

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

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Animal Health Branch Chief's Greetings

By: Dr. Anita Edmondson, BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS, Animal Health Branch Chief

My passion in veterinary medicine began as a child watching wildlife, keeping a variety of pets, and working on a local dairy farm. Throughout high school I worked at my local veterinary clinic and began my veterinary career by graduating from veterinary school at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and then working as a veterinarian in small and large animal practices in Britain. I then moved to the U.S. where I pursued further veterinary training by completing a non-domestic internship at the San Francisco Zoological Gardens, finishing a Residency in Food Animal Medicine and Herd Health and a Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of California, Davis, and serving as a Faculty Member and a Post Graduate Researcher with the U.C. School of Veterinary Medicine. From U.C., I made the move to CDFA Animal Health Branch over twenty-five (25) years ago, starting as a Veterinary Medical Officer in the Sacramento field office. Since then, I have worked in many areas of the Branch including as the bovine species lead and, most recently, as the Assistant Branch Chief for the past five (5) years.

Looking back at my veterinary career, I have been privileged and honored to work with great mentors, colleagues, and advocates of California's agriculture. I have learned from the best in my field and I will use this knowledge and expertise to lead the Branch and to continue to safeguard California's agriculture from both foreign and domestic livestock diseases. I tremendously value the connections and friendships I have made over the past decades within the animal industry, partners and veterinarians in California, and hope that these relationships will continue to grow and expand in my role as Branch Chief. I appreciate the trust given to me and I will do my best to lead and further the Branch's mission to keep California's livestock safe.



When I'm not at work in the Branch, I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking in the countryside, watching live theater, camping, and love to travel, both overseas and throughout the US. I was a 4-H leader for many years, a volunteer in FFA, pony club and youth soccer for my daughters, both of whom now work in the agricultural industry.

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AHB Chief's Greetings - continued

Like many people in the world, our CDFA team has been challenged over the last 14-months due to the COVID pandemic. I am proud of the resilience and creativity of this diverse group of veterinarians, scientific support staff, and administrative personnel working remotely or in the field under challenging conditions. This dedicated, motivated, and innovative team brings expertise and knowledge to the table and commitment to the Branch, ensuring timely and appropriate responses to emergency animal health, animal care and management, food and agriculture security, food safety, and public health issues. My work as the Animal Health Branch Chief is only possible with the support and help of this team. I am proud to serve with so many competent colleagues and staff, and I am committed to continuing to protect California as one of the most successful and productive agricultural regions in the world!

Animals Testing Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Guidance for Veterinarians

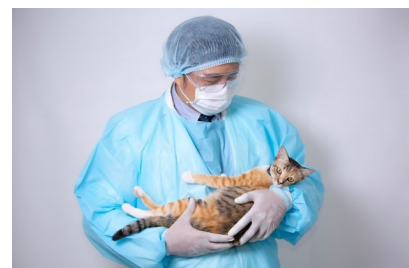
By: Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

Our current understanding of the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the viral agent responsible for the COVID-19 outbreak, in both human and animal populations continues to evolve. Based on current evidence, animals do not appear to play a significant role in spreading SARS-CoV-2. Some species, such as mink, appear to be highly susceptible to SARS-CoV-2, but any transmission from animals is more likely to be between animals, rather than from animals to humans. Public health officials and researchers continue to gather information to describe the role, if any, of animals in COVID-19.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have developed guidance for veterinarians on infection prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from an animal that tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 to people or other animals. Guidance has been developed for both small animals and livestock.

Key measures for managing test -positive animals in a veterinary clinic/hospital:

- Place the patient in an isolation room/pen dedicated to patients that have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Limit access to the fewest people possible and maintain a log of who has had contact with the patient.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be donned prior to entering the isolation room/pen and doffed immediately after leaving the room/pen. Before donning PPE and after doffing PPE, hands should be washed using soap and water for twenty (20) seconds or sanitized with an approved hand sanitizer.
- PPE should consist of a face mask plus eye protection, disposable gloves, fresh gown/coveralls, and foot covers/dedicated work boots for livestock. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed recommendation for types of PPE depending on a pet's history.



Infection and control measures for home/ranch settings:

- For small animals, isolate the pet from other pets in the household in a "sick room". Isolation pens for livestock should provide at least thirty (30) feet of separation from other domestic animals and contact with wildlife should be reduced or eliminated. Owners should limit the number of people caring for the animal.
- Owners of small animals should wear a face mask, eye protection, and disposable gloves when near the

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Guidance for Veterinarians - continued





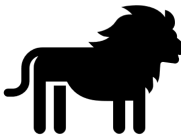



pet. Owners should follow good hand hygiene practices by washing their hands after handling the pet and wearing gloves when picking up after a dog or cleaning a cat's litter box.

- Livestock owners or ranch employees should wear freshly laundered overalls and foot covers or dedicated work boots, in addition to the face mask, eye protection, and disposable gloves.
- Use dedicated supplies for the isolated animal.
- For dairy livestock, milk the isolated animal after all others.

For additional information, please refer to the following websites:




- CDPH: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/GuidanceforVeterinaryProfessionalsandPremises.aspx>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html>

U.S. case counts as of March 23, 2021:

Cat (domestic)	Dog	Mink	Tiger
			
67 cases	46 cases	1 wild mink, 16 mink farms	11 cases
Lion	Snow Leopard	Gorilla	Cougar
			
3 cases	3 cases	3 cases	1 case

Total U.S. cases = 135 cases + 16 mink farms

California case counts as of March 23, 2021:

Cat (domestic)	Dog	Gorilla
		
4 cases	1 case	3 cases

Total California cases = 8 cases

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations January 1 - March 31, 2021

By: Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

California has spent considerable resources over the years to protect the livestock industry, securing the food supply against Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) intrusions. Since January 2021, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) personnel investigated one hundred and twenty-eight (128) FAD suspicious cases (Table 1). Any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out. Private practitioners, diagnostic laboratories, animal hospitals, and producers must report symptoms of the emergency conditions outlined in the California "List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products" within twenty-four (24) hours by calling the CDFA AHB or the USDA APHIS VS District Office in their area. The AHB district offices' contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter. The list of reportable conditions can be reviewed in the following weblink, https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/animal_health/pdfs/CA_reportable_disease_list_poster.pdf

Senecavirus A (SVA) infections among the swine shipped to slaughterhouses in California are still problematic and triggered one hundred twenty (120) FAD investigations covering almost ninety-four percent (94%) of all statewide FAD investigations. Even though SVA is an endemic disease, it triggers an FAD investigation due to the similarity of symptoms to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

Table 1. Summary of FAD Investigations from January 1- March 31, 2021

AHB Districts	Disease	Species	Sample Types	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Senecavirus A (SVA)	Porcine	Swab	107	CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA
	Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2)	Wild Rabbit	Carcass	1	NVSL, NWHC	Negative
Ontario	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)	Gorilla	Feces	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Positive
	Schmallenberg	Caprine	Carcass	1	NVSL, CAHFS-San Bernardino	Negative
Redding	FMD, SVA	Porcine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	Avian Influenza (AI), virulent Newcastle Diseases (vND), Toxicosis	Avian	Carcass	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP)	Equine	Whole Blood	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA	Porcine	Swab	13	CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA
	Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)	Equine	Semen	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Tulare	Negative
	Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)	Equine	Swabs	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative

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

H5N3 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza

By: Jessica Faulk, AGPA

On March 23, 2021, the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) reported a presumptive diagnosis of H5 low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) from a routine surveillance sample taken at a live poultry store in Northern California. On March 25, 2021, H5 LPAI was also detected in samples from birds on a farm linked to the poultry store, also in Northern California. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed the presumptive diagnosis and gene sequencing is consistent with H5N3 LPAI of North American wild bird lineage. To oversee the response to these findings, an Incident Management Team consisting of USDA/APHIS and CDFA/AHB personnel was activated on March 24, 2021, and the Unified Command response is ongoing.

The poultry store and associated trace farm were quarantined to prohibit poultry movement. The infected birds at the store and specific poultry at the farm linked to the store were euthanized, and the store is in the process of cleaning and disinfection. A 10-km Control Area, consisting of an infected zone and a buffer zone, was established around the infected premises. Commercial facilities and a non-commercial bird supplier within this area completed mandatory surveillance sampling and are scheduled for follow-up testing. To date, all trace premises and commercial poultry premises within the Control Area have tested negative for LPAI. There is no evidence that this LPAI strain causes illness in humans. The incident is currently focused on continued surveillance testing of commercial premises within the Control Area, and outreach to producers and practitioners to enhance biosecurity to protect poultry from avian influenza.

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

By: Dr. Andrea Mikolon, DVM, MPVM, PhD

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Continues to Affect Southern California:

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 twelve (12) U.S. states. In California, RHDV2 has been confirmed in domestic rabbits at thirty-eight (38) properties since July 2020. We are currently seeing an increase in cases in Southern California, especially in Los Angeles, Riverside, and Ventura counties. During March and early April 2021, RHDV2 has been confirmed in domestic rabbit properties in Kern (1), Los Angeles (12), Riverside (3), San Bernardino (1), San Diego (2), and Ventura (3) counties. Two (2) previously affected domestic rabbit properties in Los Angeles (1) and Riverside (1) counties were released from quarantine during March 2021.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Detections in Domestic Rabbits in California 2020-2021

County	Properties	Month Confirmed
Kern	4	December 2020 and April 2021
Los Angeles	15	November 2020, January through April 2021
Riverside	9	November and December 2020; January, February, and March 2021
San Bernardino	5	July and September 2020, January and March 2021
San Diego	2	March and April 2021
Ventura	3	March and April 2021
Grand Total	38	

The disease has been detected in **wild** rabbits in nine (9) states including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada,

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Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) Update - *continued*

New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. Six (6) Southern California counties have had wild rabbit or jackrabbit detections to date: Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. RHD is considered endemic in these counties. The most recent wildlife detections of RHDV2 were in **wild** jackrabbits and desert cottontails in San Diego County in March 2021.

CDFA continues to focus on assisting rabbit owners to protect their animals rather than eliminating the disease from the State. Test-positive domestic rabbits are placed under quarantine and owners are provided information on how best to reduce spread of the virus. We have seen some success in assisting survival of some rabbits on RHD-affected properties by separating exposed from non-exposed rabbits, applying appropriate cleaning and disinfection of contaminated housing and equipment, and vaccinating remaining rabbits. Restrictions on rabbits moving into California from affected states and countries are still in effect.



Photo available at PetGuide.com

Rabbit owners are urged to practice good biosecurity to protect their animals. They should prevent contact with wild rabbits and other domestic rabbits and 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.

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.

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Case

By: Katie Hatch, Research Scientist

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.

Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) Updates

By: Katie Hatch, Research Scientist

In February 2021, 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

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Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) Updates - continued

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 (1) 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 Equine Herpesvirus-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 the 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 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain). 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 (1) 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 next fourteen (14) days. To date, no additional cases have been detected.

Isolation remains our best method of limiting viral transmission, and routine practice of good biosecurity protocols after any multi-horse event is strongly encouraged at all times.

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Updates

By: Katie Hatch, Research Scientist

On March 25, 2021, the Equine Medication Monitoring Program Advisory Committee met via Zoom to discuss updates to EMMP. Topics covered included California equine health incident updates, EMMP administrative and financial updates and an update from the United States Equestrian Federation. The next meeting is due to be scheduled in Fall 2021.

CDFA Collaborating and Promoting Participation in USDA NAHMS 2021 Studies



[USDA NAHMS Health Management on U.S. Feedlots 2021 Study](#)

From March 2021 through August 2021, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will conduct a nation-wide, voluntary study focusing on cattle health and management on U.S. feedlots with at least fifty (50) head. This study is designed to provide a snapshot of current feedlot cattle health management practices and to provide findings on a national or regional level. CDFA and

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Participation in USDA NAHMS 2021 Studies - continued

NAHMS are expanding the study in California, allowing the state's feedlot industry the opportunity to be represented in a way that will yield state-level findings.

[USDA NAHMS Swine 2021 Study](#)

From May 2021 through January 2022, USDA NAHMS is collaborating with NASS to conduct an additional nationwide, voluntary study of U.S. swine operations. California swine operations with fewer than 1,000 pigs will be invited to provide information about animal health, management practices and marketing strategies.

CDFA encourages feedlot and swine producers contacted by NASS or NAHMS to participate in these studies. Results from these studies will help shape future research and focus attention on industry issues and needs.

Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship Releases New Resources



CDFA's Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) has recently released its **Best Management Practices** (BMPs) for **Vaccine Handling Guidance** for both [producers](#) and [veterinarians](#). The vaccine handling guidelines assist in creating effective vaccination programs for all livestock species. These documents include the following key components: planning; storage; transportation; administration; and follow-up, monitoring and records.

CDFA AUS has also recently released new Fact Sheets from the [2017 Cow Calf Survey](#) and [2018 Commercial Sheep Survey](#). These easy-to-read infographics summarize key findings from both industries regarding use of a veterinarian, antibiotic use, and outreach and education, based on the voluntary participation of over 1,000 farms across California.

Spanish versions of the BMPs for Vaccine Handling Guidance and Cow Calf and Sheep Fact Sheets will be available soon on the [AUS website](#).

California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Program Update

By: Rachelle Fong, AGPA



The Animal Health Branch Emergency Preparedness and Response Section oversees the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Program. CARES is a statewide emergency management operational concept supporting animals in disasters. CARES is supported by a partnership of public and private organizations that commit resources and expertise to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters that impact animals.

The program was initiated in 2001 with permanent funding secured in the 2019 Governor's budget. CDFA now has three (3) fulltime, permanent staff members that oversee the CARES program. The Branch is focused on relaunching and rebranding the CARES Program and on collaborating with stakeholders with the goal of increasing emergency response efficiency and capabilities.

The new logo depicts CARES in the role of protecting and nurturing California's livestock, pets, and companion animals during a natural disaster. The current CARES website (www.cal-cares.com) will soon be integrated with the CDFA

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CARES Program Update - continued

website (www.cdfa.ca.gov). The relaunch of the program also includes plans for a greater social media presence. Follow CARES on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for related news and program updates. For more information please contact the CARES Program at CDFA.AHB_Cares_Program@cdfa.ca.gov.

Pets on Public Transportation: Public Utilities Code 99166

By: Sonia Brown, PM2, Nicholas Novelich, Sr. ESC

In October 2019, Governor Newsom signed the Public Utilities Code (PUC) 99166 into law, allowing people to bring pets on public transportation in areas subject to an evacuation order. This legislation provides pet owners another way to safely evacuate with their pets during an emergency or disaster. Sen. Glazer said "...a significant concern for pet owners during times of natural disaster is ensuring the safety and the care of their animals. California is home to nearly 19 million domestic pets — nearly 1 of every 3 California households has a cat or dog as part of their family. During the 2018 wildfires, experts estimate that the Woolsey, Hill, and Camp Fires displaced over 10,000 pets. The fires moved quickly, and many residents had to evacuate, but not all were able to take their pets with them."

PUC 99166 tasked the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), in consultation with public transportation and county emergency officials, to develop best practices for animal evacuation on public transportation during emergencies. The agencies formed a workgroup and are developing a Best Practices document aimed to create the safest environment possible for riders, pets, and vehicle operators. These practices will apply to all public transportation including bus, rail, ferries and other methods.

The Best Practices document is designed for public transit operators to use when updating emergency plans that include pet/animal policies and procedures or when training employees. The Best Practices document aims to encourage collaboration among transit agencies and local emergency planners, potentially leading to memorandums of understanding to comply with the requirements of evacuation orders.

What's the (s)Coop at CAHEN?

By: Dr. Alexi Haack, DVM



The California Avian Health Education Network, otherwise known as CAHEN, has been growing fast this winter and is ready to spring into spring! While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot about how we all interact with one another, CAHEN has made strides to prevent foreign animal diseases (FADs) from devastating southern California.

To recap, CAHEN has four (4) main goals to protect southern California poultry owners from future devastation. First, provide educational materials and outreach on avian health to the poultry community. Second, prevent a future FAD outbreak by encouraging awareness and participation in disease reporting and investigation. Third prevent animal disease spread through implementation of biosecurity measures. And finally, to rapidly detect, respond, and eradicate a future outbreaks.

CAHEN continues to increase outreach to feed and pet stores, auctions, shelters, and backyard owners in Southern California.
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What's the (s)Coop at CAHEN? - *continued*

California. Feedstores may participate in our quality assurance programs by receiving training in biosecurity practices and/or participating in disease testing. In addition, we have made great strides in developing the Gamefowl Wellness Program. To date, we have twenty-five (25) gamefowl breeders enrolled in this program, a cooperative outreach mission with UC Davis. April will be a busy time for the coop as we present at multiple educational events for gamefowl and backyard chicken owners on biosecurity, poultry husbandry, vaccination, and more!

Our Sick Bird Hotline team receives calls from concerned backyard owners, animal hospitals, shelters and more to request our knowledge, free surveillance testing for virulent Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza, and assistance with accessing additional disease investigation resources through the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) laboratories including the low cost Backyard Flock Necropsy program. In addition, we continue to develop online biosecurity training and outreach tools to share with our community. Check out the SoCal Nestbox at socalnestbox.com for the scoop on poultry and exotic pet birds! There is also a snazzy "Find a Vet" page for owners looking for a local avian veterinarian.

We are, as always, preparing and on the lookout for the next avian disease threat.

If you have any questions, the top of CAHEN's pecking order is Dr. Ann Ikelman and our flock can be reached at CDFA.AHFSS_CAHEN@cdfa.ca.gov.

Pasture-to-Pasture and Working Horse Permit Reminders

By: Kristen Cox, BS

Springtime coincides with the start of pasture-to-pasture permit season for many California ranchers. If you, or your clients (if you're a veterinarian), own a beef breeding herd that commutes back and forth between California and Nevada, Oregon, or Idaho throughout the year to graze, your herd may be eligible to move on a pasture-to-pasture permit. These permits may exempt your cattle from requirements for health certificates and entry permits for interstate movement. If you're looking to apply, the application is available for download on the Animal Health Branch website - http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/Pasture2PasturePermitForm.pdf - and can be emailed, faxed, or mailed back to our office.



Additionally, the Animal Health Branch offers a working horse permit for horses used expressly for the purpose of ranch work or livestock husbandry. This permit allows horses to move back and forth between California and Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho, and oftentimes it is used in conjunction with a pasture-to-pasture permit. With a working horse permit, the horses cannot travel to recreational events or anywhere outside of the ranches where they will be working. All that is required to apply, in addition to the application, is a current EIA (Equine Infectious Anemia) test (aka Coggins) for each horse listed. If approved, the horses are exempt from the requirement for health certificates to travel between the two (2) ranches. The working horse application is also available for download on our website - https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/WorkingHorsePermitForm.pdf.

If you have any questions about either permit or want to know if your herd or horse qualifies, please contact our Livestock Inspectors at the permit desk at (916) 900-5052 or evet@cdfa.ca.gov.

Biosecurity Requirements for HPAI Indemnity Eligibility; Program for Non-NPIP Producers

By: Felicia Pohl, Research Scientist and Avian Coordinator

CDFA Animal Health Branch is rolling out a biosecurity audit program to verify compliance with USDA regulations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) indemnity eligibility. This program will be for producers in specified production categories* that are NOT members of the [National Poultry Improvement Plan](#) (NPIP).

*The specified production categories are premises with:

- More than 100,000 broilers (annually).
- More than 75,000 table egg layers.
- More than 30,000 meat turkeys (annually).
- More than 25,000 raised-for-release upland game birds or raised-for-release waterfowl.
- More than 25,000 commercial upland game bird or waterfowl producing eggs for human consumption.
- More than 5,000 breeding birds.

Non-NPIP producers in the specified categories will not be eligible for HPAI indemnity if they do not participate in this program. Participation in this program is not associated with Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) indemnity. More information about the program can be found at: cdfa.ca.gov/go/poultrybiosecurity

Enforcement Actions for Official Identification Requirements for Dairy Cattle Moving Within California

By: Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

All dairy cattle moving within California are required, by law, to have official identification (ID). In particular, dairy cattle born in California after January 1, 2017 must have official ID prior to leaving their birth premises and all dairy cattle, regardless of birth year, must have official ID at the time of change of ownership. Dairy cattle are exempt from this requirement if they are moving directly to slaughter or to an Approved Tagging Site.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is enforcing this requirement and has started performing unannounced inspections of livestock trailers to verify that these dairy cattle have official ID. It is the birth origin dairy's responsibility to make sure these animals have official ID. The calf transporter is also responsible for this requirement if animals are sold off the dairy.

Notices of Violation (NOV) will be issued to dairy owners who fail to tag their calves prior to leaving the dairy and the calf haulers or other on-dairy purchasers moving unidentified cattle. Anyone who continues to not comply with state



requirements after receiving an NOV will be issued a citation. Citations carry a criminal charge equivalent to a misdemeanor and upon conviction are punishable by a fine determined by the court, in accordance with Food and Agricultural Code Section 9165. Misdemeanor convictions will show up on a person's record.

Please contact your local CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) district office with any questions about official ID requirements. You can obtain free official ID (silver brite and RFID) ear tags from your accredited veterinarian and from local AHB district offices. The AHB website can be found here: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health

Got Bird Photos?

**TAKE PHOTOS*
OF YOUR BIRDS
AND SUBMIT
THEM TO BE
CONSIDERED
FOR THE 2022
CDFA AVIAN
HEALTH
CALENDAR**



Steven Vance Photography

***IMPORTANT PHOTO GUIDELINES:**

**[HTTP://WWW.CDFA.CA.GOV/AHFSS/ANIMAL_HEALTH
/PDFS/PHOTO-DISCLAIMER.PDF](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/ANIMAL_HEALTH/PDFS/PHOTO-DISCLAIMER.PDF)**

SUBMIT BY: MAY 31, 2021



Staff Biographies



Rachelle Fong was born, raised and still resides in Sacramento. She attended UC Davis and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Design with an emphasis in Visual Communications. She has over six (6) years of experience in marketing and graphic design with private sectors in the Sacramento region.

Rachelle's state service began in 2017 at the California Department of Social Services. She started with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in June 2020 with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section as an Associate Governmental Program Analyst focusing on graphic design and outreach. Her projects include creating factsheets, infographics, and presentations. She is happy to be with the Animal Health Branch and enjoys continually learning each day about the animal health field.

In her free time, you can find her on a trail going backpacking, hiking, or tenkara fishing. At home she takes care of her cat, Mister Echo, and her growing collection of cactus, succulents, and house plants while also maintaining a year-round vegetable garden.

Dr. Lani Gusman joined CDFA AHB as a Veterinarian General in the Ontario District in May 2020. Born in Wisconsin during her father's fourth year of veterinary school, her family moved to Southern California where Dr. Gusman grew up helping her father with his equine practice. After a collegiate swimming career in Northern California, Dr. Gusman attended Central Washington University where she worked at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute while earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Primate Behavior and Ecology. She then attended the University of Missouri where she earned her Master's in Public Health and then veterinary school at Ross University graduating with her DVM in 2019. Dr. Gusman worked alongside her father after graduation but decided to pursue her passion for public health and joined CDFA to practice regulatory medicine.

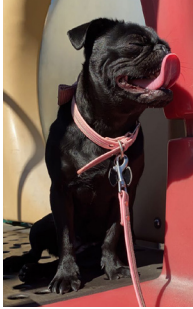


Dr. Gusman resides on her family's Lytle Creek ranch with her dogs and horses where she enjoys working outdoors, fishing, and cooking.



Staff Biographies

Angelina Mwaniki joined CDFA at 19 years old with the Audit Office and later transferred to the Animal Health Branch in March of last year. She recently got married and is excited



to travel with her husband as soon as things return to a semblance of normalcy. In the meantime, she has been busy with her 8-month-old pug named Aurora. Her background includes working as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher for about two (2) years and before that volunteering at schools with high risk children to be a mentor. She has completed about two (2) years in Community College and hopes to return to school to finish her degree to become an ultrasound technician. In a few months she will have been with CDFA for five (5) years! She looks forward to her career in AHB.



Jeff Critchley joined the CDFA AHB as the Program Support Unit Manager. Academically, he holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from CSU Sacramento in Political Science. Being hired by CDFA was an honor to him. He comes from a family of



four (4) generations in farming. As such, agriculture has always been a part of his life. Growing up, his family grew products such as almonds, grapes and a variety of tree fruit. As a way of immersing himself in agriculture, he joined 4-H at a young age raising sheep and learning about swine and cattle. The picture to the left is circa 1987.



Even though he was raised with an agricultural background, his career took a different path. For twenty (20) years, he has been employed in California state service. During his tenure, he has acquired a variety of experience including being a Budget Officer for two (2) departments. His most recent employment occurred with EDD's Workforce Services Branch where he served for 6½ years. Duties in this branch focused on managing programs targeting participants whose Unemployment Insurance benefits are close to expiring. With his personal background in agriculture, this position brings him back to his family roots.

During his spare time, he enjoys reading, fitness, landscaping, outdoors and engaging with family and friends.

Contact Information



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