



### 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

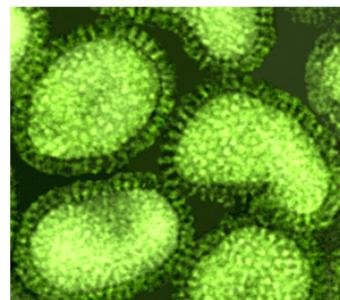
Volume 27

April 2015

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States

By W. Kent Fowler, D.V.M., Chief Animal Health Branch

**Since December 2014, there has been seventy-three (73) findings of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in thirteen (13) U.S. States in the Pacific, Central and Mississippi Flyways in migratory waterfowl, backyard flocks and commercial poultry flocks.**



Avian influenza (AI), commonly called bird flu, is a disease found in a wide variety of domesticated and wild birds. Cases are classified as either Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) or High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) based on the severity of the illness the virus causes in chickens. However, influenza viruses can genetically change to more (or less) severe types. Once introduced into an area, infection can spread by bird-to-bird contact or by contact with contaminated people, feed, water, or equipment. Three strains of HPAI (H5N8, H5N2, and H5N1) have been sequenced and documented by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in eight (8) Western States' incidents. Furthermore, there has been evidence of mixing of virus origins- some being from Eurasia (EA), others from North America (AM), and others that have created new (novel) combinations or "reassortant" viruses (EA/AM).

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### **California Commercial Poultry**

In January 2015, the State of California had its first commercial poultry farm affected by HPAI. The turkey ranch, located in Stanislaus County, has a proactive AI surveillance program and the company veterinarian immediately submitted samples to the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory where the initial diagnosis was made. The infection was confirmed by the NVSL as Influenza A Virus subtype H5N8. The strain is compatible with EA-H5N8.

In early February 2015, a second incident of EA-H5N8 in Kings County was initially detected by the CAHFS Laboratory and later confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). This broiler chicken and duck ranch also has an active AI monitoring program; therefore, samples were quickly submitted when increased mortality was observed. There was no known epidemiological link between these two commercial flocks other than likely exposure to the HPAI virus in wild waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. For both of these incidents, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) worked cooperatively to activate well developed

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States (continued)

emergency disease response plans. Under veterinary supervision, depopulation of infected and exposed poultry on both affected premises was completed. Inactivation of virus and the disposal of birds and litter was accomplished with in-house composting and confirmed with environmental virus isolation sampling.

The infected premises and other commercial and non-commercial poultry locations within the Control Areas (10 km perimeter radius around the infected premises) were placed under quarantine. Movement control was set up at the gates of commercial premises in the Control Areas and anything that could spread disease, like poultry and trucks carrying feed, could only move under State issued permit after appropriate biosecurity measures were verified. Surveillance and testing on both commercial and non-commercial premises has been completed in both the Control Areas and Surveillance Zones. All testing on poultry in the area has been negative for Influenza A Virus. The infected premises remains under quarantine, but the other commercial and non-commercial poultry locations in the control areas have been released from quarantine.

Remember, waterfowl can be carriers of avian influenza with little or no symptoms and can easily land on poultry premises risking the entire flock's health. Increased biosecurity and keeping birds housed away from open water sources is advised during this time. If you observe signs of illness or increased mortality in your birds, please call your private veterinarian, Sick Bird Hotline at 866-922-2473, or the CDFA/USDA District Office in your area.

### **Other U.S. States**

During the first week of March 2015, HPAI H5N2 was detected in a commercial turkey flock in Pope County, Minnesota (MN). This was the first finding in the Mississippi Flyway and was found to match the strains of avian influenza that were found in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho as part of the ongoing incidents in the Pacific Flyway. The MN turkey flock was experiencing an increase in mortality. Samples were submitted for laboratory testing and confirmed positive for Influenza A Virus (IAV) H5N2 HPAI.

Less than a week later, two other HPAI H5N2 cases showed up in Jasper and Moniteau Counties, Missouri. This was shortly followed by a finding in Boone County, Arkansas. All of these involved commercial turkey flocks. The most recent incident confirmed on March 13, 2015 involved a backyard flock with mixed poultry (chickens and ducks) in Leavenworth County, Kansas. This was the first finding in the Central flyway. This was also confirmed as an HPAI H5N2 case.

**To date, the avian influenza strains detected within the United States, including the H5N2 strain, have not been found to be transmissible to humans. Properly cooked poultry and eggs are safe to eat. Birds from the involved flocks will not enter the food system.**

Contact Information	
CDFA Redding District	(530) 225-2140
CDFA Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
CDFA Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
CDFA Ontario District	(909) 947-4462
CDFA Sacramento (HQ)	(916) 900-5002
USDA-VS Toll Free	(877) 741-3690

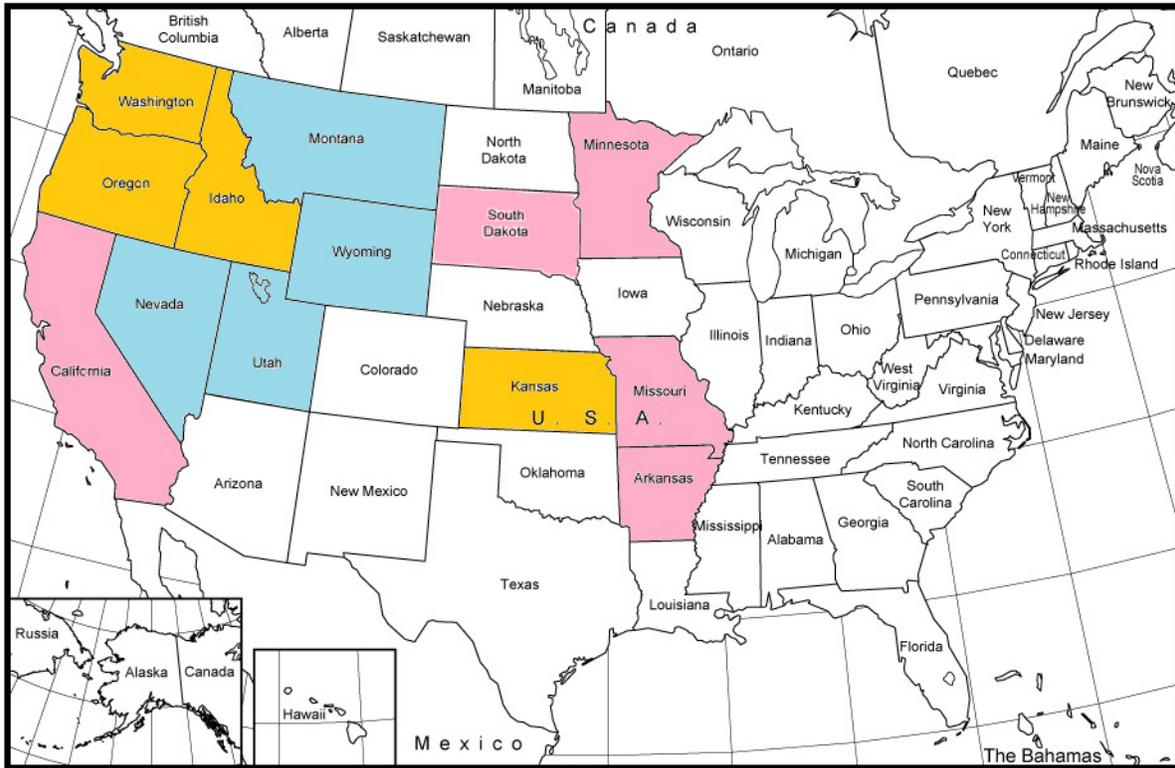
**If morbidity or mortality is observed in wild waterfowl, please contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 358-2790**

For more information visit:

CDFA Avian Influenza Website [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/Avian\\_Influenza.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Influenza.html)

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Avian Influenza Website <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/home/>

**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 Affected Birds found in the United States of America from Dec. 2014 - Present**



Commercial Poultry Affected
  Backyard Poultry Affected
  Wild Birds Affected

Updated: 4/1/15

**Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial Turkey Flock in Merced County, CA**

**March 17, 2015:** LPAI was detected in a commercial turkey flock in Merced County, California. The turkey flock exhibited coughing and a slight increase in mortality. Samples were submitted for laboratory testing and confirmed positive for Influenza A Virus H7N3 LPAI. Virus isolation is pending. LPAI subtypes H5 and H7 have been shown to mutate into HPAI subtypes, so their presence in the State pose a serious threat to the California poultry industry, thereby requiring regulatory action.

**To date, the avian influenza strains detected within the United States, including the H7N3 strain, have not been found to be transmissible to humans. Properly cooked poultry and eggs are safe to eat. Birds from the affected flocks will not enter the food system.**

CDFA and USDA working cooperatively have activated an Incident Command Emergency Disease Response. The infected premises was placed under State Veterinarian Quarantine following preliminary findings and an epidemiological investigation was initiated. Follow-up surveillance and testing on 10 epidemiologically associated farms was negative for IAV. The epidemiological investigation and response to the event are continuing. Depopulation of the infected flock was completed on April 3, 2015.



## California's Shell Egg Food Safety Regulation (3CCR1350 & 3 CCR 1354)

In 2013, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) adopted new Shell Egg Food Safety (SEFS) regulations and amended product labeling regulations (Title 3 California Code of Regulations Section 1350 and 1354). These changes were set forward to support the consumption of high-quality, safe (chicken) eggs by implementing efforts to mitigate the presence of *Salmonella enterica* serotype *enteritidis* (SE), one of the most common serotypes of Salmonella bacteria reported worldwide. In 2015, cage density requirements for laying hens and more stringent product labeling regulations were implemented.

To be in compliance to sell chicken eggs in California, US egg producers and egg handlers must abide by Federal and State regulations. Federal Egg Safety regulations are overseen by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA standard inspections include a review of a written SE plan and records documenting compliance with SE prevention measures. A “walk-through” of the facilities is also incorporated to evaluate the biosecurity (measures used to prevent infection of disease) and the condition of the premises, as well as validate that the documentation correlates with what is observed.

The California Shell Egg Food Safety (SEFS) Regulation incorporates additional safety measures to the Federal Egg Safety requirements. The SEFS Regulation (3 CCR 1350 and 3 CCR 1354) applies to in-state and out-of-state egg producers that sell eggs in California. If shell eggs are pasteurized or processed by other means approved by the FDA (i.e., at least a 5 log reduction process), then producers are exempt from these specific sections of the regulations.

The new and amended sections of 3 CCR 1350 and 3 CCR 1354 were separated into two temporal phases and detailed as follows:

**California SEFS Phase I (3 CCR 1350) – Effective July 1, 2013**

***Applies to all US producers who market eggs in California (with flock size of 3,000 or more laying hens and a hatch date of 7/1/2013 or later):***

- **Environmental SE testing:** Environmental samples (start and end of the layer production cycle) are collected and submitted to the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory for analysis.
- **SE vaccination program:** A minimum of two attenuated live vaccinations and one killed vaccination (or demonstrated equivalent SE vaccination program approved by the CDFA) must be administered.

**California SEFS Phase II (3 CCR 1350 & 3 CCR 1354) – Effective January 1, 2015**

***Applies to all US producers who market eggs in California (regardless of flock size or source):***

- **Reduced stocking density (3 CCR 1350)\*:** Requires a minimum floor space per hen dependent on the number of hens in the enclosure.

Number of Hens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Square Inches per Hen	322	205	166	146	135	127	121	117	116

\*Follows standards set forth in the Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 25990-25994; however, compliance with CCR 1350 does not necessarily entail compliance with HSC 25990-25994. **For questions regarding the HSC or CA Proposition 2, the public is advised to consult with their personal lawyers.**

- **California product labeling (3 CCR 1354):** All containers for eggs sold in California must have “California Shell Egg Food Safety Compliant”, “CA SEFS Compliant”, or other similar CDFA-approved wording displayed on the principal panel in at least ¼-inch lettering.

For more information visit: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/mpes/esqm.html>

## Horse Show Drug Testing in California

by Dr. Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

Horse show season is gearing up in California and so is California's Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP). The California equine industry sponsored legislation in 1972 to prevent the misuse of drugs and medications in equines at public shows and sales. The resultant law found in the Food and Agricultural Code Sections 24000-24018, is known as the California Equine Medication Rule. The California Department of Food and Agriculture manages the EMMP and industry oversight is provided by the EMMP Advisory Committee. The EMMP is the only state mandated horse show drug testing program in existence today in the United States. Over the last two years the Equine Drugs and Medications Program of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the EMMP have collaborated to ensure the current alignment of the drug rules of the two programs.

### California Equine Medication Rule Highlights

- **A permissible or prohibited therapeutic drug or medication** is defined as a drug or medicine prescribed by a veterinarian for the treatment of diagnosed illness or injury.
- **Permissible medications** that are not to exceed the designated maximum allowable detectable plasma levels include: dexamethasone (Azium®), methocarbamol (Robaxin®), phenylbutazone (Butazolidin®), flunixin (Banamine®), ketoprofen (Ketofen®), meclufenamic acid (Arquel®), and naproxen (Naprosyn®). For specific administration guidance for these permitted substances visit [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/emmp/pdf/PermissibleLevels&Guidance.pdf](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/emmp/pdf/PermissibleLevels&Guidance.pdf)
- **Only one NSAID is permitted to be detected in a sample.** If more than one NSAID has been used therapeutically, one of the NSAIDs must be withdrawn 72 hours before the competition.
- **Prohibited Substances**, including any drugs or medication that act as stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, anesthetic, local anesthetic, sedative analgesic, anabolic steroid, corticosteroid (excluding dexamethasone), and soring agent, shall be withdrawn 24 hours prior to competition.
- **No administration of injectable substances within 12 hours of competition**, except by a veterinarian administering the following, a minimum of 10 liters of emergency fluids within 6-12 hours of competition; antibiotics (except procaine penicillin); dexamethasone injection within 6-12 hours of competition for the treatment of hives.
- **Emergency administration of flunixin** by a veterinarian is allowable for the emergency treatment of colic or ophthalmic emergency with withdrawal of the horse from competition for 24 hours after administration.
- **A \$5.00 drug fee** is assessed for each horse entered in the event.
- **A drug declaration form** (either California Drug Declaration Form or USEF Medication Report Form) is required to be filed for the administration of a prohibited substance within (3) days before the event.
- **A horse must be withdrawn from competition** for 45 days after the administration of reserpine and fluphenazine or 90 days after the administration of an anabolic steroid.

For more information regarding the California Equine Medication Rule visit:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health/EMMP/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/EMMP/) or contact the EMMP veterinarian Dr. Katie Flynn at 916-900-5039 or [kflynn@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:kflynn@cdfa.ca.gov).

The EMMP is recruiting technicians for urine sample collection and veterinarians for blood collection.

Interested individuals should email [EMMP@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:EMMP@cdfa.ca.gov).

## Vesicular Stomatitis Update

by Dr. Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

All confirmed Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) premises in the United States have been released from quarantine. The last VS affected premises in Arizona was released from quarantine on March 13, 2015. California's VS Statement entry requirement for Arizona will be removed on April 13, 2015 provided no additional cases are detected. During the 2014-15 VS incident a total of 435 premises in four states were confirmed positive for the New Jersey serotype of VS; Arizona (2 premises), Colorado (370 premises), Nebraska (1 premises) and Texas (62 premises). Of the 14,078 susceptible livestock, 587 equine and 60 bovine were confirmed positive cases. Animal Health Branch personnel conducted 11 foreign animal disease investigations related to oral vesicular lesions but no cases were identified in California.

Effective 2015, the World Animal Health Organization delisted VS from the emergency disease list. Veterinary Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is developing policies and procedures for future VS investigations and response. Due to the look alike foreign animal diseases of significant consequence, specifically foot and mouth disease, all vesicular lesions will continue to be investigated as a foreign animal disease in California.

## Equine Herpesvirus Detections in 2015

Since January, two California horses have been confirmed positive for equine herpesvirus. In February 2015, a fourteen year old Quarter Horse gelding in Monterey County, displaying hindlimb ataxia and an inability to urinate and defecate was confirmed positive for the non-neuropathogenic strain of equine herpesvirus. In March 2015, a fifteen year old Warmblood gelding originating from a Santa Cruz County premises, displaying hindlimb ataxia and an inability to urinate was confirmed positive for the neuropathogenic strain of equine herpesvirus. Both positive horses recovered successfully and no additional horses were confirmed positive.

For additional information on Equine Herpesvirus -1 visit [http://cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health/equine\\_herpes\\_virus.html](http://cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_herpes_virus.html)

## West Nile Virus Season

Scientists predict an increase in West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in 2015 in California due to the drought forcing WNV infected birds to seek water from urban sources. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory encourage accurate identification of WNV infection in horses. Timely and accurate reporting of equine WNV cases by veterinarians to local health officials is a valuable component of arbovirus disease surveillance and helps to direct mosquito control efforts designed to prevent WNV infection in both horses and humans. For more information visit [http://cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/WNV\\_Info.html](http://cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/WNV_Info.html) or <http://westnile.ca.gov>

## Biosecurity at Equine Events

CDFA urges practitioners to remind horse owners traveling with horses to participate in an equine event, that there is always disease risk when horses of unknown health status are commingled for a show or competition. CDFA strongly recommends that horse owners practice proper biosecurity when attending an equine event. Compliance with basic biosecurity practices is an important factor in reducing risk of exposure to all contagious equine diseases.

**Basic biosecurity measures to follow to decrease potential disease spread at equine events include:**

- Limit horse-to-horse contact.
- Limit horse-to-human-to-horse contact.
- Avoid use of communal water sources.
- Avoid sharing of equipment unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Monitor your horse for clinical signs of disease and report any temperature over 102°F to a veterinarian

## Influenza A Virus in Swine (IAV-S) H3N2

by Dr. Hector Webster, DMV, MS

Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of swine caused by multiple subtype of type A Influenza Viruses. Influenza virus in swine (SIV) is not a reportable or regulated animal disease in the United States. Swine influenza surveillance began in 2009 during the H1N1 pandemic and in 2010, surveillance expanded to include all Influenza A Viruses circulating in the U.S. swine herd.

The United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with CDFA, the CAHFS Laboratory and the swine industry, conducts voluntary surveillance activities for Influenza A Virus (IAV-S) in California. This surveillance is not conducted to define prevalence – the goal is to identify viruses that may be circulating in swine, and gain knowledge to contribute to improve animal health diagnostics and vaccines to better protect animal health and public health. When viruses like H3N2v with the 2009 H1N1 pandemic M gene isolated in humans are detected in swine, they are classified as H3N2pM by the USDA, because of the presence of the pandemic M gene. Such isolates were first identified from swine in late 2010 and since then have been found across the U.S. Also in 2010, an anonymous submission protocol was adopted to encourage more industry participation and increase the number of samples available for monitoring IAV-S in the U.S. swine herd.

Swine populations targeted for IAV surveillance include cases compatible with sick pig submissions to the CAHFS laboratory, swine exhibiting-like symptoms at fairs, markets, or other locations where animals commingle, and swine populations that are linked to confirmed human cases of a variant Influenza A (an Influenza A Virus that circulates in swine).

U.S. (CDC) officials say that when Influenza A (H3N2) Viruses are found in swine, they should be called “swine Influenza A (H3N2)” Viruses. If human infections with these viruses occur, these viruses are then called “variant” viruses as designated by the [WHO](#) because they are infecting a different species and are called “Influenza A(H3N2)v” or just “H3N2v”.

There are many causes of respiratory disease in pigs, including influenza. Normally outbreaks among pigs occurs in cold weather months (late fall and winter) and sometimes with the introduction of new pigs into susceptible herds. Swine with SIV develop acute respiratory signs, to include a barking cough, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy and sneezing, high fevers and animals may go off feed. Occasionally, reproductive problems of abortion and infertility occurs. The swine industry routinely encounters swine H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2 strains in swine herds. While SIV in swine has a high morbidity, the mortality rate is low. Although current SIV vaccination strategies in swine provide some protection, herds are still susceptible to swine influenza because of the multiple subtypes and variants of the virus. With the interspecies transmission and infectious nature of swine influenza, standard biosecurity measures should be in place to help prevent and control this disease. The USDA IAV-Surveillance Program continues to collect and test samples to monitor for the type and distribution of all influenza viruses in swine. Additional information is available from USDA, AASV, the National Pork Board, and the CDC.

### Resources:

- Swine Influenza Surveillance Update [USDA](#)
- AASV.org [Program Overview for Veterinarians](#)
- Influenza Virus Surveillance in Pigs. [Producer Guide](#)
- Fact Sheet: Protect Yourself Against H3N2v. [CDC](#)
- Swine Influenza CDFA, [AHB](#)

### USDA NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

(10/1/2010 – 7/31/2012)

12,662 swine samples from 3,766 laboratory submissions

1,488 test positive for Influenza A Virus

FY2011 73 submissions positive for H3N2

FY2012 138 submissions positive for H3N2 (\*57/138 classified as H3N2pM)

## Livestock Passing Through Agricultural Inspection Stations

by Victoria Conger, Livestock Inspector

The California Department of Food and Agriculture Agricultural Inspection Stations play a critical role in protecting animal agriculture. The Agricultural Inspection Stations, also known as Border Stations collect information on over 38,000 shipments of livestock containing over 17 million livestock or poultry/poultry products.

The Border Station personnel are responsible for collecting pertinent information from the livestock entry documents including, but not limited to, certificates of veterinary inspection, brand inspection records, working horse permits and pasture to pasture permits. Border personnel do not have the authority to quarantine or reject loads that fail to meet California's entry requirements. Border personnel enter the health document information into a database which is accessed by Animal Health Branch. AHB field personnel, veterinarians and livestock inspectors, review database entries to ensure livestock and poultry entering California meet the entry health requirements. For livestock entering without the proper health documentation, the AHB field personnel will initiate an investigation and may quarantine animals until entry health requirements are met. Continued failure of an individual to meet the entry requirements will result in the issuance of a notice of violation and associated civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation.

The Animal Health Branch (AHB) works collaboratively with Border Station personnel to provide outreach related to health entry requirements for livestock and poultry entering California. On occasion, AHB veterinarians and livestock inspectors will perform random compliance inspections at the stations to verify the health documents provided by those hauling livestock meet entry requirements.

### **Brucellosis Vaccination Violations**

CDFA has recently begun issuing violations to brucellosis contracted veterinarians who do not return their brucellosis vaccination forms. Brucellosis vaccination forms (AHB 76-026) need to be returned to your local district office within 15 days of the vaccination date. When a veterinarian orders vaccine, CDFA staff will check to make sure they have returned vaccination certificates to the offices for tags they or their clinic have been issued. If a veterinarian is found to have not returned their vaccination certificates in the time frame, they will not be allowed to purchase vaccine nor brucellosis vaccinate heifers in California until allotted certificates are returned for the issued tags.

### **Certificates of Veterinary Inspection Violations**

In 2014, 252 California accredited veterinarians received 779 violations from other states for 669 large animal Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). The most common CVI violations were for the following:

- 324 CVIs were late. It was more than 14 days after the date of issue before they arrived at the destination State office. According to the ADT rules, CVIs must be sent to the CDFA office within 7 days of the issue date.
- 203 CVIs were missing state of destination permit number
- 61 CVIs were missing statements
- 53 CVIs were missing Individual Official ID
- 38 CVIs had Incomplete or missing physical addresses
- 32 CVIs were missing test information including dates, and lab test results.

CDFA tracks all violations sent by other states to CA veterinarians. CDFA issued a letter to all accredited veterinarians who received more than 5 violations in 2014. If you choose to ignore the violation letters and continue to not meet state of destination and federal CVI requirements, you risk losing your accreditation. Please help to correct problems and make sure you are filling out the CVI completely. Always check the state of destination requirements.

**Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Testing Requirements for Mexican Origin Cattle Entering the US**

by Dr. Anita Edmondson, BVMS, MPVM, MRCVS

The TB testing required for cattle imported from Mexico into the US varies by the TB-status of the originating Mexican State/Zone. No dairy cattle can be imported from Mexico into the US. The USDA/APHIS defines these requirements and revises the testing after reviewing the TB control program in Mexico. Currently, the entire State of Sonora is the only Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) State in Mexico, and a TB-test is NOT required on steers and spayed heifers prior to entering the US.

**MAA Status: Sonora**

Type of Cattle	U.S. Import Requirements
Steers and spayed heifers	No TB-testing required
Sexually intact cattle	One negative individual TB test at the border

All other Mexican States have a lower TB-status including Modified Accredited (MA), Accreditation Preparatory (AP) and Non Accredited (NA).

**MA Status: Baja California MA zone, Chihuahua, Nayarit MA zone, Nuevo Leon MA zone, Puebla MA zones 1 & 2, Quintana Roo, Tamaulipas, Veracruz MA zone, Yucatan**

Type of Cattle	U.S. Import Requirements
Steers and spayed heifers	One negative individual TB test within 60 days of import
Steers and spayed heifers from TB accredited-free herds	Proof of TB accredited-free herd status
Sexually intact cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One negative individual TB test at the border</li> <li>• Negative TB test within the past 12 months for the herd of origin</li> </ul>
Sexually intact cattle from TB accredited-free herds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One negative individual TB test at the border</li> <li>• Proof of TB accredited-free herd status</li> </ul>

The following States and Zones currently have AP status and require additional TB testing: Aguascalientes AP zone, Campeche AP zone, Chiapas AP zone, Coahuila AP zone, Colima (entire State), Durango AP zone, Guanajuato AP zone, Guerrero AP zone, Jalisco AP zone, Nuevo Leon AP zone, Michoacán AP zone, Tabasco AP zone, Zacatecas AP zone, Sinaloa (entire State). The remaining States and Zones currently have NA status and cattle from those States and Zones can only be imported for immediate slaughter.

Proposed Changes to California's Trichomonosis Program  
by Dr. Anita Edmondson, BVMS, MPVM, MRCVS

The Trichomonosis program is being reviewed and the proposed changes will soon be published for public comments. The proposed changes include:

- Require **all bulls** 18 months of age and over changing ownership to be trichomonosis tested (with specific exemptions).
- Exempt the trichomonosis test on:
  - ◆ Bulls entering California and moving to a feedlot for feeding and subsequent movement to slaughter.
  - ◆ Bulls returning to California without change of ownership that have been confined in pens and had no contact with female cattle since their negative trichomonosis test to leave the State.
  - ◆ Bulls sold:
    - Solely for exhibition purposes.
    - Solely for artificial insemination purposes.
    - Directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
    - Entering a feedlot for feeding and subsequent movement to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
    - Consigned to a buyer with a signed bull slaughter agreement.
- Require **official ID** on bulls 18 months of age and over changing ownership in California unless they are moving directly to a slaughter facility to be slaughtered within 3 days OR they are moving on a Bull Slaughter Agreement for slaughter within 7 days.
- Add requirements for a "**Bull Slaughter Agreement**":
  - ◆ Agreement good for 12 months from date of signature for the owner and premises.
  - ◆ Official individual ID not required if slaughtered within 7 days.
  - ◆ Records of each sale to be maintained by seller, buyer and agent for 5 years.
- Require a "**Trichomonosis Approved Color-coded Tag**" for bulls tested for trichomonosis.
  - ◆ Trichomonosis tested bulls required to bear both official individual ID **and** a trichomonosis color-coded tag.
  - ◆ Define the trichomonosis year as September 1 to August 31 of the following year.
- Require a trichomonosis test for "Non-virgin bulls less than 18 months of age" entering California and those sold in California.
- Limit the trichomonosis test to a "**DNA detection or amplification-based trichomonosis test**" such as a PCR test for bulls:
  1. Entering California.
  2. Sold in California.
  3. In pasture-to-pasture herds.
  4. In affected herds.
  5. In exposed herds.
- Simplify the CVI statement to "Trichomonosis has not been diagnosed in the herd of origin within the past 24 months".
- Require a second trichomonosis DNA-based test for bulls:
  - ◆ In herds that have been infected twice within the prior 24 months.
  - ◆ Entering California from a herd with Trichomonosis in last 24 months.
- Add an option to trichomonosis test bulls at the point of sale.
- Add "renewed every two years" to "Trichomonosis Approved Veterinarian"



## Staff Biographies

Mike Spiker, Livestock Inspector, is a new employee with the Redding District. He spent the last fifteen years working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mike worked in fisheries as a scientific aide, and one year in wildlife. He performed biological surveys and bio sampling on the main stem of the Sacramento River and its tributaries. He also worked in the hatchery system, working one year at Trinity River hatchery in Lewiston, Trinity County. Mike spent many days hauling thousands of pounds of rainbow trout and planting lakes and streams all over California. He learned the practice of fish culture and was responsible for raising fish from eggs and growing healthy fish through routine vaccinations and medical treatments. The last couple of years were spent working at the Red Bluff screen habitat shop, building and maintaining fish screens and ladders and allowing safe passage for adult and juvenile salmon and steelhead. In the 1990s, Mike worked at Shasta Livestock Auction Yard, working on sale days until midnight when needed. Mike has been a resident in Tehama County his entire life and enjoys many outdoor activities with his eleven year old son such as hunting and fishing, coaching baseball and watching his son play sports. He is looking forward to new endeavors with CDFA.



Dr. Andrea Mikolon has returned to the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), Animal Health Branch, as the Mexico Liaison and Assistant Veterinarian in Charge of the Ontario District. Andrea graduated from U.C. Davis with a DVM and MPVM in 1992 and PhD in Epidemiology in 1998. She learned Spanish while working three years in Baja California, Mexico on her dissertation research in the epidemiology of *Brucella melitensis*. Early in her career, she also worked in pathology at the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego County Veterinarian's Livestock Disease Diagnostic Lab. In addition she spent three years working on brucellosis in Mongolia, and more recently, two years with CDC in Bangladesh working on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1), Nipah, and other diseases. Dr. Mikolon previously worked as a veterinarian for CDFA for eight years, serving as an epidemiologist on numerous disease outbreaks including Exotic Newcastle Disease, avian influenza, and bovine tuberculosis (TB). During that time she served more than 6 years as the Mexico Liaison, representing the State Veterinarian at binational meetings and participating as a member of the Binational Bovine TB Review team on dozens of reviews of Mexican states. During the past two years she has been working for USDA APHIS VS National Import Export Services (NIES). Andrea plays the French horn and has a pet cat rescued from the streets of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



# Contact Information



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