



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture
Animal Health & ID

Animal Health Notes September 2005

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Report Emergency Diseases

To report a suspected Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) or other animal disease emergency, please call:

503 – 986 – 4680

During office hours a person will answer. After 5 pm and on weekends and holidays, you will get a recording that directs you to press 2 to get the phone numbers of veterinarians on call. Please note these after-hours numbers are for emergency reporting only.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Update

The first WNV case of a bird in Oregon was reported in Jackson County in July 2005. The virus has since been diagnosed in 8 horses in the following counties: Baker 1, Harney 4, Malheur 1 and 2 in Jackson. WNV has been detected in 4 people in Oregon. Up to date information can be found on our web site at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/index.shtml>

We anticipate an increased infection rate in the mosquito populations this season and our office is strongly recommending that horses be properly vaccinated

Where to refer clients with dead birds? The health department in each county is the agency testing fresh dead birds.

Where to send samples for testing?

The Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) at the College of Veterinary Medicine is now ready to test horse serum for West Nile Virus.

Can you get reimbursed for test costs? Yes! To get paid for the cost of the lab test(s), complete a copy of an equine submission form and send it along with your serum sample(s) to: Oregon State University, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 134 Magruder Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Department of Human Services Public Health Veterinarian and Epidemiologist, Dr. Emilio DeBess reminds everyone that the offer is being made for testing in equines that are showing some clinical signs compatible with WNV and the lab must have a copy of the information on the form.

You will be billed for test costs by OSU-VDL unless you send in a completed copy of the equine submission form.

New Faces at ODA-Animal Health & Identification (AHID)

We are saying goodbye to Dr. Don Peter who has been working the Eastern Oregon field veterinarian position. Dr. Peter is returning to private practice in Hermiston. We will miss him. His contribution to the Trich program gave us a much needed boost.

We are glad to announce a new member of our team, Dr. Julie Weikel, she will join us September 15, 2005. She will take over Dr. Peter's position in Eastern Oregon. Dr. Weikel brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. We are looking forward to her arrival and ask you all to welcome her to the job.

On another note, Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Katy Coba has named Dr. Don Hansen as Administrator of the Animal Health and Identification Division. The former Administrator, Rodger Huffman, has requested to serve as a field operations manager for Eastern Oregon. Dr. Hansen will continue his role as State Veterinarian and will add the responsibilities of division administrator.

Vesicular Stomatitis Found in 5 States

Vesicular Stomatitis has been diagnosed in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Oregon Department of Agriculture is issuing this reminder about importation requirements for animals coming into Oregon or, animals returning to Oregon from states where vesicular stomatitis has occurred within the past 30 days.

Oregon requires the following: In addition to the requirements of OAR 603-011-0255 and all other import requirements, equidae, cattle, sheep, goats, bison, New World Camelids, swine or privately owned cervidae which are shipped from any state or area with confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis shall not be imported into Oregon unless:

- (a) An Oregon Permit for import is obtained from the Department prior to movement, including animals moving to an approved livestock market in Oregon; and
- (b) The animals showed no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis on the day of shipment; and
- (c) The animals have **not originated from a premises or within 10 miles of a premise under quarantine or under investigation** for vesicular stomatitis; and
- (d) An official certificate of veterinary inspection issued within 24 hours of movement from state with VS must accompany animals; and
- (e) The following statement must be included by the accredited veterinarian on any official certificate of veterinary inspection for importation listed animals into Oregon:

"I have examined the animals represented on this certificate and have found no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis. To the best of my knowledge, these

animals have not been exposed to vesicular stomatitis within the previous 30 days, nor have they been vaccinated with a vesicular stomatitis vaccine.”

Montana Horse Passport Update

While Montana has premises with Vesicular Stomatitis, no Six Month Passport permits will be issued at this time for Oregon horses going to Montana. Horses will have to enter on a 30 day certificate and call for an entry permit.

Ear Tag Requirement for Oregon’s Trich Program

In order to further strengthen our state’s Bovine Trichomoniasis Test-Positive Response Program, we are enhancing the mandatory ear tag requirement by defining the tags that must be applied to all bulls that are tested for bovine trichomoniasis. As you recall, the rule requires that all bulls in the infected and exposed herds be tested and that these bulls tested be permanently identified.

Beginning in September 2005, bulls that are tested in the test- positive program for trichomoniasis will be required to have an official Oregon Trich Ear Tag applied. The tags are available from MWI Veterinary Supply at 800-824-3703 (Allflex tags) or Farnum Companies Inc. at 503-957-6834 (Farnam Tags). The tags will be made available to veterinarians at an anticipated cost of \$1.05 per tag and button combination. You will be responsible for the ordering and purchase of the tags used through your clinic. Companies will require a minimum purchase of 25 tags and buttons per bag. Buttons may be purchased separately if needed.

The official Trich Ear Tag is tamperproof and 3” wide x 4” tall with a self-piercing male button. The female tag will have OR TRICH printed above a sequentially numbered five-digit tag ending with the letter A or F. For example, 1234A for Allflex tags and 1234F for Farnam tags.

The male self-piercing button has the current year printed across the flat surface horizontally. This years buttons will be marked with 2006. The “trich year” runs from Sept 1 - August 31, and represents of the year starting January 1. For example, the program’s first “trich year” would begin on September 1, 2005 and run through August 31, 2006. The tags have 2006 as the “trich year”.

Each year, for 5 consecutive years, the tags will be a different color. After five years the color sequence will be repeated. In order to avoid confusion we have purposely set our color sequence such that it will **not** be the same as Idaho’s.

Having the year printed on the male button rather than the female tag, will allow you to save overstocked tags, and use them in 5 years by just purchasing the new dated male buttons.

In addition to the placement of these colored tags, we are recommending that you record a description of the bull (age, breed, color), the sequential number on the trich

tag, and one other form of permanent identification on each tested/tagged bull, such as a breed registry ear tattoo or a steel alphanumeric clip tag. This would allow the replacement of lost tags through a review of your records.

Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions regarding this new program.

Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT) Update

Additional training sessions were provided to OVERT members in the first six months of 2005. The sessions were held after duty hours so not to interfere with work schedules. In January/February, 64 members attended special sessions on Avian Influenza (AI). Highly pathogenic avian influenza can affect people as well as poultry. Due to the threat of a world pandemic, AI is a big concern for public health agencies as well as state and federal departments of agriculture. The disease continues to spread in Asian countries and poultry operations are being severely affected as flocks are depopulated and human deaths occur.

In June, Incident Command System training was given by utilizing a tabletop exercise to depict the state and OVERT response to a zoonotic disease outbreak (Rift Valley Fever), 37 members attended the training and very positive comments were received.

Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT) Training Sessions Planned In September for Corvallis, Bend, and Baker City

Training sessions are being planned for OVERT members for September 16 in Corvallis and Bend on September 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Various topics are on the agenda such as agro-terrorism agents, what practitioners need to know about emergency management and response to a foreign animal disease (FAD), and wildlife interaction with FAD. Attending one of those sessions will allow OVERT members to receive training certification being required by Homeland Security.

On Sunday, September 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., a special introductory training session is being planned for Baker City so that veterinarians and animal health technicians have an opportunity to join OVERT and attend initial training. The session is being held at the Sunridge Inn.

If any veterinarian or animal health technician wishes to attend the initial training in Baker City, please call Dr. Jemelka at 503-986-4682 or email him at ejemelka@oda.state.or.us.

Update on Johne's Disease Program

Johne's Status Herds

There are currently five dairy herds in the state that have achieved level two status or higher in the Johne's herd status program. *Four more dairies* have just applied for level one or two status.

Annual Renewal of Risk Assessments/Management Plans

Two hundred eighty of the state's 350 dairies have a completed Risk Assessment/Management Plan (RA/MP), *but many of these are in need of renewal*. Current RA/MPs are prerequisite to receiving free Johne's testing and an important component of a Johne's prevention program. Participating veterinarians are paid \$250 for renewal of RA/MPs and \$350 for new RA/MPs.

Sampling and Testing Animals

Producers can still have all mature cattle in their herd tested at no charge to them. Practitioners are not required to collect these samples. Producers (or their veterinarians) need only to contact Bruce Mueller at ODA-AHID and request herd testing. He will make necessary arrangements to sample the herd. *Coded test results will be sent to the producer's veterinarian* and the practitioner is expected to share the results with their client.

On-Line Johne's Course

Certification to do Risk Assessments and Management Plans for Johne's and other fecal borne diseases is available through a *six credit* on-line course for veterinarians. Contact Don Hansen or Bruce Mueller at 503-986-4680 if you would like to sign up.

Beef Cattle and Johne's

Participation by the dairy industry in the Johne's program has been very strong, but only a handful of beef herds are involved. The program is open to both beef and dairy producers. The following is an article that is to appear in the next Oregon Beef Producer's publication:

Johne's Test Negative Breeding Bulls

The Oregon State Veterinarian's office has recently been contacted with questions concerning the value of pre-sale Johne's testing of young bulls. Producers wanted to know how much stock to put in testing of young bulls and whether it is worth paying a bit more for a tested bull.

Certainly no producer wants to get Johne's into their herd as it can cause serious economic losses and is difficult to eradicate once established in a herd. Johne's is a chronic wasting disease of cattle and other ruminants. It causes diarrhea and progressive weight loss in spite of the animal being alert and eating well. It is transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route, but may be transmitted in milk or in the womb. It usually becomes evident when the animal is four to six years of age, in spite of most infections occurring during calfhood.

Testing of young bulls, however, means very little because the animal could very well be carrying the organism without shedding it in the manure or showing antibodies that could be detected by testing. An infected animal of three or four years of age is much more likely to test positive than an infected younger animal.

In order to give oneself the best odds of buying a Johnes' free bull, it needs to come from a herd that has been tested and found negative for a number of years. Over 250 of the state's 350 dairies are currently on a Johnes' management plan and testing for Johnes' in their herd on a regular basis. In contrast, only a handful of beef herds are enrolled in the program at this time.

This may, however, be changing. Dave Waters, food animal veterinarian in the Willamette Valley, is recommending to his purebred beef clients that they participate in Johnes' prevention and management. He states that, "It is very important that seed stock producers provide their customers with disease free animals. Because the nature of the Johnes' organism limits the value of testing young animals, knowing the status of the herd of origin is much more reliable. I am encouraging my clients to determine the Johnes' status of their herd, take steps to rid the herd of Johnes' carriers, and advertise those facts to the cattle industry." Dr. Waters has four purebred beef herd owners that have committed to completing a Johnes' Risk Assessment and Management Plan and then testing their herds when they are worked in the fall.

Funding is currently available through the Oregon Department of Agriculture to help cattle owners in establishing their herds as Johnes' status herds. The funding will pay for the completion of a Johnes' Risk Assessment and Management Plan and an appropriate testing program.

If you have questions regarding Johnes', Johnes' testing and/or Johnes' program, please contact Don Hansen, State Veterinarian or Bruce Mueller, State Field Veterinarian at 503-986-4680.

National Animal and Premises ID System Update

Premises registration began on February 16th, when the Oregon website went online. We spent quite a bit of time getting to know the ins and outs of the system. The website works well, but there remain aspects that we would like to see enhanced. The number of registrations trickled in with some increases after presentations, but we saw a very large increase in numbers after we mailed registration invitation letters to over 9000 Oregon livestock owners that have between 5 and 50 head. So far we have received over 1000 registrations.

We started collecting movement data on market cows and calves in May. We have five dairies currently participating and one calf buyer. We have distributed over 9000 RFID ear tags to the participating dairy farmers and calf buyer. Market cows and bull calves are being tagged before they leave the premises and the events of tag applied and animal leaving the premises are being recorded into the project database. The calf buyer is picking up calves from the dairies throughout the week and shipping them to California. He records the events of the pick up and the shipment to California. At auction markets, cows are recorded as moving onto the premises. After they are sold, the brand inspectors notify Tracy of the cows' destination. For cattle going to slaughter,

Tracy notifies the plant and they remove the ear tags and send them back to us for recording the cow's death. So far we have recorded movements for about 440 cows and close to 1400 calves.

We had planned on using stationary readers for auction market recordings but our first choice of equipment did not work under field conditions of the auction markets. The ear tags have been well received for ease of application and retention, but are difficult to read visually. The portable ear tag readers are also working fine, but have been cumbersome for dairy farmers to use because it is difficult to hear the recording beep and see the small light flash. We are exploring other designs.

We have done over 14 presentations to different groups all over the state. The number of attendees has ranged between 15 and 150. During the summer we focused our presentations on 4H and FFA families. During the next several months, we plan on continuing to present education meetings to livestock producers groups throughout the state. Look for a meeting or two in your area.

Scrapie Genotype Testing Program for Rams

The Scrapie genotype testing cooperative agreement for 2004-2005 will end in September. An unexpected surge in testing occurred in the last months of the agreement and we are pleased to say all of the allotted funds will be spent. There have been approximately 40 participants, testing approximately 724 rams. However due to increased USDA requirements in next year's cooperative agreement program, ODA chose not to participate.

Sources for more information can be found at the ODA Animal Health & Identification Division web site at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/index.shtml>.

US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Institutes Database

APHIS is instituting a new database that will allow them to communicate better with accredited veterinarians. It will allow them to distribute important animal health updates and information concerning animal health certificates or notify you of an emergency situation. The new database will make it easier to communicate about regular program activities as well.

APHIS is asking accredited veterinarians to update their information to make the database as accurate as possible. For your convenience, you may update your information at: www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nvap and click on Update Your Information. If you do not have Internet access, call 503-399-5871.

Do your clients know these new rules for dairy?

Oregon now requires the following for dairy imported into Oregon:

- All dairy imported over 6 months old must be TB tested within 60 days of entry. Less than 6 months must be identified and restricted to the destination until tested at 6 months old. The Department will accept TB test results from animals as young as 60 days of age and would prefer that animals are tested before arriving in Oregon.
- Slaughter only steers, cows, heifers over 6 months may enter to go directly to slaughter and not be TB tested. Permit and CVI with individual identification is required and must have the words “animal(s) designated on this form are consigned to slaughter only”

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The information is provided to help you serve your clients better and to protect the health of Oregon's animals. **In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this publication will be made available in alternate formats upon request.** Tristen Berg, Editor, phone 503-986-4690, e-mail tberg@oda.state.or.us or FAX 503-986-4734. **TTY 503-986-4762.**



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