

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
April 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 9:08am by Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Dr. Stephanie Flowers, California Veterinary Medical Association
Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Ms. Sofia Goss, California Fairs and Expositions
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Ms. Kathy Hobstetter, California Professional Horsemen's Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners
Mr. William Pettis, American Morgan Horse 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. Kerrie Miller, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, California Dressage Society
Dr. Chris Smith, Pacific Coast Horse Show Association

CDFA Present:

Dr. Joshua Kloeppe, Staff Veterinarian, Equine Programs
Ms. Katie Hatch, Research Scientist, Equine Programs
Mr. Lee Harrison, Agricultural Program Supervisor, EMMP
Ms. Christina Murphy, Management Services Technician, EMMP
Dr. Mandy Murray, Branch Chief, CDFA Animal Health Branch
Ms. Lynette Komar, Senior Attorney, CDFA

Others Present:

Dr. Russ Hovey, Professor, UC Davis Animal Science
Ms. Sharon Fells
Ms. Deb Shatley

(3) Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda of the April 2025 EMMP Advisory Committee meeting was presented.

MOTION #1: Ms. Rae Stambuk motioned to approve the agenda as written and Dr. Russ Peterson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

(4) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the October 29, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION #2: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Rae Stambuk seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

(5) Advisory Committee Updates

The EMMP advisory committee (EMMPAC) welcomed Ms. Kerrie Miller as the representative for the Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association.

The EMMPAC discussed the EMMP strategic plan as it was due to be updated. Dr. Tomlinson created a draft of the new strategic plan which included updates on biosecurity planning and took out the plan for reduction of the EMMP testers due to budget constraints.

MOTION #3: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to approve the EMMP strategic plan and Mr. Bob Gage seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

(6) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). USEF has several new rules including that competitors are now required to report any fevers to the event veterinarian or event management. Additionally, Altrenogest will now be considered a prohibited substance in stallions and geldings but will continue to be allowed for mares. Also, for the medication reporting forms, they no longer have to be submitted to event management within one hour of administration. They now can be submitted online anytime between when the last dose of medication was administered and before the horse enters the show arena. Additionally, shockwave treatment on competition grounds now must be done by a licensed veterinarian or by a veterinary technician under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. There is also a new rule that requires that all prescription medication on competition grounds must be labeled. A pending rule change would allow testing of hair samples at USEF competitions as well. Dr. Katie Flynn has also been working with USDA on the isolation and biosecurity requirements for events.

(7) Animal Health Updates

Equine Diseases

Dr. Josh Kloeppel presented California's equine health updates on the following topics: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Equine herpesvirus (EHV) and West Nile Virus (WNV).

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there have been six (6) EHM incidents in California. The first incident was in January 2025 in San Luis Obispo County when a 15-year-old Thoroughbred mare displayed neurological signs and tested positive for EHV-1. There were forty (40) exposed horses on the home premises with no additional cases. The second and third EHM incidents were in February 2025 in San Bernardino County on two premises that shared a fence line. One premises was quarantined when a 26-year-old Paint mare and a 16-year-old Paint gelding displayed neurological signs and tested positive for EHV-1. The mare was euthanized and the gelding recovered. There were thirty-five (35) exposed horses on the home premises with no additional cases. The neighboring premises was quarantined when a 15-year-old Thoroughbred gelding displayed neurological signs, tested positive for EHV-1, and was euthanized. There were ninety (90) exposed horses on the home premises with one additional neurologic 7-year-old gelding on this premises that recovered. The fourth EHM incident was in March 2025 in Ventura County when a 16-year-old Draft/Quarter Horse gelding displayed neurological signs and tested positive for EHV-1. The gelding recovered and there were thirty-eight (38) exposed horses on the home premises with no additional cases. The fifth EHM incident was in March 2025 in Santa Barbara County when a 16-year-old Pony mare displayed neurological signs, tested positive for EHV-1 and was euthanized. The pony had recently attended an equine event. There were forty-one (41) exposed horses on the home premises with no additional cases. The sixth EHM incident started in April 2025 in Alameda County when a 22-year-old Trakehner mare displayed neurological signs and tested positive for EHV-1 and is currently ongoing. There are seventy-five (75) exposed horses on the premises with no additional cases as of the date of this meeting.

So far in 2025, there have been four (4) Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases. The first was in January 2025 in San Bernardino County when a 10-year-old racing Quarter Horse gelding tested positive. The gelding was euthanized and the eighteen (18) exposed equids tested negative. The second set of cases was in San Joaquin County in March 2025 when a 7-year-old racing Quarter Horse gelding tested positive for EIA and was euthanized. Out of the twenty-four (24) exposed adult horses and four (4) at-side foals, one (1) additional horse, a 3-year-old racing Quarter Horse mare tested positive for EIA and was euthanized along with the initial gelding on this premises. The third case was in San Bernardino County in March 2025 when a 7-year-old racing Quarter Horse gelding tested positive. There are two (2) additional exposed horses on the premises who tested negative on the initial test. All of these racing Quarter Horse cases were suspected iatrogenic transmission.

In 2024, there were seven (7) total cases of West Nile Virus (WNV). The age range of infected horses was 3-16 years. Of the seven (7) cases, one (1) was unvaccinated, three (3) were under vaccinated, one (1) was vaccinated and two (2) had an unknown vaccine status. Six (6) horses are alive and recovering and one (1) died or was euthanized. Cases were located in Los Angeles (1), Placer (1), Sacramento (1), San Diego (1), San Joaquin (1), Tehama (1) and Yuba (1) Counties.

(8) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on EMMP administration. Since the last meeting, two EMMP testers have resigned, one in Riverside County and one in Sacramento. Additionally, two new testers were hired in Sacramento County to make a total of seven (7) testers actively testing for EMMP. There are currently five (5) veterinarians contracted with EMMP for blood sample collection.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2024 calendar year (CY):

- A total of 1124 EMMP sanctioned events were registered, and 836 events were held.
- Ninety-four (94) events were tested by EMMP.
- A total of 82,666 horses were entered into EMMP events.
- A total of 239 urine samples and 104 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.

Legal Update

Since the last EMMAC meeting, two EMMP violations were closed. Both of these were for the non-therapeutic administration of a prohibited substance at a reining event.

The EMMPAC discussed the continued desire to increase the fee exemption limits as they have not increased in conjunction with the fee increases. Since the last EMMPAC meeting, CDFA was made aware of an assembly bill that was brought forward to increase the limits. It is currently in the legislative process and will eventually have to get approved by the state legislature and governor's office. The initial draft of the assembly bill wanted to raise the per class exemption limit from \$4.99 per class to \$50 however the EMMPAC discussed how that would exclude approximately 1/3 of the events regulated by EMMP which was not the intent of the bill. EMMP provides protection and fairness for both horses and competitors so removing oversight and testing at that many events could be detrimental. The intent of the bill is to make it equitable across equine events in California while also protecting grass root events. Ms. Kathy Hobstetter and Ms. Sharon Fells are working together to amend the assembly bill that was presented. EMMP will continue to coordinate with CDFA legislative office as requested with information.

Financial Update

Mr. Harrison presented the events not yet paid by event managers. There are forty-three events (43) that were held in the 2024 calendar year that have not yet been paid.

Mr. Harrison presented the current projections for the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year (FY). The advisory committee was presented with a budget proposal for the 2025-2026 FY.

MOTION #4: Ms. Kathy Hobstetter motioned to approve the 2025-2026 FY budget and Ms. Nancy Harvey seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

(9) Research Update

Dr. Russ Hovey from the UC Davis Animal Science Department is working on the EMMPAC approved study on "Implication on teff hay consumption and potential synephrine detection in blood and urine". The first aim of this study was to determine the levels of synephrine at various stages of growth and from different sources. There were eighty-seven (87) samples of teff hay collected and analyzed. The second aim was to determine the levels of synephrine in the blood, urine and feces of horses exposed to teff hay. Teff was fed to six (6) geldings at UC Davis Center for Equine Health and daily data was collected on fecal samples, feed intake/refusals, blood draws and urine collection when able. These samples are ready for analysis and the assay is in the final stages of validation. All samples should be able to be analyzed in the next few months. Dr. Hovey requested a no-cost extension on the contract to complete the necessary data analysis on this project.

(10) Committee New Business Discussion

EMMPAC would like CDFA to increase outreach to the racing Quarter Horse community regarding transmission of EIA.

The next advisory committee meeting is planned for fall 2025.

(11) Closing Comments

Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 11:51am.