



Animal Industry Division e-Update

June 2010

There are many issues today that have a great impact on animal health and challenge regulatory veterinary officials, private practice veterinarians, the livestock industry, and those involved in veterinary medical research & education. The best animal health outcomes are usually a result of a combination of the appropriate regulatory controls, best production practices, and animal health programs.

We realize that communication is a very important component to achieving the best animal health outcomes; therefore, we are striving to provide current information to veterinarians, livestock producers, and our other affiliated livestock industry partners. We certainly value our partnership in promoting 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:

❑ Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in Arizona:

The nation's first 2010 confirmed case of vesicular stomatitis (VS) was announced on May 27, 2010 in a horse near Wilcox, Arizona. Anytime clinical signs of VS are seen in livestock, a foreign animal disease diagnostician or a state/federal veterinarian is required to collect and submit samples for disease diagnostics. [Click to read more](#)

❑ Bovine TB:

Confirmatory tests show four cows in a Colorado dairy herd have tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB); further epidemiological investigation and testing is ongoing. [Click to read more](#)



❑ **Piroplasmosis Update:**

Two horses from a single facility in Colorado tested positive for Equine Piroplasmosis (EP). Equine Piroplasmosis is a foreign animal disease caused by the blood parasites *Babesia caballi* or *Theileria equi*. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **Importance of Knowing the Import Requirements before Issuing a CVI:**

The State Veterinarian's Office encourages you to plan ahead and check the import requirements of the state to which you are sending animals as they may change from time to time. We have a helpful document on our website (www.colorado.gov/ag/animals) that lists all of the state's websites where you can obtain import information and also lists the contact number for those particular states. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **Rabies:**

CDA has helped to inform the public that rabies is increasing in incidence, transferring from one species to another, and that they should monitor their animals for symptoms. In addition, we have continued to educate animal owners that local veterinarians are a valuable resource to help decide the best course of action to protect livestock and pets from rabies. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **The Colorado Rapid Response for Agriculture and Livestock (CORRAL) System:**

CORRAL is a livestock incident response system with a goal to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency livestock incidents and disease outbreaks. If you are not yet part of our CORRAL System, please consider being involved in helping us improve our livestock emergency preparedness and response capabilities in Colorado. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **Foreign Animal Disease Course:**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture, CSU - Animal Population Health Institute, and USDA-APHIS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) are sponsoring a 4 ½ day training course on foreign animal diseases in Fort Collins, Colorado from July 26-30, 2010. Our joint efforts to prevent the introduction of a foreign animal disease into our country are extremely important for livestock producers, the livestock industry, and the entire U.S. economy. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **Animal Disease Traceability:**

The goal of Animal Disease Traceability is to develop a system that will ensure adequate ability to trace animal movements for disease control purposes while ensuring animals continue to move efficiently in interstate commerce. Rulemaking can be a complicated process but the goal is to have a rule completed in early 2011. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **Trichomoniasis Rule Changes in Colorado:**

The rulemaking process for the Colorado Trichomoniasis Rule is complete and the new regulations are now in effect. The new trichomoniasis rule took effect on April 30th, 2010 – it can be found on our website at www.colorado.gov/ag, please click on "Rules & Regulations" and then on "Livestock Disease Control." [Click to read more](#)



❑ **USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP):**

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has begun accepting applications from veterinarians wishing to participate in the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), applications are due June 30, and offers will be made by Sept. 30. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **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. Veterinarians must select an accreditation category and submit a completed National Veterinary Accreditation Program Application form (VS Form 1-36A) by **August 2, 2010**. [Click to read more](#)

❑ **Livestock Care & Well-being Case in Park County:**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Protection seized over 300 head of cattle from a Park County resident. The cattle gathered were sold at public auction on Friday, May 28th. CDA is to conduct routine inspections of those remaining cattle to ensure that they are receiving adequate care and nutrition. [Click to read more](#)

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Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Confirmed in Arizona

The nation's first 2010 confirmed case of vesicular stomatitis (VS) was announced on May 27, 2010 in a horse near Wilcox, Arizona. In the United States VS is recognized as a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) that occurs sporadically in certain areas of the western United States. In past years when we have seen index cases of VS in Texas, New Mexico or Arizona the disease has moved to the north and affected Colorado.

The VS susceptible species include horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, deer and other species of animals. The clinical signs of the disease include vesicles, erosions and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, teats and above the hooves of susceptible livestock. Vesicles are usually only seen early in the course of the disease. As the disease progresses the ruptured vesicles erode to produce small to large areas where the epithelium sloughs. Animals with oral lesions may refuse to eat and/or drink due to discomfort which in turn results in weight loss. Coronary band lesions can result in lameness in one or more feet. In severe situations, the hoof may slough or hoof growth may be permanently impacted.

The transmission of VS virus is not fully understood. Most cases are probably spread by insect vectors particularly along river valleys. Biting flies have been shown, both in natural and experimental infections, to be capable of transmitting VS. Sand flies (*Lutzomyia* spp.) and black flies (*Simulium* spp.) have been identified as important species in the transmission of VS. To prevent the introduction or spread of infection it is important that the livestock producers be vigilant in insect abatement efforts. In past years producers who have practiced strict fly control have either not been affected, experienced fewer cases of VS on their premises or a shorter duration of illness.

VS cannot be clinically distinguished from other significant vesicular diseases of ruminants and swine (foot and mouth disease, vesicular exanthema of swine, and swine vesicular disease). If the blisters and



lesions are seen in cattle, sheep, pigs or other cloven-hooved animals, our first concern is the possible introduction of foot-and-mouth disease. In Colorado all vesicular diseases in livestock are required to be reported to the state veterinarian or area veterinarian in charge with the USDA.

Horses are not susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease but anytime clinical signs of VS are seen in livestock in Colorado a foreign animal disease diagnostician or a state/federal veterinarian is required to collect and submit samples for disease diagnostics.

Accredited veterinarians are extremely important in the constant vigilance that is needed to control and prevent infectious diseases. We value your clinical surveillance in the early detection of any vesicular diseases. Your early reporting of any suspicious vesicular diseases could be very significant to the livestock industry and the U.S. economy.

Many states and countries may place additional entry requirements or restrictions on the movement of animals from affected states. Canada and the European Union have already instituted changes on the importation of U.S. horses. It is important to contact the state of destination when inspecting livestock for interstate movement to ensure that all entry requirements are met. A list of contact information for all state veterinarians' offices is available on our website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals>.

Colorado fairs, livestock exhibitions, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements based on the extent and severity of the current VS outbreak. Be sure to stay informed of any new changes to the requirements for those events.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Confirmatory tests show four cows in a Colorado dairy herd have tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB). The ongoing investigation by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture began in March 2010 when internal lesions were discovered on a Southern Colorado cow at a slaughter facility. Subsequent tracing and testing has led to the discovery of the additional positive cattle.

Bovine tuberculosis causes internal lesions in infected animals. It is spread primarily by respiratory aerosols being exhaled by infected animals and can then be inhaled by animals or humans. There is a USDA fact sheet that is very helpful for educating clients, it can be accessed at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/faq_bovine_tb_.pdf A Tuberculosis Federal Order was released in early April that enables states to maintain and manage TB-quarantined herds without losing their TB Free State Status. The change in this federal order may be very helpful to Colorado livestock producers as we manage this quarantined dairy herd.

Meat from the infected animals in this herd did not enter the food chain; milk from commercial dairies is pasteurized, killing bacteria with heat, so there is no public health concern when consuming pasteurized dairy products. It is important to note that pasteurization, since its introduction over a century ago, has been recognized as an essential tool for ensuring that milk and dairy products are safe. As veterinarians we are involved in many public health activities and trusted for our contribution to food safety, therefore, it is important to assure the public that bacteria like *M.bovis*, *Brucella abortis*, and other



pathogens have been shown to be killed by the pasteurization process making pasteurized milk products very safe for consumers.

Two Horses in Colorado test positive for Equine Piroplasmosis (EP)

The State Veterinarian's Office would like to inform veterinarians that there were two horses from a single facility in Colorado that tested positive for equine piroplasmosis (EP). Equine Piroplasmosis is a foreign animal disease caused by the blood parasites *Babesia caballi* or *Theileria equi*. The two test-positive horses did not show any clinical signs of equine piroplasmosis but were found to be cELISA positive to *T. equi* on repeated serum samples. The first EP positive horse has been euthanized and the second horse is currently under quarantine.

Arapahoe Park instituted EP testing requirements for all horses entering the track facilities which resulted in finding these positive horses on testing surveillance prior to entry to the Park. Horses must be *T. equi* and *B. caballi* negative within 30 days of admission to Arapahoe Park. The piroplasmosis test-positive horses were in a stable with about twenty horses, none of the other horses tested positive. The other horses have been released from quarantine.

Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is now authorized by USDA, APHIS, VS to perform the cELISA tests for *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* for the intra- and interstate movement of equids that are not displaying any clinical signs of piroplasmosis. Any further questions on sample submission, please call CSU-VDL at (970) 297-1281

Equine piroplasmosis is a reportable disease and leads to regulatory consequences. A quarantine and subsequent disease control plan for any test-positive horses is determined by the State Veterinarian of Colorado, USDA-APHIS-VS, along with input from the owners. Currently, there is no vaccine or approved treatment for EP in the United States.

The USDA, APHIS, VS Equine Piroplasmosis Info Sheet (written in English and Spanish) provides further information for you and your clients:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/piroplasmosis/index.shtml

Importance of Checking Import Requirements before Writing CVI

As veterinarians, we all know how important it is to remain up-to-date on our various disciplines within veterinary medicine. Yet staying well informed has always been a challenge and a requirement for our profession; it drives our personal continuing education planning. It is especially true for the accredited veterinarian as it relates to the import requirements of other states and countries for livestock, horses, and small animals.

The State Veterinarian's Office encourages you to plan ahead and check the import requirements of the state to which you are sending animals as they may change from time to time. It is an important client service, it assures that the animals will be allowed entry into the state without restrictions; it guarantees



that you will be in compliance with state regulations and makes the whole import process more efficient.

One example of a recent change in import requirements is Michigan's new regulations that require Colorado horses coming into Michigan to have proof of a negative equine piroplasmiasis (EP) test which was performed within the last 12 months. This rule affects Colorado horses due to the confirmed EP-positive horse that was diagnosed in Colorado last month. Another example would be the varying trichomoniasis import requirements for bulls. There is an age variance in bulls that need to be tested. Some states allow an exemption from testing with a virgin bull affidavit and states will vary as to the type of trich test that must be used to be considered trich-negative.

The take-home message is to check the state's import regulations for the animals that you are sending prior to writing the certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI). Of course, if testing is required for entry, the samples will need to be collected and sent to the appropriate lab well ahead of the issuance of the CVI. We have a helpful document on our website (www.colorado.gov/ag/animals) that lists all of the state's websites where you can obtain import information and also lists the contact number for those particular states. The document can also be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251606062830&ssbinary=true>

Rabies

State Public Health Veterinarian Dr. Elisabeth Lawaczek recently reported the following rabies epidemiological information: "As of May 12, 2010, CDPHE and Colorado State University (CSU) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory have confirmed rabies infection in 42 animals: 38 skunks, 1 horse from Deer Trail in Arapahoe County, 1 fox from Monument in El Paso County, 1 muskrat from Morgan County, and 1 domestic cat from Prowers County. The majority (19) of the rabid skunks originated from Elbert County. In addition, on Friday last week, a doe deer from the town of Elizabeth in Elbert County submitted by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) to CSU was positive for rabies. Updated maps and data tables can be viewed on the CDPHE rabies webpage: www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/rabies. CDPHE will be posting an updated data table and maps on a weekly basis on Fridays (with data as of Tuesday close of business)."

The rabies positive horse from Arapahoe County is the second rabid horse that has been diagnosed in less than nine months. State Veterinarian Dr. Keith Roehr has highlighted two important points to the public on the recent rabies cases in Eastern Colorado: "One—animal owners need to be aware that rabies is transferring from one species to another and they should monitor their animals for symptoms; and two—local veterinarians are a valuable resource to help decide the best course of action to protect their livestock and pets from rabies."

There are some important considerations for veterinarians in light of the recent equine rabies cases.



1) Include rabies in your differential diagnosis list as you work up your equine cases. It is a disease that is easy to overlook and the initial clinical signs can vary immensely. Some of the signs that could be present are:

- Depression with loss of appetite
- A low-grade fever
- Lameness and/or incoordination
- Neurological symptoms, including convulsions
- Increased sensitivity to being touched
- Abdominal pain or colic (straining to urinate or defecate)
- Swallowing problems and drooling
- Odd behavioral changes, nervousness, irritability

Once a horse shows symptoms of rabies, the disease may progress rapidly. The horse will usually die within two days to two weeks after it starts showing clinical signs of rabies. Rabies should be suspected in all equine cases that show a sudden onset of rapidly progressing neurological signs.

2) Include rabies education in your discussions with clients on horse health and preventive care. Consider recommending rabies vaccination as part of your equine “core vaccinations.”

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has included rabies in their “core vaccinations” and defined a recommended vaccination schedule. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, core vaccinations are the immunizations “that protect from diseases that are endemic to a region, those with potential public health significance, required by law, virulent/highly infectious, and/or those posing a risk of severe disease. Core vaccines have clearly demonstrated efficacy and safety, and thus exhibit a high enough level of patient benefit and low enough level of risk to justify their use in the majority of patients.”

The 2008 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) wrote the following under the section of principles of prevention and control of rabies in livestock:

“Consideration should be given to vaccinating livestock that are particularly valuable. Animals that have frequent contact with humans (e.g., in petting zoos, fairs, and other public exhibitions) and horses traveling interstate should be currently vaccinated against rabies.”

Another factor that weighs into a recommendation to vaccinate horses for rabies is the public health issues involved with a case of rabies in a horse. Because it is difficult to diagnose rabies until the infection is advanced, many horse owners and others can be exposed to the virus-laden saliva of an infected horse. Any person who is exposed will have to go through post-exposure treatment and incur significant emotional distress and cost of treatment. The best method to prevent human exposure is to insure that horses and pets are protected against rabies via up-to-date rabies vaccinations.

The immunization schedule recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) can be found on their website. The address is <http://www.aaep.org> and then click on the tab labeled “Guidelines.”



Ultimately, the vaccination decision belongs to the owners, and they will have to weigh the incidence of terrestrial wildlife rabies in their geographical location, the risk of human exposure and contracting rabies, the possible financial costs, the potential emotional loss of their horse, and the cost of the vaccination procedure. You provide trusting guidance in that decision.

Colorado Rapid Response to Agriculture and Livestock (CORRAL) System

CORRAL is a livestock incident response system with a goal to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency livestock incidents and disease outbreaks.

The CORRAL System has six main components:

C ommunication Capability	Using a dispatch system for alerts, warnings, and notifications
O perations Center	Enhancing our Division Operation Center (DOC)
R esources	Building a roster of CORRAL responders and physical resources
R elationships	Strengthen relationships with other state and governmental agencies
A greements	Mutual agreements between agencies and other states
L ivestock Emergency Plans	Sector specific plans integrated with Colorado’s livestock industry

Our initial focus was concentrated on increasing our communication capability to use a dispatch system for alerts, warnings, and notifications (DAWN). We have been testing the system in various ways and incorporated the lessons learned to improve our capability and the functionality of the DAWN system.

The CORRAL system focus will now center on building our “resources” – specifically, the credentialing and training of the CORRAL responders. We currently have 131 CORRAL responders and anticipate building on our numbers and our training. Most of these are veterinarians but have three other credentialing categories which are veterinary technicians, livestock specialists, and veterinary support.

The CORRAL system will use the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) website to enhance training and to help build preparedness for a livestock emergency response. It can be accessed at <https://naherc.sws.iastate.edu/>. It has various training modules that may interest you such as ICS 100, 200 and 700. We are planning a possible “Table-top” exercise later this year and some future trainings over the next year.

NAHERC is a program of USDA, APHIS and is comprised of Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO), Animal Health Technicians (AHT), and veterinary medical students assimilated into an elite animal health and food defense force within the emergency management response community. If you become a member of NAHERC, you would be paid for your veterinary participation in a federal response to certain livestock disease outbreaks, threats, or natural disasters in which you were deployed. Here is a link that explains more about it: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/naherc.shtml

If you have any questions, please call Dr. Nick Striegel at 303-239-4162 or email me at nick.striegel@ag.state.co.us. If you are not yet part of our CORRAL System please consider being



involved in helping us better our livestock emergency preparedness and response capabilities in Colorado!

Foreign Animal Disease Course

The Colorado State Department of Agriculture, CSU - Animal Population Health Institute, and USDA-APHIS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) are sponsoring a 4 ½ day training course on foreign animal diseases in Fort Collins, Colorado from July 26-30, 2010. Dr. Tony Knight is the course coordinator and has done an exceptional job over the past years to make this course one of the premier trainings in the country, which is reflected by how fast the course filled to capacity once the registration was opened. For those of you who are signed up for the course, you will be receiving more information on the details on lodging and other logistics in the near future.

This course provides a vital understanding of foreign animal diseases and its implications on the livestock, equine, and poultry industries. Our joint efforts to prevent the introduction of a foreign animal disease into our country are extremely important for livestock producers, the livestock industry, and the entire U.S. economy. You are the “eyes and ears in the country” on unusual clinical signs or diseases, we appreciate your vigilance in keeping a watchful eye and reporting to the State Veterinarian’s Office as necessary.

Animal Disease Traceability

Animal Disease Traceability public meetings were held recently in Riverdale, Kansas City and Denver to gain input from livestock producers and other industry stakeholders. Meeting attendees were asked by the USDA and Secretary Vilsack to respond to the animal disease traceability framework announced in February. The opinions expressed in the Denver meeting were diverse but generally positive. The Colorado Cattlemen’s Association and the Colorado Livestock Association favor an approach that will benefit disease control and eradication through efficient animal traceability.

A national Animal Disease Traceability Working Group has been tasked to draft federal traceability rule by mid-summer and have been meeting weekly by conference call and met face to face in Kansas City in early May. Components of the rule are state level traceability performance standards, a system of state level traceability capabilities, and a compliance system to ensure that states are meeting the performance standards. The new animal disease traceability framework will:

- Apply only to certain animals moving interstate
- 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



The goal of Animal Disease Traceability is to develop a system that will ensure adequate ability to trace animal movements for disease control purposes while also ensuring animals continue to move efficiently in interstate commerce. Rulemaking can be a complicated process, but the goal is to have a rule completed in early 2011.

Trichomoniasis Rule Changes in Colorado

The rulemaking process for the Colorado Trichomoniasis Rule is complete, and the new regulations are now in effect. It was a comprehensive and collaborative effort of many different groups and individuals; it included the livestock industry associations, livestock producers, veterinary medical groups, veterinary scientific community, and regulatory personnel from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. We thank all those who provided input – it was important, and we value it very much!

The driving force for making revisions to the Trichomoniasis rule was our common goal of enhancing Colorado's animal health and disease control activities. We are committed to work together with you under that goal to support cattle producers and to prevent disease in our cattle herds.

The new trichomoniasis rule took effect on April 30th, 2010 – it can be found on our website at www.colorado.gov/ag, please click on "Rules & Regulations" and then on "Livestock Disease Control."

Here are the main changes in the new rule:

- 1) Imported bulls: All bulls 12 months of age and older that are entering Colorado must have a negative *T. foetus* test within 30 days prior to entry. There is no virgin bull affidavit for imported (out-of-state) bulls.
- 2) Intra-state bulls: All non-virgin bulls changing ownership or possession must be trich tested unless the animal is going to slaughter.
 - A negative *T. foetus* test will be required for all intra-state bulls 18 months of age or older.
 - All virgin intra-state bulls between the ages of 12 and 18 months of age must be accompanied by a virgin bull affidavit or a negative *T. foetus* test
- 3) Bulls are to have 30 days of sexual rest before being trich tested; this does not apply to the interval between consecutive trich tests when a herd is quarantined (see point #4 below).
- 4) For herds that are quarantined due to a trichomoniasis diagnosis, if a *T. foetus* PCR test is being used, only two consecutive negative tests would be needed to remove the quarantine. If *T. foetus* culture tests are used, the requirement is still three negative tests on the remaining herd bulls to remove the quarantine. The minimum interval between the tests remains at 7 days.



- 5) All non-virgin bulls which have not been trich tested in the prior 30-day period shall be identified at the livestock markets with a “not trich-tested” back-tag or another reasonable method to identify them as non-trich tested, “slaughter only” bulls.

The State Veterinarian’s Office will continue to emphasize the following important points in discussions about trichomoniasis in cattle:

- Testing and monitoring herds for trichomoniasis is important in controlling the infection
- Trichomoniasis is a “silent rustler” of cattle—undetected trichomoniasis will “steal” calves and profits
- Every herd is unique, and cattle producers need to plan their bull management with a veterinarian.

USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has begun accepting applications from veterinarians wishing to participate in the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), which addresses veterinary shortages in rural America by repaying the student loans of qualified veterinarians in return for their services in areas suffering from a lack of veterinarians.

"The lack of adequate veterinary services, especially in the area of food animal medicine, creates hardships for producers and endangers livestock throughout rural America," said Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. "This program will help alleviate the shortage of trained professional veterinarians that serve our producers, improving the health of the livestock industry and helping ensure a safe food supply."

In return for a commitment of three years of veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area, NIFA may repay up to \$25,000 of student loan debt per year. Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received for the attendance at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent. NIFA applications are due June 30, and offers will be made by Sept. 30. Application forms and instructions can be found on the NIFA website, the link is:

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/newsroom.html>.

NIFA recently designated more than 150 shortage areas throughout the United States. These areas were nominated by the chief animal health officials in each state and insular area and by appropriate federal animal health officials. Nomination forms were reviewed by a panel of federal and state animal health experts who recommended nominations for official designation as a veterinary shortage situation. A map of all the shortage areas is available on the NIFA website at the following link:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp/vmlrp_shortage_situation_usmap.html. In Colorado we were allotted eight veterinary shortage areas.

The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) reports that “approximately \$9.6 million is available for NIFA to administer the program.” Funding for future years will depend on annual appropriations but may vary from year to year.



Veterinarians are highly valued in the national food safety and food security infrastructures and to the health and well-being of both animals and humans; however, major studies indicate significant and growing shortages of food supply veterinarians and veterinarians serving in certain high priority specialty areas. It is felt that a leading cause for this shortage is the heavy cost of four years of professional veterinary medical training, which can average between \$130,000 and \$140,000. Congress established the VMLRP as a way to remedy this growing need.

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.

What You Need To Do and When:

In order to continue accreditation in the NVAP, veterinarians must select an accreditation category and submit a completed National Veterinary Accreditation Program Application form (VS Form 1-36A) by **August 2, 2010**, or their accreditation will expire.

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

Go to APHIS' website for the most up-to-date information on the accreditation program, it can be accessed at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/>, scroll down to the middle of the webpage and click on INSTRUCTIONS FOR CURRENTLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS.

Questions can be directed to nvap@aphis.usda.gov via email, call Riverdale staff at 301-734-NVAP (6827), or call the USDA Area Office in Lakewood at 303-231-5385.

Livestock Care & Well-being Case in Park County

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) seized over 300 head of cattle from a Park County resident, Vern Wagner, due to their poor condition and the lack of care and proper feeding. On May 14, 2010, CDA staff, assisted by the Park County Sheriff's Office, gathered the cattle and transported them to the Salida sale barn. Cattle that were still on the property were fed by CDA staff, with CDA-purchased hay, and were being monitored by CDA staff. The total number of cattle that previously were under the care of Mr. Wagner was estimated to be 800 to 1,400 head.

The 379 cattle at the Rocky Mountain Livestock Sale in Salida under CDA possession were processed for sale by installing an electronic ID, pregnancy checking, mousing the cattle to determine their age, and scored using a Body Conditioning Scoring (BCS) system to determine each animal's body condition. The hearing to determine if Mr. Wagner was an unfit owner was held in Park County District Court, Judge Stephen Groome presiding. The court found Mr. Wagner to be an unfit owner as to the cattle in the custody of CDA and decided that CDA was to sell the cattle in their possession at the Salida auction market while Mr. Wagner was allowed to care for the rest of his cattle; CDA is to conduct routine inspections on those remaining cattle to ensure that they are receiving adequate care and nutrition.



Thanks to tireless efforts by Park County officials, CDA personnel, and local volunteers, the 379 animals were gathered safely and no animals or humans were injured. The cattle gathered were sold at public auction on Friday, May 28th. The issue is ongoing and CDA is planning to seek a permanent injunction from the District Court to ensure the proper welfare of the animals that remain in the care of Mr. Wagner.

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