



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture
Animal Health & ID

Animal Health Notes

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Animal Health Notes is a newsletter for licensed, deputy state and accredited veterinarians in Oregon and is produced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Animal Health and Identification Division.

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

State Veterinarian Don Hansen recommends vaccination of horses to protect against West Nile Virus. Even though it is important for horses to be vaccinated before the mosquito season gets into high gear, vaccination now may still provide protection against West Nile Virus. For those horse owners who have already vaccinated their horses, a booster shot will strengthen the protection. The vaccine for horses is available through local veterinarians and many veterinary supply stores.

Oregonians are advised to help protect themselves and their animals against West Nile Virus by taking steps to control mosquitoes this summer by performing the following steps:

- Insect repellents applied to animals according to label directions.
- Screened housing at night.
- Controlling exposure to mosquitoes at dusk and dawn.
- Reduction of mosquito breeding sites.

How is WNV spread? Infected wild birds are the source of West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes bite infected birds and then they transmit the infection to horses and humans and back to birds. The disease does not transmit from horse to horse or human to human. A bite by an infected mosquito is the only known route of transmission. A low percentage of mosquitoes carry the virus and a low percentage of horses bitten by infected mosquitoes become ill.

What symptoms do I tell my clients to look for? Symptoms include stumbling, lack of coordination, weakness in the legs, depression, and muscle twitching. The disease causes inflammation of the brain and about one-third of affected horses die.

Who do I report a confirmed equine WNV case to? Don Hansen, the State Veterinarian of the Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4680.

Additional Information:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/diseases>

Oregon Department of Human Services

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/acd/diseases/wnile/wnile.shtml>

Center for Disease Control (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile>

Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association

<http://www.nwmvca.org/westnile.php>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

West Nile Virus	Pg 1
Equine Herpes Virus-1	Pg 2
Trichomoniasis Program	Pg 3
Animal Health Emergency/Disaster Programs	Pg 4
Avian Influenza	Pg 5
Certificate of Veterinary Inspection	Pg 5
Johne's Program	Pg 6
Bovine Tuberculosis	Pg 6
Idaho - Brucellosis Class Free	Pg 7
Laboratory Services	Pg 7
Supplies	Pg 7

EQUINE HERPES VIRUS - 1

There have been two cases of Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) reported in Oregon since mid-July. During this same time, five horses in Washington also exhibited clinical signs that were consistent with EHV-1. All these horses attended the same weekend show in Oregon in July. **Diagnostic testing indicates that these horses are not infected with the severe neurological strain of EHV-1 that was diagnosed in horses on the east coast and California this past year.**

At this time, the office of the state veterinarian does not have any restrictions on horse movement in Oregon.

Even though EHV-1 is not a regulatory disease, and is not required to be reported, the state veterinarian is asking all veterinarians to call our office with confirmed cases (503-986-4680).

Veterinarians should work closely with their equine clients to develop plans that address the clients' ability to prevent EHV-1 in their horses. If a horse is suspected of having a viral disease, it should be isolated and equipment should not be shared.

We found the information on the web sites listed below to be both accurate and succinct on the topic of EHV-1 infection in horses.

UC Davis Center for Equine Health

<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/topics.htm>

California Department of Food and Agriculture

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/equine_herpes_virus.htm

Some of the points made on these sites are summarized below.

- At this time enforcement of strict biosecurity measures and hygiene practices are likely to be effective reducing the risk of acquiring infection.
- Regarding vaccination, recent research demonstrates that viral shedding is much reduced in horses with high circulating titers of virus-neutralizing (VN) antibody, as well as in horses that have been vaccinated recently with the Rhinomune MLV vaccine.
- Many times when horses are incubating the virus, fever in excess of 102 F may be the only observable sign of infection.
- Rapid separation and isolation of identified suspect cases and biosecurity are key elements for disease control. Horse-to-horse contact, contaminated hands, equipment, tack, feed, and aerosol transmission all play a role in its spread.
- As with all contagious diseases, if horses are commingled with strange horses, an unknown degree of inherent risk exists for exposure to EHV-1. Many factors may enhance or reduce the amount of risk. If the choice is made to commingle with a population that has the potential to harbor EHV-1 infected individuals, there is no foolproof way to completely eliminate the risk of exposure.
- Since EHV-1 is considered to be endemic within the horse population, random testing of normal horses for EHV-1 by PCR diagnostics can and likely will detect horses with nonreplicating (dead) viral DNA; latent, low-level, transient carriage of virus; or viral levels that are not sufficient to pose a significant risk for disease transmission.
- At this time, the significance of a positive PCR in an asymptomatic horse is unknown, regardless of the test being employed or the laboratory performing the test. There is simply not sufficient information yet acquired to justify or recommend control measures or quarantine procedures for horses testing positive for EHV-1 in the absence of clinical signs of disease.
- If horses are exposed to new horses, especially in stressful competitive environments, it is helpful to establish a disease-monitoring plan. Temperature monitoring (2 times per day) is a tool to be used for a differential diagnosis that could include EHV-1.
- The good news is that to date the overwhelming majority of horses recently known to have had exposure to incubating EHV-1 horses have not developed clinical disease.

TRICHOMONIASIS PROGRAM

Trichomoniasis Year 2007 Statistics

- 29 positive herds
- 200 exposed herds (approximately)
- 17 clinics testing positive or exposed herds
- 12,000 trich tags placed in bulls vs. 5000 in trich year '06 (approximately)

Summary for Veterinarians

- Bovine Trichomoniasis is a reportable disease in Oregon. The Positive Case Report Form should be faxed within 5 days of diagnosis to ODA Field Veterinarian, Julie Weikel, at 541-493-2170, or ODA State Veterinarian, Don Hansen, at 503-986-4734.
- Veterinarians working within the Trichomoniasis program need to be “trich certified.” Certification requires training in trichomoniasis sample collection and laboratory procedures. Oregon is currently accepting the status of veterinarians certified in states that have a certification process. Recertification is currently due every 5 years, but it can be more often if new information about trich testing or lab procedures become available.
- Once trichomoniasis is diagnosed in a herd, all further testing within that herd and in the exposed herds must be done by a trich certified veterinarian.
- The Program requires the trich tagging of all bulls tested in a positive or exposed herd, and the reporting of that testing and tagging on an official form. On a practical basis, it is rarely known at the time of testing whether a given herd will be a positive or exposed herd. Therefore, it is EXTREMELY beneficial if all bulls are officially trich tagged when tested. Some uncomfortable situations can arise when veterinarians must go back into a herd to tag bulls that were tested previously (at whose expense, identity of previously tested bulls, etc.).
- It has proven to be very valuable if clinics will fax their test/tag report forms to ODA Field Veterinarian / Program facilitator as soon as the testing is complete. Those reports are filed by clinic and their immediate access greatly facilitates the work up of a positive case. Additionally, such reports often aid in the identification of the owner of strayed bulls or the reassurance to a concerned stock grower that testing has been done.
- The trich program year runs Sept. 1 thru Aug. 31, and a different tag color applies for each trich year. For example, the 2008 trich year will begin Sept. 1, 2007. As of that date, the test tags applied should be YELLOW and the button will be printed 2008. Preprinted tags are available for immediate shipment from MWI. However, veterinarians are free to order their own tags so long as they meet the size, color, and printed information specifications of the program. There might be considerable time lag for such custom tag orders so they should be planned well in advance of need.
- At least one county, Malheur, requires all bulls that will go to public grazing in that county to be tested and tagged with an official Oregon trich tag. Other counties are considering such ordinances. Frequently, the testing veterinarian does not know the grazing destination of the bulls being tested, so tagging all tested bulls can facilitate their management.
- Surrounding states (specifically ID, CA, MT, WY, and NV) have strict regulations in place regarding trichomoniasis. In order to meet CVI, import permit, or pasture-to-pasture permit requirements, some identification system needs to be in place. Oregon’s official trich tag combined with a silver USDA ID tag provides such documentation.
- According to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 603-011, trich positive bulls are under quarantine and require a VS Form 1-27 in order to move off the ranch. An additional form 1-27 might be written at the saleyard.
- For information about the Oregon Trichomoniasis Program, visit our website at http://oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/animal_health/trich_prog.shtml. For trich forms, informational handouts, certification of veterinarians or clinic labs, or with questions regarding the Program, please contact Julie Weikel, DVM, ODA Field Veterinarian at 32994 S Harney Lake Lane, Princeton, OR 97721, 541-493-2121, fax 541-493-2170, jweikel@oda.state.or.us.

ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY / DISASTER PROGRAMS

OVERT Training

In 2006, ODA Animal Health veterinarians participated in training to assist the state to prepare for a highly infectious disease outbreak in domestic animals. Don Hansen and Dan Jemelka attended a USDA Foreign Animal Disease Practitioners (FADP) Course in Ames, IA and Julie Weikel attended the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) Course at Plum Island. In 2007 Bruce Mueller also attended the FADP course.

The FADP course reviewed the major foreign animal diseases and took participants through an exercise response to a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak. Information from the FADP course was used to train OVERT members in the Fall of 2006. The classes included biosecurity training to prevent transmission from farm to farm, sample collection and personal protection training to prevent OVERT members from becoming infected with the HPAI zoonotic agent. OVERT members were trained to establish a “clean-dirty line” and practice donning and doffing protective suits, footwear and headgear. Since HPAI is transmitted through the respiratory tract, respirators are required to be worn. OVERT members were fit-tested with respirators during the training sessions.

ODA Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan

After many months of writing the draft version of the ODA Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan, the product was finalized in 2006 and will be used in surveillance and response to an HPAI outbreak.

Multi-Agency Response to a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Animal Emergency

ODA has been participating with other agencies in developing a Multi-Agency Response to a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Animal Emergency plan. Other agencies involved in

creating the Oregon plan were the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Oregon Department of Human Services, USDA APHIS and US Fish and Wildlife Services. The plan addresses the responsibilities of each organization and how they interact with one another in surveillance sampling and response to a HPAI outbreak.

A tabletop exercise was held to test the interaction of the agencies and public information messages submitted to the media. A few changes were made to the plan and the latest version was submitted on May 21, 2007.

Poultry Carcass Composting and Hauling Trial

ODA performed a composting and hauling trial using spent hens in a layer operation. The purpose of the composting trial was to demonstrate the temperatures attained during composting (using a local poultry producers composting procedures). Spent hens were euthanized and placed in a large outdoor compost pile. Another group was composted in the poultry house. Temperatures in both groups were recorded by ODA Animal Health personnel for 30-days. The compost piles were turned every 7-10 days to maintain the temperatures by recharging the compost process with oxygen. The temperatures in both trials ranged from 110 –150 degrees. Over 110 F was usually recorded after the first day of composting. Review of literature shows that temperatures of 100 degrees and above for seven days is sufficient to kill the HPAI virus.

A hauling trial was performed at another producer’s facility to determine which biosecurity procedure was more efficient for hauling infected poultry carcasses. One trial used large garbage bags to hold the birds for hauling in a 30-yard industrial container. This method provided an excellent method to haul birds. The other hauling method used the same industrial container layered with plastic liner material. The dead birds were not bagged, but were covered with the plastic liner before transporting. The plastic liner in this trial was 3-mil in thickness and tore easily.

(continued from page 4)

We suggest that using a heavier mil liner may be more efficient in preventing material leaks. We did not find a significant difference between the two processes in either time or cost.

Animal Disaster Plan in the making

ODA has been developing a state plan for over a year that addresses the care of animals in natural and manmade disasters. In October 2006, President Bush signed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006. In December 2006, ODA developed a planning committee made up of government and private agencies to assist and guide ODA in developing the state plan. The 2007 Oregon legislative sessions also addressed the need for animal care during disasters and a law was passed giving responsibility to Oregon Emergency Management and ODA to assist local government agencies develop plans to address these issues. ODA plans to have a series of summit meetings to inform all interested parties on responsibilities and procedures they will need to incorporate into their local animal evacuation plans.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Send them to us... As part of the ongoing Avian Influenza Surveillance and Control Program, free poultry gross necropsies and AI testing for appropriate cases are currently being funded at the Oregon State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (OSU-VDL). If you are interested and want to make arrangements for this service, please contact Dr. Bruce Mueller of the Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4680.

Other aspects of the AI control program are as follows:

- Routine active and passive surveillance of all commercial flocks in Oregon. Approximately three million layers and twenty-five million broilers annually.
- Seven thousand non-commercial poultry tested in the past year. This includes birds at

auction, sentinel flocks and upland game bird flocks.

- Speakers and written materials available on biosecurity and AI topics.
- Low path avian influenza surveillance and response plan finalized with poultry industry and approved by USDA and the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).
- Preparedness activities accomplished and ongoing.

CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

A reminder that CVI's are official documents and need to be filled out completely with the following information:

- **Shipper** is the name, and address where the animal is coming from in Oregon.
- **Receiver** is the destination where the animal is going, complete address, city and state. To list the state of destination by Texas only is not an adequate destination. Example: the owner's name showing at Will Rogers Coliseum, Fort Worth, Texas, would satisfy requirements.
- **Animal identification** is the age, sex, breed, test and vaccination information plus dates when required.
- When you are shipping out of state, it is best to call the state of destination for **import requirements**.
- Must be signed by an **accredited veterinarian** (no stamped signatures).
- The **date of inspection** must be on the CVI.
- Remember to send the **white and blue copy** within 15-days from issuance date to the Oregon Department of Agriculture so that a copy can be forwarded to the state of destination prior to expiration of the CVI. CVI's are good for only 30-days and after that they are void by the state of destination.

A complementary checklist is included in this newsletter for you and your staff to use as a guideline.

JOHNE'S PROGRAM

The level of USDA funding has been reduced by over 65%. With this limited funding, ODA will offer the following options to Oregon cattle producers. Participants must have a current Risk Assessment and Management Plan on file.

To obtain an application and / or if you have any questions on the program, please contact Dr. Bruce Mueller at (503) 986-4680.

Free Johne's ELISA Testing

- ODA is offering testing for up to 300 head per producer.
- Funds are available for about 70 producers on a first-come, first served basis.
- All test results are confidential.

Risk Assessments and Management Plans

- Funds are available to assist veterinarians with the cost of preparing risk assessments and management plans.
- There are over 160 Oregon dairy herds and a handful of beef herds enrolled in the Johne's Management Program.

Johne's Status Herds

- There are 19 herds in the Johne's Test Negative Program and more herds applying.
- Five herds in Oregon have achieved the highest level of Johne's status.
- Free qualifying testing is available.

Subsidized Testing

- Current cost for testing beyond the free testing is as follows:
 - Blood ELISA - \$2.70 per test
 - Fecal Culture/Fecal PCR - \$10.00 per test
- New tests
 - Fecal PCR is currently available. Moderate to heavy shedders detected in 5 to 7 days.
 - Milk ELISA trials are ongoing. Research indicates a high correlation with blood ELISA results.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS (TB) CONTROL PROGRAM

Oregon has been Bovine TB Accredited-Free since 1989, however the threat of TB to Oregon's cattle continues today. To maintain the state's TB-Free status, regulatory officials continue slaughter surveillance and live-animal testing programs.

Oregon's private practitioner Deputy State veterinarians play an integral part in the live-animal testing component of the State's TB surveillance program.

WHEN TB TESTING CATTLE:

- Expect a caudal fold response rate of about 1%.
- Report any response at the tuberculin injection site to ODA.

In 2006, Oregon veterinarians performed 13,018 TB caudal fold tests (CFT). All confirmatory tests performed on CFT responders were negative. Accurate reading and reporting of caudal fold responses are essential components of Oregon's live-animal TB surveillance.

An estimated 185,000 adult Oregon cattle were inspected for TB at slaughter in adult-cattle packing plants in 2006 in Oregon and neighboring states. Federal animal health officials ordered laboratory evaluation of suspicious samples and all samples were negative for TB.

Continued vigilance for TB that includes preventing contact between Mexican origin cattle and Oregon's breeding cattle as well as testing high-risk dairy cattle from other states is necessary for maintaining our TB-Free status.

Currently, only Michigan, Minnesota and New Mexico have less than TB-Free status.

For more information go to USDA at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tuberculosis

REPORT EMERGENCY DISEASES

To report a suspected Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) or other animal disease emergencies, please call the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division at **(503) 986-4680**.

Business hours are 8AM to 5PM Monday - Friday. For after hours, holidays and weekends, you will get a recording that directs you to press 2 to get the phone numbers of veterinarians on call. Please note that these after-hour numbers are for emergency reporting only.

IDAHO - BRUCELLOSIS CLASS FREE STATE

Monday July 23, 2007, Idaho's Brucellosis status was officially upgraded by the USDA from Class A to Class Free.

Please verify import / export requirements of cattle prior to shipment to and from Oregon and Idaho by contacting Idaho's permit clerk at (208) 332-8540 and Oregon's permit clerk at (503) 986-4680.

LABORATORY SERVICES

If your veterinary clinic is currently set up with a customer account with the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Laboratory and you or your staff is submitting payment for services, please make sure that the invoice number and the customer account number is indicated on your check.

If your veterinary clinic does not have a customer account, and you plan to submit specimens for testing, please call (503) 986-4680 for a customer account application or directions on cash payments.

SUPPLIES ORDERS

For supplies from the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division, please call (503) 986-4680 Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

Supplies are shipped by the most economical method. If you are in need of immediate supplies and you are willing to pay for express shipping, please call us to make those arrangements.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspections (CVI)

Small Animal	25 per package
Large Animal	25 per package
6-Month Equine	25 per package

Test Charts

Brucellosis	50 per package
Tuberculosis	50 per package
EIA	50 per package

Vaccination Report Forms

Brucellosis	100 per package
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Tattoo V-Shield (official vaccination tattoo)

Laboratory Submission Forms

Trichomoniasis Forms

ODA - ANIMAL HEALTH CONTACTS

(503) 986-4680

State Veterinarian

Don Hansen

Staff and Field Veterinarians

Dan Jemelka

Bruce Mueller

Julie Weikel

Laboratory Manager

Lee Effinger

Permit Clerks

Ginger Lancaster

Becky Rada

Exotic Animal Permit Clerk

Ginger Lancaster

**Please send all correspondence and / or
veterinary clinic address changes to:**

Department of Agriculture
635 Capital Street NE
Salem OR 97301



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