

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
March 29, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 9:05am by Vice Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Ms. Jody Cutler, American Driving Society
Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Dr. Marta Grandstedt, California Veterinary Medical Association
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Kalia Mitchell, California Fairs and Expositions
Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, California Dressage Society
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners
Mr. William Pettis, American Morgan Horse Association
Ms. Sarah Rajoy, California Professional Horsemen's Association
Dr. Chris Smith, Pacific Coast Horse Show Association
Ms. Rae Stambuk, California Reining Horse Association
Dr. Mike Tomlinson, U.S. Equestrian Federation
Dr. Stephen Schumacher, U.S. Equestrian Federation (non-voting member)

Absent:

Ms. Sandy Arledge, Chair, California Farm Bureau Federation
Ms. Cathy Hanson, Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association

CDFA Present:

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba, Staff Veterinarian, Equine Programs
Ms. Katie Hatch, Research Scientist, Equine Programs
Mr. Lee Harrison, Agricultural Program Supervisor, EMMP
Ms. Nancy Ragen, Management Services Technician, EMMP

(3) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). USEF has been actively working with CDFA during the Equine herpesvirus (EHV) incident at the Riverside County showgrounds. They enacted return to competition requirements for any horse that had been onsite at the Riverside County showgrounds or at the Sacramento County showgrounds, where there was one additional case of EHV. Any horse that was on one of those

showgrounds was made ineligible for competition until they met the EHV testing requirements or turned in their health declaration.

USEF brought forward the requirement in 2021 for certain disciplines to be microchipped in order to be eligible to compete. There was push back from some disciplines so it is not required yet but will be brought up again next year. CDFCA agreed that the use of microchips in competition horses would be highly beneficial, especially if horses had biothermal microchips. The horse's temperature can be read from biothermal microchips, and this would be advantageous in the event of a disease outbreak where temperatures had to be monitored.

Dr. Schumacher also discussed the international movement of competition horses. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently has a 60-day limit that US-based stallions and mares can be out of the country before they are required to go through a Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) quarantine when they come back into the US. International competition teams and USEF have been requesting that this limit be extended to 90 days. USDA proposed this in fall 2021 and comments are open for the federal regulation change. It is likely that this rule change will not be implemented until summer 2023. USEF asked for an exemption to this rule for the world championships this year in Europe and that was granted by USDA.

USEF has recently implemented a stall side electronic data capture system for their drug testing program. It is similar to the EMMP iPad app, and theirs was developed by a company that had a similar app for horse racing in the UK.

(4) Animal Health Updates **Equine Diseases**

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba and Ms. Katie Hatch presented California's equine health updates on the following topics: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) and Equine herpesvirus (EHV).

On January 5, 2022, a 5-year-old Quarter Horse gelding was confirmed positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) in Arizona. The horse had been purchased from a trainer in San Bernardino County after a bush track race in Nevada in November 2021. CDFCA quarantined and tested the nineteen (19) exposed horses on the premises in San Bernardino County and six (6) of those horses were positive for EIA and euthanized on January 18th. The 60-day retest was performed on March 16th and two (2) additional horses were positive and are due to be euthanized. The remaining horses on this premises will stay under quarantined until their retest in an additional sixty (60) days. An epidemiological investigation into this racing stable revealed that they had attended races on at least twenty-seven (27) occasions in four (4) states in 2021. Border crossing data also showed this trainer used the same expired certificate of veterinary

inspection (CVI) and Coggins forms for several trips back into California with different horses.

In 2021, there were 25,582 Coggins test run for EIA by California laboratories for California based horses. This is an 11% increase from 2020 when there were 22,745 tests run which was an 8% decrease from 2019 when there were 24,690 tests run.

In January 2022, an 8-year-old Thoroughbred mare used for ponying at a racetrack in Alameda County displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain). The mare was removed from the racetrack and taken to her home premises in Sonoma County. Twenty-seven (27) potentially exposed horses at the racetrack premises in Alameda County were quarantined. No additional cases were detected on the racetrack and quarantine was released fourteen (14) days after the clinical horse left the track. The clinical horse was released on her home premise after twenty-nine (29) days due to extended shedding.

There is currently a large-scale EHM incident going on in California. An emergency declaration was effective January 28th from state veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones due to multiple EHM cases in large equine facilities in multiple counties. An incident management team was deployed with joint CDFA and USDA support. There are currently mandatory quarantines of EHM premises and any directly epidemiologically linked EHV cases within fourteen (14) days. There is also CDFA support of voluntary quarantines of any EHV cases not directly linked within fourteen (14) days. A letter of caution from Dr. Jones recommending postponement of all equine events and non-essential movement was sent out on March 3rd and extended on March 16th to be in effect until March 31st.

As of the date of this meeting, there have been 10 EHM (EHV-1 positive with neurologic signs) quarantined premises (5 released), 12 EHV (EHV-1 positive, mild clinical signs or asymptomatic) quarantined premises associated with an EHM case (9 released), and 6 quarantined premises associated with an EHM case with no positive EHV-1 cases (5 released). There are 20 EHM (EHV-1 positive with neurologic signs) horses, 10 alive and 10 euthanized, and 140 EHV (EHV-1 positive, mild clinical signs or asymptomatic) positive horses associated with an EHM case.

(5) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on the EMMP testers. Three of the EMMP testers resigned, one in the Sacramento area, one in the San Bernardino area and one in the San Diego area. Currently there are five testers actively testing for the program. There is a hiring plan in place to get more testers in both the Modesto and Sacramento area. The contracts are going out for the EMMP

contract veterinarians so blood samples can start to be taken at equine events for this year.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2021 calendar year:

- A total of 1027 EMMP sanctioned events were registered, and 843 events were held (a significant increase from 2020)
- Seventy (70) events were tested by EMMP.
- A total of 145 urine samples and 103 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.

Horse Show Demographics

Ms. Katie Hatch presented data analysis on horse show demographics. Data was gathered from 8,577 horses shown in California in January-August 2021 which is approximately 15% of the number of horses registered for showing during that time. 32.0% of the horses found were mares and 68.0% were geldings. The most popular breeds were Quarter Horses, Warmbloods and Thoroughbreds, depending on discipline.

The highest number of events by event type were hunter/jumper events then dressage and auction events. Note, these numbers are based on event type listed by the event manager at the time of event registration.

Legal Update

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba discussed the regulation packet that was put forward for the fee increase from \$8 to \$14. There was a public comment period, and the comments compiled were largely negative. There was concern of a lack of representation and a desire to increase the fee exemption limits as they have not increased in conjunction with the proposed fee increases. The advisory committee discussed the desire to increase these fee exemption limits. This change would need to be sponsored by the equine industry via a state senator or political representative as this would be a change to the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC). As FAC changes can take years, discussions were had to remove the specific dollar amount for these exemptions into the FAC or to put the dollar amount into the California Code of Regulations (CCR) so that they would be easier to update in the future to adjust for inflation. Potential verbiage in FAC could be “the exemptions for each class and event fees will not exceed dollar amounts agreed upon by the EMMP advisory committee”. This dollar amount will be reviewed and reevaluated every two years by the EMMP advisory committee, as put forward in the advisory committee’s policies and procedures. The dollar amount for this change will be discussed at the next EMMP advisory committee meeting.

MOTION #1: Ms. Jody Cutler motioned to put forward a request for CDFA to pursue a FAC code change in order to remove the exemption dollar amounts from the FAC and instead put them into CCR so they may be updated. Ms. Nancy Harvey seconded the motion. Motion votes are as follows:

Yes: Ms. Jody Cutler, Dr. Marta Grandstedt, Ms. Nancy Harvey, Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, Dr. Michele LaMantia, Dr. Jeanette Mero, Ms. Kalia Mitchell, Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, Dr. Russell Peterson, Mr. William Pettis, Ms. Sarah Rajoy, Dr. Chris Smith, Ms. Rae Stambuk
No: Mr. Robert Gage
Abstain: Dr. Mike Tomlinson

The regulations branch liaison met with the Office of Administrative Law attorney, and they determined a review was needed by the budget office. This should be the final step in the process before approval and the fee change will likely go into effect on July 1, 2022.

The update in regulations to allow the new UC Davis CEM quarantine facility in Templeton, CA is in the approval process and is due to go into effect July 1, 2022.

Financial Update

A five-year review of the EMMP budget was presented by Dr. Nietrzeba. In the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), EMMP was directed by the AHFSS budget office to decrease reserves as well as there was an increase in salaried positions and a technology initiative project was started to develop the testing app for EMMP. Additionally in the 2021-2022 FY there was a delay in the fee increase. EMMP cut as many expenditures as possible while keeping the program functional but had to increase the revenue as expenditures could not be cut any more. The budget is slowly balancing out.

The EMMP budget for FY 2021-2022 was reviewed and EMMP came in well under the proposed expenditure budget presented to the EMMP advisory committee previously.

MOTION #2: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to approve the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. Ms. Rae Stambuk seconded the motion. Motion votes are as follows:

Yes: Ms. Jody Cutler, Mr. Robert Gage, Dr. Marta Grandstedt, Ms. Nancy Harvey, Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, Dr. Michele LaMantia, Dr. Jeanette Mero, Ms. Kalia Mitchell, Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, Dr. Russell Peterson, Mr. William Pettis, Ms. Sarah Rajoy, Dr. Chris Smith, Ms. Rae Stambuk

Abstain: Dr. Mike Tomlinson

The EMMP budget for FY 2022-2023 was reviewed. There will be a small increase for testing at the laboratory due to the new contract. Research funding is still on hold.

MOTION #3: Ms. Jody Cutler motioned to approve the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget. Ms. Kalia Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion votes are as follows:

Yes: Ms. Jody Cutler, Mr. Robert Gage, Dr. Marta Grandstedt, Ms. Nancy Harvey, Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, Dr. Michele LaMantia, Dr. Jeanette Mero, Ms. Kalia Mitchell, Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, Dr. Russell

Peterson, Mr. William Pettis, Ms. Sarah Rajoy, Dr. Chris Smith, Ms. Rae Stambuk

Abstain: Dr. Mike Tomlinson

There are currently forty (40) events held between July-December 2021 that have not paid their EMMP fees. EMMP will be following up with these event managers to obtain payments.

(6) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The next meeting is tentatively planned to be held on September 27, 2022.

(7) Closing Comments

Vice Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 10:46am.