

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 12:08pm by Vice Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Ms. Sandy Arledge, Chair, California Farm Bureau Federation
Ms. Jody Cutler, American Driving Society
Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Dr. Marta Grandstedt, California Veterinary Medical Association
Ms. Cathy Hanson, Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Kalia Mitchell, California Fairs and Expositions
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. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Ms. Mari Naten, California Dressage Society
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners

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) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the September 15, 2020 and October 6, 2020 meetings were reviewed.

MOTION #1: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to approve the minutes with revisions discussed and Mr. Robert Gage seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

(4) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). USEF recently enacted three rules that went into effect December 1, 2020. The first was to make all bisphosphonates prohibited substances except for tildronate (Tildren) and clodronate (Osphos). These bisphosphonates are not allowed to be used in horses under four years of age (according to FDA label). The second rule change for USEF is that competition managers must notify USEF if they have an infectious disease case at their event, even if it is a suspect case, or if they enact their required biosecurity plan. There was one USEF event in 2020 where this plan was enacted and USEF was notified. The third rule change for USEF is that horses that have an active opening in the neck from a tracheotomy or tracheostomy are not allowed to compete.

Dr. Schumacher also discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on USEF competitions. For 2020, approximately 65% of the normal amount of USEF competitions were held. There were no USEF competitions held from mid-March until the end of May 2020.

Dr. Schumacher also discussed the Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) incidents in Spain and Florida. The EHV-1 incident in Spain started in mid-February at a Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) event in Valencia, Spain. In total, there were 752 horses that were traced to have been at that event, and multiple horses from that event had gone to other events around Europe. FEI canceled all events in Europe through mid-April and many national shows in affected countries were also canceled. A total of eighteen (18) fatalities and thirty-one (31) outbreak centers in ten (10) different countries have been linked to the incident originating in Spain.

The EHV-1 incident in Florida was in early March when a horse became neurologic and tested positive for EHV-1. This horse had recently attended an event at the World Equestrian Center (WEC) in Ocala, FL in late February. A second horse on the index horse's home premises became febrile and tested positive for EHV-1 but did not become neurologic. A third horse at WEC became febrile but tested negative. Out of an abundance of caution, there was a ten-day prohibition of horses going back and forth from competitions in Ocala and Wellington. Both positive horses recovered and there have been no additional EHV-1 cases in Florida related to this incident.

(5) Animal Health Updates Equine Diseases

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

In February 2021, a 5-year-old Quarter Horse mare was confirmed positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). The mare had a previous racing history and was detected during routine testing for returning to the track. The mare had a history of travel to Mexico in 2020. Ninety-two (92) potentially exposed horses on the home premises and at the racetrack were quarantined and tested; all tested negative for EIA and Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP). These horses will remain under quarantine until their sixty (60) day retest in April. The EIA positive mare was subsequently euthanized.

So far in 2021, there have been five (5) Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) incidents. The first incident was in February 2021, when an 11-year-old Tennessee Walking horse gelding in Los Angeles County displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain). The gelding was euthanized due to the severity of neurologic signs. Seventy-two (72) potentially exposed horses at his home premises in Los Angeles County were quarantined. No additional cases were detected and quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

In March 2021, a 20-year-old Warmblood gelding in Los Angeles County displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain); the horse is alive and recovering. Forty-two (42) potentially exposed horses were quarantined at his home premises. No additional cases were detected and quarantine was released at the home premises after fourteen (14) days. The index case is still under quarantine as it has not yet met the parameters for release, but it is expected to be released soon.

In March 2021, a 10-year-old Arabian gelding in San Bernardino county displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain); the horse recovered. One additional horse on the property tested positive for EHV-1 with neurological signs and was euthanized due to the severity of clinical signs. Twenty-two (22) potentially exposed horses were quarantined at his home premises. No additional cases were detected and quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

In March 2021, a 21-year-old Warmblood mare from Sonoma County displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for EHV-1 (neuropathogenic strain); the mare was sent to an offsite veterinary hospital and has subsequently recovered and returned to the home premises. Twenty-one (21) potentially exposed horses were quarantined at his home premises. No additional cases were detected and quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

In March 2021, a 21-year-old Quarter Horse mare from Santa Clara County displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1. The horse is alive and is being treated in isolation at a veterinary hospital. The home premises has been quarantined with enhanced biosecurity measures in place and twice daily temperature monitoring. The home premises hosted an

event on March 21st, and one asymptomatic horse from the home premise competed in an event from March 19th – 21st. Event managers have been notified and are encouraging all owners of potentially exposed horses to perform twice daily temperature monitoring, limit movement, and practice enhanced biosecurity measures for the fourteen (14) days following potential exposure. To date, no additional cases have been detected.

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba discussed both the international and national EHM incidents going on in Europe, Canada, Florida, Kentucky, Utah, Maryland, New York and Virginia. Due to these recent EHM cases, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently offering additional testing for EHV-1 at the international ports. However, no horses imported through the Los Angeles Import Center (LAIC) have been tested for EHV-1 at the LAIC.

For 2020, a total of twenty (20) horses were confirmed positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in California. The positive horses were located in Amador (2), Butte (1), Glenn (1), Kings (1), Merced (1), Modoc (1), Nevada (1), Riverside (2), Sacramento (1), San Bernardino (1), San Joaquin (4), Solano (1) and Stanislaus (3) counties. Fourteen (14) horses were unvaccinated, four (4) horses had unknown vaccine history and two (2) were vaccinated. Fifteen (15) horses are alive, one (1) horse died, and four (4) horses were euthanized. Horses ranged in age from one (1) to twenty (20) years, with both genders and multiple breeds represented.

(6) Program Updates

Advisory Committee Updates

Ms. Katie Hatch discussed the new EMMP advisory committee webpages. The first webpage is an EMMP advisory committee specific webpage at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/emmp/emmp_advisory_committee.html and has previous meeting minutes, materials and agendas, as well as a current list of advisory committee members. The other webpage is the CDFA Animal/Livestock Boards and Commissions webpage at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/boards_and_commissions/boards_livestock.html which lists details on all the CDFA boards and committees including EMMP.

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on the EMMP testers. Two of the EMMP testers resigned, one in the Sacramento area and one in the San Bernardino area. Currently there are five testers actively testing for the program. Due to COVID, there were no events tested from mid-March through July 2020. EMMP sampling restarted in August 2020 with urine testing and then in October 2020 for blood testing.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2020 calendar year:

- A total of 1074 EMMP sanctioned events were registered, and 511 events were held (significantly less than previous years due to COVID-19).
- Fifty (50) events were tested by EMMP.
- 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.
- A total of eighty-seven (87) urine samples and seventy-one (71) blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.

Legal Update

Ms. Katie Hatch discussed the regulation packet that was recently approved for EMMP. It revised the regulations so that way if the program's forms have minor revisions, they can be changed without having to go through a regulation change each time. However, if there are substantial changes to the form, it will still have to go through a regulation change. The Animal Health Branch regulations liaison is starting to work on the EMMP fee change update. This is still due to be effective January 2022.

Financial Update

The 2020 revenue and expenditures for EMMP were reviewed. Due to lower expenses than budgeted for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the EMMP had a higher revenue than expenditures which is helping to balance the EMMP budget. Expenditures are likely to increase as more events get tested in 2021 due to higher travel costs, testing costs and personnel costs. There are currently thirty-four (34) events held between July-December 2020 that have not paid their EMMP fees. EMMP will be following up with these event managers to obtain payments.

(7) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The next meeting is planned to be held in September or October 2021 to be held via Zoom. A poll will be sent out in late summer/early fall to determine the date.

(8) Closing Comments

Chairperson Ms. Sandy Arledge adjourned the meeting at 1:29pm.