I would like to thank all of the Animal Health Branch staff for another great year in helping to protect the multi-billion dollar livestock and poultry industry in California. We could not have accomplished that goal without the support and cooperation of the California livestock and poultry industry.

We can all be especially proud of the return to “free” status for bovine tuberculosis—that was accomplished through many days, weeks and years of hard work in testing hundreds of dairy herds and thousands of cows in the State. Although it has been a relatively slow year for AHB for disease incursions, both foreign and endemic, I must thank all staff and industry involved in the various incidents and FAD investigations that were responded to by AHB personnel. A special thanks to HQ and district AHB staff as well as private veterinarians and equine management, trainers and owners who responded and cooperated to effectively manage equine herpes virus incidents over the past two months. I would also like to thank the excellent continuing efforts provided by our Emergency Programs staff in moving forward with ICS training and exercises in order to improve our response capabilities.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe New Year with your family, friends and livestock and poultry industry. I look forward to the challenges AHB faces in the New Year and wish all of you the very best!

Kind Regards,
Kent
Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) is a monitored condition for which no regulatory action is taken. Laboratory detections of EHV-1 in horses with non-neurologic signs of disease are monitored for geographic and seasonal distribution. Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), the neurological disease associated with EHV-1 infection, is the condition listed on the reportable disease list as a regulatory condition for which we take regulatory action. A quarantine is applied at time of confirmation of an EHM case, with each situation individually evaluated to determine the most appropriate quarantine parameters. The United States Animal Health Association, Infectious Disease of Horses Committee (IDOHC) developed an EHM Incident Guidelines document to assist animal health officials responding to an EHM detection. The document can be accessed at: http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/Committees/horses/IDOHC%20EHM%20Guidance%20Document%20Sept%202015%20Edited%20FINAL.pdf

In California, Animal Health Branch (AHB) veterinarians will work with private practitioners to assess the premises biosecurity practices, the horse health monitoring system and feasibility of isolation of suspect and confirmed cases before determining extent of the quarantine. Facilities with poor biosecurity, minimal horse health monitoring and an inability to isolate, will likely have a more prolonged quarantine of the premises. In comparison, a premises where the index EHM case was immediately removed and excellent routine disease management practices (twice daily temperature monitoring, isolating suspect horses and implementing enhanced biosecurity measures) may only have a small group of exposed horses quarantined for fourteen (14) days. Educating clients on the importance of biosecurity, monitoring health, and isolation capability will help minimize the potential impact of future regulatory action.

Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy - Inyo County Incident
Marcello Schonmann, DVM, MPVM & Elliott Elkins

On December 3, 2016, a 20 year-old quarter horse gelding displaying mild neurologic signs on a high desert ranch in Inyo County was confirmed positive for the neuropathogenic strain of Equine Herpesvirus-1. The gelding is part of a winter pack string of twenty-eight (28) horses and four (4) mules. The premises was quarantined with enhanced biosecurity requirements. One additional equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy and one EHV-1 positive febrile case were confirmed on the premises. All horses and mules were isolated in individual pens which limited disease spread. Quarantine was released on December 29, 2016.
On November 3, 2016, a five year-old Saddlebred displaying severe neurologic signs and a 10 year-old Saddlebred displaying moderate neurologic signs were confirmed positive for the non-neuropathogenic strain of Equine Herpesvirus-1 at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory. Due the severity of signs the five year-old was euthanized. Within one hour of laboratory confirmation of Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), the department issued a quarantine for all horses stabled in Barn A of the Los Angeles Equestrian Center (LAEC), pursuant to its authority under Food and Agriculture section 9562, and ordered certain enhanced biosecurity measures for those horses. The biosecurity measures required that all exposed horses remain within the designated quarantine area to be held for observation for clinical signs compatible with EHV-1, and that the horses have their temperatures taken twice daily.

Upon confirmation of an EHV-1 positive horse from Barn B, on November 8, 2016, the quarantine at LAEC was expanded to include all horses stabled in Barns B and C. To ensure the integrity of the quarantine, the Department and LAEC engaged in extensive efforts to inform LAEC clients and the general public about the quarantine, including e-mails, informational meetings, website postings, and the posting of signs, notices and warnings at and around the perimeter of the LAEC. Out of an abundance of caution, the quarantine was expanded to include three additional barns on November 11, 2016. Ultimately, a total of approximately 330 exposed horses were quarantined. All quarantined horses were required to have temperatures taken twice daily and horses with a fever (102F or higher) or neurologic signs were immediately removed to isolation and sampled. Based on the behavior of the virus, horses were resampled 72 hours after initial sampling to confirm their status.

On November 22, 2016, a positive horse was removed from the quarantine at LAEC. This violation of quarantine is being pursued to the fullest extent of the department’s quarantine authority laws. As this is an active ongoing case, no additional details can be provided at this time.

A total of fifteen (15) confirmed cases were identified at the LAEC during the quarantine period. Eight (8) of those cases were confirmed EHM cases and seven (7) of the cases were febrile cases without neurologic signs. Six (6) of the fifteen (15) horses, initially tested negative but were positive on subsequent testing. Interestingly, one of these horses was Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) positive only on blood initially. The longest shedding period for a positive horse was thirteen (13) days. The average time shedding virus for confirmed positive horses was 8.15 days.

With the increase number of neurologic cases and the unusual nasal shedding period detected, the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory decided to further analyze the virus. CAHFS is working to isolate virus and will collaborate with Gluck Equine Research Center in Lexington, KY on genomic analysis. The goal of this research is to provide additional science for appropriate regulatory disease control measures for EHM incidents.

The last LAEC barn to be released from quarantine (C barn) was released on December 28, 2016 and only two (2) horses in isolation barns now remain under quarantine. The AHB appreciates the cooperation and assistance throughout this incident by LAEC management, trainers, owners, and private practitioners.
### Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy - LAEC Incident Table

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Onset Date</th>
<th>Temp.</th>
<th>Neurologic Y/N</th>
<th>Date of Last Vaccination</th>
<th>Date of 1st Positive Test</th>
<th>Date of 1st Negative Test</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gelding</td>
<td>Warmblood</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1-Mar-16</td>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>11/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mare</td>
<td>Saddlebred</td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>No fever</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19-Aug-16</td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>Euthanized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mare</td>
<td>Saddlebred</td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>11/3</td>
<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Gelding</td>
<td>Warmblood</td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>102.2</td>
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<td>18-Apr-16</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>11/9</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mare</td>
<td>Saddlebred</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>19-Aug-16</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>11/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>19-Aug-16</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
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<td>QH/Thoroughbred X</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Silla Argentino</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>103.8</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lusitano</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>11/20</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>12/12</td>
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<td>12/9</td>
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<td>12/10</td>
<td>12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Warmblood</td>
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<td>101.4</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Jun-16</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>12/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### West Nile Virus (WNV) 2016 Summary

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

For 2016, a total of twenty-one (21) horses have been confirmed positive for WNV. The positive horses are located in the following counties: Calaveras, Fresno (2), Merced, Riverside, Sacramento (3), San Diego, San Joaquin (7), Shasta, Sutter (2) and Ventura (2) counties. Nineteen (19) of the positive horses were unvaccinated or not current on their WNV vaccinations and two (2) horses had unknown vaccination status. Seven (7) of the twenty-one (21) positive confirmed horses died or were euthanized.
Equine ID Forum to be held January 17 - 18, 2017 in Denver, Colorado

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

The Equine Identification Forum, “Advancing Identification, Technology and Electronic Health Records” hosted by the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA) and the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA), will be held January 17-18, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Denver, Colorado.

The intent of this forum is to bring together equine industry leaders and animal health officials to specifically discuss the equine identification, traceability and electronic equine health records. In addition to presentations from subject matter experts, the forum will include breakouts into discussion groups to discuss traceability and microchip data storage options.

Your input and participation is critical to advancing equine identification and traceability in the United States.

For more information on the forum, hotel and registration visit:

http://www.animalagriculture.org/2017-Equine-Forum

Get the Latest Update on Equine Disease Across the United States

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) is designed to seek and report real time information on equine disease outbreaks in the United States. The goal of the EDCC is to alert the horse industry about disease outbreaks and provide accurate information on disease mitigation and prevention. For more information or to sign up for the disease outbreak alerts visit:

http://www.equinediseasecc.org/Default.aspx

Pseudorabies in Feral Swine-Newly Discovered in Santa Barbara (Oct. 2016)

Jennifer McDougle, DVM & Hector Webster, DMV, MS

Pseudorabies, an extremely contagious herpesvirus in swine, has been eradicated from commercial swine herds in the U.S. However, the virus remains in carrier feral swine; wild pigs are known to exist in at least forty-five (45) states, including California. Feral swine sampling in California has revealed pseudorabies positive feral swine in at least thirteen (13) counties. In October 2016, feral swine in Santa Barbara County were found to be positive for pseudorabies.

Pseudorabies does not affect people, but may affect cattle, cats and dogs. Unexposed commercial swine herds that are exposed to pseudorabies will experience extremely high mortality rates, and the presence of the disease in California’s commercial herds could seriously affect the export market.

Preventing infection includes ensuring commercial swine producers are aware of the risks associated with wild or feral pigs. In areas where commercial swine may be exposed to feral pigs, enhanced biosecurity is recommended, including double fencing, changing clothes and shoes after hunting, and not feeding offal or pig meat to dogs or pigs.

(Continued on page 6)
Pseudorabies is a reportable disease under the California “List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products.” Veterinarians should call their local CDFA office if they notice pigs with clinical signs of severe upper respiratory disease, abortions, or high piglet and juvenile mortality. The National Pork Board offers information that helps producers formulate a plan to protect their swine herds. Information regarding biosecurity and control is also available on line from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians by accessing their publications link or from the Center for Food Security or Public Health (CFSPH– Swine Pseudorabies) Further information on swine diseases and biosecurity can be found at: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/Swine_Health.html or http://www.securepork.org/.

Bovine Tuberculosis Investigation in Alberta and Saskatchewan
Anita Edmondson, BVMS, MPVM, MRCVS

In late September, the USDA notified the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that bovine TB had been detected in a cow from Alberta when it was slaughtered in the U.S. As of December 21, 2016, the CFIA had confirmed six (6) cases of bovine TB (including the cow that was confirmed to have the disease when it was slaughtered in the U.S.). All confirmed cases are from one infected herd located on eighteen (18) premises; the entire herd is being humanely depopulated.

Genetic analysis showed that the bovine TB organism from the first infected cow is unlike the strains detected in Canadian domestic animals or wildlife or humans to date, but is closely related to a strain originating from cattle in Central Mexico in 1997.

Approximately fifty (50) premises are under quarantine, with five (5) located in Saskatchewan. More than 26,000 animals are under quarantine. Testing on quarantined farms, using both the caudal skin fold test and the gamma interferon blood test, is expected to be completed by early January 2017.

Border Protection Stations
Ashley Fernandez

As we welcome in 2017, the Animal Health Branch (AHB) looks forward to collaborating with Border Protection Stations (BPS) once again. There are a total of sixteen (16) agricultural inspection stations along California’s border: six (6) along the Oregon border, six (6) along the Nevada border and four (4) along the Arizona border. As of January 1, 2017, station personnel will stop vehicles hauling livestock into California and gather information on incoming shipments. That data will be forwarded to AHB veterinarians and livestock inspectors for review and follow-up on potential non-compliance with California entry requirements.

Personnel from the AHB are working with BPS personnel to gather the most accurate information in a safe and timely manner. For more information on livestock entry requirements, please contact the entry permit line at (916) 900-5052, or visit: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Entry_Requirements.html.
The introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) into the U.S. could have a significant impact on the nation's animal health, food system, public health, environment and economy. An efficient collaboration between the CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) personnel, private veterinary practitioners and members of the livestock industry is crucial to mitigate FAD outbreak risk. Cases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out. Private practitioners and producers should report signs of illness or mortality by calling the CDFA-AHB/USDA-VS District Office in their area. The AHB personnel have conducted forty (40) FAD investigations in the 2016 calendar year, and thirteen (13) FAD investigations since October 2016. CDFA-AHB personnel are safeguarding the California livestock industry through surveillance and preparedness/response training utilizing Incident Command System.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Date</th>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Sample Type</th>
<th>Location of Animal (County)</th>
<th>Destination Lab*</th>
<th>NVSL Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/6/2016</td>
<td>Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), Orf</td>
<td>Ovine</td>
<td>Blood, Serum, Swab</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>NVSL, CAHFS-S</td>
<td>Negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/13/2016</td>
<td>New World Screw Worm</td>
<td>Bovine</td>
<td>Maggot</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>NVSL, CAHFS-T</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/2016</td>
<td>FMD, VSV, Orf</td>
<td>Ovine</td>
<td>Tissue (Spleen), Swab</td>
<td>Solano</td>
<td>NVSL, CAHFS-D</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>VSV</td>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>NVSL, CAHFS-S</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/2016</td>
<td>FMD, VSV, Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF)</td>
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<td>Serum, Blood</td>
<td>Sonoma</td>
<td>NVSL, CAHFS-D</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Equine</td>
<td>Serum, Swab</td>
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<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/25/2016</td>
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<td>Equine</td>
<td>Serum, Swab</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26/2016</td>
<td>Schmallenberg Virus</td>
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<td>Fetus, Blood, Fluid</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/27/2016</td>
<td>Anthrax</td>
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<td>Stanislaus</td>
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<td>11/7/2016</td>
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<td>Tissue (Brain)</td>
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<td>NVSL, CAHFS-D</td>
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</tr>
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<td>12/1/2016</td>
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<td>Bovine</td>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>Stanislaus</td>
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<td>12/2/2016</td>
<td>MCF</td>
<td>Bovine</td>
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<td>Equine</td>
<td>Carcass</td>
<td>Kern</td>
<td>NVSL, CAHFS-T</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
CAHFS: California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory
On December 8, 2016, the Animal Health Branch (AHB) Redding District hosted a HPAI Regional Workshop in Petaluma, at the Sonoma Marin Fairgrounds. The Redding District identified and invited those organizations that would be involved in a real outbreak; participants included CDFA Animal Health and Food Safety Services/AHB and USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services District 6 personnel, local government (Avian Industry and Agricultural Commissioner’s staff, Office of Emergency Services, Department of Public Health officials, fairgrounds staff, and staff from other CDFA Divisions). The goal of this workshop was to: 1) share with the District’s constituents the management system, Incident Command System (ICS), that CDFA uses during animal disease outbreaks; this included sharing the Blended CDFA/USDA Incident Management Team (IMT) organization concept and highlighted the planning meeting process; 2) work through a mock HPAI scenario to highlight aspects of an outbreak that would impact the community; this was also an opportunity for local participants to share their capabilities and their concerns about issues they feel need to be addressed in preparation of future outbreaks.

Overall, the workshop was well received and participants used this opportunity to share feedback comments, which included continuing to expose other local organizations (feed stores, backyard hatcheries, and other local producers) about response planning efforts so that they can learn about the way future disease outbreaks will be managed and in doing so, it will give those organizations an opportunity to share their capabilities and learn how they fit into the overall response. Another important issue was continuity of business, ensuring that the movement permitting process is well defined and shared with all of those who need that information. Industry shared information about the significant steps they are working toward to improve their biosecurity and other actions that they have implemented to prepare for future outbreaks; they work closely with their AHB District to ensure that the lines of communication continue. Other feedback participants mentioned their desire to see additional training opportunities in 2017 that include the following subject areas: disposal, euthanasia methods, and biosecurity.

This workshop was the last workshop in a series of four held throughout the state during 2016; HPAI Regional Workshops were held in each of the AHB District’s (Modesto, Tulare, Ontario, and Redding). Each workshop was unique, but shared a common theme: to educate Industry and other response organizations how CDFA/USDA manages animal disease outbreak responses, together with networking and learning about resources and capabilities that locals bring to the table during response events. Feedback forms from each of the workshops were compiled and those comments which highlighted required action will be addressed in 2017. The AHB Emergency Programs, together with the AHB Districts, are committed to address the feedback received from each of the workshops. We look forward to further communication with all of our partners through outreach and additional training and workshop events and to becoming a well-trained response community, gaining efficiencies and capabilities. In future training and exercise events, we would like to include more producer and private practitioner’s participation.
Official Identification (ID) for Cattle
Ashley Fernandez

It has been a while since we have had an overview of what is considered official identification (ID) for cattle and what the practitioner needs to do, so it is time! The most common types of official ID eartags used are the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) silver brite tags and brucellosis/bangs tags. The next most common system is the Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID), in either a button or bangle type tag.

Silver brite tags can be ordered from your local AHB district office. If you are vaccinating heifers and use the NUES brucellosis tags, you can also obtain them by contacting your local AHB district office, but you must have a current contract with CDFA to be able to obtain the vaccine and supplies. If you are unsure of your contract status or need to sign a new one, please contact your district office to start the process. If your contract is current, you must use the online system, https://apps4.cdfa.ca.gov/brucvacc/ to order the brucellosis vaccine and the district office will distribute your tags as requested.

The RFID tag has a 15-digit identification number that begins with 840 (they are also referred to as 840-tags). These tags save time and transcription errors when used for herd health records, Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and test/vaccination charts. Tags are produced by manufacturers approved by USDA; companies are allocated 840 numbers and are authorized to imprint/encode the numbers on their approved devices.

When tags are distributed, the person transferring the tags must record those numbers in the USDA “Animal Identification Management System”. The receivers of these tags must have a location identifier – either a Location Identification Number (obtained from CDFA) or Premises Identification Number (obtained from USDA). For further ID information please contact your CDFA district office.
Attention Contract Veterinarians

If you did not sign and return your latest request for renewal (Oct/Nov 2016), your contract is now expired. You will no longer be able to order brucellosis vaccine or vaccinate calves for brucellosis in California. If you have questions on the status of your contract, please contact Beth Francia at 916-900-5041 or email: efrancia@cdfa.ca.gov. If you have returned your renewed contract, please disregard this notice.

California Accredited Veterinarian Reminders

Your services as an accredited veterinarian are critical to California’s livestock industries, and timely submissions of regulatory documents are appreciated. The designated timelines for submitting specific forms to CDFA are:

1. **Brucellosis Vaccination Form 76-026 ("pinks"): Return within fourteen (14) calendar days.** California Code of Regulations §752 (c).

2. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection ("Health Certificates or CVI"): Return within seven (7) calendar days.** Code of Federal Regulations 9 §161.4 (a) states that accredited veterinarians must distribute copies of certificates, forms, records and reports according to instructions issued by Veterinarian-In-Charge. The cover letter distributed with CVI books indicates that they must be forwarded to CDFA within seven (7) days of examining the animal.

3. **Trichomonosis Test Report: Return positive results within 48 hours, negative results within 30 days.** California Food and Agriculture Code §9101: "List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products" and California Code of Regulations §820.6: "Reporting of Trichomonosis Test Results".

4. **Tuberculosis Test Charts (VS 6-22): Returned within 48 hours.** California Food and Agriculture Code §9972: The result of every tuberculosis test shall be reported to the State Veterinarian by the veterinarian who conducted the test within 48 hours of completion of the test.

Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Central Valley Region Poultry Operations

Sarah Mize, DVM, MPVM & Felicia Pohl

As of December 6, 2016, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, has adopted the “Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Poultry Operations” Order. The Central Valley Region covers the majority of California’s fifty-eight (58) counties and includes: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa (East), El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Napa (N. East), Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano (East), Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba, and small portions of San Benito and San Luis Obispo counties.

A poultry operation is a facility where animals such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, pheasants, pigeons, or ostriches are raised. Poultry operations are subject to the Order if they have the equivalent of two (2) animal units (AU) of housed birds or one (1) AU per 1.5 acres of pasture (where the birds spend more than 20% of their time outdoors). **An AU equals 1,000 pounds of poultry.** For example, if a mature chicken weighs five pounds, then 200 mature chickens would equal one (1) AU. The average weight of an adult ostrich is 250 pounds, therefore four (4) adult ostriches would equal one (1) AU and eight (8) ostriches would equal two (2) AU.

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The Order contains prohibitions and requirements for wastewater ponds, the production area where birds are housed, the land application area where crops are grown, and monitoring requirements. The goal of this Order is to ensure that poultry operations implement water quality management practices that protect surface-water and ground-water. Poultry waste covered by the Order includes, but is not limited to, manure, litter, leachate, process wastewater and any water, precipitation or rainfall runoff that came into contact with raw materials, products, or byproducts such as manure, compost piles, feed, or bedding. Any violation of the Order constitutes a violation of the California Water Code and, therefore, may result in enforcement action.

To review this document, please visit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0087.pdf

Questions? Contact your Regional Water Board office: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/about_us/contact_us/

Our 2017 Avian Health Calendar has been published and distributed to numerous feed stores, pet stores, veterinary clinics, and poultry agencies in order to reach backyard flock owners across California. You can view a PDF version of the calendar here.

The Avian Health Program is accepting photo submissions for the 2018 Avian Health Calendar. Click here for our photo submission guidelines.
The State’s wild bird surveillance program, conducted by USDA Wildlife Services in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, continues to monitor for avian influenza—specifically highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and H5/H7 serotypes. From July 1, 2016 to December 22, 2016, biologists have collected 25,823 samples nationally from live birds, hunter harvested birds and mortality surveillance; 1,669 of these samples were collected in California.

In January 2016, an HPAI event was identified in domestic turkeys in Indiana. Testing revealed an H7N8 virus of North American lineage and therefore different from the Eurasian HPAs responsible for poultry outbreaks in 2014-15. However, in August 2016, Eurasian HPAI H5N2 was detected in genetic material collected from a wild mallard duck from a state wildlife refuge near Fairbanks, Alaska. While preliminary results indicate that no HPAI has been found in any California samples, in the Fall season of 2016 over 2,000 wild birds were sampled (most of these were hunter kill). Approximately 10 percent of these were positive for AI and 10 percent of that subset were positive for low pathogenic H5 or H7 viruses.

The CDFA Animal Health Branch monitors this wildlife surveillance for early warning signs. Positive HPAI or LPAI findings in wild bird populations may create increased risk to domestic poultry in surrounding areas and enhanced appropriate targeted communications would begin with commercial & backyard producers. Federal and state agencies continue to collect wild bird samples to define the extent of HPAI infection in specific avian species groups. (Source: Surveillance Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza in Wild Migratory Birds in the United States)

On September 14, 2016, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) released a warning about the spread of HPAI H5N8, when it was found in seventeen (17) water birds at Ubsu-Nur Lake in Russia in June. Despite this warning, H5N8 spread south into India, affecting several states, and west into Europe. As of November 21st, there have been at least fifty-six (56) outbreaks of H5N8 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in eight countries in Europe and two in the Middle East, just in the month of November alone. Many different species have been affected, including gulls, geese, ducks, chickens, turkeys, swans, and other types of waterfowl. Hundreds of thousands of birds have died as a direct result of the virus or through the culling of birds as authorities attempt to curb the spread of the virus. The migratory flyways of shorebirds that potentially carry the virus cover all of Europe and Africa. In December, Greece reported finding the strain in a wild swan in the Evros river delta. Britain also reported the discovery of a wild bird with the virus and new outbreaks in domesticated poultry were reported in Germany, Hungary, Russia and Taiwan. No human cases of influenza A (H5N8) virus infection have been reported despite large numbers of people being occupationally exposed while managing the avian outbreaks, thus the risk for humans is considered very low.

References:


Raised on a small farm on the central coast of California, I lived in a remote canyon with no other children my age nearby. As a result, I had more time on my hands for such things as fishing, raising chickens and brush-goats for clearing poison oak, and pigs for the family freezer. At the age of 6, I had learned to ride horses so that I could join the annual, family pack trip into the Sierras to catch trout and explore the high country. By age 10, I had taken on an ill-tempered, Welsh pony that nobody else had any interest in. He had developed several “bad” habits like running under low-hanging tree branches to dislodge unwanted, and less nimble riders. After being thrown into the dirt and mud multiple times over the next few years, I received an invaluable lesson about co-existing with the noble horse, and many of my summer jobs from then on related to horses and cattle.

After graduating from Coast Union High in Cambria, I attended UC Davis as an Animal Science major, while volunteering in the Equine Surgery Unit. A resident professor from New Zealand happened to be there at the time, and I managed to befriend him and eventually organize a trip to the south Pacific to work with his family and his horse trainer. Taking a year off from my traditional college education, I also worked on dairies and sheep stations in the North Island and Australia. After 8 months, I returned home with many rewarding experiences, but also flat-broke, and subsequently moved home and attended Cal Poly for the remainder of my undergraduate studies.

Starting Veterinary School in 1983, at UC Davis, I chose the large animal track, and eventually met Dr. Schwabe, who inspired me to get my Masters in Epidemiology in 1987.

After working at a couple of mixed/large animal practices, I eventually took a job at an equine practice in Half Moon Bay, where I worked a few years before starting my own large animal practice in 1991. I left private practice to join CDFA in 2006.

I was born and raised by 2nd generation Japanese-American parents in East Los Angeles, also known as “Cheech & Chong country”. I received my education at Cal Poly Pomona, Auburn University and UC Davis. I spent the next twenty-three (23) years as a veterinarian in the poultry industry with Foster Farms, Arbor Acres, Vineland/LAHI Vaccines & USDA END. For the last eleven (11) years, I have worked for the California Department of Food and Agriculture - five (5) years as a Veterinary Medical Officer with Meat Poultry Egg Safety Branch and three (3) years with Egg Safety Quality Management Program as developer and statewide coordinator for Shell Egg Food Safety Inspections, including implementation of cage space verification. The last three (3) years I have been with the Animal Health Branch working on surveillance/disposal during an avian influenza outbreak and the development of biosecurity SOPs and risk assessment.
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