



Mission Statement

The Animal Health Branch (AHB) 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Swine Influenza

Dr. Hector Webster

Since March 2009, cases of human infection with a novel H1N1 strain of Influenza Type A Virus are being reported by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This novel strain had not been previously identified in people and has never been reported in swine. Evidence of human-to-human transmission of this novel H1N1 influenza strain is of great concern to public health officials. The resulting extensive international investigation is ongoing. The CDC is working very closely with international, state and local animal and public health officials on this investigation.

Public health, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians are providing surveillance and investigating any possible link to swine, but to date, there are no known swine exposures. Animal health laboratories report that there are no reported cases of this Influenza Type A H1N1 in swine detected anywhere in the United States (US).

Subtypes of Influenza Type A viruses, H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2, are commonly found to cause contagious respiratory disease in swine worldwide and, as a group, are referred to as "Swine Influenza (SIV)". Historically, the H1N1 strain of SIV has been the predominant influenza subtype in domestic swine in the US. In addition to SIV, swine can also be infected by avian and human influenza viruses. When influenza viruses from different species infect swine, the viruses can reassort (i.e. swap genes) and new viruses with a genetic mix of swine, human and/or avian influenza viruses can emerge. Over the past decade, new

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Equine Drug Testing at Horse Shows and Auctions

Dr. Katie Flynn

Since 1971, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has managed the industry legislated and funded Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP). The intent of the California Equine Medication Rule is to ensure the credibility of California public horse shows, competitions, and sales through the control of performance enhancing medications, while limiting permitted therapeutic drugs. Throughout California, EMMP veterinarians and technicians collect blood and urine samples from horses competing at horse events and being sold through public auction or private treaty sales. Program oversight is through the EMMP Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from various equine industry organizations.

In 2008, 1858 equine events were registered and a \$5 assessment fee was collected for 136,435 horses. EMMP testers collected approximately 1600 samples at 389 events. Samples tested at the Maddy Analytical Equine Chemistry lab resulted in 29 detections and 10 violations.

According to the California Food and Agriculture Code (Section 24000),

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Swine Influenza - Continued

reassortment strains of SIV have been diagnosed with increasing frequency. In the late 1990's, a triple reassortment strain H3N2 emerged and became the dominant SIV subtype across the country, clearly illustrating the risks of co-infection and reassortment of influenza viruses in swine. A more recent reassortment between the H1N1 and H3N2 strains has emerged as an H1N2 strain. The SIV currently co-circulating in US Swine populations are H1N1, H3N2, H1N2 strains. CDC and USDA concur that SIV infection does not pose a food safety risk.

The swine industry routinely encounters H1N1 and H3N2 strains of SIV in swine herds. Normally SIV outbreaks among pigs occur in cold weather months (late fall and winter) and sometimes with the introduction of new pigs into susceptible herds. Swine with SIV develop acute respiratory signs, to include a barking cough, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy and sneezing, and animals may go off feed. Occasionally, reproductive problems of abortion and infertility occur. While SIV in swine has a high morbidity, the mortality rate is low. Although current SIV vaccination strategies in swine provide some protection, herds are still susceptible to swine influenza because of the multiple subtypes and variants of the virus. With the inter-species transmission and infectious nature of swine influenza, standard biosecurity measures should be in place to help prevent and control this disease.

Informational fact sheets, news, and updates on the 2009 H1N1 Influenza investigation can be found on the CDPH and CDFA, Animal Health Branch websites. 

The **Cattle Material Prohibited from Animal Feed Rule** became effective 04/27/09. However, FDA enforcement of the rule has been officially delayed until 10/26/09. 

Equine Drug Testing - Continued

equine drugs and medications are classified as prohibited, permitted, or restricted.

Prohibited medications and substances include those that may affect the cardiovascular, respiratory, or central nervous system or have a behavior altering effect. These include any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, anesthetic, local anesthetic, psychotropic substance or anabolic steroid. In addition, soiling agents, such as kerosene and oil of mustard, are prohibited.

Permitted substances include dewormers, antibiotics, antifungals, anti-protozoals, vitamins and electrolytes. Nutritional and herbal substances may contain prohibitive substances and should be used with caution when the ingredients and quantitative analyses are not specifically known.

Restricted medications include specific non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), namely phenylbutazone, flunixin, ketoprofen, meclofenamic acid and naproxen. These drugs are allowed to be present in the horse at the time of competition provided they do not exceed the specifically set levels for each drug.

Guidance for Use of Restricted Medications**Public Horse Sales**

Horses cannot be sold within 72 hours of the last administration of any **prohibitive substance or NSAID**. (Note: The withdrawal period for anabolic steroids is 90 days and the withdrawal period for reserpine and fluphenazine is 45 days.) If a medication is administered within the 48 hours preceding the 72-hour withdrawal period, a medication report (drug declaration) describing the dosing must be filed with sales manager.

Horse Shows and Competitions

Restricted substances are permitted only when administered or prescribed by a licensed veterinarian under the following conditions:

1. The horse is withdrawn from show

or competition for 24 hours following the last administration.

2. A medication report (drug declaration) describing the dosing within the 48 hours preceding the 24-hour withdrawal period is filed with the event manager.

Suggested Maximum NSAID Dose Regimens

1. No more than two approved NSAIDs are permitted in a horse's system at the same time.
2. Phenylbutazone and Flunixin CANNOT be used simultaneously. When either product has been administered within 7 days of competition, the use of the other is prohibited.
3. Phenylbutazone administration should not exceed two grams per day per 1000 pound horse. No part of a dose should be given less than 12 hours prior to competition.
4. Flunixin administration should not exceed one packet of 500mg granules, 500 mg oral paste, or 10cc of injectable (50mg/ml) solution per day per 1000 pound horse. No part of a dose should be given less than 12 hours prior to competition.
5. Ketoprofen administration should not exceed more than one gram per day per 1000 pound horse. This is the equivalent to 10cc of injectable (100mg/ml) solution. No part of the dose should be given less than 4 hours prior to competition.
6. Meclofenamic acid administration should not exceed more than one 500mg packet of granules per 1000 pound horse during any 12 hour period.
7. Naproxen administration should not exceed more than eight 500 mg tablets per day per 1000 pound horse. No part of the dose should be given less than 12 hours prior to competition.

Recommended dosages must be calculated accurately according to the weight of the horse. NSAIDs administration based on these guidelines should ensure that the maximum permitted detectable levels are not exceeded.

A CDFA EMMP staff veterinarian

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Equine Drug Testing - Continued

evaluates each laboratory finding for specific compliance with California rules. Not all positive laboratory findings result in a violation. A positive finding is considered in compliance with the California rules if the conditions for the therapeutic administration of a substance have been met. Penalties for violation of the California equine drug rules can include fines, return of the winnings and suspension from competition for a time specified by CDFA. Fines can range from \$100 to no more than \$10,000.

CDFA currently has openings for technician field testers. Individuals, with horse backgrounds and availability to work on weekends, with interest in becoming a field tester should email their resume to EMMP@cdfa.ca.gov.

For more information contact the Animal Health Branch office in Sacramento or visit http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/EMMP.html. 

Free Testing for Equine West Nile Virus

Equine West Nile Virus (WNV) season is here again. Horse owners are urged to maintain current WNV vaccination for their horses and veterinarians are encouraged to obtain samples from horses displaying clinical signs associated with WNV for diagnostic testing. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will supplement the costs of diagnostic testing for arboviral encephalitis viruses on clinically affected horses.

Samples must be submitted to one of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratories. Accurate completion of the laboratory submission form is important. The submission form includes the following essential information:

- The exact physical location(s) of the horse during the two weeks prior to the onset of clinical disease.
- Detailed clinical signs and signalment.
- The present condition of the horse

(including dead and euthanized).

- An accurate WNV vaccination history.

Receipt of this information expedites surveillance efforts and eliminates the investment of valuable time for follow-up data retrieval from your clinic and the owner. Your role serving and protecting the California equine industry is appreciated.

For more information on WNV, visit the following websites: California WNV website at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>

CDFA Equine WNV website at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/WNV_Info.html 

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Update

Since January 2008, seven cows from three Fresno Co. herds and one cow from a San Bernardino Co. herd were diagnosed with bovine TB. The San Bernardino Co. herd was traced because it received cattle from an affected Fresno Co herd. During TB-testing, one cow was detected with a bovine TB-compatible lesion. The DNA-strain typing of this lesion differed from that of the affected Fresno Co. herd. Strain typing indicates the four positive California herds had three separate sources. Infection in one Fresno Co. herd was the result of the direct movement of an infected cow, but the source of infection for the other three herds is not yet determined. The TB strain types in these four herds are not related to the strains found in California herds in 2002-2003. To date, approximately 395,000 cattle have been TB-tested, two herds depopulated, over 8,000 cattle have been killed, and over \$20 million has been spent in this bovine TB investigation. Two of the four herds are on a test and removal program.

Following the TB detection in the San Bernardino Co. dairy herd, an Incident Command Post (ICP) was established in Ontario, CA. The Fresno ICP closed. The Ontario ICP is coordinating the testing of priority trace-out and trace-in herds in Southern and Central California to investigate the source of in-

fection and any spread from the affected San Bernardino Co. dairy. Test positive cattle are being removed for evaluation at necropsy or slaughter. Other states are being notified of cattle associated with this investigation tracing to or from their state. To date, no additional cattle have been detected with bovine TB.

As of September 18, 2008, California is classified as "Modified Accredited Advanced".

Feeder Cattle TB Test Exemption Permit: The United States Department of Agriculture has waived the TB test requirement for California feeder cattle moving interstate however, some states still require feeder cattle to be tested. Some states exempt cattle moving to "approved slaughter-channel feedlots" from their TB test requirement. A special "TB Test Exemption Permit", developed between California and Colorado, Washington, and Montana, exempts some cattle moving in feeder channels, to include pastures, from the TB test requirement of the destination state. This permit may be requested from either California or the destination state. Permit processing takes several days and must be approved by both states before cattle move.

TB Test Requirement for Dairy Breeding Cattle Entering California Fairs: 2009 California Fairs have adopted the following TB test requirements for dairy breeding cattle over six (6) months of age:

Dairy Breeding Cattle TB Test Requirement for CA Fairs

For Exhibition Only	TB test within six (6) mos of show
For Fair Sale	TB test within sixty (60) days of sale

Verification of a TB test may be from a licensed accredited veterinarian for the animal or for the "herd of origin" whole herd test completed within the prior 12 months or from a CDFA letter verifying completion date of a negative whole herd test within the prior 12 months. 



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Staff Biographies



Livestock Inspector **Kelley Ethier** is a 1986 graduate of the Western Career College Veterinary Technician Program in Sacramento.

After passing the Veterinary Technician State Board examination, she worked for several large and small animal veterinarians, then with several bovine practitioners in Stanislaus County. Kelley continued her formal education graduating from Modesto Junior College with an Associate in Science Degree in Animal Science and also earning a certificate in Bovine Artificial Insemination in 1990.

Kelley began her CDFFA career in 1999 as a seasonal employee with Pest Detection/Emergency Projects (PD/EP) on the Red Imported Fire Ant project in the Central Valley. In four seasons with PD/EP, she worked her way from an Agricultural Aide to an Ag Technician III. After pass-

ing the Livestock Inspector exam, she advanced to a full-time position with the Animal Health Branch, Modesto District.

As a Livestock Inspector, Kelley's regular duties include picking up and entering milk samples in database for all four districts, managing the Modesto District backtag assignments, permits and investigations, and most recently trained for data management for Modesto District TB testing. In addition to regular District duties, she worked on the 2002-2004 TB Task Force, 2002-2003 Exotic Newcastle Disease Task Force, and the 2008 TB Task Force.

Kelley resides in Sonora, California with her husband Jorge, three dogs and a cat. She has two stepsons and a daughter-in-law, and is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild. In her spare time, she likes to work in her garden, quilt, trail ride, camp, fish, and shoot trap with her husband. As a goat lover, she may be found helping friends when it is time to vaccinate, deworm, and castrate goats. Kelley also owns three goats that are currently part of a brush contract in Angels Camp.



Senior Livestock Inspector Specialist **Mike Musick** started his career as a temporary USDA Animal Health Technician in 1977. He was hired to trace cattle during a scabies outbreak in the Central Valley.

In 1978, he took a full-time position as a CDFFA Livestock Inspector in the Fresno District where he was involved in all aspects of AHB programs. Three years and two children later, he accepted a transfer and promotion to the Modesto District, where his third child was born.

Mike and his wife, Kelly, raised their children, Will, Angela, and Jennifer on a ranch in Oakdale. Most of their spare time at home was spent in the roping arena and time away from home at Junior Rodeos, High School, College and amateur rodeos. When the last child left home on their own 3 years ago, Mike and Kelly started building a new home on the ranch. They hope to have it completed in June so they can enjoy it and the arena again with their two grandchildren, Madison Rose and Grant Michael. Happy trails! 🐾