for a therapeutic purpose and be prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for treatment of a diagnosed injury or illness;
2. There are nine (9) permissible substances with restrictions on the maximum detectable plasma or urine levels;
3. Administration of any injectable substance to an equid within twelve (12) hours of competition is prohibited;
4. Horses must be withdrawn from competition for twenty-four (24) hours, and sales for seventy-two (72) hours, after the administration of a therapeutic prohibited substance;
5. Administration of a prohibited substance for non-therapeutic purposes (i.e. clipping, shipping, etc.) requires horses to be withdrawn from competition or sales until the prohibited substance is no longer detectable;
6. Drug declarations are required for prohibited substances only;
7. Any horse on the grounds of a registered event may be selected for sample collection;
8. Blood is the only sample collected when an EMMP approved California licensed veterinarian is assigned to an event;
9. Failure to submit a selected horse for sample collection is a violation and will result in a notice of violation and a \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine

More information regarding the California Equine Medication Rule and the EMMP can be found at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/EMMP/.

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) 2017 Program Summary

Below is the summary 2017 testing data for the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) in 2017:

- Total Number of Registered Events: 1,214 events
- Total Number of Horses at Registered Events: 98,364 horses
- Total Number of Registered Events Tested: 370
- Total Number of Samples Collected: 581 urine samples and 1,154 blood samples
- Total Number of Violations Issued: 26 Notice of Violations (21 Drug Detection Violations, 5 Failures to Submit Selected Horse Violations)

More information regarding EMMP can be found at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/EMMP/.

Equine Health Program Updates (*continued*)

American Horse Council 2017 Economic Impact Survey Report

The American Horse Council recently released the results of the 2017 Economic Impact Survey. Some of the highlights from the report:

- Estimated number of horses in the United States is 7.2 million.
- Texas, California, and Florida continue to be the top three states with the highest population of horses.
- California has approximately 534,500 horses.
- The equine industry in the U.S. generates approximately \$122 billion in total economic impact, which is an increase of \$20 billion from the 2005 Economic Impact Study.
- The horse industry contributes approximately \$50 billion in direct economic impact to the U.S. economy.
- The equine industry is responsible for 988,394 jobs.
- Approximately 80 million acres of land is reserved for horse-related activities.



More information on the American Horse Council and the Economic Impact Survey can be found at <http://www.horsecouncil.org/>.

California Ag Day 2018

By Felicia Pohl, Research Scientist II

The Animal Health Branch hosted a booth this year at the California Ag Day celebration that took place on the steps of the California Capitol. This annual event is open to the public and elected officials, who tour booths and learn about local agencies, departments and their role in agriculture. CDFA's "Bring your Child to Work Day" coincides with this event to allow CDFA staff and their children to get a glimpse of some real-life farm animals and learn about different ag-related sectors prior to bringing their kids to their workplace. Additionally, booths offer food and product samples and outreach materials. The Animal Health Branch focused on a biosecurity theme this year and handed out chicken and horse biosecurity coloring and activity books, avian health calendars, biosecurity tip factsheets, pocket sized hand sanitizers, and pens. There were over four hundred (400) attendees.



An “Issues and Crises” State Communications Workshop

By Dr. Kent Fowler, DVM

On March 23, 2018, the California Beef Council (CBC) and National Cattle Breeders Association (NCBA) hosted an issue and crisis management workshop at the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) that was facilitated by the Ketchum Public Relations Firm. This was a great opportunity to discuss and define, “what is an issue?” and “what is a crisis?” The first objective of this workshop was for those involved in the livestock industry to better manage an issue or crisis situation that would threaten consumer confidence in beef through communications that are consistent and in accordance with the U.S. beef community’s culture and values. The second objective was to identify tools aimed at guiding those experienced with issue and crisis management or providing a framework approach for new employees or those unfamiliar with current best identified practice approach. Later in the day, attendees were divided into smaller discussion groups and provided a mock issue/crisis scenario for discussion on possible management of the situation. This was a well-attended and valuable communication workshop.

Seminar on Pastured Pig Production and Feral Pig Diseases: A Multi-Agency Education Effort

By Dr. Hector Webster, DMV, MS

UC Cooperative Extension, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is sponsoring a seminar to learn about diseases harbored in feral pig populations in California that may affect pastured pork production. This education seminar will be held on April 26, 2018 at the University of California Cooperative Extension facility in **Santa Rosa** from 6:00-7:45pm.

The increasing number of small-scale diversified farms and pasture-raised livestock (i.e. outdoor-raised) in California and nationwide reflects growing consumer interest and demand for organic or sustainably-produced local foods, including humanely-raised animal products such as meat and eggs. A challenge in raising pigs outdoors is the increasing probability of domestic pigs interfacing with wildlife, which increases the potential for the emergence of new pathogens or previously eradicated swine diseases. California has one of the largest and widest distribution of feral pigs. Feral pigs are known to forage in farmland and many California farmers and ranchers regularly experience feral pig intrusions in their crop field and/or interaction between outdoor-raised pigs and feral pigs. Feral pigs are reservoirs for many zoonotic and foodborne pathogens, and the interface of these two pig populations has important implications for food safety. This seminar will provide an opportunity to meet local farm advisors (UCCE), extension specialists (UCD Vet Med) and local representatives from USDA Wildlife Services (USDA WS), CDFA and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Animal Health and learn about biosecurity and mitigation strategies to protect livestock from feral pigs.

For more information about future seminars in your area, contact:

Seminar Information & Registration: <http://ucanr.edu/pastureraisedpigs>

Contacts: Michelle Nozzari: mnozzari@ucdavis.edu; Alda Pires: 530-754-9855 or apires@ucdavis.edu;

Laura Patterson: lpatters@ucdavis.edu

Live Bird Market Working Group Meeting

By Dr. Sarah Mize, DVM, MPVM



Dr. Sarah Mize, Veterinary Specialist and Poultry Lead for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), attended the Live Bird Market Working Group (LBMWG) Meeting in New York City on February 21- 22, 2018. The LBMWG includes attendees from academia, the Live Bird Market industry, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and regulatory officials from many states. The program coordinator was Dr. Fidelis Hegngi, Senior Staff Veterinarian and National Coordinator for the Live Bird Market System (LBMS) Avian Influenza (AI) Program for the USDA.

The purpose of the LBMWG is to recommend policy and regulatory reforms to the USDA for the detection and control of AI in the LBMS in the United States. The LBMWG meeting provides updated information on AI, biosecurity protocols, state regulations, and testing protocols.

Poultry Producers Need to Stay Alert for Avian Influenza

By Dr. Sarah Mize, DVM, MPVM and Felicia Pohl, Research Scientist II

On March 6th, the first case of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) was reported in the United States for 2018. The detection occurred in Jasper County, Missouri during routine pre-slaughter surveillance and testing for H5/H7. The virus was traced to a commercial turkey farm that housed about 20,000 birds. Test results were positive for presumptive LPAI H7N1. No signs of illness or increased turkey deaths were reported.

A second case of LPAI H7N1 was reported three days later during routine surveillance of a commercial breeder flock with about 24,000 chickens in Hopkins County, Texas. Hopkins County is about 350 miles south of Missouri's Jasper County. The flock had exhibited a slight increase in mortality and a decrease in egg production.

Enhanced surveillance and epidemiological investigations were initiated immediately upon discovery and there have not been any other positive findings. Partial sequencing of the virus suggests that the virus is of the low pathogenic North American wild bird lineage.

While this H7N1 strain poses no public health or food safety risks, these incidents highlight the risks facing poultry producers. These latest findings were discovered during routine testing, emphasizing how an early warning system is key in rapid response and containment. California has a robust surveillance and early warning system, but it is still important for poultry producers to remain vigilant on the biosecurity front. Every year H5/H7 LPAIs are detected in migratory birds and biosecurity is the first line of defense. Field reports from our staff have been very positive as it has been evident that many producers have made new investments in biosecurity these last couple of years.

Resource: <http://www.wallacesfarmer.com/poultry/poultry-producers-need-be-alert-bird-flu>



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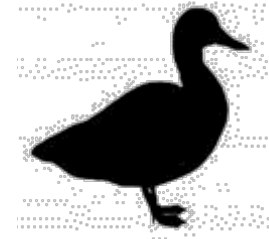
Avian Photos



Want a chance for your bird to be featured in
the next CDFA Avian Calendar?

Please submit your high quality bird photos
with:

- Your name
 - Contact info
 - Breed/species of the bird(s) (if known)
- to Felicia Pohl at Felicia.pohl@cdfa.ca.gov



**Poultry, pet bird, waterfowl and wild bird
photos are acceptable*

Questions? Call 916-900-5002 or
e-mail Felicia Pohl directly at the
e-mail address above



Cattle Identification Requirements

By Dr. Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

CDFA would like to remind practitioners of the official identification requirements for cattle moving within and entering California. These requirements became effective April 1, 2017, as part of the animal disease traceability regulation changes.

Official identification is required for the following cattle **moving within** California.

- Dairy cattle born in California after January 1, 2017, prior to leaving their birth premises
- Dairy cattle on change of ownership
- Non-virgin sexually intact male cattle less than 18 months of age and sexually intact male cattle 18 months of age and over, prior to change of ownership

Exceptions: <http://goo.gl/Ngp92t>

Official identification is required for the following cattle **entering** California.

Dairy Cattle:

- Female dairy cattle of any age
- Male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013, including steers

Beef Cattle:

- Female beef breed cattle and bison six (6) months of age and over-sexually intact animals
- Male beef breed cattle and bison 18 months of age or over-sexually intact animals

Other:

- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, recreational, show, or exhibition purposes
- Mexico origin cattle regardless of age or sex

Exceptions: <http://goo.gl/siw6FU>

Reference: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/ID_Info.html



California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms

A notice from the
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

Blooms of toxic cyanobacteria are responsible for illnesses and deaths of dogs, livestock, and wildlife every year in California. Veterinarians may be presented with animals suspected of having been exposed to these harmful algal blooms (HABs). The [California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom \(CCHAB\) Network](#) of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, in conjunction with CalEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the California Department of Public Health, has prepared a fact sheet to assist veterinarians to respond to incidents of suspected HAB exposure in domestic animals. The fact sheet provides veterinarians with technical information on assessing exposure history, evaluating clinical signs, pursuing diagnosis and confirmatory testing, patient management, and reporting to proper authorities. The fact sheet is available on the California HABs Portal at http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/what/vet_habs_factsheet.pdf.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations January 1- March 31, 2018

By Dr. Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

California continues experiencing a Senecavirus A (SVA) outbreak. From January 1 to March 31, 2018, two-hundred and twenty one (221) Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigations have been conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) personnel. This is a significant increase in the number of FAD investigations compared to the same time period in 2017 (eighteen [18] investigations), mostly due to investigations on swine populations (**Table 1**). Two hundred and twelve (212) cases with vesicular lesions were shipped to slaughter establishments in California and were tested for SVA and foot-and-mouth diseases (FMD). All of the samples tested were positive to SVA and negative to foot-and-mouth diseases (**Figure 1**). There is no evidence of SVA infection among swine populations raised in California.

Any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out. Private practitioners, diagnostic laboratories, animal hospitals, and producers must report signs of the emergency conditions outlined in the California [“List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products”](#) within twenty-four (24) hours by calling the CDFA-AHB or the USDA-APHIS-VS District Office in their area.

The CDFA Animal Health Branch’s mission is to maximize preparedness amongst the branch employees to respond effectively to any potential FAD incidents in California. AHB personnel enhance their professional skill with continued preparedness and response training and exercises. In May 2018, CDFA-AHB will conduct a multi-state functional FMD exercise to enhance its response capability to any potential animal health threat to the California livestock industry.

Figure 1. FAD Investigations by species (Percentage)
January 1 to March 31, 2018

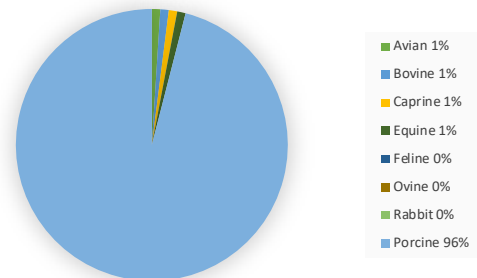


Table 1. Summary of FAD investigations during January 1 to March 31, 2018 by Districts

AHB Districts	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Senecavirus A, Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD)	Porcine	Swab	189	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)	Equine	Swab, Blood	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	Schmallenberg Virus	Caprine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	Influenza A Virus (IAV)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
Redding	IAV	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	2	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All Positive for SVA
Ontario	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for SVA
	VSV	Equine	Swab, Blood	2	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	20	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	Schmallenberg Virus	Bovine	Swab, Tissue	2	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	FMD, VSV	Bovine	Swab, Tissue	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative

*NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
CAHFS: California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory
D: Davis

Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI)

By Dr. Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

The California Department of Food and Agriculture encourages the transition to [electronic certificates of veterinary inspection](#) (eCVIs) when a CVI is needed for the interstate or intrastate movement of animals. Electronic health certificates have several advantages over paper CVIs, including increased accuracy and convenience for private practitioners. The following are third-party eCVI providers that meet USAHA data standards and are accepted here at CDFA and in most states:

- [GlobalVetLink](#)
- [Smart ICVI](#)
- [mCVI](#)
- [Vet Sentry](#)
- [VSPS \(large animal species only\)](#)
- [Larch Hill Laboratory \(equine only\)](#)

Veterinarians should always check with the destination state to ensure that the animals and CVIs meet their entry requirements. A growing number of states no longer accept the USDAAPHIS Form 7001, making eCVIs the only option for California veterinarians writing CVIs for small animals entering those states.

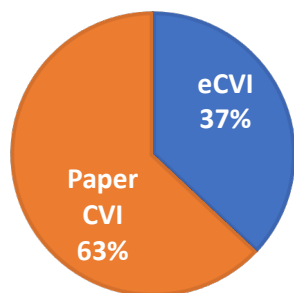
Veterinarians must have a current CA veterinary license and national USDA accreditation to issue CVIs. Only Category II accredited veterinarians may issue CVIs for large animals and birds.

Service providers vary in how their eCVIs are operated and produced; veterinarians should direct technical questions about these services to the respective provider. CDFA's Livestock Inspectors oversee the *approval* of mCVI accounts, verifying that state licensing and accreditation are current and match the California veterinarian requesting the account. Clinics cannot request mCVI accounts - individual veterinarians within a clinic must request an account to write mCVIs. Please allow two business days for accounts to be approved.

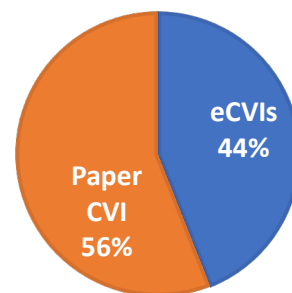
Please contact Kristen or Ashley, Livestock Inspectors for Livestock Movement, at (916) 900-5052 or evet@cdfa.ca.gov, if you have questions about eCVI providers or you are having problems requesting an mCVI account. If you are a California licensed, USDA accredited Category II veterinarian and would like to order California paper CVIs for moving livestock or poultry, please contact (916) 900-5002.

CVI Method for Moving Animals Into and Out of California (2017)

CVIS FOR INCOMING ANIMALS



CVIS FOR OUTGOING ANIMALS



Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) Update and Information on Surveys & Studies

by Dr. Dennis Wilson, DVM, MPVM, PhD

Since the start of the implementation of Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Chapter 4.5: Use of Antimicrobial Drugs [14400-14408] on January 1, 2018, the Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) team has been responding to questions and feedback from livestock producers, veterinarians, and others affiliated with livestock agriculture. In addition to outreach and antimicrobial stewardship activities, AUS is also mandated to collect representative data on antimicrobial sales, use, resistance, and livestock management practices. At this time, AUS is working with organizations, industry, and producers to gather the needed information through **voluntary** participation in our surveys and in studies contracted with universities and other research institutions, such as UC Davis. It is critical that AUS can demonstrate to the California Legislature in January 2019 that voluntary participation provides sufficient information to better understand and mitigate antimicrobial resistance in California's livestock.

The information we collect is kept **strictly confidential**, including from Public Records Act (PRA) or Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, as mandated by FAC Ch. 4.5 Section 14407. Many AUS surveys are **anonymous** and do not request or require personally identifiable information. Additionally, AUS reports only summarized information so that **no individual participant can be identified**. To ensure that any survey or request for information or participation that you or your clients receive is from our program, please look for the AUS logo and/or contact us at cdfa_aus@cdfa.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 576-0300 with any questions.

AUS Surveys & Studies has completed a mail-out survey of California cow-calf producers and is in the process of analyzing these results. When finished the results will become publicly available. Our next mail-out survey – one for commercial sheep producers – will be sent out in **late May or early June 2018**. AUS Surveys & Studies is also working with researchers to examine antimicrobial use and resistance in poultry and dairy production and to engage backyard livestock producers on the topics of antimicrobial use and resistance. We anticipate further collaboration with the CAHFS labs and with USDA NAHMS on the development of metrics and further surveys of various livestock production types.

The information collected will influence the resources, materials, and guidance developed by AUS for producers, veterinarians, and the public. Your participation as veterinarians responding to surveys and encouraging your clientele to respond is critical in assisting us in providing you relevant decision-making tools.

Agriculture Response Management and Resources (ARMAR) Exercise May 8 -10, 2018

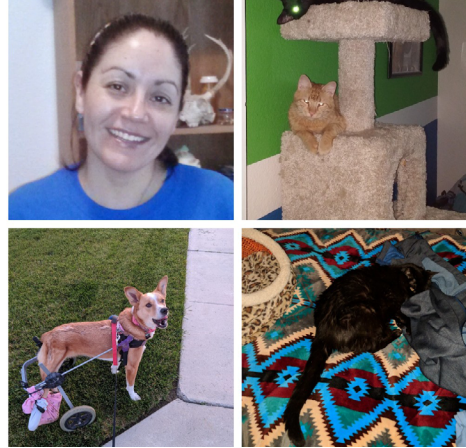
The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch is collaborating with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Multistate Partnership for Security in Agriculture to conduct a Foot and Mouth Disease response exercise. This is the first large-scale exercise of its kind, incorporating multiple states and USDA responding simultaneously to a nationwide event. Preparing to respond to animal disease incidents continues to be a priority for all states and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services.



Staff Biographies

Dr. Carla Lytle

Dr. Carla Lytle is originally from Gallup, New Mexico. She completed her undergraduate degree at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and her Veterinary degree at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She worked for a short time as an Equine Practitioner before joining USDA-FSIS. She and her family enjoy traveling and spending time with their numerous pets; one of which definitely keeps them on their toes. Dr. Lytle started with the Animal Health Branch, Modesto District Office in February 2018.



Ida Higgins

Ida Higgins is from a small town in Northeastern California, where she and her husband, Mark, operate Twin Pine Angus. They live in Adin, which is in Lassen County, where there are more cattle than people. There they raised their two boys, Michael and Morgan, and now are enjoying watching their two beautiful granddaughters, Helen and Bethany, grow up there as well.



They have always raised commercial cattle. In 2000, they decided to start raising registered black Angus with an emphasis on raising quality seedstock. What Ida loves most about ranching is calving season in the spring, which is her favorite time of the year. It always reminds her of the constant beginning of new life.

One of Ida's greatest pleasures is spending time with her family and friends and laughing. Her free time is limited, but when she has it, she loves showing her reining horses. Ida's other fun and mind-clearing activities are running, cross training, doing a few spartan races and any water activities. As long as she is outside, she is happy...

She feels blessed and is enjoying her new position with Animal Health Branch, Redding District Office, as one of the Livestock Inspectors.

Aria Lindsay

Aria Lindsay is a new AHB Agricultural Technician in Sacramento. She is a recent graduate of UC Davis with a degree in Agricultural and Environmental Education. While at UCD she was on the 2014 Livestock Judging Team, worked as the head teaching assistant for the Tractor Driving class, and interned and worked on several of the campus livestock and poultry facilities. She is pursuing a career in agricultural education and public outreach. In her spare time, Aria enjoys raising chickens, cooking, and training for various athletic events. She will be returning to UCD in the fall to start her M.A. in Agricultural Education. Aria will be working with AHB and is excited to get to know everyone as a member of the CDFA team.



Contact Information



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FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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