



### 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 19

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## National Equine Health Plan: Equine Disease Communication Plan

Several national equine organizations formally recognized the need to address communication challenges experienced in equine disease outbreaks in the past several years by developing a proposed National Equine Communication Plan. The American Association of Equine Practitioners' (AAEP) Board of Directors and the American Horse Council's (AHC) Board of Trustees have approved the following recommendations for a state of the art National Equine Communications Center (NECC):



1. Adopt a decision tree as the industry's recommendation for the flow of communications during a contagious disease outbreak that creates health or economic threats. NECC would immediately create a website.
2. Recommend that all states be consistent by adopting the same list of reportable diseases, to include Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) and Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) in addition to the current list of reportable diseases in each state and trans-boundary (Foreign Animal Diseases) equine diseases.
3. Establish an Equine Disease Communications Center shared by AAEP and AHC. The Center would be in close communication with state and federal regulatory officials before releasing any information.
4. Obtain industry funding which would be ongoing for personnel to staff (on call 7 days a week) an Equine Disease Communications Center.
5. Develop a triage system for incoming communications and methods of reporting contagious diseases, which are a threat to horses and the equine industry.
6. Create an Equine Disease Website for posting of information collected and triaged at the Equine Disease Communications Center.

*Note: In an effort to reduce costs this newsletter will only be sent electronically.*

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(continued)

7. Collect information about equine contagious diseases and biosecurity with recommendations to be placed on websites of equine organizations.
8. Create links to state and USDA/APHIS VS websites that have information about reportable diseases and the mechanism for managing disease outbreaks.
9. Develop a system at the Equine Disease Communication Center to advise all State Animal Health Official and USDA/APHIS VS of confirmed infectious disease outbreak or an impending situation that could be categorized as a threat to equine health based on the clinical disease and/or population of horses affected and to receive information about developments and test result interpretation in ongoing disease outbreaks.
10. Develop a protocol and identify spoke persons for notification of the press and public of confirmed or pending investigations of ongoing outbreaks of diseases of concern.

AAEP and AHC hope to move forward with this plan through meetings with State and Federal regulatory officials and equine industry organization representatives.

**Equine Medication Monitoring Program Reminder**

For California equine events under the regulatory authorities of the Equine Medication Monitoring Program and any other event or organization’s drug and medication rule, the most stringent drug and medication rule applies for the event. [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/EMMP/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/EMMP/)



California West Nile Virus - 2012 Summary

In 2012, California confirmed twenty-two (22) horses positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Only one (1) of the positive horses was vaccinated for WNV. Positive horses were located in thirteen (13) counties: Butte, Calaveras, Fresno (3), Glenn, Kern (2), Madera, Merced, Sacramento (2), San Joaquin (2), Shasta (5), Stanislaus, Yolo, and Yuba. Eight of the positive horses were euthanized.

**2012 Equine WNV Summary**

No. of Confirmed Cases	22
No. of Confirmed Cases Unvaccinated for WNV	21
No. of Confirmed Cases Vaccinated for WNV	1
No of Horses Died or Euthanized	8
No. of Counties with Confirmed WNV Positive Horses	13

The 2012 incidence summary of WNV in unvaccinated California horses serves as a reminder for recommending incorporation of annual WNV vaccination in equine herd health plans.



## Proposed Shell Egg Regulations

Regulations proposed to help ensure the quality and safety of shell eggs sold for human consumption in the state were drafted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The proposed regulations are designed to help reduce the occurrence of *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) in shell eggs. The proposed regulations require producers that sell table eggs in California to implement various SE reduction measures and to comply with various labeling requirements. Two public hearings on the proposed regulations were held in 2012; updating of the proposed regulations is underway. Once complete, the expectation is for the final regulations to become effective in July 2013. Please direct questions on the shell egg regulations to Dr. Maurice Pitesky at [maurice.pitesky@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:maurice.pitesky@cdfa.ca.gov)



## Bovine Tuberculosis Update

One TB-affected herd remains under quarantine on a Test & Removal Program in the state. This herd has undergone extensive testing over the past several years; the quarantine-releasing test is scheduled for February 2013.



## Bovine Brucellosis

### Policy Notice - Interstate Movement

The California Department of Food and Agriculture requires Brucellosis vaccination of female cattle and application of state-of-origin official identification before entry into California.

California requires advance discussion and approval before a request can be made for issue of a special entry permit specifying Brucellosis vaccination of female calves upon arrival in the state.

California requires advance discussion and approval before a request can be made for a special entry permit to spay unvaccinated (Brucellosis) female calves upon arrival in the state.

Farm-of-origin female calves, between four and twelve months of age, moved to a USDA/CDFA-approved Livestock Facility, must be vaccinated and officially identified before being moved from the facility.

California will issue an entry permit for movement of unvaccinated female cattle directly to a California Registered Feedlot for feeding and subsequent movement directly to slaughter.

### Brucellosis Contracts

California veterinarians require a current CDFA contract, valid until December 31, 2014, to order Brucellosis Vaccine. Contract renewal letters and contracts for signature and return, were sent to contract veterinarians in October and November of 2012. Prior contracts expired on December 31, 2012. Please contact your CDFA AHB District Office to obtain a current contract.



## National Veterinary Accreditation Program Renewal Alert



The National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) now requires Accredited Veterinarians to complete APHIS Approved Supplemental Training (AAST) and renew their accreditation by an assigned Accreditation Renewal Date (ARD). Category I Accredited Veterinarians must complete 3 units of AAST to renew their accreditation; Category II Accredited Veterinarians must complete 6 units. If an email address was submitted to USDA, email reminders of the required renewal are sent to veterinarians six (6), three (3) and one (1) month before the ARD. Veterinarians who do not have an email address on file with NVAP will receive a reminder in the mail three (3) months before the ARD. Accreditation renewals for the new NVAP begin in 2013. Failure to renew accreditation by the assigned ARD results in the loss of authorization to perform duties of an accredited veterinarian.

NVAP renewal information is available at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/renew.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/renew.shtml)

Beginning January 2013, an online accreditation renewal process will be available at the following website:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/content/online\\_instructions.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/content/online_instructions.html)

Weekly webinars for the Online Accreditation Renewal Process will be held every Thursday at 10:00 - 11:00 AM PST beginning January 10, 2013. See the above website for webinar details.

Additional information for the online renewal process:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/downloads/renewal\\_online\\_process.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/downloads/renewal_online_process.pdf)

Free AAST is available on-line at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/accred\\_vets.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/accred_vets.shtml)

Supplemental training opportunities are also available at a variety of veterinary meetings; hard copy training materials are available from USDA for a fee.

Contact the USDA Area Office, telephone (916) 854-3950, with NVAP questions.

### Reminder - Plan Ahead for Animal Movement Testing

Diagnostic testing of animals for movement, especially before a herd dispersal, requires planning and scheduling well in advance of the anticipated movement date. Regulatory tests performed by an accredited veterinarian may require confirmatory testing, which potentially lengthens the time necessary to clear the herd for movement. It is important to consider this time element in the planning process before a herd dispersal and finalization of livestock shipping arrangements.

Private practitioners should **schedule herd movement testing three (3) weeks** before the anticipated shipment date of the animals.



## Staff Biographies

Livestock Inspector, **Buck Harness** "I was born in Red Bluff, CA and grew up in Cottonwood, CA. I spent most of my early life around cattle ranches, auction yards and feedlots in California, Oregon and Nevada. In search of a better career path and not knowing how to do anything that didn't involve large animals or heavy equipment, I was fortunate to find an opportunity with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

I began my State career in 1997 with the Pest Exclusion initially working at the Blythe Inspection Station and eventually being stationed at the Truckee and Dorris stations. In 2003, I transferred to the Animal Health Branch and became a Livestock Inspector working out of the Modesto District Office until transferring to the Redding District in 2007. I truly enjoy my job (paperwork notwithstanding) and work with some of the best people in the State. It is a joy being able to help an industry that has supported me my whole life.

I currently live in Montague, CA with my wife, Cindy. We have three children, Stacy, Ryan & Kayla & three grandchildren, Dylan (9), Aliya (4) and Addalee (2)...Alivia is on the way! In my spare time I enjoy family, horses, roping, leather work & rawhide braiding."



Livestock Inspector, **Andy Femino** "Hi! My name is Andy Femino. I live in Willows, CA with my beautiful wife, Chariss, and three kids Taylor, Dominic and Ava. We enjoy traveling to the family cabin in Lake Almanor, participating in raucous family board games and having huge dinners with our extended family.

I spent my early life on a family equestrian stable in Glendora, CA. We later moved Orland, CA and began dairy life. As a teen, I tended to a large flock of sheep, milked cows and raised beef for the family restaurant (The Blue Gum). After four quick years in the military, I came home to operate my father's meat processing plant. Eventually, we purchased a U.S.D.A slaughter facility in Orland, which my father now owns and operates.

I feel very fortunate to have been selected for the position of Livestock Inspector. There is no doubt that this is a dream job as it combines all the lessons and skills that I have accumulated over my lifetime. Thank you and I am honored to be part of CDFA."

*Andy began his Animal Health Branch duties in the Redding District Office in November 2012.*

# Contact Information



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FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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## Animal Health Branch

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

Dr. Annette Jones  
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## District Offices Veterinarians In Charge (VIC)

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## Additional AHFSS Branches

Bureau of Livestock Identification  
Greg Lawley, Chief  
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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**  
Area Veterinarian In Charge  
Dr. Gary Brickler  
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