



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.

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Animal Health Branch Newsletter

Volume 32

July 2016

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) Requirements Rachelle Kennedy, BS

In accordance with Federal and California Laws, all Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) issued for animals entering or leaving California must be issued and signed by a USDA Accredited and state licensed veterinarian. The CVI must also include the following:

- Inspection and issue date
- Number of animals
- Purpose the animals are being moved
- Description of the animals including:
 - Species
 - Sex
 - Breed
 - Age
 - Weight, color, markings (if needed)
- Physical address or location at which the animals were loaded (origin)
- Physical address or location to which the animals are destined (destination)
- Names of the consignor and the consignee and their addresses, if different
- Official identification number of each animal or group of animals, if required
 - If recording the official identification number is not required to be written on the CVI, the CVI inspection must state "all animals are officially identified".
 - If animals do not require official identification, the CVI must state the exemption that applies.
- Interstate Livestock Entry Permit number, if required
- Test type, test date and test results for required tests or an official test record attached
- Brucellosis vaccination tattoo, when required
- State disease eradication status, for applicable species
- Statement that the animals are free of evidence of contagious diseases
- USDA Accreditation and state license number of the issuing veterinarian

By signing the CVI, the examining veterinarian is indicating that each animal in the shipment meets California or the state of destination's entry requirements for that species. A CVI should not be issued for any animal that is not officially identified, if official identification is required.

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Another document or print out, such as a test form, may be used in lieu of typing or writing individual animal identification on a CVI when agreed upon by animal health officials in both the state of origin and destination. The alternative document must also include a description of the animals, including species, sex, breed, and age. The name, title, and any unique number used to identify the document must be recorded on the CVI, and a copy must accompany each copy of the CVI.

A CVI is valid for thirty (30) calendar days following the inspection of the animals described, unless the state veterinarian in either the state of origin or destination has determined a shorter timeframe is necessary to mitigate disease risk.

The veterinarian issuing a CVI must forward, or submit electronically, a copy of the completed CVI and supporting documentation to the State of Origin within seven (7) calendar days from the issue date.

Summary of CVI Violations Sent to CA Vets June 2015 to May 2016

	Violations	Issued
# of Vets Receiving Letters	273	
# of CVIs	825	19,250
<i>Beef</i>	253	7,948*
<i>Dairy</i>	149	
<i>Sheep/Goats</i>	36	799
<i>Swine</i>	48	596
<i>Horse</i>	319	10,474
<i>Other</i>	20	133**
# of Violations	1071	
<i>Out of Date</i>	325	
<i>Physical Address</i>	102	
<i>Missing Dates</i>	45	
<i>Permit #</i>	288	
<i>Official ID</i>	174	
<i>Statements</i>	17	
<i>Missing Tests/Incomplete Test Info</i>	53	
<i>Bruce Vaccination</i>	30	
<i>Other</i>	37	

*Dairy and beef combined, **Other does not include all wildlife or small animals

FAD investigations initiated in California from July 1, 2015 to present

Open Date	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Location of Animal (County)	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
7/13/15	Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)	Equine	Serum	Stanislaus	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
7/16/15	Peste des petite ruminants	Goat	Liver, Lung	Riverside	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
7/23/15	VSV	Equine	Serum	Riverside	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
7/27/15	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab, Scab	Santa Barbara	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
7/29/15	Screwworm	Canine	Larvae	San Diego	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
8/26/15	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab	Placer	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
8/28/15	VSV	Equine	Serum	Monterey	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
8/28/15	VSV, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	Bovine	Blood, Serum, Swab	Stanislaus	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
9/1/15	Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP)	Equine	Serum	Merced	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
9/1/15	Schmallenberg Virus	Bovine	Blood, Tissue	Placer	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
9/15/15	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab	Santa Barbara	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
9/17/15	VSV	Equine	Serum	San Bernardino	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
9/22/15	FMD, VSV, Bovine Papular Stomatitis (BPS)	Bovine	Serum, Swab, Tissue	Tulare	NVSL, CAHFS	Positive only for BPS
10/8/15	FMD, VSV	Bovine	Blood, Swab	Humboldt	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
10/15/15	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab	Yuba	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
10/16/15	FMD, VSV, Seneca Valley Virus (SVV)	Swine	Blood, Serum, Swab	Stanislaus	NVSL, CAHFS	Positive only for SVV
11/2/15	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab	Riverside	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
12/2/15	FMD, VSV	Bovine	Blood, Serum, Swab	San Luis Obispo	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
12/11/15	VSV	Equine	Swab	Tulare	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
2/1/16	Schmallenburg Virus, Bunyavirus	Goat	Brain	Kern	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
2/10/16	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab	Contra Costa	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
3/17/16	VSV, FMD	Bovine	Serum, Swab, Blood	Tulare	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
3/21/16	FMD, SVV, African Swine Fever (ASF), Classical Swine Fever (CSF)	Swine	Tonsil, Spleen, Swab	Stanislaus	NVSL, CAHFS	Positive for SVV and several other endemic diseases
4/5/16	Screwworm	Rabbit	Flies	San Bernardino	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
4/6/16	VSV	Equine	Serum, Swab	Santa Cruz	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
4/7/16	Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease	Rabbit	Liver, Lung	Santa Clara	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
5/5/16	Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI)	Pheasant	Swab	Butte	NVSL, CAHFS	Positive for H9N2
5/13/16	FMD, VSV, Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF)	Bovine	Tongue, Tissue, Esophagus, Spleen	Solano	NVSL, CAHFS	Positive only for MCF
5/13/16	FMD, VSV	Ovine	Swab	San Joaquin	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative
6/24/16	VSV	Equine	Swab, Serum, Oral tissue	Monterey	NVSL, CAHFS	Negative

West Nile Virus

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

West Nile Virus (WNV) continues to be a cause of mosquito-borne neurologic illness and death among humans and horses in California. Timely and accurate reporting of suspect WNV cases to local animal health officials by private veterinarians is a valuable component of arbovirus disease surveillance and helps direct mosquito control efforts to prevent WNV infection in horses and humans. In 2015 in California, nineteen (19) positive WNV horses were identified and all nineteen (19) were unvaccinated. Commercially available WNV vaccines have been shown to provide a high level of protection when used in accordance with manufacturer's labeled directions. CDFA encourages practitioners to work with their clients to ensure horses are current on WNV vaccination. Your assistance in protecting the health of California's equine population is appreciated.

For more information on WNV visit the California WNV website at www.westnile.ca.gov and the CDFA WNV website at: https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/wnv_info.html

American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum

Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

The American Horse Council's (AHC) Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum was held on June 12-15, 2016 in Washington DC. A special presentation was made during the opening reception to introduce the new AHC President Julie Broadway and to thank retiring President Jay Hickey for his twenty-three (23) years of service as president. The various AHC committees met to discuss business including a focus on how the horse community can better deal with legislation affecting the equine industry. The National Issues Forum included a session entitled "Microchipping: Bet You Can't "Eat" Just One". The session featured reports from representatives from The Jockey Club and the United States Equestrian Federation on their plans to require microchipping of horses in the future. Great information was provided on the myths and facts related to microchipping and the benefits of microchipping. The meeting concluded with the annual Congressional Ride-In. The Ride-In allows members of the horse community to meet with their elected officials and federal officials to discuss important issues affecting them. For more information on the meeting or the efforts of the American Horse Council visit: <http://www.horsecouncil.org/>.

Q-Fever (Coxiellosis)

Denni Wilson, DVM, MPVM, PhD

Q-fever is a disease affecting people and animals worldwide. It is caused by *Coxiella burnetii*, a gram negative intracellular bacteria. It is endemic in the U.S. where it has been isolated from many species of domestic and wild animals, and is commonly found in the environment where it can survive for years. In California, significant numbers of coyotes, brush rabbits, foxes and deer have antibodies to *C. burnetii*, suggesting exposure or infection.

Disease in Cattle, Sheep and Goats

Domestic ruminants are the most commonly affected livestock species and most often implicated in human infections. Q-fever is often asymptomatic in livestock but abortions, stillbirths, and early neonatal mortality can occur, particularly in sheep and goats. Cattle abort less frequently but infection may be associated with decreased fertility.

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Transmission

Q-fever is spread by ingesting or inhaling aerosolized bacteria from infected animals or a contaminated environment. Tick bites may also transmit disease. Animal birth products, (placenta, fetuses, and associated fluids, particularly those associated with abortions, stillbirth and weak neonates), feces and milk are the most common sources of bacteria.

Diagnosis

Serology is useful as a screening test for *C. burnetii* in a herd/flock. Identifying lesions of the placenta and antigen detection by PCR, immunohistochemistry or culture are used for individual animals. PCR is highly sensitive and specific and can be used on birth products, milk, and feces.

Treatment

There is little research to indicate appropriate livestock therapies. Use of antimicrobials to control abortion would be “extra-label”, requiring a prescription from a licensed veterinarian and a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.

Reporting

Q-fever is a “monitored” condition in livestock in California. Monitoring occurrence of the disease assists in understanding trends, determining if there are significant changes in the behavior of the disease, and in targeting educational outreach.

Control

No Q-fever vaccines are approved in the U.S. To reduce disease spread, use good hygiene when working with animals and birth products. Quickly remove and destroy placenta and associated birth materials, use separate birthing pens that are regularly cleaned, minimize contact with wildlife, and practice good tick control. Minimize introduction of new animals of unknown disease status into a clean herd. For more information on management practices, see: [“Best Practices to Control Q Fever”](#).

Environment

C. burnetii survives for years in the environment in its spore-like form. It is resistant to physical and chemical agents. Cleaning contaminated areas such as birthing pens can be followed by disinfection with a 10% solution of bleach, a 5% solution of hydrogen peroxide, or a 1% solution of Lysol®. For more information on selecting an effective disinfectant approved for use in California see: [The Center for Food Security and Public Health \(CFSPH\) Q Fever Factsheet](#), and [CA Department of Pesticide Regulation](#).

Protecting Human Health

People are very susceptible to infection when exposed to infected livestock or a contaminated environment. If Q-fever has been diagnosed in animals, take extra precautions around livestock and their environment. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. masks, gloves) when working with high-risk materials (birth products, manure, contaminated bedding). Avoid consuming unpasteurized dairy products. People at high risk for infections should take particular care or avoid potentially infected areas.

People infected with-Q fever show a range of signs from no apparent illness (in about 50% of cases) to acute fevers with headache, flu-like symptoms, respiratory and liver disease. Chronic endocarditis can persist for weeks to years after an acute infection. If you work around livestock, remind your doctor of this exposure when you are ill. Health care providers are required to report human cases to their local public health officer within one working day of identification. For more information, visit: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and [California Department of Public Health](#).

Avian Influenza in a Commercial Game Bird (Pheasant) Flock (H9N2)

Mike Poulos, DVM

Routine annual blood testing of an approximately one thousand (1,000) bird Pheasant production facility enrolled in National Poultry Improvement Plan yielded 30% of tested birds seropositive to avian influenza on AGID. CDFA veterinarians responded with a site visit including epidemiologic questions and oropharyngeal swabbing of thirty (30) pheasants for PCR testing.

This is an all-in/all-out facility. There was **no increased mortality** associated with the birds. The pheasants were housed approximately fifty (50) yards from approximately one thousand (1,000) domestically raised mallard ducks. Workers assigned to the pheasants never went into duck pens and vice versa. Biosecurity was practiced and felt to be adequate. There was also a pond next door that was frequented by wild ducks and geese.

PCR testing showed AI matrix positive. Samples were referred to NVSL. Follow-up testing at both CAHFS lab and the samples referred to NVSL found it to be an H9 and *not* a Notifiable AI (H5 or H7). No regulatory action was needed, but it was recommended that their biosecurity be improved.

Bovine Malignant Catarrhal Fever Detection

Alireza Javidmehr, DVM

In May 2016, California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory received the carcass of a 1 1/2 year-old Shorthorn female bovine submitted by the owner. The private practitioner reported that the euthanized animal from Solano County had a high temperature, multifocal ulceration of the tongue and cloudy eyes over the previous ten days. This case was reported immediately to CDFA and USDA as a suspected Foreign Animal Disease (FAD). The CAHFS laboratory submitted samples to the USDA's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory located in Plum Island, New York.

Although both laboratories reported negative results for foot and mouth disease (FMD) and vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), the CAHFS laboratory was able to detect malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) (North American or OvHV-2) virus in samples taken from the nose, tongue, esophagus and splenic tissues. MCF is a serious, often fatal disease that affects many species including cattle, deer, moose, exotic ruminants and pigs. It occurs in many countries worldwide and the North American MCF is classified under "Monitored Conditions" in the [California List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products](#). MCF virus is highly adaptive to its usual host (sheep in the case of the North American virus), but can cause fatality if transmitted to susceptible animals. The only reliable method of control is to separate susceptible species from carriers. Fever, inappetence and bilateral corneal opacity are common clinical signs in bovines. Later, open-mouthed breathing and excessive salivation may be observed. The oral mucosa may contain multifocal or diffuse areas of necrosis. More detailed information on MCF may be found on the [Iowa State University website](#).


It is important for private practitioners and producers to continue monitoring livestock for signs similar to those associated with FADs and immediately report suspect cases to state animal health officials. The officials will work with the producer, practitioner and the laboratory to carry out a comprehensive disease investigation until FADs can be ruled out. Private practitioners and producers should become familiar with the reportable disease conditions and report signs of illness or mortality by calling the CDFA or USDA District Office in their area.

California's Trichomonosis Program

Anita Edmondson BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

California's Trichomonosis (Trich) Control Program began in 2003. There are currently 252 trich approved private veterinarians submitting samples to four (4) CAHFS laboratories and thirty-three (33) private approved laboratories. The CAHFS laboratory tested almost 3,000 samples over the last six (6) months (Oct 1, 2015–Mar 31, 2016): 979 cultures, 154 read only, 1,798 rtPCR and six (6) confirmatory PCR on positive cultures. During this period, nine (9) trich-affected herds with a total of thirty-five (35) infected animals were detected. The previous year, Oct 1, 2014 – Sept 30, 2015, a total of twenty-eight (28) affected herds were detected.

California's trich program is reviewed yearly by industry representatives. This year regulation changes were proposed to improve disease management and control. The public comment period has now closed, and these regulations should be effective in January 2017. The proposed changes include:

1. Testing ALL bulls \geq eighteen (18) months of age AND all non-virgin bulls $<$ eighteen (18) months of age within sixty (60) days prior to entering California and before changing ownership in California. Bulls would be exempt from the test if they were:
 - Moving directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
 - Moving through one market then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
 - Moving to a feedlot for feeding and subsequent movement to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
 - Moving for exhibition without contact with female cattle.
 - Moving for artificial insemination to a Certified Semen Services facility.
 - Sale bulls with signed bull slaughter agreement (this is defined to allow bulls to move to a facility where they will be slaughtered within seven days).
 - Returning to CA without change of ownership, within Twelve (12) months of a negative test and that have been confined in pens with no contact with female cattle.
2. Bulls will require both official individual ID AND a "trichomonosis approved color-coded tag" applied when tested. This tamper evident California tag will be available to trich approved veterinarians in September 2016 from the MWI Veterinary Supply Company. The trich tag program will follow the same year (September 1 to August 31) and color (white for 2016-17, then cycling through orange, blue, yellow, green) schedule as neighboring states. The tags will be removed and replaced with current year tags during testing.
 
3. Requiring a PCR test for breeding bulls: in affected herds; in exposed herds; entering California; sold in California; and moving interstate in pasture-to-pasture herds. A trich culture test will be accepted for bulls in herds screening for infection and in Certified Semen Services facilities testing bulls every six (6) months. A second PCR test will be required for bulls in affected herds that have been infected twice in the prior twenty-four (24) months and those entering California from a herd where infection was detected in last twenty-four (24) months.
4. Bulls \geq eighteen (18) month of age will require official individual ID for change of ownership unless moving to a recognized slaughter facility or with a Bull Slaughter Agreement.

Bovine Tuberculosis Update

Anita Edmondson BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

California was recently reviewed by a USDA lead team for our application to request TB Free Status. California was downgrade to Modified Accredited Advanced in September 2008 and is the only state that is not classified as Free, other than Michigan which has several zones where bovine TB persists in wild white-tailed deer. In April 2016, Michigan detected a new TB-infected beef herd during an annual whole herd test. This was the 64th TB-infected herd found in Michigan since 1998. The TB-strain matched that of their infected wildlife. A trace investigation from that herd led to the detection of another beef herd, the 65th TB-infected herd, in May 2016.

Bovine TB continues to be detected sporadically in cattle in several states, and the source of many of these infections cannot be determined because they do not link to other U.S. cattle cases. Many are distantly related to strains found in cattle and people in Mexico. Bovine TB was most recently detected in beef cattle in Southeastern Indiana. During April 2016, six (6) TB-infected steers were identified during routine slaughter inspection in Pennsylvania. They traced to a herd located on two (2) Franklin County sites in Indiana. The affected herd is quarantined and traces from the herd are under investigation. All cattle on farms within a 3-mile radius of the infected sites are being tested, which involves about thirty (30) producers. Indiana has been classified as TB-Free since 1984, but prior bovine TB-cases have been detected in this region in 2011 and 2009. Ongoing wildlife testing has not detected infection in the white-tailed deer.

A TB-infected Holstein steer found during routine slaughter in Arizona in January 2016 traced to a California feedlot. The herd of origin could not be identified due to inadequate identification collected at slaughter. The TB-strain was not associated with any other U.S. cattle. Bovine TB was confirmed in two (2) Texas organic dairies and their associated feedlot and heifer raiser in April 2015. The TB-strain in these herds was not associated with any other U.S. cattle. Fifty-six (56) lesioned cattle have been removed from the dairy of approximately 11,000 cattle, and over 4,000 animal traces were generated. Included was a trace-out of approximately six (6) TB-exposed heifers that moved in a large group to Missouri, and then moved illegally as springing heifers to a California dealer. Three (3) of these were found in a California dairy herd and removed to slaughter. The California herd was TB-tested negative and will be retested about twelve (12) months after the first test. The remaining TB-exposed heifers could not be located.

Texas completed the depopulation of one of the two (2) associated dairies quarantined for TB in October 2014. The initial estimated herd prevalence was 5.9%, with a herd size of over 10,000 cattle. During depopulation, tuberculosis was found in 171 cattle. The other associated TB-affected herd was released after it completed a test-and-removal plan. The TB-strain in these herds was not associated with any other U.S. cattle.

Bovine Brucellosis Update

Anita Edmondson BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

Elk and bison in the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) around the Greater Yellowstone Area of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho remain a reservoir of *Brucella abortus* in the U.S. California maintains a brucellosis vaccination mandate although it has been classified as Brucellosis-Free since 1997; all U.S. states have been classified as Free since 2009. Over 550 private veterinarians have contracts with the AHB to brucellosis vaccinate calves, and about 1 million calves are vaccinated annually. California's surveillance relies on testing blood samples from a sample of adult cattle slaughtered (about 125,000 tested a year) and on private practitioners testing live cattle (about 8,000 tested a year). Spill-over of infection from wildlife continues to affect cattle in and around the DSA.

- **Wyoming:** In November 2015, one (1) brucellosis infected cow was detected in a commercial cow-calf beef herd of more than 500 adults in Park County, within the DSA. No additional infected animals were detected after testing the herd and the contact herds. Also in November 2015, infection was detected in a commercial beef herd of over 700 cattle in Sublette County in the DSA. Eleven (11) brucellosis infected cows were detected and testing is ongoing. The brucella strain type in both herds most closely matched elk strains.
- **Montana:** Two (2) large beef herds were detected with brucellosis in FY 2015. Both herds had seasonal grazing in the DSA and have been released following test-and-removal plans. The strain in one herd closely matched elk isolates while the other was distantly related to a strain isolated in bison. A brucellosis-affected privately owned bison herd of more than 4,000 animals detected in November 2010 (in Gallatin County, within the DSA) remains under quarantine.
- **Idaho:** Brucellosis was last detected in a small beef herd outside the DSA in FY 2012; this herd was released from quarantine in 2015. The strain was similar to 2010 Idaho cattle isolates. The DSA has been expanded since detection of this herd.

Submitting Samples to the Laboratory

Please include all official animal identification when submitting samples to the CAHFS laboratory for official tests, including the premises identification number if available. Note that **trichomonosis samples placed in pouches past the pouch expiration date will not be considered official tests.**

California Livestock Returning from Out-of-State Events

California livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs) leaving the state to participate in an event must meet the destination's entry requirements and California's entry requirements to return. For California entry, this includes a valid CVI with vaccination/testing requirements documented on the CVI and a permit number. If you have any questions or need an entry permit, please contact the Animal Health Branch Permit Line at (916) 900-5052.

Outreach: The AHB has recently updated many of its fact sheets. They can be located at: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/AHFSS_Forms_and_Publications.html

Employment with the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture,
Animal Health Branch
Don Leidolf, Staff Services Analyst

Regulatory veterinary employment with the State of California provides the opportunity to protect livestock populations, consumers and California's economy from catastrophic animal diseases and other health or agricultural problems. Competitive benefits, superior retirement packages and numerous growth opportunities are just a few more reasons why so many desire a job with the State of California.

The State of California uses a competitive merit system for hiring. Individuals new to state employment must pass an examination for the job(s) you are interested in and place within the top three (3) rankings to be eligible for hiring. Once you have completed the exam you may be notified of positions as they become vacant. You can also pro-actively look for job vacancies as they are posted and apply for them. However, eligibility must be confirmed before an interview will take place. The three (3) steps are:

1. Take the Exam
2. Apply for the Vacancy
3. Attend the Interview

The website www.jobs.ca.gov is used to post all exams and job vacancies. You must create a CalCareer account at this website to apply for jobs. The State Application used to apply for job vacancies is submitted through CalCareer only. Paper copies or emails are no longer accepted.

There are a wide variety of positions within the Animal Health Branch including part-time agricultural positions and full time positions such as clerical and office positions, livestock inspector, research scientist, veterinarian and supervisory positions. We are continually posting jobs when they become available. You may also set up a notification for when the position you are interested in becomes available. The employment process usually takes a few months so persistence and patience are both recommended.

Current examinations available now:

- [Veterinarian Specialist](#)
- [Research Scientist Supervisor I \(Veterinary Sciences\)](#)
- [Research Scientist Supervisor II \(Veterinary Sciences\)](#)

Current vacancies available now:

- Agricultural Aide and Agricultural Technician (Equine Medication Monitoring Program)
- [Research Scientist I \(Sacramento\)](#)
- [Veterinarian \(General\) \(Redding District\)](#)
- [Supervising Veterinarian \(Sacramento\)](#)

For more information, please contact Donald Leidolf
donald.leidolf@cdfa.ca.gov or 916-900-5305

Staff Biographies

KC Nguyen was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her parents moved the family to California in the early 90s and she has been a California resident ever since. She enjoys traveling, road trips, hiking/walking, fitness, bowling, swimming, dark chocolate covered dried fruit candies and Café du Monde chicory coffee.

In 2001, she graduated from UC Davis and joined the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine staff as an Assistant Webmaster at the Vet. Med. Dean's Office where she provided web/graphic design and development and technical support to staff, faculty and students.

In 2003, she joined the UC Davis Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) team as a Computer Resources Specialist II where she assisted in the design and development of courses and trainings, as well as providing web/graphic design and development, outreach, marketing, and technical support. She decided to pursue a State government position and in 2009, she joined the California Department of General Services Office of State Publishing as a Digital Composition Specialist II.

KC started with the CDFA Animal Health Branch Emergency Program in March 2016 and has used her visual arts background at the Office of State Publishing to assist with designing user-friendly training materials, posters and other visual displays. Most recently she served as a key member of the project team which developed ICS Planning P training for the California CDFA/USDA Blended Incident Management Team. She is thrilled to be a part of the team to support the expansion of the AHB emergency management training program and looks forward to future training courses and opportunities to get acquainted with others in the Branch.



Ashley Fernandez started with the Animal Health Branch as a Livestock Inspector in the Sacramento office in April. She is a mom and animal lover. She's been a Veterinary Technician for nearly twenty (20) years - working with small animals, large animals and exotics. She grew up in the greater Sacramento area and decided to move to San Diego to attend school and pursue her Veterinary Technician License. Ashley has practiced in a variety of clinics and practices, which include vaccine clinics, emergency and specialty hospitals. After living in San Diego, it was time for more education, so she moved to Fresno to attend California State University, Fresno. While there she participated in the Young Cattlemen's Association and for three (3) years she served as Assistant Director for the Fresno Fair's Animal Birthing Center. She dedicated herself as a Registered Veterinary Technician, managing an Emergency clinic for eight (8) years and eventually returned to the Sacramento area. Although she enjoyed her private practice work, it was time for a change. Since her return she has missed her time with large animal and hoof-stock. Her family includes a daughter named Madison, a cattle dog named Ella and three (3) chickens. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her daughter, family, animals, and friends. She is excited to be working in the Animal Health Branch!

Contact Information



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FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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Website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Index.html
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Animal Health Branch

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State Veterinarian and Director, Animal Health and Food Safety Services

Dr. Annette Jones
(916) 900-5000

District Offices Veterinarian In Charge (VIC)

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Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-2140

Modesto: Dr. Randy Anderson
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Modesto, CA 95358
(209) 491-9350

Tulare: Dr. Gregory Ledbetter
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(559) 685-3500

Ontario: Dr. Predrag Pecic
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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
Dr. Douglas Hepper, Chief
(916) 900-5004

United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Gary Brickler
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