



Animal Industry Division e-News

Spring 2011

The recent EHV-1 outbreak demonstrated the important collaborative process that we have in place for animal health and disease control in Colorado. In May, a local practitioner astutely included EHV-1 on the differential list after examining a horse that was presented with neurological signs. In addition, this veterinarian called the State Veterinarian because the accredited veterinarian knew EHV-1 was on the list of reportable diseases in Colorado. A field visit was made by the State Veterinarian, a hold order was issued for the premises affected, the CSU Diagnostic Lab was involved in the necropsy and sampling, other state animal health officials were notified once the diagnosis of EHV-1 was confirmed, the rest is history and still ongoing. The control and containment of the EHV-1 disease outbreak could not have been accomplished without the work and energy of many veterinary practitioners, university professionals, organizations, agencies, and horse owners; to name them all would be impossible.

The disease has taken its toll, but what has been gained is a renewed sense of how our animal health and disease control processes can work together for successful outcomes. So whatever comes our way in the future, whether it is EHV-1, EP, AI, or some disease acronym that we hate to imagine could happen in Colorado like FMD; we know that we will need the “veterinary village” to accomplish our common goals.

Thank you for your continued efforts in promoting the health and well being of animals in the state of Colorado!

State Veterinarian’s Office of Colorado

Summary of Items in this e-News:

- ❑ **Welcome to Dr. Ken Newens:** CDA’s new field veterinarian, Dr. Ken Newens, of LaJunta, CO started May 15th, 2011. Dr. Newens has practiced in La Junta doing predominantly large animal medicine since 1987. We are very happy to have him on board as one of our field veterinarians! [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **What is a Reportable Disease in Colorado?:** In addition to the diseases on the list, any disease listed or foreign animal disease or any infectious disease or parasite of livestock which was not previously known to exist in Colorado shall be reported, i.e. any disease of unusual morbidity or mortality that does not fit a normally expected clinical picture. [Click to read more](#)



- ❑ **EHV-1 Outbreak in Colorado:** At the current time, we have 9 confirmed positive cases; there have been not any new cases or quarantined facilities since May 20th, 2011. We are encouraged by that trend in Colorado; most other Western states are experiencing that same trend but stay vigilant. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **CSU Webcast on EHV-1 – Demystifying the Equine Herpesvirus-1:** This presentation will cover details of the disease, how it can be prevented and treated, what veterinary experts at Colorado State University are doing to address this problem today, and how to prevent it in the future. Don't miss the date, June 27th, 2011. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Animal Health Network Project; Reaching the “Hard to Reach”:** The Animal Health Network project will enable CDA and CSU Extension to better communicate to a hard-to-reach group of animal owners with vital information in the event of a significant animal disease event. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Animal Disease Response Training:** Could a significant livestock disease incident happen in Colorado? We think so...CDEM, CDA, and Kirkwood College is conducting a training on livestock emergency incident response on August 2nd, 2011. Come and join us! [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **A Radiological Emergency Incident – What Would be the “Fallout”?:** Colorado could never suffer from a radiological incident, could it? How about the fallout? Radionuclide exposure or radioactive fallout is usually not on our “radar screen.” All of that changed after the recent Fukushima nuclear plant incident in Japan. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **News Release from VNN on Animal Cruelty at E6 Calf Ranch in TX:** The images on the video were gruesome, grown men beating newborn dairy calves with pickaxes and claw hammers. “After 20 seconds of video, I had to turn it off,” says Dr. Jim Humphries, President of the Veterinary News Network (VNN). We know this isolated incident is not the norm for farmers and ranchers’ care for their animals, what can we do as veterinarians? [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Message Points for Issues of Livestock Cruelty and Abuse:** As veterinarians and leaders within our profession, community, and in our circle of friends, you never know when you may be asked to weigh in on high profile issues that are reported in the news such as the recent E6 Calf Ranch incident in Texas. What would be the message points that you would want to get across to them? Here are some... [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **BAP and CSU to Hold 2nd Equine Investigations Training:** Back by popular demand! The Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) is excited and proud to announce that the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and Colorado State University (CSU) are combining resources again and planning a three day event late this summer to train Bureau of Animal Protection agents, law enforcement, and District Attorney Office personnel in equine neglect investigative techniques. [Click to read more](#)



- ❑ **Pet Animal Care Facilities ACT (PACFA) Update:** The Pet Animal Care Facilities program has completed license renewal for the 2011 license-year. To date we have issued more than 1750 licenses. Veterinary clinics and hospitals may need to be licensed if certain services are offered to the public. In general veterinarians do not need to license their facility with PACFA unless they offer pet animal grooming or boarding services. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program:** The deadline is quickly approaching, if you plan to apply or know someone who wants to apply for one of the seven shortage areas – application period closes on July 8th, 2011! Apply now! [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP) in Moffat County:** Earlier in 2011, there were five horses in Moffat County, Colorado that tested positive for equine piroplasmiasis (EP). The initial purpose of the testing was due to EP trace-out activities from another state. All of these horses originated from the same training facility in California and there has been no transmission of this disease to any horses in Colorado. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Livestock Import Requirements of Other States Vary:** Due to EHV-1 and EP, be sure to check other states' import requirements before sending horses so that there are not any negative consequences for veterinary practitioners and so that the shipments are not rejected at the destination point. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Animal Disease Traceability Proposed Rule:** The proposed Traceability rule will likely require cattle producers to officially identify the cattle that move interstate. The proposed rule will require veterinarians to individually list official identification numbers of cattle > 18 months of age on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Animal Disease Traceability Rule and Clarification on the Use of Brands:** USDA supports the use of brands to identify cattle moving interstate. Under USDA's traceability framework and the upcoming draft proposed rule for traceability for livestock moving interstate, States will be able to continue using brands. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **Bovine TB:** The tracing of calves from the index Colorado TB affected facility still continues and the cattle from all seven TB affected premises have been indemnified with USDA funds and depopulated. [Click to read more](#)
- ❑ **State Veterinarian's Office Staff Contact Information:** [Click for staff directory](#)

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Dr. Ken Newens has joined the Field Veterinary Staff!

CDA's new field veterinarian, Dr. Ken Newens of LaJunta, CO started May 15th, 2011. His first day was designed to be a day of orientation and planning for all of us but it turned out to be quite different than



what we had planned as it was the first day that our entire staff was dealing with the equine herpes virus (EHV-1) outbreak in Colorado. Dr. Newens has been one of our field veterinarians working with the EHV-1 quarantined premises and the involved horse owners, attending veterinarians, and local concerned public. In the future, not only will Ken's work will be vital in responding to other disease outbreaks but it will also involve epidemiological investigations, disease surveillance, interacting with accredited veterinarians, veterinary students, and livestock producers, connecting with livestock auction markets, and serving as the Johnes Disease Coordinator for the state. Dr. Newens' area of Colorado in which he will predominantly be working is the north-central region of the state.

Dr. Newens was born and raised in Fowler, Colorado, and grew up farming and raising cattle. He attended Colorado State University (CSU) his entire college career, receiving his D.V.M. in 1987. Since that time Dr. Newens practiced in La Junta doing predominantly large animal medicine. He worked as an associate with Dr. Don Klinkerman and later became a partner until Dr. Klinkerman's retirement in 1999. Ken and wife, Karen have been married 22 years; their daughter, Katie, is 18 and will be attending Otero Junior College this fall and their son, Kelly, is 15 and will be a freshman at Cheraw High School. Dr. Newen's interests outside veterinary medicine are fishing and trail riding. He's a member of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the Academy of Veterinary Consultants (AVC).

We are very happy to have him on board as one of our field veterinarians, when you get a chance, please help us welcome Dr. Newens!

What is a Reportable Disease in Colorado?

The following diseases should be reported to the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office (303) 239-4161 or Colorado Area Office of the USDA (303) 231-5385:

- Anaplasmosis (Clinical Disease Only)
- Anthrax
- Avian Influenza (Both high or low pathogenic)
- Brucellosis (Bovine, Porcine, Ovine, or *Canine)
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)
- Equine Encephalomyelitis (also reportable to the Colorado Depart. of Public Health)
- Equine Infectious Anemia (Positive Coggins/ELISA)
- Equine Viral Arteritis
- Equine Herpes Virus type 1 (Neurological form of Equine Rhinopneumonitis)
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever
- Mycoplasma gallisepticum or synoviae
- Paratuberculosis (Johne's Disease)
- Plague (also reportable to Colorado Dept. Of Public Health)
- Psittacosis (also reportable to Colorado Dept. of Public Health)
- Pseudorabies



- Rabies (also reportable to Colorado Dept. of Public Health)
- Salmonella (pullorum or enteritidis)
- Scabies (Cattle or Sheep)
- Scrapie
- Trichomoniasis
- Tuberculosis
- Tularemia (also reportable to Colorado Dept. Of Public Health)
- Vesicular Stomatitis, All Species
- Vesicular Diseases of all species
- West Nile Virus

If an animal dies acutely and was exhibiting clinical signs of a reportable disease this incident shall be reported even though no diagnostic testing was accomplished prior to death.

ANY DISEASE LISTED ABOVE OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OR ANY INFECTIOUS DISEASE OR PARASITE OF LIVESTOCK WHICH WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO EXIST IN COLORADO SHALL BE REPORTED, I.E. ANY DISEASE OF UNUSUAL MORBIDITY OR MORTALITY THAT DOES NOT FIT A NORMALLY EXPECTED CLINICAL PICTURE.

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) Outbreak in Colorado

At the current time, we have 9 confirmed positive cases of EHV-1 in Colorado; there have been not any new cases or quarantined facilities since May 20th, 2011. We are encouraged by that trend in Colorado; most other Western states are experiencing that same trend. Yet, that does not mean that the EHV-1 outbreak is entirely over. As we move ahead in time, if the disease continues to be contained and controlled, the risk for horses in Colorado and for moving horses to different events decreases.

There are 12 facilities that are either under quarantine or a hold order; no horses have been allowed to move into or out of those facilities. This state-imposed restricted movement has helped to control and contain the EHV-1 disease but horse owners, horse event organizers, county commissioners, county fairgrounds, and veterinarians have been very supportive in helping to reduce the movement of horses and in practicing good disease prevention practices during the EHV-1 outbreak in Colorado. This collaborative effort has definitely made a difference in limiting the disease spread to other horses. Some of the premises that are under quarantine will soon be considered for release once all quarantine requirements are met. We are still requiring entry permits for movement of horses into Colorado, the horse movement data will be invaluable if there is another wave of EHV-1 cases or if a horse event in the state had an outbreak of sick horses.

One big component of our emergency response to this disease revolved around communication of information. Colorado has been looked to by many people and other states for information on EHV-1, building awareness of the disease, and giving current updates on the EHV-1 outbreak. CDA's public information officer has worked diligently to help us with communication in many and various ways. She has worked closely with various media outlets and has lined up countless interviews with news outlets,



radio stations, and TV stations so that we could help inform people on the EHV-1 disease, disease prevention practices, and how to reduce risk of transmitting the disease.

In addition to the many news releases from CDA and daily updates to the website and Facebook, the State Veterinarian's Office has sent out dispatch messages via email or text messages on EHV-1 frequently to our veterinarians, Extension agents, and to horse-related industry leaders. They in turn have communicated disease prevention practices and bio-security recommendations to their clients and the public that they serve.

Thank you for your continued vigilance surrounding the EHV-1 outbreak here in Colorado! Many of you have contacted us when EHV-1 is on your differential diagnosis list, we appreciate the communication. In Colorado, EHV-1 (Neurological form) is a reportable disease and especially important as we work together to contain and control infectious diseases.

For updates and information on EHV-1 please go to our website at www.colorado.gov/ag as we keep it updated and if any new changes or import requirements are put into place, they will be posted there. On our website, there are a number of documents on EHV-1; you will find some very good resources on that webpage that address bio-security or disease prevention practices that may be helpful for your clients. Also USDA APHIS has a webpage that posts the national situation report on a weekly basis, that link is <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

Some of you have asked about the proper samples to collect for EHV-1 testing and the best way to transport them. CSU Diagnostic Laboratory has given us the following recommendations for ante-mortem testing for EHV-1 with the PCR test:

“Collected nasal swabs should be submitted with not more than 0.5 cc of sterile water or sterile saline in a red-topped tube or snap-cap tube (sterile and sealable). The swab should be refrigerated until it can be shipped. We recommend shipping samples overnight by FedEx or UPS with a chillpak. We are still recommending that a whole blood sample in a purple-topped tube be collected as well as a red-topped just in case it isn't EHV-1 and someone would want serology done for another purpose.”

Much of our time in communicating via phone and email has been with horse event organizers and coordinators who have asked about whether a particular horse event should be cancelled or when is the appropriate time for resumption of horse events. We have worked with horse owners who thinking about attending an event and with horse event managers to assess the risk of the event. There are many risk factors to consider and include the “herd health” of the incoming horses, the history of exposure, travel history of the horses, the management's health requirements for the horses entered in the event, the type of event, how the horses will be housed, the level of contact that the public has to the horses, and the degree to which horse equipment and tack will be shared.

In addition to assessing risk, we have worked with many to help develop specific protocols to reduce risk through appropriate bio-security. This outbreak has forced all of us involved in the horse industry to think about how to develop better bio-security or disease prevention practices for EHV-1 and other infectious diseases of horses, it has been a joint effort of horse owners, veterinarians, event organizers, university personnel, USDA-APHIS staff, and CDA personnel. Thank you for educating and informing your



clients on the epidemiology of the disease, the risks involved, and appropriate biosecurity. Please call our office with any questions or if we can be of any assistance, 303-239-4161.

CSU Webcast on EHV-1 – Demystifying the Equine Herpesvirus-1

College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences EHV-1 Webcast:

*Demystifying the Equine Herpesvirus-1
Epidemic Neurological Disease Outbreak in 2011:
How Do We Prevent It in the Future?*

SAVE THE DATE!: Webcast is Monday, June 27, 2011

In 2011, horses throughout the West and beyond were exposed to, and sometimes killed by, a devastating viral neurological disease caused by equine herpesvirus-1 - a common and usually not harmful infection that sporadically can cause this kind of disastrous outbreak. This presentation will cover details of the disease, how it can be prevented and treated, what veterinary experts at Colorado State University are doing to address this problem today, and how to prevent it in the future. The presentation also will include a review of the outbreak in 2011.

***Distinguished Panel is hosted by CSU's
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences***

Dr. Paul Lunn, BVSc, MS, PhD, MRCVS, Dip. ACVIM
Professor and Department Head, Clinical Sciences
Past President, American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
Chairman, Research Advisory Committee, Grayson-Jockey
Club Research Foundation

Dr. Lutz Goehring, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACVIM
Assistant Professor, Equine Internal Medicine, Clinical Sciences
Clinician, Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Dr. Jerry Black, DVM, '67, '71
Director of Undergraduate Programs, Equine Sciences
Board Member, National Cutting Horse Association
Trustee, American Horse Council Board

RSVP by Tuesday, June 21:
Online at advancing.colostate.edu/CVMSWebcast2011
or by phone at (970) 491-4601.



Animal Health Network; Reaching the “Hard to Reach” Dispatching of Emergency Information to Small Enterprise Livestock and Poultry Owners

The Animal Health Network is a new project which has been developed by Texas AgriLife Extension Service to help states respond quickly and efficiently to a significant animal disease incident. The directors of the project, Shannon Degenhart and Andy Vestal, invited Colorado State University Extension and the Colorado State Veterinarian’s Office to join the project and it has been implemented as a pilot project in six front range counties. The Animal Health Network (AHN) is a communication network in which the State Veterinarian’s Office will work with CSU Extension to dispatch important alerts and messages to feed retailers and farm & ranch supply stores so that these outlets can deliver the information to their clientele. The State Veterinarian’s Office at the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) greatly appreciates the work that CSU Extension is doing in initiating and implementing the Animal Health Network (AHN) in Colorado. Dr. Ragan Adams is the CSU Veterinary Extension point person who is spearheading the project.

We have long recognized that there is a gap in delivering information to the small enterprise operations or “backyard farmers” at the time of a livestock emergency. Here at CDA, we have a dispatch system that uses email, phone messages and text messages to deliver alerts to veterinarians and some producers who are well connected to the livestock industry associations. The non-commercial or small livestock enterprise is almost a “fringe” group in animal agriculture. If they are not connected to the major livestock groups and current channels of information, it is hard for them to get notified of emergency disease outbreaks. The Animal Health Network will help fill this gap by dispersing important information to feed retailers. In a time of an animal emergency incident, the state veterinarian’s office will send the “alert” to the county CSU Extension agent; the county agent will contact the participating feed store who will then alert their clients, of which, many are non-commercial or small livestock enterprises. The AHN creates a system that acts like a “community bulletin board” or a “farm store blackboard.”

Since CDA is the lead state agency for Emergency Support Function #11 (Agriculture & Natural Resources) of the Colorado Emergency Operations Plan, through our agency this Animal Health Network will be another asset that the Colorado Division of Emergency Management can use in the state’s response to an agriculture-related incident.

An important outcome of this project will be that the Animal Health Network will enable CDA and CSU Extension to better communicate to this hard-to-reach group of animal owners with vital information in the event of a significant animal disease event. CDA, CSU Extension, and the Colorado Animal Health Network Director, Ragan Adams are committed to working together to accomplish these goals.

During the recent EHV-1 outbreak, the Animal Health Network in Colorado was activated, alerts were sent out to Extension, the county agents delivered the information to the feed store outlets, and the outcome was very positive. Vital to making this program a success is the work of CSU Extension and the county Extension agents who develop relationships with the feed stores / farm and ranch supply stores in their counties. In the midst of an emergency livestock response like the current EHV-1 outbreak,



information can quickly be sent to Extension and the county agents can deliver information to this particular segment of livestock owners who are sometimes very hard to reach.

Animal Disease Response Training

The Colorado Division of Emergency Management, Colorado Department of Agriculture, and Kirkwood Community College of Cedar Rapids, Iowa will present the following training on August 2nd, 2011:

Animal Disease Response Training (AWR 206)



There is no registration fee and we are in the process of applying for CE credits through the Board of Veterinary Medicine of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). We hope to be approved for 6-8 CE credits. The class size is limited so register soon at the link found below; there is no registration fee!

Description of the Course:

Responders play a critical role in containing and recovering from an animal disease outbreak by assessing the local emergency, assisting in response efforts, coordinating resources, and assuring that all components of the response are carried out quickly and accurately to prevent further contamination. Animal Disease Response Training provides the critical information needed to minimize the affects of an outbreak on your community.

Responders to whom this course is targeted includes, but is not limited to:

- Agriculture Producers and Workers
- Law Enforcement
- Firefighters
- Veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management Personnel



- Public Health Officials
- Public Works Personnel
- Elected Officials

Participants will learn the importance of preparing for a potential outbreak and be trained on the concepts of:

- Biosecurity and Quarantine
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Euthanasia and Disposal
- Cleaning and Disinfection

The State Veterinarian's Office of CDA will also present its livestock emergency management system called the Colorado Rapid Response for Ag & Livestock (CORRAL). This course will include information on what Colorado's emergency response would look like in the face of a significant livestock disease outbreak. This course will better prepare emergency management and the livestock industry for a livestock emergency incident which will reduce the economic impact on Colorado agriculture, the state's economy, and our overall well-being.

Date:

Tuesday August 2, 2011
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location:

Colorado Division of Emergency Management Training Room
South Metro Fire
9195 E. Mineral Ave #200
Centennial CO 80112

Registration:

For additional information or **to register for the class, go to AgPreparedness.org**

“Fall-out” from a Radiological Incident

Nick J. Striegel; DVM, MPH
Colorado Assistant State Veterinarian

Colorado could never suffer from a radiological incident, could it? When thinking of dairy health and movement of “safe milk”, radionuclide exposure or radioactive fallout is usually not on our “radar screen.” All of that changed after the recent Fukushima nuclear plant incident in Japan. Most of us involved in livestock veterinary medicine and practice have had to do some research on radiological incidents to come to a better understanding on what radioactive fallout means to livestock, livestock products, dairy producers, and the dairy industry. The radionuclides that are of concern in the Japanese incident are iodine-131, cesium-137, and strontium.



There are two main federal agencies that are involved in this incident as it relates to the dairy industry and they are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). EPA has a program called RADNET in which it conducts routine radiological monitoring of many substances, including milk. The FDA has the responsibility to monitor animal feeds for unsafe substances (including radiological) and also has authority over the safety of milk that moves through interstate commerce.

In late March, the EPA detected slight amount of iodine-131 from routine radiological surveillance through their RADNET program. The level of iodine-131 in a milk sample from a Spokane, Washington dairy was 0.8pCi/L which is still 5,000 times lower than the Derived Intervention Level set by the FDA. At this level, there is no concern for public health. Radiological monitoring of water has also being conducted. The EPA has recently conducted testing of drinking water from various cities including Denver, CO, Boise, Idaho and Richland, Washington. The federal agency made the following comment about the drinking water samples and results: "(they)...showed trace amounts of Iodine-131 – about 0.2 picocuries per liter in each case. An infant would have to drink almost 7,000 liters of this water to receive a radiation dose equivalent to a day's worth of the natural background radiation exposure we experience continuously from natural sources of radioactivity in our environment."

It is very important to note that the radioactive biological half-life of the different radioisotopes is different than its physical half-life. The biological half-life of each radionuclide does vary, for example iodine-131 has a half-life of 8 days, cesium 9 days, whereas strontium's half-life in milk is 10 to 40 hours. Therefore the levels in milk and milk products like cheese would drop very fast due to the short half-live of these radionuclides.

The important lessons to learn from the Fukushima incident are the following:

- We must be ready for potential incidents before they happen so that "news stories" that may scare the public can be preempted and accurate scientific information on the safety of the milk supply can be supplied to the media
- The importance of relating the level of radiation detected to something that the public can readily understand as there is a high level of misunderstanding surrounding radiological exposure of animals and people
- The biological half-life of many radionuclides is fairly short and in a major incident with significant levels of radiological exposure, understanding the half-life of the radionuclide will help determine the best management of the incident and secure a safe milk and meat supply

References:

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News Release from VNN on Animal Cruelty at E6 Cattle Company



Veterinary News Organization Points To Solutions For Production Animal Cruelty! (www.MyVNN.com)

Veterinary News Network calls for more veterinary cooperation and the use of existing high quality, bilingual training programs to prevent senseless abuse!

Colorado Springs, Colorado – The images on the video were gruesome, grown men beating newborn dairy calves with pickaxes and claw hammers. “After 20 seconds of video, I had to turn it off,” says Dr. Jim Humphries, President of the Veterinary News Network (VNN). “I was sickened by what I saw and felt anger and disgust towards the individuals and the company that allowed this cruelty to happen.”

Dr. Humphries is referring to an undercover video released by Mercy for Animals after a two week long clandestine operation at the E6 Cattle Company in Hart, Texas. “I have been a veterinarian for 35 years and this video in no way represents the vast majority of good livestock producers in this county. Remember this is animal abuse and cruelty, and should not be confused with the humane production practices we see on the majority of farms today. But in a case this egregious, the spotlight of media, public condemnation and enforcement of the law will help move the industry to real solutions.”

Dr. Bernard Rollin, Distinguished Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University said, “This incident is one of the worst I have ever seen in 35 years animal work. Whereas many abuse situations involve ignorance or greed, this case demonstrates genuine sadistic heartless cruelty. We must show the world that such behavior cannot be excused or tolerated and provide practical solutions.”

And positive solutions, in the form of excellent training programs, now exist - but they must be taken seriously and more universally used.



Dr. Daniel Thomson, a highly respected expert in production animal medicine at Kansas State University has the solution, “Beef producers and veterinarians work tirelessly as a team to provide humane care for cattle across the United States. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), working with veterinary and animal science experts, have created and published humane euthanasia guidelines that expressly forbid bludgeoning as a form of euthanasia for calves.” Dr. Thomson adds, “The utilization of the AABP guidelines, plus training, on-farm or on-line, could have stopped this abuse from happening.”

The economy plays a part in this issue as well. As profits slide, some producers have chosen to shortcut good animal welfare procedures and even completely remove the veterinarian from the operation. The sheriff for Castro County, where the E6 calf ranch is located, has reported to the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) that E6 did not have a veterinarian on site.

Production animal agriculture in the United States fills the huge demand for plentiful, healthy and safe animal protein. Producers, working with Doctors of Veterinary Medicine, provide important supplies of meat, eggs and dairy products for the world. The veterinarian must be a part of that production and also an essential part of the training for managers and workers so both safety and humane care are ensured.

With more than 96% of the US population eating meat and dairy products routinely, there is a strong demand. In the case of sick or “down” animals, expert and compassionate euthanasia guidelines are in place to insure the most humane death possible. “Make no mistake, this is not about vegetarianism,” says Humphries, “and it should not be about fund-raising for national groups who want to remove animals from our lives. It’s about the humane and compassionate management of production animals.”

Eleanor Green is the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University. Dean Green says; “Texas has a long, rich history in animal agriculture. Veterinarians and cattle producers work hand-in-hand to ensure compassionate care and healthy animals. This isolated incident is not representative of the care these animals receive. It does highlight the importance of thriving partnerships between veterinarians and producers in the entire spectrum of animal care and welfare.”

“When a farmer or rancher takes the time to educate himself and his production team, he is showing a great deal of responsibility,” says Dr. Dan Posey, Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. “This, in turn has a positive impact on the care of his animals as well as the health of his business.” Dr. Posey added “livestock producers who have taken the necessary steps to understand proper animal handling and care deeply value their partnerships with veterinarians. They know that an on-going relationship is critical for the humane treatment of all their animals. The veterinarian can then fulfill his or her role as the guardian of the animal’s health and welfare.”

This ranch either failed in properly training their employees in animal care techniques or management simply looked away. It is time for existing animal welfare programs to be used fully and in turn provide animal workers with essential, bi-lingual information for the proper care of livestock. Examples include the Animal Care Training system through the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University (www.AnimalCareTraining.org) and farm level welfare assessment tools such as the National Dairy’s Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program (www.NationalDairyFarm.com) and the Beef Quality Assurance Feedlot Self-Assessment tools (www.BQA.org).



While condemnations and references to animal welfare guidelines are a common reaction to such cases, the real-world solution is the veterinary relationship and proper training. If voluntary training is not adequate, then perhaps it is time to consider implementing compulsory education and training.

Media Message Points from VNN for Issues Concerning Animal Welfare & Livestock Production Practices

As veterinarians and leaders within our profession, community, and in our circle of friends, you never know when you may be asked to weigh in on high profile issues that are reported in the news such as the recent E6 Calf Ranch incident in Texas (please see previous article for more information). It is important in all of those situations to be prepared to give an answer but to also make a transition or “bridge” to a positive message point about veterinary medicine and animal agriculture. Dr. Jim Humphries’ media training that he has been teaching at different CVMA venues has helped many of us to be more fully prepared and to do a better job talking with the media. If you get a chance to take the media training sponsored by CVMA and VNN, you will find it very worthwhile, personally and for the veterinary profession.

Some of the following message points were used in VNN’s video which featured Dr. Jim Humphries in response to the E6 calf ranch situation and animal welfare in animal agriculture. To view the video posted on You Tube, click on the following link or copy it into your browser address bar:

<http://youtu.be/FrXuw8Bc8OU>



ANIMAL WELFARE AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF OUR PRODUCTION ANIMALS

Media Message Points

www.MyVNN.com

- 1) Cruelty to animals in any form is horrific to most people, but acts of intentional abuse inflicted upon defenseless animals are especially repulsive to livestock producers, veterinarians and anyone who spends their life working with these animals that provide so much for us.
- 2) Isolated cases of senseless barbaric cruelty seen in undercover video on some farms are distressing to all of us. Veterinarians, producers and animal welfare experts are among the millions of Americans to express intense outrage.
- 3) Not only is cruelty and abuse hurtful to the animals and damaging for the industry, but humane standards, rules and guidelines have existed for a long time. Producers should make certain



these known standards are followed. When done properly, food animal production is more efficient and humane.

- 4) The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, working with the producer, can make sure animals are properly handled, humanely cared for and when necessary, properly euthanized to prevent unnecessary suffering.
- 5) In egregious cases, there are state laws that can be enforced and may provide for jail time and other penalties. Enforcement of such laws is more common.
- 6) Watching one covert video may very well stir deep anger and strong reactionary emotions. However, animal abuse and cruelty is RARE among producers or anyone who works with production animals for a living.
- 7) Livestock organizations not only condemn abuse and cruelty, but are happy to see individuals who abuse animals removed from the industry. There is simply NO place for animal abuse or cruelty of any kind in the production animal industry.
- 8) In several high profile cases where video documented abuse, evidence of a veterinary relationship or consultation is typically not found. The production animal veterinarian plays an integral part of insuring the proper health and welfare for these animals that provide a vital source of protein for our country and the world.
 - a. Veterinarians take an oath: *"...use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefits of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering..."*.
 - b. Every hour of every day, veterinarians and producers work together to insure the healthiest animals are raised under humane, safe and sanitary conditions.
- 9) Positive solutions do exist. There are several major national programs, on-farm or on-line, that provide training for the proper care and welfare of these animals. Examples include bi-lingual and online training such as:
 - a. The Animal Care Training system through the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University (www.AnimalCareTraining.org)
 - b. Farm level welfare assessment tools such as the National Dairy's Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program (www.NationalDairyFarm.com)
 - c. The Beef Quality Assurance Feedlot Self-Assessment tools (www.BQA.org).
- 10) Producers are highly trained, extremely dedicated people who devote untold hours to the proper care and treatment of their animals. We take for granted the healthy and safe milk, meat, eggs and all dairy products we buy in our grocery stores. But Americans rarely see the devoted producer, working tirelessly to make sure those products are always there for you. They are the true face of animal agriculture, not a rare heartless individual who carelessly mistreats an animal.



- 11) The good news is that America has a long and proud history of providing healthy animal protein to the world and we should be thankful for the men and women who dedicate themselves to this goal.
- 12) Another extremely important point to remember is that we are lucky that many Doctors of Veterinary Medicine have chosen to specialize in production animal medicine. When producers work with their veterinary specialist, the outcome is always positive. Better, more efficient production is the result and a profitable farm leads to healthy cattle, healthy people and a healthy planet.
- 13) Veterinarians are also the guardians for our nation's food supply in the risk of bio-terrorism and diseases transmission that can affect large populations of people.
- 14) We all condemn animal abuse in any form. But the real answer in production animal industry lies in a thriving partnership between veterinarians and producers in the entire spectrum of animal care and welfare.

(The Veterinary News Network, www.MyVNN.com)

BAP and CSU to Hold 2nd Equine Investigations Training

Scot Dutcher, Chief of Bureau of Animal Protection

Back by popular demand! The Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) is excited and proud to announce that the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and Colorado State University (CSU) are combining resources again and planning a three day event late this summer to train Bureau of Animal Protection agents, law enforcement, and District Attorney Office personnel in equine neglect investigative techniques. The training, which will be held at the B.W. Pickett Equine Center in Fort Collins Colorado, will include hands-on body condition scoring, basic identification, equipment and use, equine behavior, and an investigative overview summarizing what was learned and how to apply it to a neglect investigation.

Attendees of the last course filled out evaluations that showed resoundingly positive feedback. There were some suggestions on how to improve the course and instructors have already met to see how we can incorporate those suggestions. This will be another basic course but we will be offering a Level-Two course at some point next year.

Information will be distributed when the training is scheduled. Due to the popularity of this course, open spots fill very quickly. The BAP is keeping a log of interested people; those that didn't get in the first time will be given first option.



Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) Program

Kate Anderson, DVM; Director of PACFA



The Pet Animal Care Facilities program has completed license renewal for the 2011 license-year. To date we have issued more than 1750 licenses and we are continuing to receive applications for new licenses across the state. The program expects to be on track again for licensing over 1800 facilities that house and care for pet animals in Colorado. The program sets a minimum standard for housing, animal care, and record keeping for those facilities that keep pet animals including boarding kennels, animal shelters, retail pet stores, pet animal groomers, and animal rescues.

Veterinary clinics and hospitals may need to be licensed if certain services are offered to the public. In general veterinarians do not need to license their facility with PACFA unless they offer pet animal grooming or boarding services. The question we often receive is “if we only board animals for post-surgical monitoring or medical treatments do we need to license our veterinary practice?” The answer to this question is no, you do not need to license if these are the activities you are performing. Advertising overnight or day care boarding or pet grooming services to the public does require a license with PACFA. Information about licensure, an application and a copy of the rules and regulations can be found on our web site at www.colorado.gov/ag/animals/PACFA or you can call 303-239-4167 and speak with Lisa Gibson.

The Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund which is linked to the PACFA program would like to encourage everyone to purchase the new Adopt a Shelter Pet license plate and contribute to the Colorado Pet Fund through the state tax check off. Funds raised from both of these programs support pet animal spay/neuter programs and animal shelters in underserved areas of the state. Information about both programs can be found at www.coloradopetfund.org.

Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

The VMLRP application period is open until July 8, 2011 so if you plan on applying, do it soon!

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program is a federal program under USDA to determine the geographical areas that have a shortage of veterinarians and to administer a protocol to accept veterinarians into the loan repayment program through a qualifying application process. USDA’s Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) helps 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 situations.



According to the USDA, “veterinarians are critical to 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 other high priority specialty areas. A leading cause for this shortage is the heavy cost of four years of professional veterinary medical training, which can average between \$100,000 and \$140,000. Congress established the VMLRP as a way to remedy this growing need.”

In 2011, seven geographical areas in Colorado were accepted as shortage areas. Those service areas are centered around the following cities in Colorado; Lajara, Grover, Calhan, Brush, Las Animas, Burlington, and Trinidad. For more information on the shortage areas go to the following webpage:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/vmlrp_11/vmlrp_shortage_situation_usmap.html
The VMLRP exchanges veterinary service for educational costs. Recipients will receive up to \$25,000 per year for three years of service in veterinary shortage areas.

The current VMLRP application period is open until July 8, 2011 so it is necessary to apply very soon for this program!

There is a webpage set up to assist veterinarians in the application process, it can be assessed at:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp_applicants.html The applicants section is for veterinarians who are interested in applying for a VMLRP award. It is **very important** to review the information provided within each link before you start your VMLRP application.

There is also a webinar that has been recorded to help applicants through the process, it can be found at the following address:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp_webinars.html

Equine Piroplasmosis in Moffat County

Earlier in 2011, there were five horses in Moffat County, Colorado that tested positive for equine piroplasmosis (EP). The initial purpose of the testing was due to EP trace-out activities from another state. All of these horses originated from the same training facility in California and there has been no transmission of this disease to any horses in Colorado. All five of the EP test-positive horses that had been quarantined were euthanized. All of the cohort horses have been tested and confirmed as negative.

Currently, many race tracks across the country are requiring horses that enter their grounds to be negative. In addition, some states have initiated EP testing as part of their state import requirements. Many countries also require a negative EP test on horses that are imported from the U.S. Prior to writing a health certificate, it is important to research the import requirements of the destination to which your client is transporting their horse whether it is for racing, import to another state, or for international transport.



Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) is a blood-borne parasitic disease that affects horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, and zebras. It is a disease caused by the blood parasites *Babesia caballi* or *Theileria equi* (formerly *Babesia equi*). EP-infected animals can develop fever, anemia, yellowing of the membranes in the eyes and mouth, and dark brown to red-tinged urine. Some animals die from the disease, while others never get sick. A high percentage of horses that test positive for the infection may not show any clinical signs. Horses with persistent EP infections are carriers of the parasites that cause the disease and are potential sources of infection to other horses. EP is spread by certain ticks, which move the blood parasites from one horse to another. People can also spread the EP disease agents by reusing needles or syringes between infected and uninfected horses. Dental, tattoo, and surgical equipment can also spread the disease if they are not thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between horses. In addition, taking blood from an infected horse—even one that appears healthy—and giving it to an uninfected horse as a transfusion would likely move the disease agent between horses.

Since 2008, EP-infected horses have been found in several states. Horses that test positive for the disease are quarantined, euthanized, enter an experimental treatment program, or exported to a country that will accept EP-positive horses. Any horses that have had contact with infected horses are tested and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has developed strict guidelines for managing infected and exposed horses.

Equine piroplasmosis is a reportable disease and leads to regulatory consequences. Quarantines and disease control plans for any test-positive horses are determined by the State Veterinarian of Colorado and 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

If you have any questions, please call the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-239-4161

Livestock Import Requirements Vary – Call Ahead

As always, it is very important for livestock owners and veterinarians to check the import requirements of other states before the health certificates are written. For example, with the current EHV-1 outbreak, the state of Wyoming is requiring that all horses have a health certificate issued within 72 hours of arriving in their state. In addition, the horses' temperatures need to be recorded on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Another example is Michigan's requirement concerning importation of horses from Colorado. A recent letter from their State Veterinarian indicated the following requirement is in place until February 2012 due to the fact that Colorado has had the presence of equine piroplasmosis (EP) diagnosed in the state and that it would be strictly enforced.



'Equidae entering Michigan from states that have had cases of EP in the past 12 months must be accompanied by an interstate health certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection signed by an accredited veterinarian that includes the following statement:

"I have examined the animal(s) listed on this certificate. At the time of the examination, the animal(s) listed on this certificate is/are not under quarantine for piroplasmiasis, not displaying signs of piroplasmiasis, and either did not have evidence of live ticks or was/were successfully treated for ticks if ticks were present."

These two examples highlight the need for checking into the entry requirements for livestock that are transported to other states. On our website, we have a list of the current websites and permit phone line for the State Veterinarian's Office in each state, here a direct link to the document:

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

Animal Disease Traceability Proposed Rule

In early 2010, the USDA Secretary of Agriculture developed a new framework for Animal Disease Traceability. The Traceability framework will apply only to livestock that move interstate, offer low cost options for animal identification, attempt to have livestock continue to move efficiently in interstate commerce and provide flexibility to states in implementing the Traceability system.

A Traceability rule making workgroup--comprised of the USDA, state and tribal animal health officials and livestock industry leaders--has been involved in a collaborative rule making process. This group developed a proposed Traceability rule that is planned to be published in Summer of 2011 and is projected to become a final rule published in the Code of Federal Regulations in July of 2012.

The new rule will essentially require that all animals that are moved interstate be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and be officially identified, with some exceptions to both requirements. For example, feeder cattle will not be required to be officially identified at the inception of the rule and will not be required to be listed on a CVI for the foreseeable future.

State animal health officials recognize that animal identification and Certificates of Veterinary Inspection are important tools for animal disease traceability. The use of these tools in current regulatory animal disease programs, through productive livestock industry participation, has been very successful in reducing the incidence of certain diseases. The reduction in certain diseases has brought about an overall decrease in animal identification and testing requirements for interstate livestock movements.

Furthermore, the USDA has moved away from down-grading entire states in Tuberculosis or Brucellosis regulatory disease eradication programs and now states require testing or official animal identification only in certain areas within states or only to specific quarantined premises. Because of these reduced animal identification and testing requirements needed to move livestock interstate, states have recognized the need to improve their ability to trace livestock movements. Thus, they have begun to align their databases holding animal movement, animal disease test results and brand inspections information.



In the end, the proposed Traceability rule will likely require cattle producers to officially identify the cattle that move interstate. The proposed rule will likely require veterinarians to individually list official identification numbers of cattle > 18 months of age on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. The Traceability rule process has caused state animal health officials to reevaluate the methods we use to store information and has led to a process to convert paper into electronic documents that can be searched and retrieved.

The process will be phased in through USDA and depend, in part, on funding. Whatever happens at the federal level, traceability is a priority for Colorado and we will use existing or additional funding where we can to assure animal disease traceability.

Animal Disease Traceability Proposed Rule & the Use of Brands

Draft Proposed Rule – Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate Clarification Regarding Use of Brands and Other Identification Methods

March 28, 2011

Updated May 11, 2011

USDA supports the use of brands to identify cattle moving interstate. Further, USDA recognizes the value of brands and their prevalence in the western United States. Under USDA's traceability framework and the upcoming draft proposed rule for traceability for livestock moving interstate, States will be able to continue using brands.

In the draft proposed rule, USDA will define official identification methods for each species. These official identification methods or devices will be accepted by all States and Tribes for the entry of livestock into their jurisdictions. States and Tribes will not be able to impose additional identification requirements if a producer uses the official identification method outlined in the proposed regulations. Alternatively, the animal health officials in two States or Tribes may agree to ship or receive animals that are identified by means other than the official identification method, including branding. In the draft proposed rule, the official identification method for cattle will be official eartags or group/lot identification when the use of a group/lot identification number is applicable. The draft proposed regulation clearly states that cattle and bison moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes may alternatively be identified with another form of identification, including brands, tattoos, and breed registry certificates as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.

It is our intention in defining official identification methods by species to provide clarity to livestock owners so they know what official identification options are accepted for the movement of their animals to any State. Additionally, receiving States or Tribes will not be allowed to require a specific official identification technology. For example, a State could not require all cattle to be officially identified with an official radio frequency identification ear tag. This is in keeping with our basic objective in the new animal disease traceability framework— to support the use of low cost technology.



The approach in the draft proposed regulation will provide flexibility for States and Tribes to use brands. The draft proposed regulation will be designed to support the practices that have proven to work well for those States and Tribes with authorized brand inspection. At the same time, establishing the official identification method in the draft proposed rule will ensure that no one State or Tribe can deny a method of official identification or require a specific method of official identification for entry of livestock into their jurisdiction.

(This update taken from USDA APHIS VS Animal Disease Traceability webpage at:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>)

Bovine Tuberculosis



The TB outbreak in Colorado that started on March 25th, 2010 with the trace-back on an adult Holstein cow from a packing plant in Texas to a southern Colorado dairy is almost closed out. In the process of the past 15 months, there have been approximately 47 herds tested, over 3,700 animals tested, and about 48 different premises have been involved. The last steps in the process will be “assurance” TB testing of animals that have been re-populated onto the index herd and other herd testing of the re-populated animals residing on the premises that had a positive TB case. . The numbers of herds,

animals, and premises involved in this outbreak has represented a tremendous amount of time and work on the part of the staff from CDA and USDA APHIS. Our field veterinarians, animal health technicians, veterinary epidemiologists, and other office staff have done a tremendous job in the epidemiology, field work, and administrative processes to get to this point. We also thank the practicing veterinarians who have worked with us in this outbreak!

Important animal health and disease control principles that were highlighted in this TB outbreak:

- Importance of official animal ID
- The key function that interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection play in animal movement when they are completed properly and filled out with correct official animal ID numbers
- The necessity to pasteurize colostrum in dairy operations
- The vital role of the Brand Division in animal health and tracing of livestock movements
- The need to have accurate animal ID and sale records of dairy calves recorded before leaving a dairy
- The importance of proper livestock auction market receipts



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