

Mission Statement

The Animal Health Branch is California's organized, professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and the State's economy from catastrophic animal diseases and other health or agricultural problems.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Branch Newsletter

Volume 52

July 2021

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State Veterinarian and Animal Health Branch Updates

By: Annette Jones, DVM, State Veterinarian, Anita Edmondson, DVM, Branch Chief

"Change and change again" seems to be our motto. Just as we have adjusted to social distance, essential inspections, masks, hand sanitizers, and juggling family while working, we are now adjusting to a return to the "new normal." Personally, I was almost resentful as my quiet work space was reinvaded with demands for social obligations and travel. Fortunately, humans are adaptable! The time is also right for a note of appreciation - We appreciate the commitment of State staff that made ends meet with a nearly 10% pay cut last year, and are pleased that salaries are being restored. Our farmers and ranchers and those serving them have overcome a constantly changing customer base and supply chain shifts, as well as ever evolving COVID mitigation obligations, and persevered as they always do. So, while I am no longer sure what tomorrow will look like, I know it will include continued appreciation for CDFA staff and those we serve, and more change." - Dr. Annette Jones



"As California reopens following closures due to COVID-19, California Human Resources has directed that telework is going to be a permanent part of state workers lives going forward, and many won't be coming back into the offices the same way they did prior to the pandemic. With the requirement to decrease office space, our AHB headquarters office will move later this year from its current location to the CDFA Headquarters Building at 1220 N Street, Sacramento. Hopefully this will be a seamless transition for our customers; our phone and email contact information will remain the same. We are also seeing several personnel changes, so you may meet new people when you contact the branch. As California revises the state's COVID-19 public health guidelines, and staff adjust their work, the branch continues to promote sound and effective solutions for animal health, welfare and public good. I continue to be proud of the strength and resilience of our diverse staff and thank all our stakeholders for their continued support." - Dr. Anita Edmondson

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations April 1 - June 30, 2021

By: Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

California spends considerable resources protecting the livestock industry against Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks. Any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out. **One hundred and fifty-seven (157)** FAD suspicious cases (Table 1) were investigated by CDFA/AHB and USDA/VS veterinarians during the past three months to help safeguard California's livestock industry; 148 (almost 94% of all statewide FAD investigations) were Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) suspect cases in pigs, all caused by Seneca Virus A (SVA), an endemic disease in the US. Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate the similarity between SVA lesions and FMD lesions. Any swine with vesicular lesions are suspects for FADs. Senecavirus A infections continue to be detected among swine shipped to California's slaughterhouses.



Figure 1: Similarity of Snout vesicles caused by Seneca virus A (left), and Foot and Mouth Disease viruses (right)



Figure 2: Similarity of ulcerative coronary band lesion caused by Seneca virus A (left), and Foot and Mouth Disease viruses (right)

All emergency conditions listed in the California reportable animal disease list must be reported to the local animal health authorities within 24 hours. The AHB district offices' contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter. For the list of reportable conditions, please visit the following site:

https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/AHFSS/animal_health/pdfs/CA_reportable_disease_list_poster.pdf

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Foreign Animal Disease Investigations - continued

Table 1. Summary of FAD investigations from April 1 to June 30, 2021

AHB District	Diseases	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination NVSL Labs	Results
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Senecavirus A (SVA)	Porcine	Swab	135	CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA
	Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2)	Wild Rabbit	Carcass	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Positive
Ontario	Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)	Equine	Swabs	3	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	RHDV2	Domestic Rabbit	Liver	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	RHDV2	Wild Rabbit	Carcass	1	NVSL, CAHFS-San Bernardino	Positive
	FMD, VS	Ovine	Carcass	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
Redding	FMD, VS	Bovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	Schmallenberg	Caprine	Brain	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA	Porcine	Swab	13	CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA

*NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
CAHFS: California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory
NWHC: USGS National Wildlife Health Center

Cache Valley Virus – An Unusual California Case

By: Steven Gallego, DVM

This past spring, CAHFS-Davis and NVSL reported an unusual finding in a dead goat kid from Northern California presenting with hydrocephaly and arthrogryposis (congenital joint contracture). Those of us that practiced large animal medicine would agree fetal deformities were a common occurrence. There were the usual causal suspects such as Coxiella, BVD, foothill, Neospora and Leptospirosis to name only a few. And then there were the outliers, such as CAHFS's finding: Cache Valley Virus (CVV).



First described in 1959, CVV was discovered during routine mosquito testing for Western and St. Louis Encephalitis viruses in Utah's Cache Valley. Further testing showed CVV seroconversion among the region's horse population. Belonging to the Bunyaviridae family, CVV is related to other RNA viruses including the deadly Hanta, Rift Valley, and Crimean Congo viruses, which are collectively referred to as the hemorrhagic fever viruses, and all utilize an arthropod vector. Since 1959 CVV and its variants have been detected across North, Central, and South America as diagnostics improved and veterinary diagnosticians have better recognized this virus' usual manifestations of pregnancy loss, hydrocephaly, and arthrogryposis. Serologic surveys have revealed many other species with CVV exposure including domestic livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs as well as wild ruminants like white-tailed and mule deer, caribou, elk, hindgut fermenting jackrabbits, and nonruminants such as foxes. While numerous serologic surveys have shown upwards of 50% exposure in human populations, only very occasionally (six recorded cases) has fatal human encephalitis

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Cache Valley Virus – An Unusual California Case - *continued*

been attributed to CVV. The high exposure, low morbidity and mortality numbers in endemic regions suggest many unreported fevers could have CVV origins. Similar morbidity and mortality numbers might explain our regional livestock findings. A preliminary search of the CAHFS database indicated that since 2009, CVV has been detected through PCR or serology in five submissions: two equine, two ovine, and one caprine; four from the Redding district and one from the Tulare district.

Depending on mosquito species, virus variant, season, and livestock population immune levels, disease can range from asymptomatic to symptomatic. Multiple mosquito species including our resident *Aedes albopicta*, *A. aegypti*, and *C. tarsalis* have demonstrated to be competent vectors, but virus infectivity varies between mosquito species. Viral reassortment within the mosquito is also a common occurrence and the reason for virus variants in Mexico, Panama, and Ecuador. Adult animals are frequently asymptomatic. Fetuses in early gestation are most commonly affected. During drought and winter freeze when most mosquito numbers and virus transmission are diminished, naïve flock or herd numbers increase. Conversely, warm, wet weather increases vector numbers and virus transmission and, in the presence of a naïve population, make for abortion storms such as those described in 1980's sheep in Texas, Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois, and Western Canada.

To date, pathology following CVV infection (both naturally and experimentally) in sheep has been the most extensively described species, but the data remains patchy at best. Depending on the gestation period at the time of infection, CVV can cause embryonic death, congenital abnormalities in early gestation, or can have no effect on the fetus in later gestation. CVV is carried by lymph and blood to skeletal and cardiac muscle cells where the virus replicates before spreading to other target tissues. The mechanisms creating arthrogryposis and hydrocephaly are still not fully understood. The different presentations in livestock species can be confounding. CVV is detected through PCR (viral RNA detection) or serology (antibodies to CVV). Viremia is short lived in the dam and fetus making PCR, though sensitive, difficult. Antibodies are longer lived and serology (especially in the face of clinical signs) is very helpful when making a diagnosis. The absence of antibodies from ewes lambing malformed lambs can rule out CVV.

Other arthropod borne foreign animal diseases (FADs) that should be considered with similar presentations to CVV are Nairobi sheep disease, Rift Valley fever, and Schmallenberg virus.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) Update - July 12, 2021

By: Andrea Mikolon, DVM, MPVM, PhD

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Continues to Affect Southern California and Now is Spreading northward:

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus serotype 2 (RHDV2) has been spreading in wild, feral domestic, and domestic rabbits in North America since March 2020, resulting in widespread morbidity and mortality. Over the past year, it has been detected in fourteen (14) U.S. states, sixteen (16) Mexican states, and Alberta, Canada. In California, RHDV2 has been confirmed in domestic rabbits at fifty-five (55) properties since July 2020. RHDV2 is now moving northward. In June 2020 it was detected in a wild jackrabbit in Alameda County, and in July 2021 it was detected in domestic rabbits in San Luis Obispo County.

In addition to Alameda County (in the San Francisco Bay Area), six (6) Southern California counties have had wild rabbits or jackrabbits detections to date: Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego; RHD is considered endemic in these counties.

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Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) Update - July 12, 2021 - continued

Rabbit owners are urged to practice good biosecurity to protect their animals. They should prevent contact with wild rabbits and other domestic rabbits and their owners. Whenever possible, they should keep domestic rabbits indoors in areas with known disease. They should source hay from areas without affected wildlife and ensure that hay is stored in a manner so that wild rabbits cannot contaminate it. Dead domestic rabbits can be reported to CDFA at 909-947-4462 or can be submitted directly to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) for RHD testing.

Rabbit owners should contact their private veterinarian if they are interested in vaccination for RHD. Veterinarians may contact CDFA at AHBFeedback@cdfa.ca.gov to inquire about importing vaccine from Europe.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Detections in Rabbits in California 2020-2021

County	Affected Properties
Alameda	Wild rabbits Only
Kern	Wild rabbits and 6 domestic premises
Los Angeles	Wild rabbits and 17 domestic premises
Orange	Wild rabbits Only
Riverside	Wild rabbits and 15 domestic premises
San Bernardino	Wild rabbits and 5 domestic premises
San Diego	Wild rabbits and 6 domestic premises
San Luis Obispo	1 domestic premises
Ventura	1 feral and 4 domestic premises
Grand Total	55 feral or domestic premises

2021 Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine: Tabletop Exercise Hosted by Texas A&M

By: Jessica Faulk, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

On May 24-27, 2021, CDFA led California's participation in the 2021 Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine Tabletop Exercise hosted by Texas A&M. The California State Veterinarian, as well as the Animal Health Branch (AHB) Emergency Program Manager, served as spokespersons for California while approximately forty (40) AHB and California USDA personnel observed the exercise. The exercise, which included participants from twenty-four (24) U.S. states, focused on decisions for vaccine use during a simulated FMD outbreak. The exercise placed emphasis on industry communications, enhanced biosecurity, controlled movement, the logistics of vaccine delivery, handling, and rapid vaccination implementation; activities of utmost importance in the ability of the US livestock industries to control disease spread and ultimately regain disease freedom and export markets.

Vaccination requires both an effective strategy and efficient coordination between states and industry for rapid implementation, especially given that vaccine must be manufactured specifically for the outbreak, making it a limited resource. During the tabletop exercise, CDFA discussed California's vaccine needs, policies, and plans. Participating states were asked to consider and share how their individual vaccine strategies benefit both their local production centers as well as the national herd. In preparation for the exercise, the AHB Emergency Preparedness and Response Section conducted two webinars for CDFA and USDA Veterinary Services California participants. These webinars allowed participants to review the California FMD Vaccination Plan and capture feedback used in forming vaccine strategies, identifying plan gaps and recommendations for effective vaccine use, decision-making, and implementation logistics during an animal disease outbreak.

California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Program Fire Season Preparedness

By: Sonia Brown, Program Manager II, CARES

Hot and dry early-season temperatures, a high supply of dry fuels, the expansion of extreme and exceptional drought in the northern and central areas as well as along the coast of central California, and depleted water reservoirs are ideal conditions for more severe and frequent fires this year. The California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Program is taking steps to prepare for fire season.



CARES is creating and updating internal operational plans and procedures as well as creating reference and guidance tools for local emergency managers and animal services. CARES is also collaborating in a task force focusing on standardizing animal related response positions and capabilities. Additionally, CARES is developing partnerships with local and state emergency management, local animal services, and nongovernmental organization stakeholders to coordinate and collaborate on preparedness and response efforts in accordance with the State Emergency Plan.

The focus of CARES is emergency response resource coordination and situational awareness related to animal needs during disasters. CARES and the CDFA CA-Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 Coordinator work in unison to carry out the mission to protect life and property within California. We are currently prepared to coordinate CARES resources in the event of fires and other emergencies and disasters.

Regional Carcass Disposal Planning Update

By: Andy Femino, Research Data Specialist I

Livestock carcass disposal in California is complex and highly regulated by several state agencies. With very few options available to the producer, collaboration among state and regional regulatory partners, industry, and producers to explore creative options has become critical. California is incredibly diverse in resources such as rendering facilities, collection centers, and landfills, as well as availability and capacity of each disposal modality.

The Animal Health Branch is developing Regional Carcass Disposal Emergency Response Action Plans to prepare and plan for emergencies such as rendering disruptions, food supply interruptions, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters. These plans are tailored for each of the four AHB District Offices in California, designating a subject matter expert in each district. The plans outline notification steps, disposal options and resources, including lists for local and state government contacts.

In socializing roles and responsibilities outlined in the AHB Regional Carcass Disposal Emergency Response Action Plans with regulatory partners, industry representatives, and emergency planners across the state, we hope to generate robust conversations that lead to a greater understanding for all of the importance of advanced planning for carcass disposal in California.

'A Year in the Coop'

By:Alexi Haack, DVM and Laura Bradley, DVM

Here at CAHEN, we recently celebrated our ONE YEAR anniversary on June 1st, 2021. As we looked back on the progress we made protecting southern California from avian diseases, we wanted to share some of our accomplishments with you:



- Our Retail Assurance Program made multiple visits to over 350 feed and pet stores throughout southern California, helping them learn about safeguarding their customers and birds against avian diseases.
- CAHEN conducted over 4,400 tests to assure flocks were free of virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) and Avian Influenza (AI). That is more than 12 tests every day for a year!
- We assisted nearly 300 bird owners through our Sick Bird Hotline in finding a poultry veterinarian, accessing services through the state laboratory CAHFS, and providing information about poultry diseases, biosecurity, and more to help them better care for their flock.
- CAHEN has created over 100 educational posts through our Facebook and Instagram accounts connecting with over 300 avian enthusiasts.

We are very proud of our team members for all that they have accomplished in support of poultry owners in southern California and very excited for all the new things to come.

As the state reopens, CAHEN will be attending fairs, shows, expositions, and farmers markets this summer. If you see our booth at the Ramona County Fair at the end of July and/or the Orange County Fair in August, be sure to say hello. We will have fun poultry trivia, information for bird owners, and much more. Be sure to check out our Instagram account [@cahenet](#) or [Facebook page](#), California Avian Health Education Network, for more information on the upcoming outreach events we will be attending throughout the summer.

California's Equine Medication Monitoring Program Ready, Set, Show!

By:Emily Nietrzeba, DVM, MPH & Katie Hatch, Research Scientist II

The CDFA Animal Health Branch is in the unique position to oversee the country's only state-run program monitoring medications and prohibited substances in equine competitions and sales, known as the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP). This program has been sponsored by the California equine industry since 1971, with the intention of ensuring the integrity of equine events and protecting the health of the equine athlete through prevention of misuse of drugs and medications.

After a globally challenging year during which most equine events and sales were cancelled, equestrians and their equine athlete partners are now returning to the show rings in full force, as are EMMP testing staff. Almost 400 equine events have been held in California since January of this year, across a diverse variety of disciplines, from Hunter/Jumper to versatility ranch events and driving competitions. Equine competitions, events, and sales in California must be



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Ready, Set, Show! - continued

registered with EMMP, and are subject to random drug testing under EMMP regulations, which are part of the Food and Agricultural Code and the California Code of Regulations. Exemptions to this rule can be found on the EMMP website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/EMMP/

More information about EMMP as well as contact information for veterinarians and individuals interested in becoming testers for equine events can also be found on the EMMP website. We are looking forward to healthy and exciting months ahead for the world of equine events, and continuing to promote a level playing field for all equine athletes and a healthy, robust equine industry in California.

The Extended Equine CVI – A Useful Travel Tool

By: Emily Nietrzeba, DVM, MPH, Katie Hatch, Research Scientist II,
& Kristen Cox, Livestock Inspector



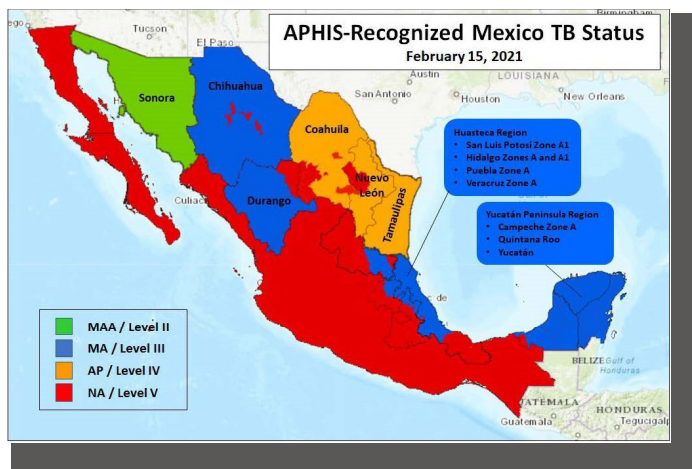
California participates in the Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) program, a program developed by GlobalVetLink (GVL) that allows horses to travel on a six-month health certificate, as long as the horse has a current negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test. Accredited veterinarians licensed in California may issue EECVIs for horses located within the state, and horses traveling into the state of California with a valid EECVI will be allowed entry. This is a valuable travel tool that can facilitate and ensure compliance with interstate travel regulations, but there is also significant responsibility for horse owners to use this tool correctly and efficiently. The horse owner is solely responsible for the creation and commitment of an EECVI Health Declaration and Movement Permit every time the horse travels between states (and for some states within the state as well), which must include information about travel dates, purpose of movement, and accurate origin and destination information. The horse owner also affirms that he or she is aware of any movement restrictions in the state of destination, and that the horse on the permit has been in good health for the seven days prior to travel. Errors or violations on the EECVI Health Declaration and Movement Permit can result in fines and entry refusal at the state of destination, so both horse owners and issuing veterinarians should take time to familiarize themselves with the EECVI program and which states participate in this program well ahead of planned travel. More information about the GVL EECVI and FAQs can be found here: <https://www.globalvetlink.com/ee cvi/>. CDFA does not endorse GVL or any electronic CVI provider, and questions about the platform or products should be directed to GVL.

Additional information about equine interstate movement and other livestock entry requirements can be found on CDFA's Animal Disease Traceability website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/Entry_Requirements.html

Imported Mexican Feeder Cattle

By: Andrea Mikolon DVM, MPVM, PhD

Every year the U.S. imports from 1 to 1.5 million head of feeder cattle from Mexico. Many California feedlots receive Mexican feeder cattle and sometimes graze them on pasture prior to finishing. The importation requirements depend upon the bovine tuberculosis (TB), brucellosis, and cattle fever tick status recognized by USDA APHIS for the Mexican state of origin of the cattle. USDA has recently revised its 5-tiered scheme for TB status and 3-tiered scheme for brucellosis status. The current classification for Mexican states allowed to export feeder cattle is shown below, with states non-accredited/Level V shown in red. These red states are only allowed to export directly to slaughter. Cattle from Sonora are Modified Accredited Advanced /Level II and do not require TB testing to enter the US; cattle from all other exporting states or zones require TB-testing. Cattle from Modified Accredited/Level III states require a TB test on the lot, and cattle from Accreditation Preparatory/Level IV states require a TB test on the whole herd of origin plus on the lot to be exported. Due to the high prevalence of TB in Mexican dairy cattle, USDA prohibits the importation of Holsteins and their crosses for feeding purposes, and California prohibits the entry of Mexican cattle that are forty percent or more dairy breed in appearance or genetics.



Only Sonora has a USDA status for bovine brucellosis and it is now brucellosis class Free/Level 1. The rest of Mexico is classified as brucellosis Level III, but no brucellosis testing is required for steers and spayed (ovariectomized) heifers. Soon, the state of Sonora will be exempt from the spaying requirement. Sonora cattle are not vaccinated for brucellosis. Sonora, Baja California Norte, and most of Chihuahua have been recognized by USDA as free of cattle fever ticks; cattle from non-free states are treated with acaricide (Amitraz) prior to going to the border and all cattle are treated with acaricide (Coumaphos) at the border port. Sonora supplies about 25% of the Mexican feeder cattle exported to the U.S. and many Sonoran cattle end up in California feedlots.

The Sistema Nacional de Identificación de Ganado (SINIIGA) is the official Mexican national cattle identification (ID) system. Mexico requires all cattle to be officially identified with paired SINIIGA eartags and buttons before leaving the herd of origin. The Mexican federal agriculture agency's acronym was recently changed so older tags have the name SAGARPA and newer tags read SADER (Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural). The left ear has a plastic yellow bangle eartag with barcode and 10-digit number starting with the 2-digit state code, while the right ear receives a matching yellow button tag with the same number on it. The button



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Imported Mexican Feeder Cattle - continued

tag does not usually have an RFID chip, but can be made to contain one. RFID are currently only commonly used for corriente rodeo cattle from Chihuahua, but the states of Chihuahua, Sonora, and Durango are considering use of RFID chips in SINIIGA buttons for feeder cattle. All SINIIGA eartags and buttons are official ID and should never be removed.



Mexican feeder cattle are permanently identified with an "M" brand (minimum 3 x 3 inches) on the right hip just prior to export to the United States. Previously, spayed heifers were identified by an "Mx" brand on the right hip, but that has now been replaced by the application of the "M" brand for both steers and spayed heifers at the export gathering center where they are also castrated or spayed, tuberculin tested (if not from Sonora), treated for ticks (if required), and identified by applying an official blue metal export eartag. The Mexican cattle industry has requested that USDA replace the requirement for a blue export eartag with a requirement for SINIIGA eartags and buttons with RFID chips. In that case, more

education of the US livestock industry will be needed to emphasize that SINIIGA tags are official tags of which removal is punishable by a hefty fine.

Mexican feeder cattle arrive at the border with their Mexican health certificate, TB test charts, tick dip certificates (if required), certificate of herd of origin, and other documents. They are inspected by a USDA port veterinarian who issues and signs a VS form 17-30 which serves as a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) for the journey to their US destination. Feeder cattle entering California require a CVI and a permit, but can enter California if they have the VS 17-30s which include all the cattle making up the load, they enter the state within a week of crossing the US border, and they come with a brand inspection certificate or self-inspection form which describes and indicates the total number of cattle in the shipment.



(An official export tag from Tamaulipas)

Comprehensive Biosecurity Plan Template for Poultry Premises – Now Available

By: Amanda Murray, DVM, MPVM, PhD

CDFA's Secure Food Supply (SFS) Program is a statewide program that is activated during an outbreak of an infectious animal disease and is designed to allow continuity of business operations for unaffected farms in order to maintain economic viability. Key components of the program include:

- Enhanced biosecurity
- Sampling
- Flock or herd health monitoring
- Training and documentation
- Permitted movement of animals and animal products.



SFS program staff have been working diligently over the past few years to develop a biosecurity plan template for poultry premises that will address both day-to-day biosecurity as well as enhanced biosecurity requirements. We are pleased to announce that through collaboration with other program staff within CDFA, we have developed a template

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Comprehensive Biosecurity Plan Template - continued

that addresses the biosecurity requirements for the following programs:

Daily Biosecurity:

- USDA's HPAI indemnity
- California's Egg Quality Assurance Program (CEQAP)
- Shell Egg Food Safety (SEFS/FDA)

Enhanced Biosecurity:

- California's Secure Food Supply Program

The template and additional resources can be found at <https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/SecureFoodSupply.html>

The SFS Program staff are now developing templates for other sectors of the industry including feed mills, dairy premises, and poultry broiler operations. If you have any questions or would like more information contact your local district office or email sfsspermits@cdffa.ca.gov.

Cattle RFID Tag Distribution Update

By: Kelly Mammen, Livestock Inspector

Since April 2020, CDFA has distributed approximately 511,670 cattle RFID tags and 71 wand readers to veterinarians. The RFID tags are being issued free of charge to dairy and beef ranchers for use in replacement heifers and the wand readers are on loan to veterinarians to aid in the use of the RFID technology. CDFA continues to participate in equipment and funding opportunities provided through USDA for additional ADT resources for our veterinarians and producers such as additional RFID tags and wand readers. Contact your local Animal Health Branch office for more information or to obtain free RFID tags. Please refer to the attached CDFA district maps for contact information.



CDFA to Provide Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Outreach to Veterinarians

By: Antimicrobial Use & Stewardship Program

The CDFA Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) Program has teamed up with CDFA Inspection Services (IS) and the CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) to provide educational outreach to California veterinarians on common VFD errors. CDFA will provide consultation services for any veterinarian with questions or concerns about VFDs and will also offer instructional workshops to veterinarians who have written a VFD within the past two years that contains errors. Simultaneously, IS will be visiting VFD feed distributors throughout the state to discuss common VFD errors, including those that may affect medicated feed production. This outreach effort will provide a customized educational resource for veterinarians to help them maintain the accuracy and validity of their VFD orders.

For more information, please contact AUS at cdffa_aus@cdffa.ca.gov or (916) 576-0300.



Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) Resources and Documents Translated into Spanish

By: Antimicrobial Use & Stewardship Program

The CDFA Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) Program mentioned in the previous CDFA Animal Health Branch Newsletter that Spanish translations of recently released outreach documents were forthcoming. We are pleased to announce that they are now available! A Spanish version of the **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** for [Vaccine Handling Guidance](#) for livestock producers can be found on the AUS website, in addition to the AUS 2017 Cow, Calf and [2018 Sheep](#) Fact Sheets, which provide summary findings from surveys of antibiotic use and stewardship in these industries.

These resources can be found on the [AUS Resources & Outreach webpage](#). For more information, please contact AUS at cdfa_aus@cdfa.ca.gov or (916) 576-0300.

SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

Field Operations
AVIC: Larry Rawson, DVM
USDA/APHIS/VS
10365 Old Placerville Rd., Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95827
Telephone: (916) 854-3950
FAX: (916) 363-3919

SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

Veterinary Export Trade Services (VETS):
National Import and Export Service Center
Director: David Ewey, DVM, MPVM
USDA/APHIS/VS
10365 Old Placerville Rd., Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95827
Telephone: (916) 854-3950
FAX: (916) 363-3919

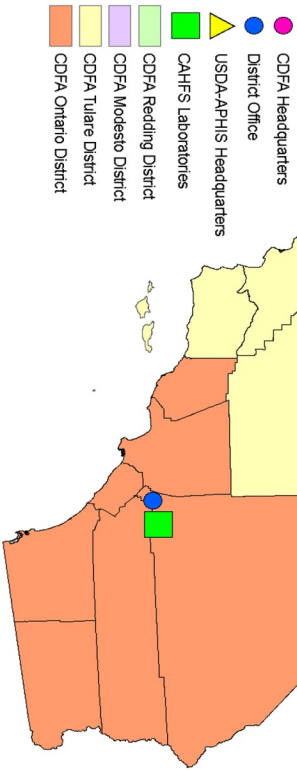
PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Port Director: Tremon Bell, DVM
USDA/APHIS/VS
Los Angeles Animal Import Center
USDA/APHIS/VS
222 Kansas St.
El Segundo, CA 90245
Telephone: (310) 955-331
FAX: (310) 955-3347

SAN FRANCISCO

Port Veterinarian: Katharine Starzel, DVM
USDA/APHIS/VS
Port of San Francisco
560 Eccles Ave
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Telephone: (650) 876-9358
Asst: (650) 238-3640
FAX: (650) 876-0915

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health



SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

Chief: Kent Fowler, DVM
CDFA-Animal Health Branch
1220 N St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (916) 900-5002
FAX: (916) 900-5333

REDDING DISTRICT

VIC: Michael Poulos, DVM
2135 Civic Center Drive, Room 8
Redding, CA 96001-2794
Telephone: (530) 225-2140
FAX: (530) 225-2240

MODESTO DISTRICT

VIC: Randy Anderson, DVM, MPVM
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Tuolumne Building
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite F
Modesto, CA 95358
Telephone: (209) 491-9350
FAX: (209) 491-9353

TULARE DISTRICT

VIC: Gregory Ledbetter, DVM, MPVM
18760 Road 112
Tulare CA 93274
Telephone: (559) 685-3500
FAX: (559) 685-3503

ONTARIO DISTRICT

VIC: Alisha Olmstead, DVM
1910 S. Archibald Avenue, Suite Y
Ontario, CA 91761
Telephone: (909) 947-4462
FAX: (909) 923-5128

<http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ah>



CENTRAL DAVIS LABORATORY

Co-Directors:
John Adaska, MPVM, PhD
Beate Crossley, DVM, MPVM, PhD
Ashley Hill, DVM, MPVM
University of California
P. O. Box 1770
Davis, CA 95617-1770
Telephone: (530) 752-8700
FAX: (530) 752-5680

TURLOCK LABORATORY

Chief: Simone Stoute, DVM, PhD
1550 North Soderquist Road
Turlock, CA 95381
Telephone: (209) 634-5837
FAX: (209) 667-4261

TULARE LABORATORY

Chief: John Adaska, MPVM, PhD
18760 Road 112
Tulare, CA 93274
Telephone: (559) 688-7543
FAX: (559) 688-2985

SAN BERNARDINO LABORATORY

Chief: Francisco Uzal, DVM, PhD
105 West Central Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408
Telephone: (909) 383-4287
FAX: (909) 884-5980

<https://cahfs.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/>





Staff Biographies



As many of the veterinarians, research scientists, environmental scientists and others in Unit 10 are aware, one of our veterinarians, **Maureen Lee-Dutra, DVM, MPVM**, has been busy over the past two years ensuring our representation in the bargaining process. Maureen joined CDFA AHB in March 2012. She had just finished her MPVM degree after 14 years of small animal and shelter medicine practice. As Maureen had been raised on a small cow-calf farm in south central British Columbia and was an active member of her local 4-H club for many years, she enthusiastically brought her population medicine skills to AHB.

In our Tulare district, Maureen handles the Brucellosis and Poultry programs. Through years of relationship-building she has become a trusted resource for many of our large poultry producers. She has also forged a relationship with the district's largest local pork producer, creating dialogue and encouraging trust between AHB and an essential part of California's food supply.

Maureen still finds time to follow her passion - animal rescue. She spent several years on the advisory board for the Tulare County Animal Services. She also consulted with a local animal shelter on treatment protocols. Several evenings a week she can be found assisting a local wildlife rescue – a long time passion and volunteerism that began 20 years ago with wildlife rescues in the Bay Area. Many times these wildlife patients are too injured for rehabilitation and have to be humanely euthanized, but some get a second chance thanks to Maureen.





Staff Biographies



Thomas Parrish, Livestock Inspector - I grew up in a small town in rural Illinois. I was gratefully raised in a region abundant in nature preserves and wildlife areas. At an early age I developed a great love and appreciation for the outdoors and wildlife. After high school I joined the U.S. Coast Guard and moved to California, where I have resided happily in Sacramento for over twenty years.

I majored in psychology at California State University, Sacramento. After graduating I remembered my love for animals and the outdoors. Instead of finding work in the field of my major, I began working as a nature science educator and animal caretaker for local nature preserves including Sacramento Splash, based in the vernal pool grasslands of Mather, and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and preserve located at the American River in Carmichael.

Working for these nature preserves increased my love and interest for working outdoors and with animals. After a number of years, I began to look for other opportunities to further a career in working outdoors with animals. In 2016 I was offered a position at a large sheep ranch where I became the primary caretaker for the resident flock. Animal care in the livestock industry, while obviously different from nature preserves, appealed to me because it gave me the opportunity to care for animals that I felt often do not receive the level of care they deserve. For five years I lived and worked on the sheep ranch where I honed my skills in animal husbandry and acquired knowledge pertaining to the livestock industry of California.

After five years on the sheep Ranch, I decided to further a career in the livestock industry by becoming a Livestock Inspector, working on the Secure Food Supply program within the Animal Health Branch. I am grateful for this opportunity to work in the Animal Health Branch and I hope to support the program with my passion for animal health and proper handling and care of livestock animals. I plan on using my knowledge and expertise in animal care to help protect California's agriculture and livestock from foreign and domestic diseases.



Outside of work I enjoy nature and wildlife photography, hiking and spending time outdoors in California's many beautiful parks and wildlife areas with my fiancé and two teenage sons.

Contact Information



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

**State Veterinarian
and
Director, Animal Health and
Food Safety Services**

Dr. Annette Jones
(916) 900-5000

Animal Health Branch

Dr. Anita Edmondson, Chief
Headquarters: (916) 900-5002
Fax: (916) 900-5333
Permit Line: (916) 900-5052

Other AHFSS Branches

Bureau of Livestock Identification
John Suther, Chief
(916) 900-5006

Milk and Dairy Food Safety
Dr. Stephen Beam, Chief
(916) 900-5008

Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety
Paula Batarseh, Chief
(916) 900-5004

Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship
Dr. Edie Marshall, Chief
(916) 576-0300

Animal Care
Dr. Elizabeth Cox, Chief
(916) 900-5000

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health and Food Safety Services
Animal Health Branch
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Physical Address:
**2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833**

**District Offices
Veterinarian In Charge (VIC)**

Redding: Dr. Michael Poulos
2135 Civic Center Drive, Room 8
Redding, California 96001
(530) 225-2140

Modesto: Dr. Randy Anderson
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite F
Modesto, California 95358
(209) 491-9350

Tulare: Dr. Gregory Ledbetter
18760 Road 112
Tulare, California 93274
(559) 685-3500

Ontario: Dr. Alisha Olmstead
1910 South Archibald Avenue, Suite Y
Ontario, California 91761
(909) 947-5932

United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Donald Herriott
District Director, District 3

Dr. Larry Rawson
Assistant District Director, District 3 (CA/HI)

USDA, APHIS, VS, SPRS
(916) 854-3950/Toll Free: (877) 741-3690

Website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Index.html
Email: ahbfeedback@cdfa.ca.gov