



Animal Industry Division e-Update

February 2010

The issues involving livestock disease and animal health are ever changing and it is very important that we provide current information to veterinarians and livestock producers.

In this update we have reports on changing policies, program diseases, changing livestock traceability systems, and changing ways to respond to livestock emergencies. But what does not change is the need for veterinarians to promote the health and well being of animals in the state of Colorado.

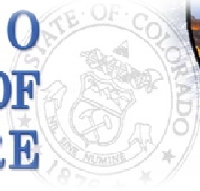
Thank you for your work in the field of preventive veterinary medicine, disease control, and protecting livestock and public health.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us.

Keith A. Roehr DVM
Colorado State Veterinarian

Summary of Items in this e-Update:

- ❑ **Veterinary Accreditation Changes:** New regulations have been set in place at USDA, APHIS that will affect all licensed veterinarians who are performing accredited veterinary medical duties. All accredited veterinarians must elect to participate and select an accreditation category or his/her accreditation will expire. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Piroplasmosis Update:** As of the end of January 2010, all but five of the horses sold or transferred from the index ranch in Texas have been located and tested, or have been verified as deceased. A total of 355 horses have been determined to be *Theileria equi* positive out of 1,357 horses tested to date. New Mexico implemented a policy that all horses going to their race tracts need to have a negative Piroplasmosis test before entering the tract. This practice identified 15 positive horses in 3000 tests. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Surveillance Program:** USDA, APHIS-VS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health performed an assessment in June, 2009 for dealing with the current CEM situation in the United States. The assessment indicated that there would be value in performing testing of additional breeding horses for the detection of *Taylorella equigenitalis* to demonstrate that the overall prevalence in the United States is very low (1 per 1,000 or less), if it exists at all. Results of the testing could be used to increase national and international confidence in the conclusion of the current outbreak response, and to potentially mitigate interstate and international reactions related to equine commerce should there be any future detection of *T. equigenitalis* in the United States. ([Read more below...](#))



- ❑ **The Colorado Rapid Response for Agriculture and Livestock (CORRAL) System** is being built by the State Veterinarian's Office with a purpose to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency livestock incidents and disease outbreaks. If you have any interest in being part of the CORRAL System, contact our office at 303-239-4162. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Animal Disease Traceability:** Recently, USDA announced that they are discontinuing the National Animal Identification System in favor of a animal disease traceability framework that would be more flexible and lets the States, Tribal Nations, and producers use their expertise to find and use the animal disease traceability approaches that work best for them. Yet USDA still affirms the importance of animal disease traceability which involves knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when they have been in a certain location. Efficient traceability plays a role in assuring that there can be a rapid response when animal disease events take place. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Trichomoniasis Rule Changes in Colorado:** There will be a public rulemaking hearing on the proposed trichomoniasis rule on March 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the Colorado Department of Agriculture's offices in Lakewood, CO. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)** will help qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage areas. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Veterinary Practice Act:** In 2011, there will be a sunset review of the Colorado Veterinary Practice Act. The State Veterinarian's Office in the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) would like to go on record against any change to the Colorado Veterinary Practice Act that would allow paraprofessionals to perform procedures and practices that are now restricted to licensed veterinarians – especially those veterinary procedures and practices performed routinely in rural or livestock practice ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Equine Meat Export Issue - Canadian Equine Meat Products Import Requirements:** Effective July 31, 2010, it will be mandatory for all Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspected facilities in Canada engaged in the slaughter of equines for edible purposes to have complete records for all animals (domestic and imported) presented for slaughter. These records will include unique identification for each animal, as well as ***a record of medical treatments administered to the animal for the six-month period preceding slaughter.*** This will mean that starting January 31, 2010 animal owners will need to begin tracking medical conditions and treatment history for their horses if the horse may be presented for slaughter after July 31, 2010. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) for Companion Animals:** The Colorado State Veterinarian's Office would like to inform practitioners that the templates for small animal health certificates found on the AVMA website or in small animal health records software are not valid for use in Colorado because the CVI must be a form approved by the state veterinarian. To move animals across state lines, an official state approved certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), or "health certificate", is required. ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **Strengthening Community Agro-security Planning (S-CAP) Workshop:** On April 14th & 15th in Lamar, CO, CSU Extension and the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) will be holding a two-day workshop entitled, **Strengthening Community Agro-security Planning (S-CAP)**. It is designed to enable community partners to build capacity to handle agricultural issues during an emergency or disaster, improve networking



among stakeholders who can plan for and respond to emergencies, and establish or enhance agro-security components within existing local emergency operations plans. ([Read more below...](#))

- ❑ **Canine Brucellosis Review:** In this article we try to answer the questions about our state regulations on canine brucellosis ([Read more below...](#))
- ❑ **BAP / PACFA Update & Legislative Issues:** PACFA hosted another task force meeting to review proposed changes to the Dog Breeder category regulations. HB 1214 passed through with House Agriculture Committee with a unanimous vote. BAP and the State Veterinarian's office have been meeting with legislators and stakeholders to modify HB1124 which will affect the animal protection laws in Colorado. ([Read more below...](#))

Veterinary Accreditation Changes

New regulations have been set in place at USDA Veterinary Services that will affect all licensed veterinarians who are performing accredited veterinary medical duties.

- As global markets expand and the expectations of our international trading partners increase, the role of the accredited veterinarian is more important than ever.
- The critical role that accredited veterinarians perform is emphasized by the incidence of new and re-emerging disease, foreign animal diseases, and zoonotic diseases.
- The accredited veterinary practitioner is often the first line of defense against catastrophic disease events.
- Recognizing the important role of the accredited veterinarian, the USDA is implementing continuing education and renewal requirements for all accredited veterinarians. This will amount to taking some online or other courses every three years (these courses are still being developed).

ALL ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS MUST ELECT TO PARTICIPATE AND SELECT AN ACCREDITATION CATEGORY OR HIS/HER ACCREDITATION WILL EXPIRE.

"How to" tips:

- Complete the [1-36A form](#) (click on this link to access the form). You must do this by August 2, 2010. This is a generic Application Form in PDF format. You can complete the form on your computer, then print off the completed form. You cannot save this document, so please print off a second copy for your records.
- You do not need to have signatures on lines 47 or 48 if you are currently accredited in Colorado.
- You need to check box #3 (choose Accreditation Category then choose Block 15 SA or 16 Lg mixed).
- You do not have a 6-digit Accreditation number. Checking box #3 will get you one.
- Block 15. Category I: Check this Block if performing accreditation duties on any or all animals except: food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm-raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock.
- Block 16. Category II: Check this Block if performing accreditation duties on any or all animals including: food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm-raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal disease to livestock.
- Fill in all the rest of the information that applies to you and as instructed on page 2 and page 4.
- Mail this application to: USDA/APHIS/VS, National Veterinary Accreditation Program 4700 River Road, Unit 64 Riverdale, MD 20737



- Another option instead of mailing would be to email the VS Form 1-36A to nvap@aphis.usda.gov or the form can be faxed to the NVAP Program office at 301-734-3641
- The USDA office in the DC area will mail you an “Elect to Participate Letter” that will also contain your 6-digit “National Accreditation Number.” You will then be scheduled for 2013, 2014, or 2015 to complete your continuing education and renew your accreditation.

Go to APHIS’ website for the most up-to-date information on the accreditation program:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/>.

Questions can be directed to nvap@aphis.usda.gov or you can contact your local Veterinary Medical Officer, the USDA Area Office at 303-231-5385, or Dr. Richanne Lomkin, CO Accreditation Coordinator at 303-888-9264.

Equine Piroplasmosis Update

On October 9, 2009 a seven year old quarter horse with clinical signs of a hemolytic condition was examined at a veterinary clinic in Southeast Texas. Subsequent testing confirmed the diagnosis of equine piroplasmosis. This is a foreign animal disease (not previously present in the USA) caused by the blood parasites *Babesia caballi* or *Theileria equi*. Ticks are the most common method of transmission, however, iatrogenic transmission with contaminated needles and surgical equipment can also transmit the infection.

On November 30th the USDA decided to trace the horses exported from the index ranch from 2004-2006. This decision was based on the fact that many of the horses in the initial trace from 2007-2009 were determined to be test positive.

As of the end of January 2010, all but 5 of the horses sold or transferred from the index ranch have been located and tested, or have been verified as deceased. A total of 355 horses have been determined to be *Theileria equi* positive out of 1,357 horses tested to date. There are 289 positive horses under quarantine on the index ranch in Texas. The remaining positive horses are located on other premises in the following states: Alabama 2, California 2, Florida 5, Georgia 1, Louisiana 5, Minnesota 1, North Carolina 2, New Jersey 4, Tennessee 1, Texas 41, Utah 1, Wisconsin 1. Identification and testing of cohorts is ongoing. Cohorts are defined as horses that have recently had direct contact with positive trace outs (i.e. herd mates/pen mates). To date, 503 cohorts have been tested in 15 states. All cohorts have tested negative.

As the tracing and testing of horses from the index ranch is very near completion, discussion is ongoing as to how the infected horses in Texas and other states will be managed. Management of infected horses and their appropriate isolation, tick vector control, movement approval processes and other general biosecurity requirements are being developed with the intent of creating guidelines of disease control for equine Piroplasmosis.

New Mexico implemented a policy that all horses going to their race tracts need to have a negative Piroplasmosis test before entering the tract. This practice identified 15 positive horses in 3000 tests. The interesting point of these results is that these horses were most likely infected by the iatrogenic method of transmission as opposed to the tick transmission suspected in the Texas-positive horses.



Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Surveillance Program

USDA, APHIS-VS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health performed an assessment in June, 2009 for dealing with the current CEM situation in the United States. The assessment indicated that there would be value in performing testing of additional breeding horses for the detection of *Taylorella equigenitalis* to demonstrate that the overall prevalence in the United States is very low (1 per 1,000 or less), if it exists at all. To do that, it will require the testing of samples collected from approximately 4,000 stallions that were not tested as part of the current CEM outbreak investigation. Results of the testing could be used to increase national and international confidence in the conclusion of the current outbreak response, and to potentially mitigate interstate and international reactions related to equine commerce should there be any future detection of *T. equigenitalis* in the United States.

Of the 4,000 test results needed, about 1,000 will be obtained from the results of breeding stallion testing routinely performed for semen and live animal export certification or for other purposes (e.g., owner request). To obtain the remainder of the results needed, stallions in two categories of interest will be targeted based on a sampling plan. Samples will be sought from approximately 3,000 active breeding stallions from around the United States and from about 100 imported stallions known to have originated from a CEM-affected country during the past decade. The imported stallions will be selected from among those that were quarantined and tested for *T. equigenitalis* at a U.S. CEM import quarantine facility when they entered the United States.

Enrollment of stallions will be voluntary in all cases, with all samples being collected by accredited equine practitioners. The sampling and testing project will begin on or about February 1, 2010, to coincide with the beginning of the 2010 equine breeding season.

For all stallions to be sampled in either category of interest):

- Participation will be voluntary.
- No quarantine restrictions will need to be imposed while test results are pending.
- Samples will be collected by accredited equine practitioners.
- No Federal or State regulatory oversight of sample collection is required.
- No post-sampling treatment is required (unless the stallion is found positive).
- APHIS will pay for all diagnostic testing costs, including shipment of samples to a CEM laboratory.
- Any stallion found positive for *T. equigenitalis* will be quarantined, then treated and re-tested (with test breeding required) at APHIS expense, until determined to be negative; stored semen from a positive stallion would also be quarantined until it can be determined if it is safe to use.
- Costs and procedures for associated tracing and testing/treatment for mares and stallions exposed to a stallion found to be positive (with the current outbreak strain or any other strain of *T. equigenitalis*) will be the same as in the current outbreak response. Per the current outbreak protocol, APHIS pays for diagnostics but not for sample collection, test mares, or treatment.
- Stallions will not be eligible for sampling if they have received any systemic antibiotic treatment in the previous 7 days or any topical antibiotic treatment of the penis or prepuce in the previous 21 days.
- Stallions known to have been exposed in the current CEM outbreak will not be eligible for sampling.

For further details on the plan call Dr. Carl Heckendorf at 303-239-4109. Colorado is being asked to test 72 stallions within our borders. We will be hard pressed to identify 72 breeding stallions in Colorado, so if your clients have breeding stallions please let Carl know so that we can try to enroll them in the surveillance program. Stallion surveillance within our state is needed for a complete assessment of U.S. horses and to make the study statistically significant.



Colorado Rapid Response to Agriculture and Livestock (CORRAL) System

Animal agriculture is an enormous industry in the U.S. An all-hazard event or disease outbreak that affects animal agriculture could have major economic effects on the U.S. economy, negatively impact animal health, and cause adverse public health consequences. Such an event may be caused by a major natural disaster such as flood, wildfire, tornado, earthquake, or blizzard. It could also be biological, chemical, radiological, or explosive in origin.

There are certain factors that increase the vulnerability for adverse effects on animal and public health. One factor is the intensive livestock production units that contain dense populations of animals in a small area, which increases the risk for catastrophic loss due to an all-hazards event. Another factor that increases the vulnerability for disease transmission is the frequent movement of livestock for marketing, feeding, exhibiting, and processing. In addition, people who travel globally have the potential to carry foreign animal disease agents from other countries to our naïve domestic populations of animals, which increases the risk of a catastrophic disease outbreak. Also, agro-terrorism is an ever present concern for U.S. livestock and the health and well-being of humans. All of these factors point to the importance of being prepared to respond to an all-hazard event involving livestock. A rapid, effective livestock emergency response is vital to minimize the animal and public health implications caused by an all-hazards event.

In light of these factors, the Animal Industry Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has developed the Colorado Rapid Response for Agriculture and Livestock (CORRAL) System which has as its mission to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency livestock incidents and disease outbreaks.

The CORRAL System has the following objectives:

- Enhance our emergency response communication capabilities
- Strengthen the Animal Industry Division Operations Center (DOC)
- Build resources for an effective emergency response
- Increase our connection and relationships with other agencies and emergency management personnel/organizations
- Continue to update, develop, and solidify our emergency livestock disease plans

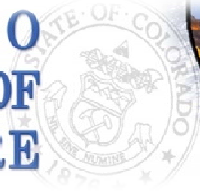
Communication to those involved in the CORRAL system will be through a web-based dispatch system. We will use this dispatch system to send email, voicemail, and text messages for quick “call-outs” and alerts. This dispatch service will deliver:

- Alerts – a high level “alarm” and possible call to action
- Warnings – a moderate level “alarm”
- Notifications – information dispersed, a low level “alarm”

Credentialing will consist of four different categories:

- Veterinarians
- Animal Health Technicians
- Livestock Specialists
- Veterinary Support Staff

Credentialing will be based on education, work experience, veterinary-affiliated work, farm/ranch livestock husbandry background, previous livestock practice experience, Foreign Animal Disease training, and other emergency management training. CORRAL members will be issued a CORRAL identification card which will display a name, CORRAL number (which may be used as an identifier if issued a radio at time of emergency response), category of credentialing, picture, physical address, cell phone number, and email address.



Training will incorporate a number of methods and content, but will include some of the following:

- In the case of a livestock emergency incident, we will be using some degree of “Just in Time” (JIT) training
- Online or “in-person” training courses through FEMA (ICS –100 & ICS-700)
- Training through the USDA/APHIS program of the National Animal Health Emergency Reserve Corps (NAHERC) – they have online training available (If you are a veterinarian and were deployed through NAHERC, you would be paid as a temporary federal veterinary medical officer)
- Foreign Animal Disease/Livestock-related training opportunities

There are future training exercises planned to test and evaluate our livestock emergency preparedness plans. Discussion-based workshops and table-top exercises are planned for later this year and a possible multi-state functional exercise is being proposed for 2011.

If you are a part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture - Animal Industry Division CORRAL System, then your involvement in exercises and emergency responses will fall under liability protection legislation enacted by the Colorado legislature.

If you have any interest in being part of the CORRAL System, contact Nick Striegel at the State Veterinarian’s Office at 303-239-4162 or nick.striegel@ag.state.co.us.

Animal Disease Traceability

(Excerpts from APHIS-Veterinary Services February 2010 Fact Sheet)

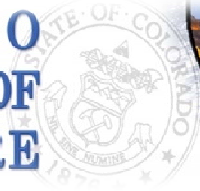
Recently, USDA announced that they are discontinuing the National Animal Identification System in favor of an animal disease traceability framework that would be more flexible and lets the States, Tribal Nations, and producers use their expertise to find and use the animal disease traceability approaches that work best for them. Yet USDA still affirms the importance of animal disease traceability, or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they’ve been, and when, is very important to make sure that there can be a rapid response when animal disease events take place.

The new animal disease traceability framework will:

- ONLY apply to animals moving in interstate commerce
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology
- Ensure that animal disease traceability data is owned and maintained at the discretion of the States and Tribal Nations

Small producers who raise animals and move them within a State, Tribal Nation or to local markets, as well as to feed themselves, their families and their neighbors are not a part of the framework’s scope and focus. What is certain is that animal disease traceability will be required for animals moving in interstate commerce. However, each State and Tribal Nation will be able to determine the specific approaches and solutions it wants to use to achieve the minimum animal disease traceability performance measures.

Under the new framework, it will be important for animals moving in interstate commerce to be part of the traceability system. The details of the new system will be developed in a transparent and collaborative process. USDA will maintain a list of official identification devices, which can be updated or expanded based on the needs of the States and Tribal Nations. There are many official identification options available, such as branding, metal tags, RFID, just to name a few.



USDA will work with State and Tribal Nations to establish minimum standards for animal disease traceability, as well as when these officials work together to develop individual animal identification requirements. Our goal is to ensure that animals continue to move efficiently in interstate commerce. Rulemaking can be a complicated process, so it is difficult to predict when a final rule may be issued but USDA is committed to making it an open and transparent process.

What does the announcement of the new animal disease traceability framework mean for veterinarians and their livestock clients? It is simply too early to tell what changes there will be as it relates to interstate movement of livestock, the official identification that will be required, and what will be needed to be recorded on the CVI. There will certainly be more to come!

Trichomoniasis Rule Changes in Colorado

There will be a public rulemaking hearing which will fulfill the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act concerning changes to the existing trichomoniasis rule. The Hearing for the trichomoniasis rule changes will be held on March 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the Colorado Department of Agriculture's offices at 700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO 80215. If you have any questions as to the proposed changes or the rulemaking hearing, please call our office at 303-239-4161.

Here is a summary of the major changes to the trichomoniasis rule that were developed with various stakeholders input:

1. Testing requirements for bulls from a quarantined herd: It was recommended that if producers are using the PCR test, only two negative tests would be needed to remove the quarantine. If the trich culture test is used, then the requirement would still be three negative tests. The interval between tests would remain the same.
2. Based on the comments received from cattlemen and the cattle industry, changes were made to the testing age and the use of virgin bull affidavits. The language in the new proposed rule will require the following for "in-state" bulls undergoing change of ownership or change of possession under lease:
 - A negative *T. fetus* test will be required for all intrastate bulls 18 months of age or older.
 - All virgin intrastate bulls between the ages of 12 and 18 months of age must be accompanied by a virgin bull affidavit or a negative *T. fetus* test
 - Import of bulls into Colorado who are over 12 months of age will require a negative *T. fetus* test (no virgin bull affidavit exemption)
3. It was agreed that the length of sexual rest a bull should have before a trich test is performed should be lengthened. The consensus was to change the requirement to 30 days from the present rule of 7 days.
4. Bull management regulations were considered to be a high priority. Rules concerning untested bulls at auction markets were changed slightly to require that non-virgin bulls who have not been trich tested are identified at the livestock markets with a trich back-tag or another reasonable method to identify them as non-trich tested, "slaughter only" bulls.

A draft of the new proposed trichomoniasis rule can be accessed and read at the following web address:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1176241340594>



USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

For a number of years many veterinarians and livestock producers have acknowledged there are fewer livestock veterinarians offering services in certain areas of Colorado. One important cause for the lack of veterinarians in these shortage areas is the heavy educational debt load incurred by veterinarians in the course of the four years of their professional training. A new program initiated by USDA called the USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) will help qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage areas (up to \$25,000 per year for 3 or 4 years of service in the VMLRP). The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), through the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA) is preparing for the submission of "veterinary shortage area nominations". The veterinary shortage areas will be nominated by state animal health officials, evaluated by a peer panel of experts in animal health, and designated as such by NIFA. Because funding is limited, not all veterinarians applying to the VMLRP are expected to receive loan repayment awards. Once shortage areas have been determined, individual veterinarians would go through an application process through USDA for qualification and acceptance into the program.

The State Animal Health Official (SAHO) is the individual responsible for preparing and submitting shortage area nominations for each state. There is VMLRP Steering Committee established in Colorado that provides advisement to the Colorado State Veterinarian concerning areas of Colorado to be nominated. The Steering Committee membership represents the Colorado livestock industry, the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, Colorado State University Animal Science Department, and the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Colorado has been allowed eight sites to be nominated for consideration as a shortage area. At this time, the nominations are in the process of being prepared and are due during the 1st week of March.

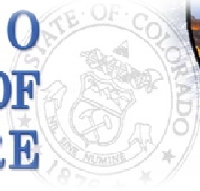
We feel that this is a unique opportunity for Colorado communities, livestock producers, and veterinarians; it is important that we compete well in the VMLRP. We welcome your input concerning veterinary shortage area nominations, please feel free to call the State Veterinarian's Office with your comments. Later in this process, the veterinary shortage areas from each state will be posted on a VMLRP website. This will enable all veterinarians that have debt from student loans to learn where these shortage areas exist to consider for decisions involving future employment and potential VMLRP application options.

Veterinary Practice Act

In 2011, there will be a sunset review of the Colorado Veterinary Practice Act. The following comments relate to changes that may be proposed to the current practice act.

The State Veterinarian's Office in the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) would like to go on record against any change to the Colorado Veterinary Practice Act that would allow paraprofessionals to perform procedures and practices that are now restricted to licensed veterinarians – especially those veterinary procedures and practices performed routinely in rural or livestock practice.

As veterinarians employed by CDA, we practice public veterinary medicine in a regulatory position and are charged with promoting animal health, managing disease control programs, and protecting public health. Our work is integrated with the work of practicing veterinarians, academia, Extension agents, livestock producers, the livestock industry, state agency officials, legislators, and the public. Therefore we are given the opportunity to have many formal and informal conversations with people of many different perspectives. After much discussion and interaction on the issue of



licensing paraprofessionals to do veterinary medical procedures, we are opposed to a change in the Veterinary Practice Act in Colorado because it will have detrimental effects on the following areas:

1. Livestock health, disease prevention and control

- It will increase the current shortage of livestock veterinarians in rural and underserved areas. By allowing paraprofessionals to perform veterinary procedures and practices will cause further shortages as it will be less attractive for veterinarians to stay in that area or for new veterinarians to come to that area to practice.
- Individual animal health and a herd's health may be adversely affected by allowing paraprofessionals to perform veterinary procedures. Paraprofessionals will not be as well trained as veterinarians and certain concurrent diseases or conditions may go unnoticed by a paraprofessional until clinical signs are more obvious to the producer or until a veterinarian is involved.
- It will reduce the number of visits to livestock operations by veterinarians. Allowing paraprofessionals to do veterinary work will reduce the amount of time a veterinarian spends on a livestock operation. This is an important time in which a veterinarian addresses bio-security issues, disease prevention, and herd health promotion.
- It will decrease disease surveillance of livestock diseases. Veterinarians are the eyes and ears of the State Veterinarian's Office – we depend on them to report unusual livestock problems and to be the first line of defense against the introduction of foreign animal diseases or exotic emerging diseases. If paraprofessionals are allowed to take away some of the veterinary work, the veterinarian's role in providing that first line of defense to protect the food supply will be diminished.

2. Livestock producers

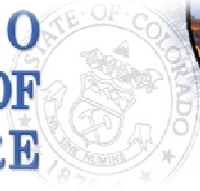
- Producers will not get the advantage of the veterinarian's education and expertise when veterinary procedures are performed.
- Producers may find it harder to find a veterinarian when they need one.
- Producers may experience an increase in total veterinary costs for their operation as other veterinary medical service fees may have to be increased by the local veterinarian.

3. Veterinarians in livestock practice and underserved areas

- Allowing paraprofessionals to perform veterinary procedures and practices will reduce livestock veterinarians' income.
- Veterinary medical practice cannot be compared to medical practice where licensed paraprofessionals are used successfully – the medical model does not apply to the veterinary profession because the U.S. health care system is based on a 3rd party payer system. Veterinary incomes are greatly influenced by supply and demand. Loss of revenue for veterinarians will have a negative impact.
- General practitioners in rural or underserved areas would be more greatly affected than veterinarians in larger practices located in the more populated areas. These practices have more specialized services to cushion the loss of income and services.

4. Communities

- There has been no outcry from communities desiring a change to the practice act to allow for paraprofessionals in their communities.



- Communities would have a harder time attracting new veterinarians or replacing retiring veterinarians if paraprofessionals were allowed to perform veterinary services.
- Communities that lose a veterinarian lose a professional that is involved in other vital community activities such as serving on other city/county boards, emergency preparedness planning, and public health services.

We highly value Colorado's veterinarians in their service of providing for the health and welfare of our state's livestock. We do not want to see their role or number diminished. We need them to carry out our shared responsibility of promoting animal health, managing disease control programs, and protecting public health.

We would welcome discussion of this important issue. We feel that allowing paraprofessionals to do veterinary work would have detrimental effects to the health of Colorado livestock, veterinarians, rural communities, and to the public's well being. Thank you for thoughtfully considering the importance of this issue.

Equine Meat Export Issue: Canadian Equine Meat Products Import Requirements

[This information is being distributed by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)]

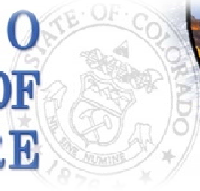
In response to the European Commission (EC) requirements on the importation of equine meat products from Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) with assistance from the Veterinary Drug Directorate (VDD) of Health Canada and equine industry partners has submitted an action plan outlining how Canada intends to meet these requirements. Implementing programs to meet the EC standards will result in a major change for the Canadian equine industry.

Effective July 31, 2010, it will be mandatory for all CFIA inspected facilities in Canada engaged in the slaughter of equines for edible purposes to have complete records for all animals (domestic and imported) presented for slaughter. These records will include unique identification for each animal, as well as **a record of medical treatments administered to the animal for the six-month period preceding slaughter**. This will mean that starting January 31, 2010 animal owners will need to begin tracking medical conditions and treatment history for their horses if the horse may be presented for slaughter after July 31, 2010.

The required records will take the form of an Equine Information Document (EID) that must be presented for each equine processed for edible purposes in a CFIA inspected processing facility from July 31, 2010 forward. Included in the EID, will be a standardized description of the animal, as well as a record of the medical conditions and treatment for at least the preceding six months. The various options for identification, including visual and written descriptions, will be listed in the document. The document is intended to accompany the equine, at the time of ownership transfer, to the buyer of the animal. The EID will require a signed declaration by the owner of the equine as to the accuracy of the information recorded in the EID.

The launch of this new Equine Information Document (EID) program is the first step in the development of a comprehensive food safety and traceability program for the Canadian equine industry- for both Canadian consumers and export market customers.

There are a number of medications and substances that are prohibited from being given (administered or fed) to equines intended to be slaughtered for human consumption. A list of these medications and substances along with a



copy of the EID are available under the document entitled Meat Hygiene Directive 2009-49 that is available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/meavia/man/direct/directe.shtml>

The requirement for all equines to have an owner-signed EID that includes a description of all medications known to have been administered in the six months preceding slaughter will have implications for Canadian equine veterinarians. ***Veterinary treatment records will need to be referenced by the equine owner to complete the EID, including information on drug withdrawals and EU prohibited drugs.***

For the latest information about identifying and recording equine health information, please visit <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/newsrele.shtml> or call 1-800-442-2342.

Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) for Companion Animals

The Colorado State Veterinarian's Office would like to inform practitioners that the templates for small animal health certificates found on the AVMA website or in small animal health records software are not valid for use in Colorado because the CVI must be a form approved by the state veterinarian.

Under Colorado state statute, the Commissioner of Agriculture is given the authority to promulgate rules concerning the requirements for pet animal health certificates. To move animals across state lines, an official state approved certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), or "health certificate", is required. The official Colorado CVI forms are bound in a booklet format and are designed so that the original goes with the owner of the animal, one copy stays with the issuing veterinarian, and two copies are sent to the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office.

The mailing of the NCR copies to the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office is an important part of the process as we forward those copies to the states of destination, and the NCR copies serve as a match to the original document. This documentation allows us to trace the movement of the animal(s).

Official "Small Animal Certificate of Veterinary Inspections" for interstate movement can be obtained by contacting the Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL), which is a laboratory within the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division. There are 50 CVI certificates in each booklet at a cost of \$10.00 per booklet. To order CVI booklets, please use the contact information found below.

In the book of small animal CVI the following information is written:

This "Certificate of Veterinary Inspection" book is issued to veterinarians who are accredited and licensed with the State of Colorado. The accredited veterinarian is responsible for its content and proper use.

Guidelines

1. If this book, or any of its contents, becomes lost or stolen, notify the State Veterinarian at 303-239-4161 immediately.
2. Issue a certificate after each animal to be listed has been inspected. Animals listed must meet state of destination and federal requirements.
3. Each certificate must be complete and clearly legible.
4. Mail the yellow and pink copy to the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office within one week of issue date.



Colorado Department of Agriculture
Animal Industry Division
700 Kipling St., Suite 4000
Lakewood CO 80215-8000

To reorder certificates, call 303-477-0049, or fax your order to 303-458-7857, or email Kate McRoy at kate.mcroy@ag.state.co.us with any questions.

Strengthening Community Agro-security Planning (S-CAP) Workshop

On April 14th & 15th in Lamar, CO, CSU Extension and the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) will be holding a 2-day workshop entitled, **Strengthening Community Agro-security Planning (S-CAP)**. It is designed to enable community partners to:

- Build capacity to handle agricultural issues during an emergency or disaster
- Improve networking among stakeholders who can plan for and respond to emergencies
- Establish or enhance agro-security components within existing local emergency operations plans (EOPs)

Facilitators help participants at the local level work together within multi-agency teams to examine the issues relevant to their specific agricultural vulnerabilities. The workshop utilizes a capabilities-based planning approach to incorporate agricultural issues into local emergency operations plans. Critical local agricultural infrastructure assets are identified and prioritized, threats to the food production continuum are defined, and community agricultural vulnerabilities are identified.

Multiple activities throughout the 2-day workshop enable participants to begin construction of an agricultural component (e.g. Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources) of their emergency operations plan, standard operating guidelines, and emergency resource lists. The method for developing ESF #11 that is taught during the workshop can be adapted for other components of the local emergency operations plan as well.

A registration fee of \$40.00 is required by April 7 to cover refreshments and 2 noon meals. For more information, please contact Bruce Fickenscher, CSU Extension/Southeast Area, P.O. Box 97, Eads, Colorado 81036. Ph: 719-438-5321 Fax: 719-438-5314 Email: bruce.fickenscher@colostate.edu

Canine Brucellosis

This is meant to be a very brief primer on the regulatory aspects of *B. canis* here in Colorado. In the past year our office has had ten cases of *B. canis* reported with four of these being dogs residing within breeding kennels. The remaining six cases were either dogs from homes where occasional breeding was done or were dogs that had been adopted from shelters and had been spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Please consider *B. canis* when presented with dogs from breeding kennels that are having reproductive failures, and dogs with back pain or hind limb pain whether they have been altered or not.

B. canis is a reportable disease in Colorado and positive test results should be reported to the State Veterinarian's office. When a screening test yields a positive result the laboratory should send notification to our office. Once the notification of a positive result is received our office will contact the veterinarian which submitted the test or the owner of the pet, and recommend a blood culture to confirm the presence of bacteria. If the culture is positive then further



investigation is necessary. When the presence of *B. canis* bacteria is confirmed in a kennel that sells dogs at retail or wholesale, regulatory action in the form of a stop movement order or a quarantine may be taken, and the kennel is requested to test all dogs over 12 weeks of age. Through the regulation the kennel cannot be required to euthanize and remove positive dogs and there is no indemnification program for canines. We do counsel the owner on the best way to remove the infection from the kennel, and discuss bio-security for workers and for the dogs residing in the facility. Experience has shown us the most expeditious way to achieve a *B. canis* free kennel is testing and removal of reactor animals. The kennel must complete two whole kennel tests at least 30 days apart with all the dogs testing negative before a quarantine is released. For individual pet dogs the owner will be allowed to work with their veterinarian to determine the best course of action. If the client chooses to treat the animal we request they have the pet tested after the treatment and continue treatment until two negative tests at least 30 days apart are achieved. We do not generally quarantine individual dogs but do counsel owners as to bio-security and containment issues. Our office has printed material available to the public and veterinarians to help explain the infection and the various options for control.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health lab performs the mercaptoethanol tube agglutination test (TAT) as a screening test and uses culture to confirm positives. Over the years they have compared the TAT with other screening tests and culture and find it to be comparable to culture at predicting positive dogs. When a kennel is under quarantine our lab will work with the owner by providing reduced cost testing, and our staff can collect the samples at no charge. Since 1998 the Department has offered dog breeders the opportunity to have their kennel certified as brucellosis free. This involves whole kennel testing and recertification and testing as well as testing and isolation of all new additions to the kennel. To date we have had no kennels participate in the program.

There is still much that we don't know about *B. canis* especially where control and prevention are concerned. The process described here represents our best practice approach using knowledge gained through working with large kennels and consulting with experts. Please feel free to contact our office with questions.

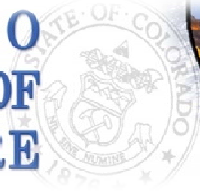
Kate N. Anderson, DVM; PACFA/BAP Administrator

BAP/PACFA Report & Legislative Update

PACFA hosted another task force meeting to review proposed changes to the Dog Breeder category regulations. Information from this meeting, which was well attended, is currently being reviewed and the rule is being updated.

In collaboration with the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Authority, HB 1214 passed through the House Agriculture Committee with a unanimous vote. The bill will renew the overpopulation check-off fund and add an Adopt a Shelter Pet license plate to benefit animal shelters in Colorado.

BAP and the State Veterinarian's Office have been meeting with legislators and stakeholders including CAACO and CFAWA to modify or kill HB1124, which would have adversely affected the animal protection laws in Colorado. The bill had progressed through the House with favorable votes despite real concern among stakeholders as to the unintended consequences of the bill. On February 26, 2010, HB 1124 was soundly defeated on the House floor.



State Veterinarian's Office

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Dr. Kate Anderson, Pet Animal Care Facilities Act Program

Dr. Carl Heckendorf, Animal Health and Disease Control

Dr. Dan Love, Field Veterinarian

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