

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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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Branch Newsletter

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2018-19 Virulent Newcastle Disease Incident: Eradication Efforts Continue

By Elise Chad, DVM, MS and Felicia Pohl, BS

While significant progress towards virulent Newcastle disease (VND) eradication has been made and detections of VND have decreased greatly, efforts to identify and clear remaining pockets of disease continue. Ongoing surveillance and testing in the Regional Quarantine Area detected VND in poultry at a retail feed store in San Bernardino County on August 14, the first detection of VND since June 4, 2019. On August 30, VND infected poultry were detected at a research facility in San Diego County when a private veterinarian submitted dead birds to the CAHFS Laboratory System. This is the first detection of VND in San Diego County since this incident began last May 2018. An investigation into the August 30 case determined that VND-infected birds were moved from an area of Riverside County to the Ramona area in San Diego County in violation of the regional quarantine (see map below).



Photo by: Sophia Hayes

As of September 20, VND has been detected in 451 poultry flocks in the following California counties: Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Ventura, Alameda, and San Diego. USDA also confirmed one case in Utah County, Utah and another case in Coconino County, Arizona.

Our priority is to stop the spread of the virus and eradicate the disease. Movement restrictions, diagnostic testing and segregating poultry from other avian species are all required in the regional quarantine that remains in effect.

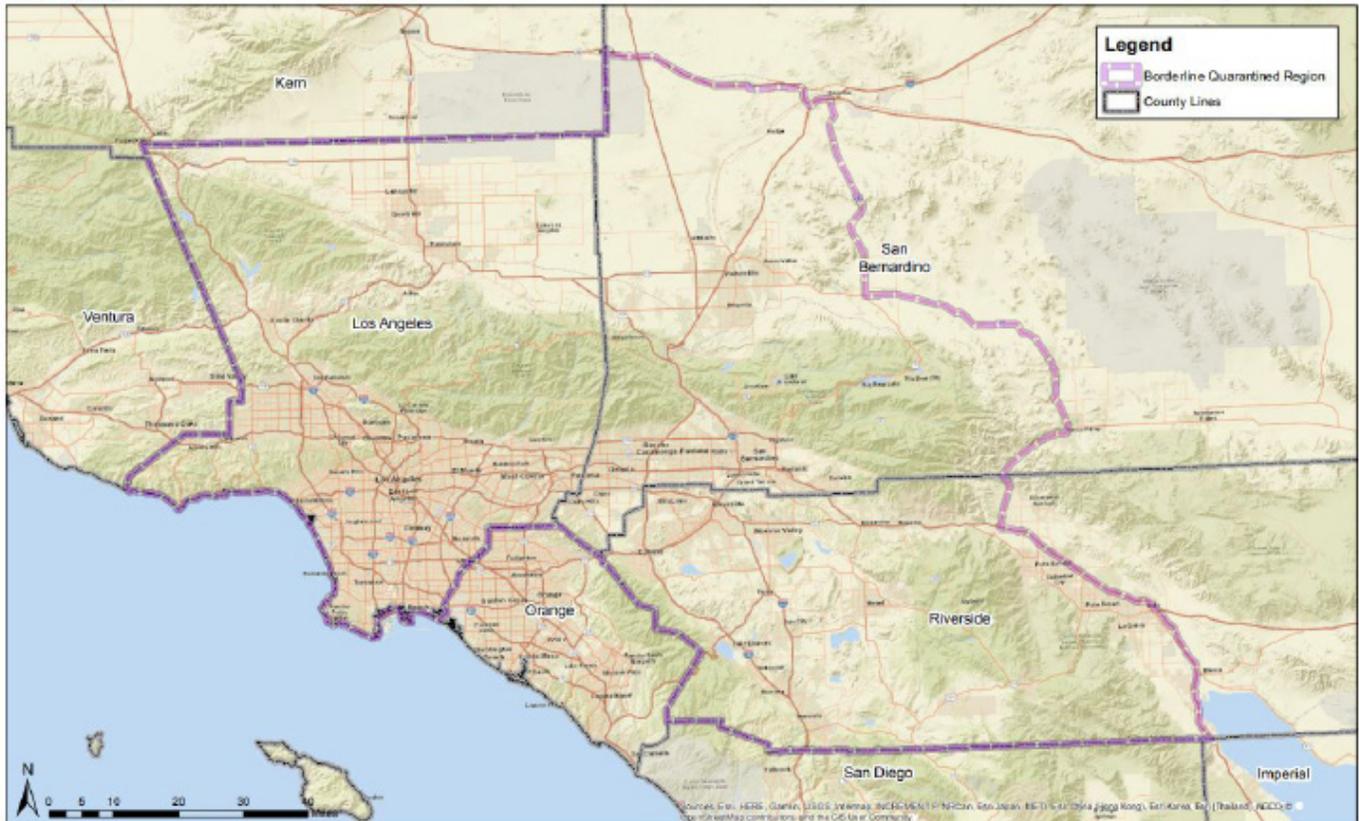
The regional quarantine will remain in place until all premises within this area have completed virus elimination and surveillance for disease freedom. While continued surveillance and negative results moves us closer to eradication, any subsequent detection would represent a significant setback and potentially delay lifting the quarantine.

(Continued on page 2)



Virulent Newcastle Disease Regional Quarantine

Date: 2/27/2019



We need your help to end the VND outbreak in Southern California and eradicate the disease from our State!

Please remind bird owners living within the regional quarantine area:

- Do **NOT** move birds (including shipping and receiving birds) *
- Allow diagnostic testing of birds, if requested
- Enhance [biosecurity](#) and isolate poultry from other species
- Cease exhibitions**
- Remain alert for [signs of VND](#)
- Report any sick birds immediately to the Sick Bird Hotline, 866-922-2473
- Stay updated on the VND incident by following our [CDFA Virulent Newcastle Disease web page](#)

**People cannot move their birds in, out of, or within the regional quarantine area without prior written approval. Please email SFSPermits@cdfa.ca.gov to learn more about movement permits for the VND incident.*

*** Exhibition: Any event, gathering or activity where live poultry from various sources are brought together for public display, competitive or non-competitive showing, racing, fighting or trade at venues that include, but are not limited to auctions, bird shows, fair exhibits, swap meets, flea markets, poultry sporting events and at individual residences.*

Got questions? Call the VND Public Information Line (909) 731-6367





LET'S STOP THE RUMORS

THE VND REGIONAL QUARANTINE HAS NOT BEEN LIFTED

We are currently in a testing phase but the regional quarantine for virulent newcastle disease (VND) is still in effect. Sick Bird Hotline 866-922-2473

WHEN WILL IT BE LIFTED?

We need your help! The regional quarantine will be lifted when testing shows that VND is no longer active in the area. We are working hard to finish testing, but **we need your help**. You can help us by **not moving birds**, *maintaining good biosecurity*, *allowing us to test your birds* when asked, and **speaking out** when someone is violating the regional quarantine.

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP VND

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations: July 1- September 30, 2019

By Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

A total of two hundred and forty-one (241) 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 from July 1 to September 30, 2019 in California (Table 1). The large portion of the FAD investigations, eighty-six percent (86%), is related to Seneca Virus-A (SVA) infection among the swine shipped to slaughterhouses in the Modesto District. SVA is an endemic disease and has been identified in U.S. swine population since the 1980s, however similarity of the symptoms between SVA and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) triggers a FAD investigation. A FAD is highly transmissible livestock or poultry disease and 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 AHB district offices' contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Table 1. Summary of FAD Investigations during July 1 to September 30, 2019 by Districts

AHB District	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Seneca Virus-A (SVA), Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD)	Porcine	Swab	207	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for Infectious Bronchitis Virus
	Schmallenberg Disease	Bovine	Spleen Tissue	1	NVSL	Negative
Ontario	vND	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive
	New World Screwworm	Canine	Larvae	1	NVSL	Negative
Redding	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	5	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF), VSV	Bovine	Swab, Tongue Tissue	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)	Equine	Swab, Serum	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	FMD, VSV	Ovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD)	Rabbit	Liver Tissue	1	NVSL	Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	17	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	MCF, VSV	Bovine	Swab, Spleen Tissue	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	High Mortality	Bovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Urea toxicity
	High Mortality	Equine	Tissue	1	CAHFS-SB	Negative
	RHD	Rabbit	Liver Tissue	1	NVSL	Negative

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

Official Identification in Cattle: Transition to Electronic Official ID

By Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a proposed timeline to phase out metal visual ear tags and transition to electronic ear tags for the official identification (ID) of cattle currently covered by federal regulations, including all dairy cattle and sexually intact beef cattle 18 months of age and over (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/plan-to-achieve-eid-factsheet.pdf>). The USDA's proposed timeline prohibits manufacturers from making metal cattle ear tags with the U.S. Shield, both brucellosis and silver, starting January 1, 2021.

Starting January 1, 2020, the USDA will cease providing free metal silver cattle ear tags. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) may continue to distribute metal ear tags through December 2020. Producers, veterinarians, and markets will need to purchase metal silver cattle ear tags from manufacturers after CDFA has no more tags in stock. A list of manufacturers of the metal silver cattle ear tags is available: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_nues.pdf

Brucellosis contract veterinarians will continue to receive metal brucellosis ear tags with their vaccination supplies through December 2020.

State veterinarians are working with the USDA to help industry, veterinarians, and animal health officials prepare for this transition to mandatory electronic ID tags for cattle currently required to have identification for interstate movement. These discussions include the identification of brucellosis vaccinates after metal brucellosis ear tags are no longer considered official.



Renewal for Trichomonosis Approved Veterinarians and Laboratories

By Alyssa Louie, DVM, MPVM and Beth Francia

Thank you to our trichomonosis approved veterinarians for your continued participation in helping detect and control bovine trichomonosis!

Approval for veterinarians to officially sample for bovine trichomonosis with the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Animal Health Branch must be renewed every two (2) years. The new agreement will be mailed to you in October 2019. Please update your contact information, sign and return your renewal before your current agreement expires on **December 31, 2019**.



Any testing, reading or diagnosing of trichomonosis samples must be performed in a trichomonosis approved laboratory. Initial laboratory approval requires training with the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory and is renewed on a two (2) year schedule. Laboratory renewal forms will also be distributed this year in a separate mailing.

REMINDER: The 2019-20 trich year began September 1, 2019, and goes through August 31, 2020. The trich approved tags for this year are **yellow**.

For more information please visit our website:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/Trichomonosis_Info.html

Changes to Beef Cattle Brucellosis Requirement for Sale

By Alyssa Louie, DVM, MPVM and Anita Edmondson, BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

Assembly Bill 1801 included the repeal of two sections of California Food and Agricultural Code that required intact female beef breed cattle over 12 months of age to be brucellosis vaccinated if sold within the state – those that were not could only be sold for slaughter.

California's cattle industry supported this change given the low risk of brucellosis – the last infected beef herd in the state was in 1992, and the United States has been classified as brucellosis-free since 2009. Studies conducted by the University of California – Davis have also suggested the risk of importing infected cattle from the areas where disease still exists (Greater Yellowstone



Area in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming) is extremely low. Removing the requirement for vaccination of beef female cattle for change of ownership would also hopefully allow for more adaptability during environmental and economic fluctuations.

Brucellosis vaccine will still be available for beef producers wanting to vaccinate their heifers (which may be a requirement for interstate movement), and mandatory calfhood vaccination for dairy heifers remains in place.

The bill was approved and filed on September 20, 2019, and the repeal will be effective January 1, 2020.

Equine West Nile Virus Updates

By Katie Hatch, BS



For 2019, a total of thirteen (13) horses have been confirmed positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) so far. The positive horses were located in Fresno (2), Kern (2), Madera (2), Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Stanislaus (2) and Ventura counties. Eight (8) horses were unvaccinated, five (5) horses had an unknown vaccine history, and none of the positive horses were vaccinated. Three (3) horses died or were euthanized and ten (10) are alive and recovering.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) continually monitors and investigates equine neurologic cases for the presence of WNV in California. CDFA urges horse owners to consult their veterinarian concerning a WNV vaccination program to ensure maximum protection of their horses.

For more information visit: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/WNV_Info.html

Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship Veterinary Outreach and Education

By Marissa Silva, DVM, MVB

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) team continues towards improving access to veterinarians in agricultural communities, as well as enhancing knowledge and implementation of antimicrobial stewardship in livestock within California.

A few program highlights you may find useful in your area of practice:

- 1. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Nominations:** Once again it is time to think about food animal veterinary needs in California! If you reside in an area with limited access to large animal veterinarians, please consider nominating your county for \$25,000 per year of funding (for up to 3 years) for USDA-NIFA selected veterinarians. Reach out to AUS personnel to begin the nomination process. Please submit your information by October 31st, 2019 to facilitate timely nomination by the State Veterinarian. Nomination survey forms will be available October 15th, 2019 at: <https://cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/aus/CAVetNeeds.html>
Please note: Nominating a shortage area to CDFA does not guarantee selection by the NIFA review committee. Submit all forms to cdfa_aus@cdfa.ca.gov
- 2. Judicious Use Resources Online:** AUS recently introduced both infographic and full-text versions of our Guidelines for Judicious Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock. These resource documents are intended to help veterinarians, livestock owners, and their employees understand their roles and the necessary actions needed to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics, also referred to as antibiotic stewardship. Find them at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/aus/Stewardship.html>
- 3. Opportunities for Dairy Antimicrobial Stewardship Continuing Education:** A shared venture by AUS and Washington State University, Partnering for Antimicrobial Stewardship: A Conference for Farmers and Veterinarians in the West will take place on April 17, 2020. This one-day, interactive, multimedia conference will bring together dairy veterinarians and their producers to discuss on-farm antimicrobial stewardship measures. Broadcast from Portland, Oregon, there will be three (3) UC Cooperative Extension and UC Davis faculty facilitated locations across California: Orland, Modesto, and Tulare, as well as sites in Washington and Idaho. Over six (6) hours of continuing education will be provided from speakers with practical expertise in dairy antimicrobial stewardship. More information is available at: <https://vetextension.wsu.edu/dairy-antimicrobial-stewardship/>



Please contact the Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship Program with any questions or requests for continuing education speakers related to large animal antimicrobial stewardship. Email cdfa_aus@CDFA.ca.gov or reach out by phone at (916) 576-0300.

Chronic Wasting Disease Update

By Anita Edmondson, BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is increasing its monitoring and testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in California's deer and elk herds. While California has never had a case of CWD, increased testing is needed to be confident that there are no deer or elk with CWD in California. Keeping this disease out of our state is a high priority!

Chronic Wasting Disease is a contagious and fatal neurological disease of deer and elk. Once CWD enters a herd, it is nearly impossible to eradicate. Although there are no known cases of CWD being transferred to people, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends not consuming any part of an animal that has tested positive for CWD (<https://www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd/index.html>).

For more information on California's surveillance efforts visit CDFW's CWD website at: <https://Wildlife.ca.gov/CWD>

To date, CWD has been detected in 26 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces (<http://cwg-info.org/>).

Arkansas	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Colorado	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wyoming
Illinois	Montana	South Dakota	Alberta, Canada
Iowa	Nebraska	Tennessee	Ontario, Canada
Kansas	New Mexico	Texas	Quebec, Canada
Maryland	New York	Utah	Saskatchewan, Canada
Michigan	North Dakota	Virginia	
Minnesota	Ohio	West Virginia	

National Animal Health Monitoring System Goat 2019 Study

By Jaymes Adams, MPH



The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Goat 2019 study is going on now through the end of the year. It is taking an in-depth look at important issues facing U.S. goat operations and will provide new and valuable animal health and management information to the industry. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is collaborating with NAHMS to ensure that California's goat industry is well represented in the national data. Information from the study will be held completely confidential and be used to help develop new treatments, control, and prevention mechanisms for common goat diseases as well as help guide future research and education efforts. This is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for all types of goat operations in California to let their voices be heard. Please encourage goat producers to participate when contacted by United States Department of Agriculture or CDFA.

For more information visit: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/monitoring-and-surveillance/nahms/nahms_goat_studies



Staff Biographies

Dr. Andrea Greisler Garbaba grew up surrounded by farm animals, science, and cats in the Pacific Northwest of Western Washington. Growing up, she shared her passion and curiosity for science with her father, who taught high school Biology and Chemistry. Andrea soon explored both paid and volunteer jobs with animals as a child and young adult. Andrea worked four (4) years with a dairy nutritionist while achieving her Bachelors in Animal Science at Cal Poly Pomona, California. This sparked a strong interest in food animal medicine. When she graduated from Western University of Health Sciences as a veterinarian, she practiced small animal medicine for a few years before pursuing a different interest with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Andrea recently married her college sweetheart



of thirteen (13) years and they live together with their three (3) fur-baby kitties. Andrea enjoys travel, gardening, and spending time with her family and new husband. She started with the Ontario District in February of 2019 and is excited to contribute to the Animal Health Branch through her passion for animals.



Dr. Meghan Mott is a Maine native, holds a B.S. degree in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry from Yale University, and completed her DVM at UC Davis in 2000. As a college student, she became interested in food animal production medicine through summer employment at the University of Maine's J. Franklin Witter Teaching and Research Farm. During veterinary school, she gained experience with horses as a live-in student at the UC Davis Center for Equine Health. Upon graduation, Dr. Mott was hired as a full-time large animal associate veterinarian at North Coast Veterinary Hospital in Arcata, CA, where she practiced equine and livestock medicine & surgery, deep in the redwoods of Humboldt County, until coming to work for CDFA in 2017.

Dr. Mott has spent interesting professional interludes as a fisheries biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service, crewmember on a commercial factory trawler in the Bering Sea, and associate DVM at Alaska Equine & Small Animal Hospital where her patients included reindeer, musk oxen, and sled dogs among other creatures. She and her husband presently have three (3) daughters, two (2) dogs, and a horse. In her spare time, Dr. Mott enjoys long-distance running, beachcombing with her family, and simply messing about in boats.

Contact Information



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