

NEWSLETTER

Fall is upon us – and unfortunately for California that means a busy time with Highly

Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI or H5N1). This year, as many know, we are the latest state to have dairy cattle infected with H5N1. Since the initial detection of H5N1 in a California dairy herd in late August, CDFA, USDA, and the CAHFS laboratory staff have been working diligently to respond to the outbreak. We have continued to 'scale up' our response efforts as the outbreak has grown in size. As a country, we are all learning about how H5N1 affects and is transmitted to dairy cattle. Here in California, CDFA and USDA are responding to the disease with surveillance testing, movement controls, biosecurity/biocontainment measures, and supporting the dairy industry through case management. Our goals are to minimize viral load in the environment, mitigate viral spread, support the dairy industry, protect the poultry industry, and protect human health. We are working very closely with other departments and agencies in California including the Department of Public Health, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Emergency Services, as well as local public health agencies and agricultural commissioners. We have a team of epidemiologists collecting and

analyzing data on both affected and unaffected farms and a team working with USDA on a variety

of research proposals so we can evaluate and learn more about this virus in cattle. We are adjusting

our response strategies as rapidly as possible to incorporate the scientific findings. As we are

starting to detect HPAI in poultry, we are continuing with the same response strategies from last

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cdfa california department of food & agriculture

Message From the Chief

By: Mandy Murray, DVM, MPVM, PhD, AHB Branch Chief

Greetings!



To report an unusual number of sick livestock or poultry, or if you suspect Bird Flu in your livestock or poultry, call: 1-866-2473

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year and have dedicated poultry and dairy response operations.

While most of the AHB is deployed to the HPAI response, as you will read in this issue, HPAI is not the only issue AHB staff are working on!

As always, protecting California's animal agriculture takes everyone working together. Producers, veterinarians, industry partners, researchers, university employees, and state and federal staff are all making extraordinary efforts to get through this time. Thank you for all you do and let's keep working together protect California's animal agriculture.

H5N1 Bird Flu in California

By: Laura Bradley, DVM, CAHEN

Avian: In the United States, H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was first detected February 8, 2022, and from that time has been confirmed in domestic poultry in 509 commercial flocks, 667 backyard flocks affecting 100.78 million birds across 48 states. On August 11, 2022, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed California's first case of HPAI in domestic poultry from a backyard flock in Sacramento County. As of September 30, 2024, HPAI has affected 42 commercial flocks, 26 backyard flocks, and a total of 7.2 million domestic poultry across 23 California counties. California finally reached HPAI Free in Poultry status on June 13, 2024, but was reinfected on September 18, 2024, in a commercial turkey flock in Merced County. Because avian influenza viruses continue to circulate normally among migratory and wild birds, we strongly recommend that all poultry owners implement enhanced biosecurity practices during fall migration season regardless of California's HPAI status. The California State Veterinarian has also recommended that all poultry are kept indoors through December 2024.

Clinical signs of HPAI in poultry include sudden death, trouble breathing, clear runny discharge (from nose, mouth, and eyes), lethargy, decreased food and water intake, swelling (eyes, head, wattles, or combs), discolored or bruised comb, wattles, or legs, stumbling/falling or twisted neck.

Bovine: In March 2024, there was a single incident of H5N1 Avian Influenza that infected a dairy cow in Texas. The single point infection led to the current outbreak of Bovine Influenza A across the U.S. On August 30, 2024, California dairies located in the Central Valley tested positive for the virus. As of September 30, 2024, there have been a total of 243 affected dairies across 14 states (California Colorado, Kansas, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming) and one alpaca herd in Idaho. At the end of September, California had 43 confirmed dairies all located



within Central California. All affected dairies have been placed under quarantine and enhanced biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Sick cows are isolated and are being treated at the dairies. Most infected livestock and dairy cattle can fully recover from H5N1 infection within a few weeks.

California's supply of milk and dairy foods is safe and has not been impacted by these events. Healthy cows have been cleared to continue shipping milk for pasteurization. Pasteurization of milk is fully effective at inactivating the virus so, there is no cause for concern for consumers from milk or dairy products. Pasteurized milk and dairy items, as well as properly handled meat and eggs, continue to be safe to consume.

Clinical signs of H5N1 livestock include decreased feed consumption with a simultaneous decrease in rumination and rumen motility, respiratory signs including clear nasal discharge, acute drop in milk production (severely affected cattle may have thicker, concentrated, colostrum-like milk or produce no milk at all), abnormal tacky or loose feces, lethargy, dehydration, and fever. Infected cattle may be subclinical (asymptomatic) or clinical (symptomatic) with the virus predominantly found in milk and mammary tissue regardless of clinical signs.

Continued on page 3

H5N1 in Avian and Bovine

According to the <u>Centers for Disease Control and</u> <u>Prevention (CDC)</u>, this influenza virus is not considered a significant public health threat and the public health risk remains low. The <u>California Department of Health (CDPH</u>) will provide official confirmation of any human cases associated with this incident.

Livestock and poultry owners that have experienced any unusual/suspicious illness or deaths should call our H5N1 Bird Flu hotline at: 1-866-922-2473.

Please report any unusual or suspicious dead wild birds to the <u>California Department of Fish and Wildlife Mortality Report</u> <u>website</u>. If you have questions about wildlife rehabilitation, please contact the <u>California Department of Fish and Wildlife's</u> <u>Wildlife Health Lab</u> directly.



- For the latest updates of HPAI in California domestic poultry, visit our website at: <u>bit.ly/CalAvianflu</u>.
- For the latest updates of H5N1 in California domestic livestock, visit our website at: <u>bit.ly/cdfaLivestockHPAI</u>.
- For public inquiries regarding H5N1 Bird Flu in California, please send an e-mail to <u>cdfa.HPAlinfo@cdfa.ca.gov</u> or call 916-217-7517. For media inquiries, please call 916-654-0462 or send an e-mail to <u>OfficeOfPublicAffairs@cdfa.</u> <u>ca.gov</u>.

Federal Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Rule Change Effective November 5, 2024

By: Animal Disease Traceability

On January 9, 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed changes to their ADT rule contained in <u>9 CFR Part 86</u> to require eartags applied to cattle and bison be both visually and electronically readable in order to be recognized for use as official identification (ID). The USDA also proposed to clarify certain record retention and record access requirements, and update definitions. The goal of these changes is to enhance the ability of Tribal, State and Federal officials, private veterinarians, and livestock producers to quickly respond to high-impact diseases that threaten the viability of the US cattle and bison industries.

The final ADT rule was published into the Federal Register on May 9, 2024, and is set to go into effect November 5, 2024, 180 days after its publication.

How to Obtain EID Tags

"840" radio frequency identification (RFID) tags can be requested from your local Animal Health Branch (AHB) district office as supplies last.



 California licensed and accredited veterinarians can request white "840" RFID tags that are to be used on cattle and bison only.



- Veterinarians with current Brucellosis contracts with CDFA can also request orange "840" RFID vaccination tags to be used on heifers only.
 - For heifers that already have an official "840" tag at the time of vaccination, please use the existing official ID for recordkeeping. An unofficial orange eartag can be applied strictly for management purposes by the producer. CDFA will not supply any unofficial orange tags.
- Veterinarians and producers can also order "840" tags directly from tag manufacturers. Please see CDFA's <u>"Cattle</u> <u>Official Identification" fact sheet</u> for a list of USDA approved tag manufacturers.

Official Identification for Cattle and Bison (9 CFR § 86.4)

All official eartags applied to cattle and bison on or after November 5, 2024, must be both visually and electronically readable. Tags must also provide a unique identification number, be tamper evident, and bear the US shield.

- At this time, the only approved electronic identification (EID) eartags available are Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags, also known as "840" RFID tags. These tags are 15-digits in length and are only to be applied to cattle and bison native to the US.
- "900" series tags still do not qualify as official ID.
- If internationally imported cattle lose their official ID, an "840" RFID tag CANNOT be used as a replacement. You

will need to contact your local AHB district office to request replacement import cattle RFID tags. These tags will be green and blue in color, be 15-digits long starting with the imprinted manufacturer's code "964", and bear "IMP" for import.

 Visual only official ID tags, such as silverbrites, orange metal brucellosis (bangs) tags, and visual only "840" tags, applied to cattle and bison prior to November 5, 2024, will be recognized as official ID for the lifetime of the animal.

Note: Producers may chose to have an EID tag applied in addition to a previously existing visual official ID tag, although it is not required. If an EID is applied, both eartags should be recorded on all records to maintain traceability.



Definition Updates

<u>Dairy Cattle:</u> "All cattle, regardless of age or sex or current use, that are of a breed(s) or offspring of a breed used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption, including, but not limited to, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn, and Red and Whites."

When issuing CVIs for dairy/beef cross feeder calves, the CVI must indicate that these are dairy cattle. If cattle are mixed breeds, the breeds should be specified on the CVI.

Example: "Holstein/Angus cross" calves should **NOT** be written as "mixed breed" or "beef cross".

<u>Approved Tagging Sites:</u> "A premises, authorized by APHIS, State, or Tribal animal health officials, where livestock without official identification may be transferred to have official identification applied on behalf of their owner or the person in possession, care, or control of the animals when they are brought to the premises."

Recordkeeping Requirements (9 CFR § 86.3)

All records must be of sufficient accuracy, quality, and completeness to demonstrate compliance with all conditions and requirements under 9 CFR Part 86.

If the USDA submits a request for records, all reports and notices containing the information specified must be presented within 48 hours of receipt of request.

Official ID device distribution records: Include the producer's name, physical address where the cattle or bison were tagged, date the tags were applied, total number of tags applied, and the tag numbers applied. These records must be maintained for five years.

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Interstate Movement Records: This includes all CVIs or alternate documentation (i.e. brucellosis vaccination reports, official test records, etc).

For poultry and swine, such documents must be kept for at least two years.

For cattle and bison, sheep and goats, cervids, and equines, such documents must be kept for at least five years.

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Wildlife Damage Management Project Update

By: Danny Dickason, DVM, MCM, Wildlife Interface Program

CDFA's Wildlife Interface Program has completed the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) alongside Wildlife Services California (WS-CA).

Background:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Wildlife Services-California (WS-California), a state office within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), have prepared a joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to provide a comprehensive environmental analysis of current and future wildlife damage management (WDM) activities undertaken across California. The EIR/EIS has evaluated potential impacts associated with wildlife damage management activities performed by CDFA and California Counties under CDFA's proposed Wildlife Damage Management Program (WDMP) and their associated mitigation measures as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and by WS-California as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIR/EIS project has engaged with members of the public and academia, California Native American tribes, scientific experts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caltrans, and various conservation groups, among others. It builds on and reflects existing WDM implemented by WS-California, updates and integrates various biological, physical, and chemical management activities, and provides a consolidated set of mitigation measures. Through this analysis, CDFA and WS-CA will be able to continue to protect California's food and fiber production while simultaneously ensuring monitoring and protection of tribal cultural resources, human and pet health and safety, and the state's natural resources, including forests, wetlands, and special- and non-special-status species.

Program Commitment:

Through this California Wildlife Damage Management project, CDFA's WDM Program staff is committed to:

- 1. Renew CDFA's historic program objectives:
 - 1.1 Provide leadership in addressing the impacts of wildlife on agriculture.
 - 1.2 Increase the health and productivity of agricultural resources and, incidentally, natural resources.
 - 1.3 Maintain the availability of wildlife pest control materials that are effective, humane, and environmentally safe.

- 1.4 Support improvement of current, and deployment of new, wildlife pest control materials and methods in response to ongoing research.
- 1.5 Promote broader understanding and awareness about wildlife pest identification, biology, life history, impacts and control activities.
- 1.6 Elicit cooperator and stakeholder participation in addressing wildlife pest impacts to agriculture and, incidentally, natural habitats and public health and safety.
- 1.7 Support development and implementation of measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate unintended impacts to watercourses and protected species and their habitats from wildlife pest control materials and methods.
- 2. Inform the implementation of WDM activities conducted by state and local agencies throughout California.
- 3. Provide rapid response to high-risk wildlife damage scenarios in order to prevent harm to agricultural resources and property, human health and safety, and natural resources.
- Support the development and implementation of measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate unintended impacts to California's important natural resources from WDM materials and technologies.
- 5. Build upon existing resources, including WS-California's data reporting system, to develop a statewide information management, reporting, and data sharing system for wildlife damage incidents and management activities that will allow a robust evaluation of management activities to support an integrated and adaptive WDM approach.
- 6. Establish an administrative mechanism for California Counties (Counties) that wish to participate in a statewide WDM Program to streamline their environmental compliance.

Copies of the EIR/EIS and associated documents can be found on the <u>California Wildlife Damage Management</u> <u>website</u>. Any other questions or concerns can be directed to <u>Daniel.Dickason@cdfa.ca.gov</u>.



NPIP Biennial Conference Brief

By: Alexi Haack DVM, Avian Program

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) recently hosted their biennial conference in Providence, Rhode Island this past August 2024. This conference decides every two years on changes to the NPIP Program Standards, outlining the USDA approved requirements for inter-state transport of poultry and from which international poultry trade negotiations are based.

For background, NPIP is a voluntary and industry-driven disease control plan established in the 1930's to control and eventually eradicate Salmonella Pullorum and Typhoid in domestic poultry flocks. It has since expanded to include many other poultry diseases of concern and outline prevention, testing, and response to detections if found.

Attendees include representatives from each state (Official State Agents), either from their state's animal health team or from a poultry industry association. California's representative is the California Poultry Health Board and they invited CDFA's Avian Specialist to join the delegation. This year delegates voted on 56 proposed changes to the Program Standards, ranging in topics from removing validation for failing testing modalities to the addition of a whole new program to control Salmonella Enteritis at processing. Approved changes from this conference will be finalized over two years through a USDA rulemaking process and published in the National Register.

The conference offered educational presentations on new virtual audit technology, disease issues at large such as Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV), and reports and recommendations from the disease technical committees. Delegates were able to discuss concerns with test validation, hear from manufacturers on updates to their testing kits, and directly interact with suppliers on issues such as the unavailability of Pullorum antigen for testing.

Of high interest was a USDA sponsored Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) inactivated vaccine research trial in turkeys, which had nearly 100% protection against challenge virus. While this vaccine shows promising results, it may not be authorized for use due to concerns for international trade and limitations with use against a rapidly evolving virus. Additionally, to address the concerning number of HPAI reintroductions on poultry farms, USDA unveiled the audit tool they would be using for the Biosecurity Audit Interim Rule, which requires biosecurity audits for poultry farms affected by HPAI before restocking and farms within a buffer zone who want to place new birds while the control area is active. Poultry producers would be forfeiting indemnity if not in compliance.

Dr. Haack would like to thank the wonderful Monica Della Maggiore at California Poultry Health Board for the nononsense guidance during NPIP Biennial Meeting and wish her a happy and welldeserved retirement!

A Coxiella Case Study

By: Steven Gallego, DVM, Redding District

In August of this year, among the increasing number of milk samples sent to CAHFS for influenza testing, one particular sample from a Petaluma dairy stood out. It was PCR positive for *Coxiella burnetii* by the diagnostic lab at Cornell. In discussion with the private practitioner, this dairy herd also had sheep. Owned and operated by a couple, the husband had been ill and unresponsive to treatment for two months. His wife for six months!

Coxiella is responsible for the human disease Q fever. In 1935 Australian health officials were investigating slaughterhouse workers afflicted with an unknown fever calling it Query fever since no one knew the cause. At the same time, Wyoming scientist working to find the cause of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, isolated an intracellular organism from Rocky Mountain wood ticks collected from the Nine Mile region of Montana's Bitterroot Valley. Naturally, we called the new organism Nine Mile agent. The USDA Montana researchers had inadvertently infected themselves after mishandling contaminated lab materials. Back down under, the first recognized outbreak

Montana researchers had inadvertently infected themselves after mishandling contaminated lab materials. Back down under, the first recognized outbreak *Continued on page 7*



State House of Rhode Island

occurred in lab investigator Macfarlane Burnet (get it? Burnet, *Burnetii*). Eventually we all figured out it was the same organism. Since then Q fever positive serology has been found globally except New Zealand. Go figure.

Today we know a bit more about C. burnetii. Slaughterhouse workers, veterinarians, farmers and C. burnetii investigators are most exposed and infected. Since its discovery, C. burnetii has caused large and small outbreaks; 15 NIH lab workers in 1940. 47 in 1946. Between 2007-2010, 4,000 cases occurred in the Netherlands. Working backwards, as many as 40,000 were thought to have been infected. Did you know C. burnetii is one of the most infectious organisms afflicting people? Infection can occur with as few as 1-10 bacteria. Because so few organisms are needed to be inhaled to cause disease, burnetii is considered a select agent with the potential to be weaponized. Infections have been documented in people living downwind from an infected premises. Another route of infection is oral and consumption of unpasteurized dairy products is a common point source. Urine and feces are additional matrices that harbor burnetii. High levels of replication in placenta and female repro tract tissues in outwardly asymptomatic livestock, contribute to farmer and veterinarian infections. Circling back to Cornell's lab report, the sample was called positive with a CT value over 31 indicating there aren't many organisms in the sample and additional cycles were needed to find evidence of burnetii's presence.

Needless to say, *burnetii* is reportable to public health. What's more, as a select agent, once found, the private practitioner is required to submit <u>CDC form 4A-CD</u>.

This report serves as a reminder; use caution when attending a birth event and pasteurization remains the safest procedure to ensure food safety.

"How can you be Demure While Testing your Chickens for Bird Flu and Newcastle Disease?"

By: CAHEN

Have you seen the latest video on our Instagram at California Avian Education Health Network (CAHEN)? CAHEN is stepping into the world of viral social media trends with a twist to educate backyard flock owners. As trends continue to gain views and recognition from social media users, CAHEN has taken advantage to slide into the feeds of poultry owners. According to an Animal Welfare article written by Mace and Knight earlier this year, chickens are the third most numerous pet in Western countries! Through the array of social media platforms available, we are able to extend our reach and engage with some of the most creative and incredible backyard owners across California. CAHEN's focus is to provide resources and veterinary based recommendations through several different platforms and avenues from hosting a table at a fair, presenting in a classroom, to dancing across social media feeds.

CAHEN is currently working on a video series covering budget-friendly biosecurity tips for the backyard flock owner. This series emphasizes that even practicing enhanced biosecurity does not need to be an economic burden while significantly reducing the risk of disease entering a flock. Most local stores carry several, if not all, equipment needed to implement an eggcellent biosecurity protocol. Some examples include personal protective equipment (rubber boots, rubber gloves, disposable gloves, and face masks), cleaning and disinfecting products and equipment (scrub brushes, buckets, and soap), and even items for a footbath (litter pan, towels, and bleach). We hope to encourage owners to be more proactive for the well-being of their flocks especially, during this fall migration season when Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) aka Bird Flu, is most prevalent. For the most up to date information on HPAI in California poultry, please visit CDFA's Avian Influenza website. For the latest updates on national confirmations of HPAI in poultry, please visit The USDA's HPAI Current Confirmations website.

In addition to our outreach and education, CAHEN promotes our Backyard Assurance Program. For backyard flocks of 20 or more birds, owners can sign up to participate in this no cost voluntary surveillance testing program. To learn more about the program visit the <u>California Avian Health Education Network</u> <u>website</u>.

Follow us on Facebook at California Avian Health Education Network, Instagram @cahensocal, and Pinterest @CAHENSocal. Let us know how you shop for biosecurity on a budget, we would love to connect with you!





Scenes from CAHEN'S Instagram videos.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations June 16, 2024 – September 15, 2024

By: Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD, Emergency Preparedness and Response Section

It is essential to be aware of foreign animal diseases (FADs) and their potential impact on the food supply chain and international trade. Even though these diseases have either been eradicated or never occurred in the United States, a widespread outbreak could have severe consequences. This includes posing a public health risk if they can be transmitted to humans. Therefore, detecting them early and taking immediate action to control and eradicate FADs is crucial. California is investing significant resources to protect the livestock industry against FAD outbreaks. You can learn about the critical activities when an FAD is detected in the state by viewing 13 infographics and three short video clips on the <u>CDFA Preparedness and</u> <u>Response webpage</u>.

On August 26th, California's first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cows was detected,

triggering the activation of the unified incident command system. Since the first detection, the CDFA Animal Health and Food Safety has been responding to the incident in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinary services.

Between June 16 and September 15, 2024, California FAD diagnosticians investigated 75 FAD suspicious cases (Table 1). Out of the 65 investigations conducted, almost 87 percent were to rule out Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in pigs being shipped to slaughterhouses. The lesions observed in these cases were found to be caused by Senecavirus A (SVA). Although SVA is an endemic disease in the US, it triggers an investigation for FAD due to the similarity of lesions to FMD. Treating any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs as an FAD is essential until the condition can be ruled out.

All Emergency conditions listed in the <u>California</u> reportable animal disease list must be reported to the local animal health authorities within 24 hours. Contact information for the AHB district offices is listed on the last page of this newsletter and on the reportable disease list.

AHB Districts	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*
Madaata	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Senecavirus A (SVA)	Porcine	Swab	56	CAHFS-Davis
Modesto	FMD, Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)	Bovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis
Ontario	VSV	Equine	Swab, Serum	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis
Redding	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis
Tulare	FMD, SVA	Porcine	Swab	9	CAHFS-Davis
	Bovine HPAI	Bovine	Milk	6	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis
	Anthrax	Bovine	Serum, Tissue	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis

Table 1. Summary of FAD investigations from June 16, 2024 to September 15, 2024

*NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory

CAHFS: California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory

New Trich Tags for Bull Testing

By:Beth Francia, Senior Livestock Inspector

As of September 1, 2024, Trich *(Tritrichomonas foetus)* tags for the new testing year are now available and should be able to be shipped to approved veterinarians and veterinary clinics from MWI warehouses. Current year tags are yellow for the September 1 – August 31 testing year. Please visit the <u>CDFA Trich</u> web page for more information.



Brucellosis Contract Renewals

By:Beth Francia, Senior Livestock Inspector

Brucellosis contract renewals will begin to be mailed out to current contract veterinarians starting in October. All contracts are renewed every two years with an expiration date of December 31. Veterinarians must have a signed contract on file with CDFA in order to purchase and administer Brucellosis vaccine to calves in California. Please sign and return your contract without delay, so there will be no lapse in your ability to receive vaccine. You may sign and email your completed contract to bruce.vaccine@cdfa.ca.gov or return by mail. For additional questions, please contact your local district office or Beth Francia at 916-900-5041.

CDFA AUS Releases 2023 Veterinary Feed Directive Report

By: CDFA Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship

The Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) program issues annual reports that summarize Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) information. The release of this most current <u>VFD Summary Report (2023)</u> presents an annual, up-to-date illustration of VFD feed manufacturing and distribution in California. The VFD Summary Report has been developed to provide a transparent and thorough explanation of the AUS program's involvement to ensure feed manufacturer / distributor compliance with state and federal VFD order mandates. The intent of this report is to help the public gain a better understanding of the issuance, manufacture, and distribution of medicated feed containing VFD drugs.

This report includes background on the scope of the summary, as well as data tables and informative visuals that display VFD information by species, drug, indication type, and amount sold.

In conjunction with the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP), AUS collects VFD orders on a quarterly basis from both manufacturers and distributors listed on the US Food and Drug Administration's VFD Distributor Notification list. The information collected is held confidential in accordance with Food and Agricultural Code Section 14407.

A few important notes regarding this VFD Summary Report:

- This report includes information received by the program that has been aggregated to prevent the identification of an individual farm or business.
- Due to the nature of a VFD order, they are not indicators of use trends.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns please feel free to contact us at <u>aus_regulations@cdfa.ca.gov</u> or (916) 900-5022.



Animal Health Branch Staff Biographies

Nick Edelman, DVM

Environmental Scientist - Emergency Animal Mortality Specialist (FAD & Natural Disasters)

Dr. Edelman grew up in Southern California, where he developed a strong connection to the agricultural community working in the dairy and small ruminant industries. In his late teens, he discovered a passion for horses, specifically thoroughbred racing. His interests in agriculture and horses carried into his undergraduate studies at UC Santa Cruz, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in 2015. He later pursued veterinary medicine at UC Davis, tracking in equine and livestock, and graduated in 2021. During veterinary school, Dr. Edelman found purpose in volunteering with the Veterinary Emergency Response Team, assisting communities impacted by natural disasters. After completing a rotating equine internship at San Luis Rey Equine Hospital and working in the equine industry, he has returned to his agricultural roots. In his free time he loves to spend time with his wife and dogs, play soccer, ski, kayak, and hike. He is excited to embark on a new journey within the Animal Health Branch, working in the Emergency Support Unit.





Sarah Fast Livestock inspector, Modesto District

Sarah Fast joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in September in the Animal Health Branch. Sarah graduated from South Dakota State University in December 2023 with a bachelors in Agricultural Science with minors in Animal Science and Meat Science. During her time at SDSU, Sarah was on the University's Meat Judging team where she got to travel the nation competing at other universities and processing plants. Sarah was also involved in SDSU's Little International (Little "I") livestock expedition, she served on staff for three years. Sarah also assisted with a research project investigating the effect of rigor mortis on pH in beef carcasses. In her free time, Sarah enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, spending time with friends and family, hanging out her cat Bryer aka Hot Dog Water, baking, painting/ drawing and making sausage from wild game.

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Animal Health Branch Programs

- Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)
- Avian Program
- <u>California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES)</u>
- California Avian Health Education Network (CAHEN)
- <u>Cattle Program</u>
- <u>Emergency Preparedness Response Section (EPRS)</u>
- Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP)

- Equine Program
- Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Program
- <u>Secure Food Supply (SFS) Program</u>
- <u>Small Ruminant Program</u>
- <u>Swine Program</u>
- <u>Wildlife Interface Program</u>

Mission Statement

The Animal Health Branch is the State's organized, professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and California's economy from catastrophic animal diseases, disasters that impact animals, and other health or agricultural problems. The Branch addresses diseases and other problems that cannot be successfully controlled on an individual animal or herd basis but require state-wide coordinated resources. Implementing programs that protect California's livestock industries and consumers, ensures the availability, affordability, and wholesomeness of food.