

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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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Branch Newsletter

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Update

By Felicia Pohl, BS

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) continue their efforts to eradicate Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) from Southern California. As of June 27, 2019, vND has been detected in 448 poultry flocks in California that include four (4) "commercial" poultry flocks, six (6) "non-commercial" layer operations, one (1) live bird market, and two (2) retail feed stores. In addition, two (2) veterinary hospitals, one (1) in Los Angeles County and one (1) in San Mateo County have had vND confirmed patients. Over 1.2 million birds have been euthanized and over 157,000 premises/residences have been visited for surveillance.



The regional quarantine that spans all of Los Angeles County, and the western portions of Riverside County and San Bernardino County remains in effect. The full quarantine and many additional resources can be found on the CDFA vND webpage: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html

Outreach for bird owners to keep birds in place and report sick birds continues and includes community events, town hall meetings, media, feedstores, churches, social media, and door to door activities. CDFA and USDA personnel have attended over 300 events and distributed nearly 200,000 factsheets.

Many organizers of California fairs and bird show have proactively canceled their live bird exhibits to prevent birds from various sources being brought together and potentially spread disease. At least twenty (20) fairs/poultry exhibitions, including the California State Fair, have voluntarily canceled their live poultry shows. Continued public support is crucial in ending this outbreak.

As a reminder, there is a Sick Bird Hotline (866) 922-2473 for residents to report sick birds and ask questions. A Public Information Line, (909) 731-6367, is also available.

Statement from California State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones

July 2nd, 2019

Thanks to cooperation from Southern California residents in very difficult circumstances, and a tremendous commitment from emergency response teams, the joint CDFW/USDA Virulent Newcastle Disease Project has found no new positive detections of the disease since June 4, 2019.

While this potentially moves us closer to eradication, we must emphasize that any subsequent detections would represent a significant setback.

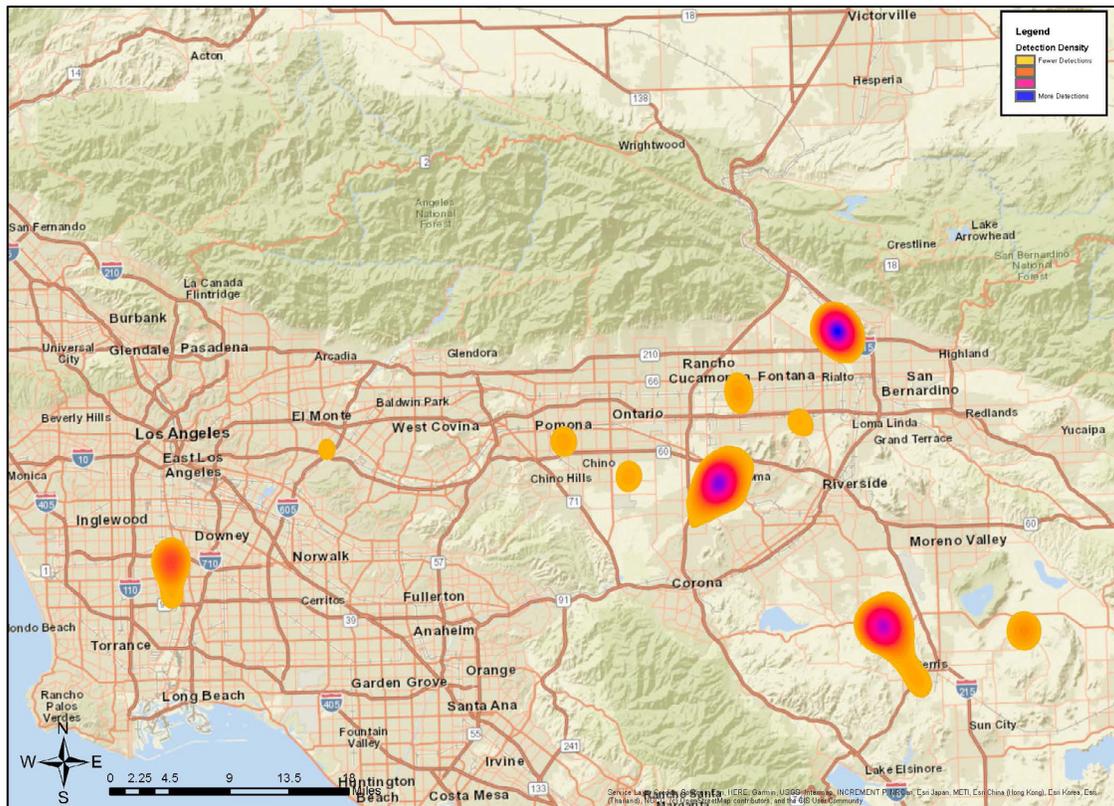
This is an extremely critical time. It is imperative that bird owners continue to work together to ensure that previously-infected areas remain free from disease, and it is vital that all bird owners within the regional quarantine area of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties continue practicing enhanced biosecurity and do not move birds.

The VND project team will now survey and test in areas where disease has previously existed to make sure there are no remaining residual pockets of virus in poultry. However, it is important to recognize that the virus will remain in the environment for several more months, and that the risk of infection remains. If additional birds test positive, those birds and any exposed birds on adjacent properties will be euthanized.

Remember – we’re all in this together, and we must continue working together until virulent Newcastle disease is eradicated in California.

Virulent Newcastle Disease Detection Overview

(May 22, 2018 - June 30, 2019)



Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update

By Elise Chad, DVM, MS and Felicia Pohl, BS

On June 25, 2019, H7 Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) was detected at California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) laboratory in samples from a non-commercial backyard duck layer farm in Merced County collected for routine surveillance. Partial gene sequencing by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed H7 LPAI consistent with North American wild bird lineage; virus isolation is pending. CDFA and USDA personnel took immediate action to quarantine, investigate and test impacted poultry and poultry products. This investigation is ongoing.



In April 2019, an H5N2 LPAI virus of North American wild bird lineage was detected at CAHFS laboratory as part of routine surveillance on ducks at a commercial duck and goose breeding farm in Monterey County. CDFA and USDA personnel took immediate action to quarantine, investigate and test impacted poultry and poultry products. Only one group of birds tested positive; no additional poultry were positive in serial samples. The infected birds subsequently had two negative tests, one week apart; this investigation is ongoing.

The H5N2 and H7 LPAI incidents are separate and unrelated.

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Influenza.html

Detection of H1N2 Swine Influenza at Pacific International Livestock Show in Prineville, Oregon

By Kent Fowler, DVM

H1N2 swine influenza has been confirmed in two pigs by the Oregon State University Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OSU-OVDL). The pigs are located in Linn County, OR. The animals developed a fever and began showing respiratory signs early last week. The owner submitted the animals to the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine for treatment. The pigs were treated and sent home to rest and recover. Laboratory confirmation of swine influenza was made June 28, 2019. Swine influenza is a reportable disease in Oregon and the farm where the pigs are located has been quarantined.

These pigs had been exhibited at the recent Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Prineville, OR. June 20-22, 2019 (prior to becoming ill). There were exhibitors from California at this show. Symptoms of swine influenza may include loss of appetite, coughing, depression, weakness and fever. Pigs returning home to CA should be closely monitored for signs of illness and good biosecurity practices followed. It is important to remember this is a potential zoonotic disease, although no human illness attributed to H1N2 has currently been identified in Oregon.

ALERT: Vesicular Stomatitis Confirmed in 2019

By Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

On June 21, 2019, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, confirmed vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) infection (Indiana serotype) on a premises in Kinney County, Texas. VSV-Indiana serotype has not been diagnosed in the U.S. since 1998; all VSV cases from 2004-2016 have been VSV-New Jersey serotype. Since this detection, the virus has been confirmed in Tom Green County, Texas and Sandoval County, New Mexico. For the latest information and VS Fact Sheet visit:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/VS.html

If you have a Vesicular Stomatitis Suspect Case...

Any animal displaying signs compatible with vesicular stomatitis should be reported to your local CDFA AHB district office for investigation. A foreign animal disease diagnostician will be sent to the premises to examine the animal, collect appropriate samples, and conduct an epidemiologic investigation. The suspect animal will be quarantined until laboratory results determine the vesicular stomatitis status.

Requirements for Importing Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Goats and Swine into California from a Vesicular Stomatitis Affected State:

All horses, cattle, sheep, goats and swine *originating from any state where vesicular stomatitis (VS) has been diagnosed (except cattle and swine transported directly to slaughter) must be accompanied by a health certificate (certificate of veterinary inspection) and signed by an accredited veterinarian that includes the following statement:

"I have examined all the animals identified on this certificate **within 72 hours of shipment date** and found them to be free from signs of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). During the last thirty (30) days, these animals have not been exposed to VS nor located on a VS confirmed or a VS suspected premises."

*For purposes of this requirement, "originating" means horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and swine that initially leave the VS infected state and come to California, or those that leave any state, visit an infected state, and then return to California.

The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) currently has no additional requirements on horses coming from a VS-infected area to enter race tracks and/or CHRB-approved training centers. For more information, contact CHRB at 916-263-6000.

California's Entry Requirements for Livestock

By Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH and Kristen Cox, BS

Many species of livestock, including cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats, require permits, Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs), and official identification to enter California. These requirements apply to all livestock entering the state, regardless of whether the animals originated from other states or they are returning to California after leaving the State for a period of time, such as exhibition animals.

It is important for California veterinarians to be aware that California entry requirements need to be met by clients utilizing their CVIs for a round-trip movement of their animals, out-of-state and back, if the return trip is within 30 days of the date of inspection and the animals are not changing ownership. Entry permits are only valid for 15 days, and the owner or veterinarian must call CDFA to obtain a California entry permit before the animals return to California. To learn more about our entry requirements, please visit our website at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Entry_Requirements.html, visit InterstateLivestock.com, or call our Permit Line at (916) 900-5052 to speak to a Livestock Inspector.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations: April 1- June 30, 2019

Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

A total of two hundred and nineteen (219) Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigations have been conducted by 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 from April 1 to June 30, 2019 (Table 1). The AHB Modesto District office has been experiencing a surge of FAD investigations (91% of all statewide FAD investigations) mostly due to a large number of Seneca Virus-A (SVA) infections among the swine shipped to the slaughterhouses in the district. SVA is an endemic disease and has been identified in U.S. swine population since the 1980s. Even though it is not a FAD, it should be considered as one because the clinical signs are similar to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a highly contagious FAD that could gravely impact the U.S. livestock industry. Any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out.

Table 1. Summary of FAD Investigations during April 1 to June 30, 2019 by Districts

AHB Districts	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Seneca Virus-A (SVA), Swine Vesicular Disease	Porcine	Swab	198	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	Avian Influenza Virus (AIV)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for LPAI
	Bunya Virus	Ovine	Brain & Spleen Tissues	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
Redding	AIV	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	3	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for SVA
	African Swine Fever (ASF), Classical Swine Fever (CSF)	Porcine	Serum, Tonsil & Spleen Tissues	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
Ontario	FMD, Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), Orf	Ovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	Screwworm	Bovine	Maggot	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	9	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	VSV	Equine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	AIV	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for LPAI
	Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative

*NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
CAHFS: California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory
D: Davis

Enhanced African Swine Fever Surveillance Efforts

By Hector Webster, DMV, MS

The increased spread of African swine fever (ASF) in Asia and Europe and Classical swine fever (CSF) in the Caribbean and South America heightens concern for potential introduction into the United States. Detection of these diseases may be complicated because the clinical presentations of both diseases resemble those of many other production diseases. Therefore, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Health Inspection Services Veterinary Services (APHIS VS) in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB) are implementing an integrated surveillance plan for swine hemorrhagic fevers ASF and CSF. The new surveillance plan will target higher-risk populations, sick pigs, and mortality events.

ASF is a highly contagious and deadly disease affecting both domestic and feral (wild) pigs. It does not affect human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. ASF has never been detected in the United States.

To make this program as effective and efficient as possible, USDA will add ASF testing to CDFA's existing state-federal cooperative Classical Swine Fever surveillance. The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) will test samples from the same high-risk animals, using the same overall process, but will test for both diseases. CDFA, AHB and USDA, APHIS VS expect to begin ASF surveillance efforts this month, and will implement the full surveillance plan over the course of the Summer of 2019.

CDFA recommends the practice of standard biosecurity measures, including;

- Cleaning and disinfecting clothing, equipment, and vehicles entering and leaving the farm,
- Never allow human food to enter animal areas,
- International food products pose an increased risk and should not be allowed on the farm,
- Maintain an effective rodent and tick control program, and
- Fence property to prevent wild pigs from encountering domestic pigs.

Biosecurity fact sheets about how to reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried into a farm:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/swine-disease-information/biosecurity/>

<http://www.securepork.org/training-materials/biosecurity/>

To learn about additional prevention efforts, educational materials, infographics, and videos are available from:

www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/swine/asf

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Swine_Health.html

Submit Official ID and Brucellosis Vaccination Tag Numbers to CDFA Electronically

By Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH and Amanda Arens, DVM, MPH, PhD

Each calf vaccinated against brucellosis shall have an official brucellosis tattoo AND MUST BE OFFICIALLY IDENTIFIED WITH:

- An official brucellosis calfhood metal vaccination eartag placed in the right ear by the veterinarian performing the service. The official brucellosis eartag shall be orange in color and bear the legend “CA Vac.” or “CA (in official eartag shield) Vac.” and a nine-character alphanumeric code that conforms to the nine-character alphanumeric National Uniform Eartagging System **OR**
- An Electronic Identification Device eartag placed in the left ear bearing the legend of “CA-OCV” and an animal identification number **OR**
- Individual official identification existing on the calves at the time of vaccination.

If multiple tags are present, veterinarians should record and correlate the official identification numbers of **both** the existing official eartag and the vaccination eartag and report them to CDFA AHB.”

Veterinarians are not required to apply an ear tag at the time of brucellosis vaccination IF an official ear tag (e.g., RFID tag) is already present and it is recorded on the vaccination reporting form (vaccination record). If there is not already a white or yellow RFID tag in place, an orange RFID vaccination tag can be applied to serve as official ID and provide a visual indication that the animal has been brucellosis vaccinated.

The brucellosis vaccination reporting form and official identification numbers must be reported to the CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) within 14 calendar days. Practitioners have **two options** for submitting vaccination reporting forms with RFID tag numbers.

Option 1: Practitioners email an Excel (or CSV) file containing the 840 RFID tag list to CDFA at evet@cdfa.ca.gov. The corresponding vaccination form number should be included in the email's subject line. The pink vaccination report form may be submitted as a scanned pdf attached to the same email, or mailed to the local CDFA district office with an attached paper copy list of the 840 RFID tag numbers.

Option 2: Practitioners using USDA's Mobile Information Management (MIM) software to generate the brucellosis vaccination report must email the “MIM Master XML” file to evet@cdfa.ca.gov and submit the signed paper copy as a scanned pdf or mailed to the local CDFA district office.

More information about the use of RFID tags for official identification for brucellosis vaccination can be found here:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/pdfs/RFID_Brucellosis.pdf

Official Identification in Cattle: Transition from Visual to Electronic

By Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

In April 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published the proposed timeline to phase out metal visual ear tags and transition to electronic ear tags for official identification (ID) of cattle currently covered by ADT regulations, including all dairy cattle and sexually intact beef cattle eighteen (18) months of age and over. The proposed timeline for this transition is:

- **January 1, 2020:** USDA will stop providing free silver brite tags, but the tags will be available for purchase from the manufacturer.
- **January 1, 2021:** USDA will no longer approve production of metal visual ear tags (metal silver brites and brucellosis tags). These metal tags should **no longer be placed** for official ID and electronic ID tags should be used instead.
- **January 1, 2023:** electronic ID tags will be **required** for cattle currently covered by federal ADT regulations.

CDFA is working with USDA and our cattle industry representatives on the details for distributing silver brite and brucellosis vaccination tags after January 1, 2020. Please refer to USDA's "Advancing Animal Disease Traceability: A Plan to Achieve Electronic Identification in Cattle and Bison" fact sheet for more information:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/plan-to-achieve-eid-factsheet.pdf>

Trichomonosis Year Reminder

By Alyssa Louie, DVM, MPVM

The end of the current "trichomonosis year" is approaching. The 2019-20 trich year will begin **September 1, 2019**. The upcoming year's California trich approved tag will be **yellow**.

California trich approved veterinarians testing bulls beginning September 1, 2019 will need to apply a yellow trich approved ear tag. Bulls tested previously and bearing white, orange or blue trich tags should have those tags **removed and replaced** with the appropriate trich year tag at time of testing.

Reminders:

- Trich approved tags are NOT official ID. The individual official ID of each bull tested must be recorded and accompany the sample to the laboratory.
- Keep an eye out for trich approved veterinarian renewals this Fall!

Please plan accordingly for any remaining trich testing in the current year:

****Orders for current year tags (blue) must be placed before August 15, 2019, as stock may be affected by the transition. You will be able to begin ordering tags for the next trich year (yellow) after August 16, 2019.****

California trichomonosis approved veterinarians may order trich approved tags by calling **MWI Veterinary Supply Company** at 1-800-824-3703.



Announcement on Harmful Algal Blooms

By the California Environmental Protection Agency

Blooms of toxic cyanobacteria are responsible for illnesses and deaths of dogs, livestock, and wildlife every year in California. The state is reaching out to veterinarians to:

- Bring attention to the current harmful algal bloom (HAB) season,
- Offer assistance with suspected animal poisonings from HABs, and
- Request that suspected HAB-related illnesses are reported to the [state centralized reporting hub](#).

The occurrence of HABs appears to be increasing, which has led to an increase in the public's concern regarding potential health impacts to humans and animals. Pets and livestock are especially susceptible to poisonings from HABs.

A letter for California veterinarians (https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/resources/docs/interagency_hab_outreach_vets_2019.pdf) provides information on the occurrence of HABs and HAB-related illnesses in California, provides information on reporting such occurrences and includes links to several important resources for responding to suspected cyanotoxin poisoning in animals.

Additional resources are available under [Resources for Veterinarians](#) on the [California HABs Portal](#).

To improve communications on HAB to veterinarians, a short survey is available at:

<https://forms.gle/qYLwXd3aBX5SaNY48>

Completing Live Animal Testing Forms

By Elizabeth Francia

As an accredited veterinarian, you play a vital role in detecting diseases and contributing to the surveillance of livestock population. One important way is through your testing for diseases including Bovine Brucellosis, Bovine Tuberculosis and Swine Brucellosis. Your accurate and complete test charts allow us to capture data required for national monthly, quarterly and annual reports.

Some of the common errors on test charts include:

- Using non-official animal identification.
- Incomplete or illegible vet name or state license number.
- No reason for test selected.
- No breed, age or sex noted.

Just as important as completing forms correctly is submitting them on time. Mail appropriate test records to the Animal Health Branch District Office in your area or email the signed electronic files and data to evet@cdfa.ca.gov.

You can also go to the National Veterinary Accreditation Program, Module 2 for full training on test charts and forms completion.

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/nvap/ct_aast



Staff Biographies



Sonia Reyes was born in Puerto Rico where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting. For seventeen (17) years, she worked in the banking industry in San Juan, PR. Her family moved to California in 2001 where she was involved in volunteer work in school and Scouting programs. Sonia began her career with the State of California in 2016 with the Employment Development Department. In 2017, she started working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture with the Financial Services Branch in the Accounts Payable Unit. She started with the Animal Health Branch in November 2018 and is very happy to be learning about the AHB. She enjoys reading, traveling, music and visiting her family in Puerto Rico.

Victoria Williams joined our team as an Office Technician in February 2019. She brings knowledge of animal health and care from her educational background at the University of Nevada, Reno as well as her previous career as a Veterinary Technician. She discovered her love for large animal agriculture while working on a beef cattle farm while obtaining her B.S. in Veterinary Sciences at Nevada. Victoria grew up in Sacramento, CA with her family which included many litters of feral kittens that she and her younger sister rescued and rehabilitated over the years. She was introduced to veterinary medicine at the age of 13 when (after rescuing her 5th litter of kittens) she decided to become a volunteer at the local animal shelter. Since then, she hasn't turned back. In her free time, Victoria enjoys spending time with her small home zoo (an American Staffordshire terrier named Daisy, and her two cats, Mr. Kitty and Tyson) and training in the gym as a powerlifter.



Victoria is eager to learn as much as she can about the animal agriculture industry in California and to add value to our program with her experience and education in both the veterinary and agricultural fields.

Contact Information



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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

Physical Address:
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

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

Animal Health Branch

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

State Veterinarian and Director, Animal Health and Food Safety Services

Dr. Annette Jones
(916) 900-5000

District Offices Veterinarian In Charge (VIC)

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

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

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

Ontario: Dr. Alisha Olmstead
1910 South Archibald Avenue, Suite Y
Ontario, California 91761
(909) 947-4462

Other AHFSS Branches

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

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

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

United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Gary Brickler
Director, District 6

Dr. Larry Rawson
Assistant District Director, District 6 (CA/HI)

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