

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
November 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 9:00am 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
Ms. Kerrie Miller, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
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:

Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, California Dressage Society

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

Others Present:

Dr. Ben Moeller, Professor, UC Davis Analytical Chemistry Laboratory
Ms. Sharon Fells
Ms. Deb Shatley

(3) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

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

(4) Advisory Committee Updates

Dr. Chris Smith stepped down from the EMMP advisory committee (EMMPAC) as the representative from the Pacific Coast Horse Show Association. The Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association has a nomination pending for an EMMPAC representative.

(5) 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 all prescription medication on competition grounds must be labeled with ingredients. Also, USEF changed the definition of samples collected so they can now collect hair samples to test for certain medications. 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. Shockwave is allowed to be done only on certain areas of the horse's body. Also, as of December 1, 2025, horses in all disciplines regulated by USEF must have a microchip in order to compete.

There are also a couple of proposed rule changes. Currently all horses at USEF must be up to date on influenza and Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) vaccines. The proposed rule is that those vaccines must be current during the whole duration of the event. So if a vaccine is due to expire during the event, they must get a new vaccine. Also, competition managers can change vaccine requirements if they align with the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommendations due to an animal disease outbreak.

(6) Animal Health Updates

Equine Diseases

Dr. Josh Kloepfel presented California's equine health updates on the following topics: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Equine herpesvirus (EHV) West Nile Virus (WNV), Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) and New World Screwworm (NWS).

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there have been three (3) EHM incidents in California. The first incident was in April 2025 in Alameda County when a 22-year-old Trakehner mare displayed neurological signs and tested positive for EHV-1. There were seventy-five (75) exposed horses on the home premises with two (2) additional fever-only cases. The second EHM incident was in May 2025 in Los Angeles County when a 20-year-old Thoroughbred mare displayed neurological signs and tested positive for EHV-1. The mare was euthanized due to clinical signs. There were ninety-five (95) exposed horses on the home premises with five (5) additional fever-only cases. The third EHM incident was in June 2025 in Sonoma County when a 23-year-old Pony mare displayed neurological signs, tested positive for EHV-1 and was

euthanized. There were thirty-six (36) exposed horses on the home premises with no additional cases.

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there have been two (2) Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases. The first was in April 2025 in Madera County when a 12-year-old Quarter Horse mare tested positive. The mare was euthanized and the eight (8) exposed equids tested negative. This mare was tested as part of an out-of-state trace out investigation from a Texas veterinary clinic. The second case was in Riverside County in August 2025 when a 13-year-old Quarter Horse gelding tested positive for EIA and was euthanized. There is one (1) additional exposed horses on the premises who tested negative on the initial test and is awaiting the 60-day retest. The positive horse had a previous history of training in Mexico.

In 2025 so far, there have been five (5) total cases of West Nile Virus (WNV). The age range of infected horses was 1-9 years. Of the five (5) cases, one (1) was unvaccinated, two (2) were under vaccinated, and two (2) were vaccinated. Four (4) horses are alive and recovering and one (1) died or was euthanized. Cases were located in Contra Costa (1), Sacramento (1), Santa Barbara (1), Stanislaus (1) and Yolo (1) Counties.

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) is a disease in livestock animals and horses that can cause vesicles on the lips, nostrils, ears and other areas, along with excessive salivation, fever, weight loss and lameness. It is mainly spread via biting insects but can also be spread animal-to-animal via contaminated saliva or fluid from ruptured vesicles. VSV was confirmed in Cochise County, Arizona on October 31, 2025 and there are currently no other states affected. Animals from Arizona currently have restricted movement and must have a health inspection within seven days of travel with VSV statements written on the health certificate. Additionally, no extended electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (EECVIs) are accepted for horses who travel to or reside in Arizona. There are currently no cases of VSV in California.

New World Screwworm (NWS) is a fly where the maggots feed on live tissue of any warm-bodied animals. NWS is endemic in South America and broke the biological barrier at the Panama Gap and has slowly been moving northward. Currently the closest case to the United States is in Nuevo Leon, Mexico approximately 70 miles from the Texas border. The US/Mexico border has been closed to animal imports since May 2025. There is currently surveillance ongoing along the southern border in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas with fly traps and monitoring of animals in the regions.

(7) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on EMMP administration. Since the last meeting, one EMMP tester in the Sacramento area has resigned so there are a

total of six (6) testers actively testing for EMMP. There are currently four (4) veterinarians contracted with EMMP for blood sample collection.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (FY):

- A total of 1070 EMMP sanctioned events were registered, and 820 events were held.
- 119 events were tested by EMMP.
- A total of 79,863 horses were entered into EMMP events.
- A total of 243 urine samples and 115 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.

Legal Update

Since the last EMMAC meeting, four (4) EMMP violations were closed. Three were for the non-therapeutic administration of a prohibited substance at a reining event and one was for a permissible substance overage at a reining event.

The EMMPAC discussed the assembly bill that was put forward to raise the exemption limits for horse show entry fees. The amended Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) states: "(A) For one-day events, the entry fee to enter a single class exceeds fifteen dollars (\$15) and either no other fees are charged or other fees charged exceed sixty dollars (\$60)." This change was approved and signed by the governor's office in October 2025 and will go into effect on January 1, 2026. EMMP will update the website, brochures and do outreach to event managers.

Financial Update

Mr. Harrison presented the events not yet paid by event managers. There are eighty-two events (82) that were held so far in 2025 that have not yet been paid.

Mr. Harrison presented the current program financial balance for EMMP as well as the projected expenditures and revenue for the end of the year. The expenditures were lower than initially projected due to contract adjustments by the laboratory.

(8) Research Update

Dr. Ben Moeller from the UC Davis Analytical Chemistry Laboratory gave an update on the EMMPAC approved study on "Implication on teff hay consumption and potential synephrine detection in blood and urine". Data analysis was completed and the synephrine levels in teff hay increased in hotter, drier conditions so mid-season cuttings had the highest synephrine levels. Early and late season teff were lower in synephrine when there were cooler temperatures. After discontinuing feeding of teff, synephrine levels were no longer detectable in urine or blood after 48-72 hours. The finalized paper will be released soon and will be distributed to EMMPAC members at that time.

(9) Committee New Business Discussion

EMMPAC will discuss the publicizing of a position for a public member to join the EMMPAC at the next meeting.

The next advisory committee meeting is planned for fall 2026.

(10) Closing Comments

Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.