



Animal Industry News

Volume 8, Issue 1

March, 2007

From Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey..

I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not met and provide an update on activities in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

In 1981 I graduated from Iowa State University and moved back home to rural Spirit Lake in Dickinson County to farm with my Grandfather, Sid Northey. On the farm we have grown corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and raised hogs and cattle. I also served on the Dickinson County Soil Conservation Board, the Farm Bureau and the Corn Growers. On January 2nd, 2007, I was sworn in as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture. It has been a busy and enjoyable couple months and I look forward to continuing to serve as your Secretary of Agriculture.

Shortly after being sworn in as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, I committed to hold town hall meetings in each of Iowa's 99 counties this year. This commitment allows me to hear directly from Iowans on the important issues in agriculture. Please accept this note as an invitation to join me as I visit each county this year. To keep up to date on my schedule of town hall meetings, please visit the Department of Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.state.ia.us

Transportation and Exhibition at Fair time presents an even bigger challenge to meet the goal of keeping livestock disease from spreading from premises to premises. The importance of your role in protecting Iowa livestock cannot be overstated.

I appreciate your commitment to maintaining Iowa's status as a world leader in agriculture.

(Continued ►)

Bill Northey
Secretary of Agriculture

Karey Claghorn
Deputy Secretary of
Agriculture

David D. Schmitt, D.V.M.
Acting State
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It is an exciting and challenging time in agriculture. As the rest of this newsletter will illustrate, disease management and prevention continues to be a priority for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. From the headline diseases like avian influenza, to the more specific issues like Johne's disease and the challenge of feral swine, your proactive involvement in animal health at this time of year is more vital than ever.

Table of Contents

Ways to Contact Us Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine Disease Status	2
Iowa Scrapie Program	3
State Veterinarian Directory	4
Iowa Premises Registration	5
Feral Swine	6
IVRRT Pseudorabies	7
State District Vet map IDALS Field Staff	8
Compliance Update Iowa Brands Registration Program	9
Iowa State Fair CVI's EIA	10
State/Federal Coop Vet District map USDA Field Staff	11
Tuberculosis Update	12
Avian Influenza	13
Chronic Wasting Disease CWD Continued	14 15
Johne's Program Update	16
2006 Iowa Rabies Map	17

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Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine

The Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine welcomes Mr. Tom Colvin, Executive Director of the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc. as a Public Member. Former Governor Vilsack appointed Mr. Colvin to the Board in September 2006.

The Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine currently has 2,109 actively licensed veterinarians and 236 actively registered veterinary technicians. The next National Board Exam for veterinarians is April 9-21, 2007 and the next National and State Exam for veterinary technicians is June 15, 2007.

DISEASE STATUS

Cattle Brucellosis: Texas and Idaho are Class A, rest of the country is Free.

Swine Brucellosis: Texas is Stage 2. The rest of the country is Free.

Cattle Tuberculosis: Michigan has split status: Modified Accredited, Modified Accredited Advanced, and Free. **New Mexico** has split status: Modified Accredited Advanced and Free. **Minnesota** is Modified Accredited Advanced. The rest of the country is Free.

Pseudorabies: The entire country is Stage V.

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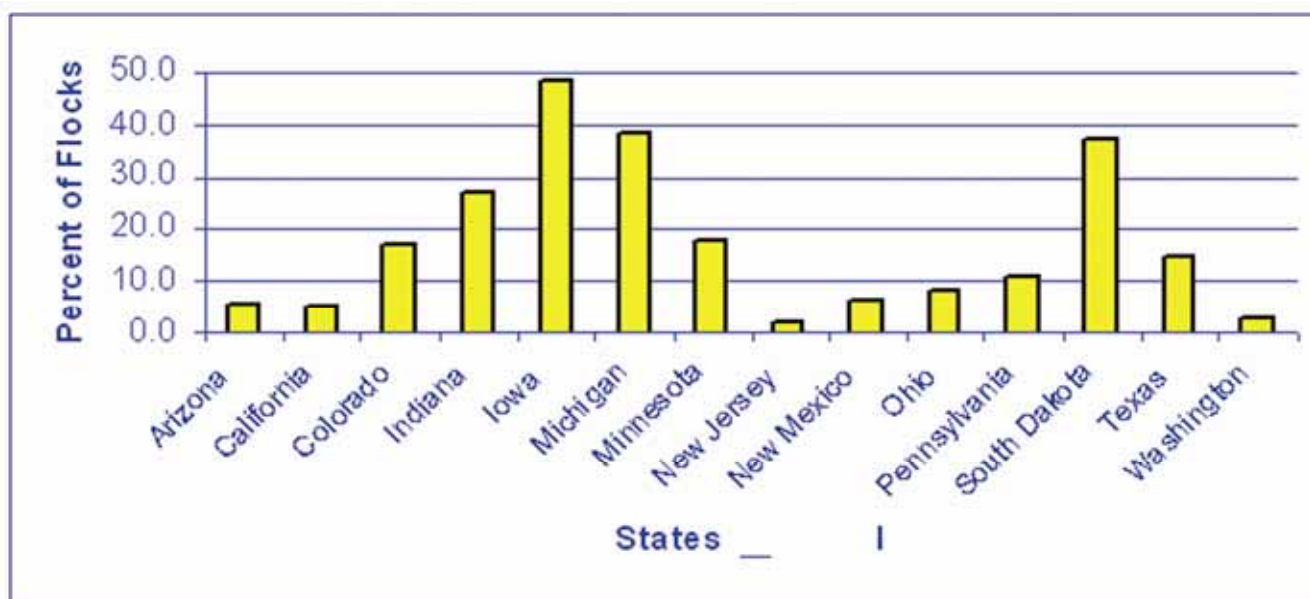
Iowa Scrapie Program

Dr. Pamela L. Smith & Dr. Sharon K. Fairchild
Designated Scrapie Epidemiologists

Scrapie Program Update – January 2007 (for IDALS Newsletter)

National Progress- The National Scrapie Program was launched in November, 2001, with the goal of eliminating scrapie outbreaks by 2010 and having the U.S. declared Scrapie Free by 2017. We seem to be making progress toward this goal. Two key factors essential to success have been individual identification of sheep to allow tracing and the national Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) program. RSSS began in 2003, and during 2006 it was noted that the percentage of targeted sheep sampled that tested positive for scrapie dropped by 50%. This suggests that the approximately 570 scrapie-infected flocks that have been identified and cleaned up since the beginning of the program have made a real dent in the prevalence of scrapie nationwide.

Iowa Progress- In Iowa we have received an average of nearly one RSSS trace per month during the last two years. When we receive an RSSS trace, it means that an adult animal, usually a ewe, was found to be scrapie-positive at slaughter, and she had an Iowa scrapie tag in her ear (we actually receive a picture of her ear tag). This takes us to the flock where she originated, usually that flock is determined to be infected, and a clean-up plan is initiated which involves the removal of the animals which are determined to be genetically susceptible to scrapie. As of today, 51 flocks in Iowa have been or are currently being cleaned up following the discovery of scrapie infection. Iowa has been recognized nationally for our accomplishments in the scrapie program. Even though nearly all of our ewes are slaughtered out-of-state, a review of the RSSS data shows that we have had the highest percentage of our flocks sampled at slaughter for scrapie, compared to other states (see graph). This is due to our excellent ID program participation which allows us to successfully track down animals that need to be tested. In fiscal year 2006, we cleaned up 10 infected flocks and found that, among the scrapie-susceptible sheep removed from these flocks, 48 head were scrapie-positive (making us the #1 state for scrapie-positive sheep found in the field for 2006).



Percentage of flocks that have had animals tested for scrapie at slaughter, by state.

Scrapie Program Goals- Nationally there is a plan to increase slaughter surveillance by enforcing ID compliance in the states that are falling short and by finding and mending the holes in the RSSS collection coverage (such as ewes that go to Mexico). This year will also be the first for slaughter surveillance on goats, which can also contract and transmit scrapie. In Iowa, we continue to promote the use of “RR” rams to provide scrapie resistance in breeding flocks through our **free ram scrapie genotype testing program**

(call (515) 242-5950 or go to www.agriculture.state.ia.us/animalindustry.htm for more info).

Here’s hoping for a scrapie-free future!

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NEW JERSEY	Dr. Nancy E. Halpern	(609) 292-3965	(609) 292-3965
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Premise Identification

Protect Your Premises, Protect Your Industry

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a national animal health program that is being developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State animal health agencies, in cooperation with industry. This system consists of three parts – premises identification, animal identification, and tracking of animal movements.

In Iowa, we are working solely on premises registration, the cornerstone of the program. Premises registration provides us with a clear idea of where livestock is located within the state. In the event of a disease threat within the state, the ability to pull up the affected area's information and know how many premises there are, if there are any susceptible animals on the premises, where the premises are located and contact names and numbers, is critical. This information is used to form a plan to respond to the problem. Currently, if a disease were found on a farm, a quarantine circle is drawn around that location. Health officials then contact all the farms in the circle that could have animals susceptible to the disease. This method includes searching old disease databases and driving the roads looking for farms that had livestock not the most efficient method when you could be dealing with a time sensitive issue. Premises identification will speed up this process by letting us know where the animals are located. Plugging the information into mapping software will allow the investigating officials to draw circles and know how many premises could be affected by the disease outbreak.

We have been registering premises for a year and a half. The registration program is voluntary and done at no cost to the producer. We have had a great response from producers and non-producer participants so far, receiving over 16,000 registration applications. We have received support for the program from many of the producer groups in the state and also have heard concerns about the program from producers. The program has undergone some changes this past year, the major change being that USDA has stated the program will remain voluntary. Another change is that producers can choose in which parts of the program they want to participate. This means that, if they choose to register their premises, they are not required to do animal identification or animal tracking. States can

decide to make parts of the program mandatory, and Wisconsin and Indiana have made premises registration mandatory within their respective states. For now, Iowa is planning on keeping premises registration voluntary and following USDA suggested guidelines. As stated above, the NAIS is an animal health program. It is being put into place to help control and eliminate all disease threats to the animal agricultural system. A benefit of the program is the protection of markets and market access for producers.

The Department is asking for assistance from the veterinary clinics across the state to get the word out about Premises Identification. If you have any ideas, or would like to discuss how you can help, please contact Steve White, the State Animal Identification Coordinator, at 888-778-7675. Thank you to all of the clinics that are promoting the program. With everyone's help, we can continue to make Iowa's animal agriculture system safer and stronger.



Feral Swine

Southwest Iowa Feral Swine Report for 2006-2007

Feral swine are still alive and doing well in southwest Iowa, particularly in Fremont County. Sightings and kills are being documented by DNR officials, and all indications point that the animals are spreading out, mostly in the western half of the county, and to the border with Missouri to the south and Mills County to the north. It doesn't appear that this problem will be going away anytime soon.

Fremont County Feral Hog Mortality from Fall 2003 – Present

Shot by hunters	17
Trapped	48
Vehicle collisions	6
Found dead	2
Total	73

Approximately one half of these animals were sampled (blood and tissue) and all have been negative for PRV and Brucellosis. Not all kills are reported so these numbers may not reflect the total numbers of animals killed. With the DNR and locals trying to trap in areas of most recent sightings, additional samplings may be available in the near future. Many of the kills have been enjoyed by the wild pig connoisseurs in the area..

Because of the potential threat of these two diseases, testing was requested on some swine farms in a 10 mile radius of where feral swine had been spotted a year ago. Criteria that dictated which farms would be tested were farms that didn't have total confinement. Thirty breeding swine and thirty feeders were tested on each farm if those numbers were available. Fifteen farms were involved in this testing, and all were negative to both diseases.

Jim Johnson
District Veterinarian

Southeast Iowa Feral Swine Report for 2006-2007

As in the past, the DNR has been documenting all known kills and sightings and trapping of feral swine. We have not had any significant activity such as kills or sightings in southeast Iowa other than Louisa County. However, Louisa County continues to be a hotbed of feral swine. There have been about 30 known kills and several more unknown kills this past year alone. The most recent was an organized hunt in December by six men which resulted in the killing of 15 feral swine, of which 6 were in the 400-500 pound size. All of those killed appeared to be of the Russian Boar variety. Of these, 3 were pregnant sows, each carrying from 3-6 piglets. The sightings have been too numerous to document. It has been reported that sightings of 20-25 swine in a group is not uncommon. They are much easier to see and to hunt in the fall after the crops have been harvested and they have less cover. I have submitted approximately 15 blood samples this year for Brucellosis and Pseudorabies testing. All samples have been negative for both. Trapping has so far been pretty unsuccessful in Louisa County.

When the Federal grant for testing outside swine production sites within 10 miles of a sighting or killed feral swine made funds available, we tested approximately 75 farms in Louisa, Washington and Des Moines Counties. All of these have been negative as well for Brucellosis and Pseudorabies.

According to the landowners in that area, most of the feral swine in Louisa County are located in a circle with a 2 mile radius of Cairo Woods, which is located 3-4 miles southeast of Columbus Junction. The number of feral swine appear to be increasing in this area, but there does not appear to be a significant spread from this area. It is common opinion that the feral swine are going to be very difficult and probably impossible to eliminate from this area because of the large areas of unfarmable river bottom and timber ground.

Dr. Robert Welander
District State Veterinarian

IVRRT

Virtual Exercise for IVRRT in June

Practicing for a disaster is part of the world of emergency management. Usually, this requires bringing everybody together for a day in one or more locations to talk through a disease scenario. However, for the last 2 weeks of June, IVRRT members can take part in a “virtual” exercise without leaving the comfort of their office.

The Center for Agriculture Security (CAS) is constructing a foreign animal disease exercise where members participate by phone. A scenario will be established, teams formed, and a progression of activities will be laid out in briefings twice each day over the 2-week period. The exercise will be hosted and controlled by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship the State Veterinarian. This gives IDALS staff an opportunity to work in the new Emergency Communications Center (ECC), which is part of CAS.

IVRRT members will be contacted to participate during one of the two weeks. The only commitment will be 5 – 10 minutes on the phone each day, once in the morning and again in the late afternoon. No preparation is necessary. Details of the exercise will be published in March.

Any veterinarian or animal health technician is welcome to participate. Call Mark Shearer at 515-281-5798 for more information.

Pseudorabies (PRV) 2007 Dr. Randy Wheeler and Diana Hutchinson, IDALS

Iowa was granted Stage V status by USDA in 2004, but PRV surveillance continues.

In 2007, the fee basis for drawing blood samples for PRV, in regard to the Pseudorabies Control and Eradication Project, will increase from \$4.50 to \$5.00. The herd stop fee remains at \$20 for the accredited veterinarian. Costs for blood draws for the Swine NAHMS '06 will remain at \$4.50.

Swine Exhibition requirements for 2007 involving PRV:

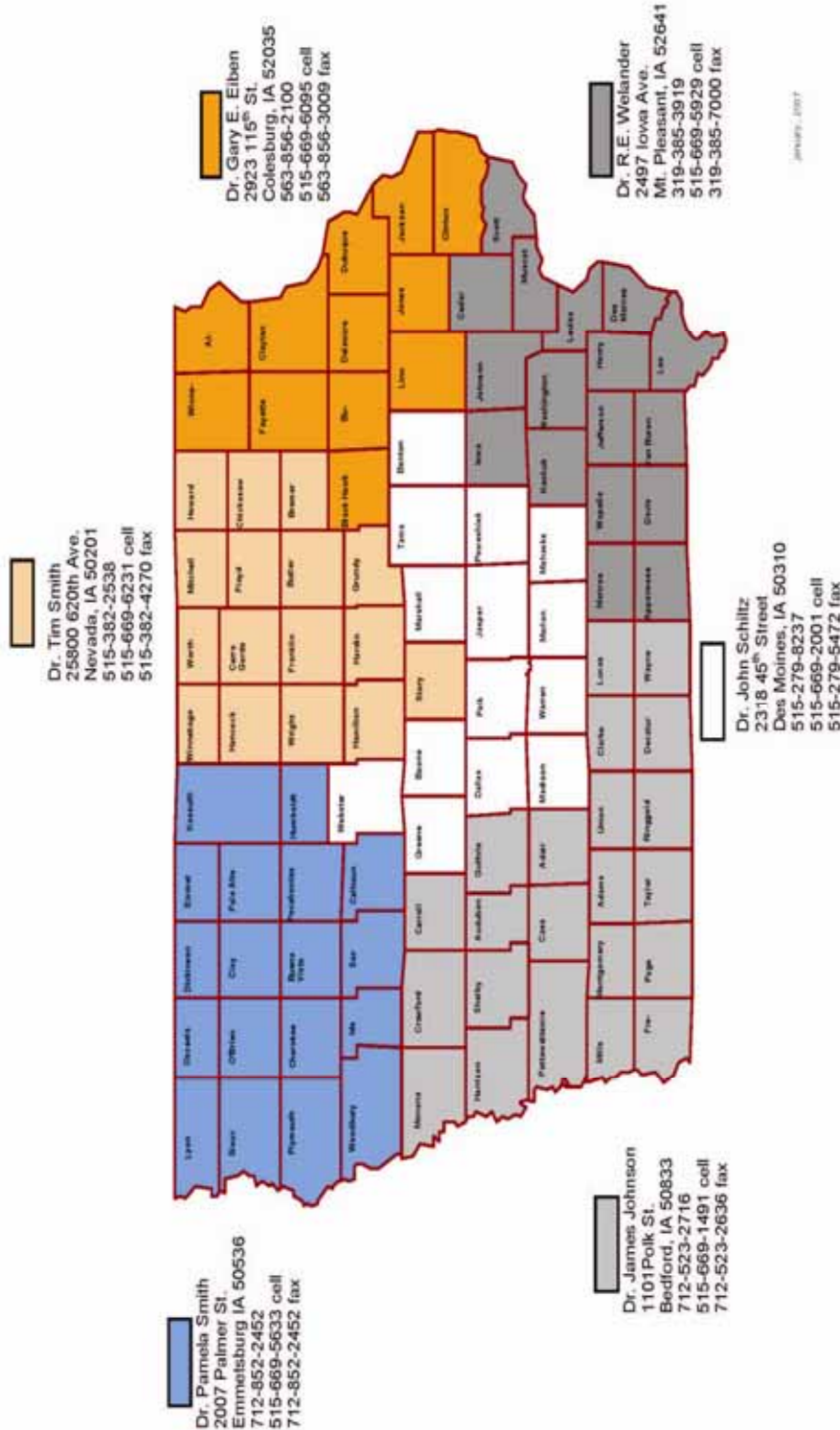
1. No testing is required for swine at an exhibition that involves only market classes, provided all swine are consigned directly to a slaughter establishment from the exhibition. Swine leaving the exhibition from a market class must be consigned and moved direct to a slaughtering establishment.
2. Swine that return from an exhibition to the home herd or that are moved to a purchaser's herd following an exhibition or consignment sale must be isolated and retested negative for Pseudorabies not less than 30 and not more than 60 days after reaching their destination. (Code of Iowa 166D.13(2).)

In 2006, swine that returned from exhibitions or consignment sales:

221 Tested.
180 Went to slaughter.
6 Died.
2 Sold out of state.
1 Can't locate owner.

STATE DISTRICT VETERINARIANS

Dave Schmitt, Asst. State Veterinarian
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2006 Compliance Update
Ron Rowland, JD
Consumer Protection & Animal Health Division Director

The Animal Industry Compliance staff completed 51 cases in calendar year 2006. Thirty-five of the cases related to investigations of alleged violations of livestock health, movement, and import laws and rules. Fifteen cases involved alleged violations of Iowa Code chapter 162 relating to the regulation of the pet industry.

Most of the livestock cases related to either illegal movements—failure to provide Certificate of Veterinary Inspections or illegal importation. Several cases also resulted from the failure of a livestock or feeder pig dealer to obtain and maintain proper dealer licensing. Pet-oriented cases were primarily investigations into individuals operating as commercial breeders, kennels or dealers without the requisite licensing.

The following is a brief summary of significant closures:

- Eight of the closed cases resulted in civil penalties being levied against either a producer or a dealer. These penalties amounted to \$12,800. All civil penalties were deposited in the State of Iowa general fund.
- Ten cases resulted in a Cease and Desist Order being issued against the violating party.
- Eighteen cases resulted in a formal Letter of Warning being issued to the violator.
- Two cases were turned over to county attorneys for prosecution. One of these resulted in several dogs, cats, and horses being removed from the owner's premises and the costs of the removal were levied against the owner.

Iowa Brands Registration Program News - 2007

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT -- A directory of all brands currently recorded by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is now available on the Iowa Brands web page (www.agriculture.state.ia.us/iowabrands.htm).

Not included in the directory are brands that haven't been renewed and are being held in a five-year forfeiture status during which time the brand owner may apply for reinstatement. At the end of that five-year period, those brands will be available for issue. Brands may be transferred while in forfeiture status if the owner agrees. Also available on that Iowa Brands web page are an application form to record a brand, the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code sections pertaining to branding in Iowa, and a brand transfer of title/ownership form.

Chapter 169A, Marking and Branding of Livestock, was enacted as a brand registration program in 1965 by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Chapter 169.1(1) "Brand" means an identification mark that is burned into the hide of a live animal by a hot iron or another method approved by the secretary. A cryo-brand, or freeze brand, is now recognized in Iowa as an approved method for marking livestock. Iowa will not register a brand that is in conflict with another brand, even if a different location on the animal is requested. It is illegal in Iowa for a person to brand livestock before first recording the brand.

Iowa has 2,835 recorded brands in active status. Iowa's brand fees include \$25.00 to record the brand for five years, \$25.00 to renew a brand for five years, and \$15.00 to transfer ownership or issue a replacement certificate. During calendar year 2006, 144 new brands were recorded.

If you don't have Internet access or have questions about the brand registration program, please contact:

Mary Fischer, Brand Recorder
 Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 502 E 9th Street
 Des Moines, IA 50319-0053
 Phone: 515/281-3325
 Fax: 515/281-4282
 E-mail: mary.fischer@idals.state.ia.us

Iowa State Fair & CVI's

Each year, the staff of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has the opportunity to examine Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for the Iowa State Fair. Of the hundreds of CVI we examine each year, we disapprove several dozen because they were improperly filled out. An official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is a legible record issued by an accredited veterinarian that documents the movement of livestock. Common problems encountered with CVI submitted by accredited veterinarians are: 1. Illegible, 2. Incomplete, 3. Improper identification of animals with a failure to use official identification and recording all identification.

Tips for filling out Certificates of Veterinary Inspection.

1. You have to inspect the animal(s) included on the CVI in a timely manner.
2. Make sure you record the correct animal ID information on the CVI. Include all forms of ID (tattoos, brands, metal tags, ear tags etc.)
3. Make sure you record the results, dates, and laboratory used for any tests.
4. Any required statement needs to be recorded on the CVI.
5. Fill out the rest of the CVI as necessary. Remember you are responsible for the CVI so you need to be the last to review it.
6. Don't forget to date it, with both the inspection and date you signed it.
7. Don't forget to sign it.

As an accredited veterinarian, you are legally responsible for properly identifying animals, recording the identification on official documents and to completely filling out a properly executed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Certificates of Veterinary Inspection not completed properly will be denied, and the owner will be required to obtain a new certificate at the owner's expense.

Enforcement of the rules is mandated by the Iowa Code, therefore we need your help with properly writing CVI. Please take the time to review the exhibition regulations for the State Fair, as regulations can change and vary by species.

Equine Infectious Anemia

In calendar year 2006, there was one horse testing positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) in the state of Iowa.

In calendar year 2005, there was one horse testing positive for EIA in the state of Iowa. This horse was euthanized and the herd of origin was quarantined and tested for EIA.

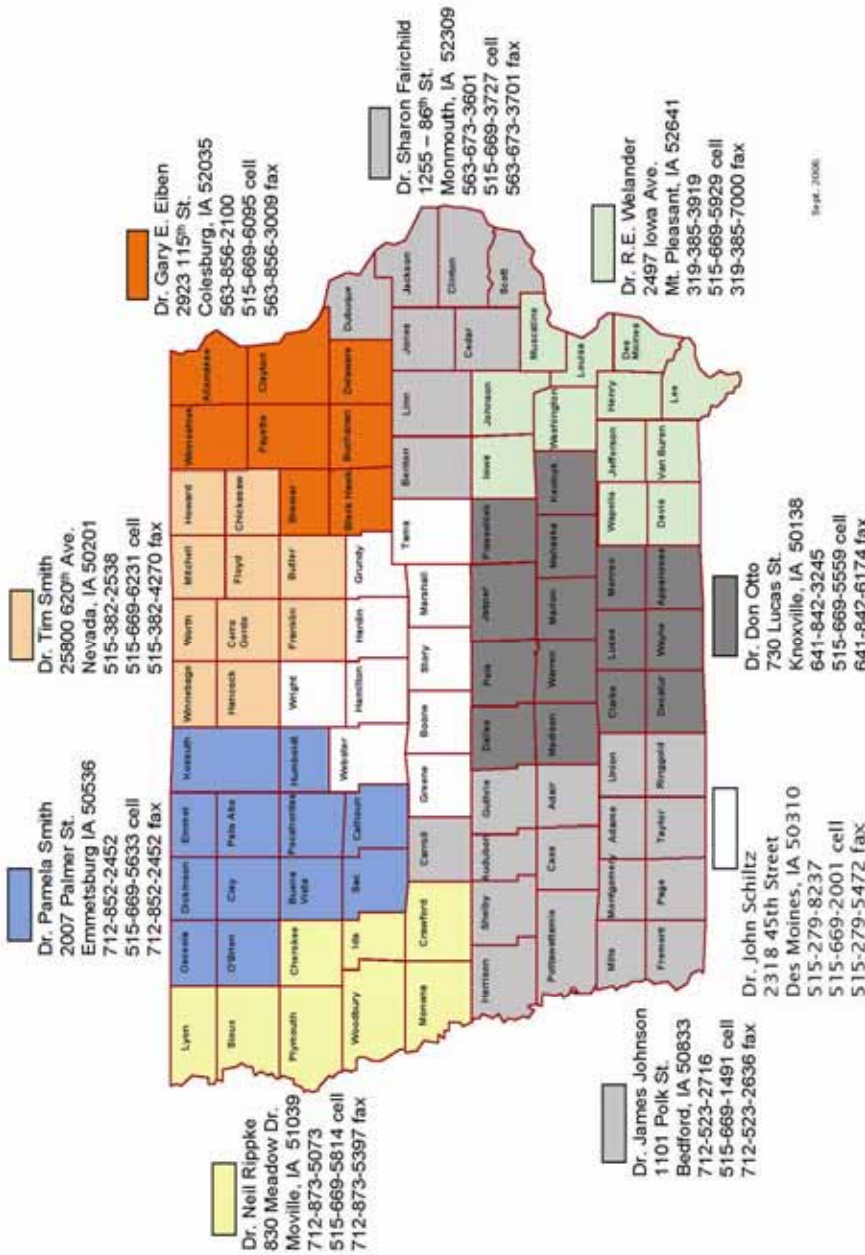
In Iowa in calendar year 2004, there were three horses tested positive for Equine Infectious Anemia in Iowa (EIA); 2003, three positive EIA horses; 2002 and two positive horses.

Iowa requires all imported horses over six months of age to be tested negative for EIA within the past twelve months. The name of the testing laboratory, accession number, and the date of test must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for test eligible horses imported into Iowa.

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Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Scrapie, Pseudorabies



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Tuberculosis Update

Like most states, Iowa remains classified as free of bovine tuberculosis.

Complacency about our status, however, must be cautioned against as the experiences in Minnesota have so clearly underscored. Minnesota's status was reduced to Modified Accredited Advanced last year with the discovery of 5 infected herds. Numerous cattle were either sourced historically from Iowa herds to the infected MN herds or traced out from the Minnesota herds to Iowa. We are relieved that all of the Iowa herds have tested negative. Over 2600 tests performed by regulatory veterinarians among 24 herds revealed no evidence of TB. The reduction in state status for Minnesota results for them in movement restrictions, increased testing, and certain surveillance standards that must be met until they can demonstrate freedom from TB for 2 consecutive years after depopulation of the last herd.

On the one hand, Iowa's Accredited-free status liberates us from these restrictions. On the other hand, the surveillance that does occur--at the slaughter plant and through various caudal-fold testing- must be robust enough to pick up TB quickly if it ever should arrive. Statistically, a minimum of 1 in 2000 adult cattle slaughtered is expected to have a pathological lesion that merits submission to NVSL for testing to rule out TB. This minimum standard is required of all slaughter plants in order to be considered as performing adequate surveillance. We are pleased to report that all of Iowa's adult cattle are slaughtered at plants that comply with the standard.

A second surveillance standard required of all states with Accredited-free status is that a minimum frequency of caudal-fold responders must be reported. The caudal-fold test is extremely sensitive, but at the cost of specificity. Unless 1% of tests performed results in a responder, the quality of the job may be called into question. Unfortunately, the minimum standard is not met uniformly among Iowa's accredited veterinarians. Last year, 16 veterinarians performed tests on greater than 300 animals, 151 veterinarians tested fewer than 300. The accredited veterinarians that tested fewer than 300 animals performed, collectively

5900 tests and reported 1.4% responders. Those testing more than 300 performed 25,069 tests and reported 0.42% responders. Iowa regulatory veterinarians consistently report 2% or higher. **Statistically, it is considered unlikely that 300 tests can go by without observing any responders given a 1% expected prevalence. This is, consequently, the minimum benchmark we ask all testing veterinarians to bear in mind.**



Please bear in mind that proper caudal fold testing will be an intradermal injection (not subcutaneous) in the skin of the caudal-fold and palpation of the injection site 72 hrs later. Many palpable changes are not apparent visually. Any change at all is to be considered a response and should be reported to the State Veterinarian's office, to the Federal Area office, or to your state district veterinarian or federal veterinary medical officer immediately. The follow-up comparative cervical test must be performed by the regulatory veterinarian within 10 days of the caudal-fold injection to get a valid result.

Important: Vials of tuberculin must be discarded TWO WEEKS after first use. Tuberculin can become completely worthless from oxidation 4 weeks after opening. The expiration date on the vial is valid only if the top has not been penetrated. Additionally, tuberculin must be protected from heat, freezing, and light. Last fall replacement vials of tuberculin were sent to all clinics that test infrequently with instructions to discard immediately their old vials. All orders of

tuberculin now come with a yellow warning label cautioning veterinarians to discard used vials appropriately.

Internationally, the relative freedom from bovine tuberculosis in the United States is unusual. Annually, a significant number of people (approximately 30 in New York state alone) present with tuberculosis confirmed to be due to *Mycobacterium bovis* infection¹. In 2004, a young boy, born in the US, died of bovine TB¹. These cases have epidemiologic ties to countries with endemic bovine TB, most commonly by consumption of fresh unpasteurized cheese from those countries. An estimated 1.7 million human deaths from all types of tuberculosis and 8.9 million new cases occurred globally in 2004 alone and the rates were increasing². The global rates due to zoonotic bovine tuberculosis infection are not known due to scarcity of data, but 3% is one aggregate estimate.^{3*}

The relative freedom from bovine TB in the US can be credited to the cooperative bovine tuberculosis eradication program. The importance of maintaining vigilance through good surveillance and reporting cannot, however, be understated.

¹MMWR 54(24): 605-608

²Published in Global TB Control 2006 (www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report).

³Emerging Infectious Diseases 4(1) Cosivi, *et al.*, 1998



Avian Influenza

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) entered into a one year cooperative agreement with USDA to provide additional voluntary surveillance of poultry for highly pathogenic avian influenza and to provide biosecurity information to operators of small poultry operations. This testing for H5 and H7 avian influenza is in addition to the ongoing testing being done by commercial poultry operations in the state. The risk of backyard poultry becoming exposed to avian influenza is greater in outdoor poultry due to potential exposure to wild waterfowl which can be carriers of H5 and H7 avian influenza, and Iowa is in the Mississippi and Missouri flyway of wild waterfowl.

Stan Witham has been hired by IDALS to accomplish these efforts. Stan has been offering free avian influenza testing for poultry at swap meets, to small flock producers located adjacent to large commercial poultry operations, and is handing out backyard flock biosecurity and avian influenza information. To date, all tests have been negative for H5 and H7 avian influenza.

Special note from Stan:

I am Stan Witham the HPAI/LBM Coordinator very new on the block and proceeding to learn all that is happening in the State of Iowa as far as poultry and poultry activities. I have been hired to find and test backyard flocks of poultry for Avian Influenza in the state. The risk of our poultry becoming exposed to this virus is high because we are in the Mississippi and Missouri flyway of waterfowl, these birds are the carrier of this virus which can readily infect our poultry. I hope I don't find any infected birds, but surveillance is the way to find and keep the disease from becoming a problem. Traveling around Iowa and calling on farmers and poultry owners is something I have done a lot of in my career in the poultry industry and I truly enjoy it. All for now. Stan Witham



Chronic Wasting Disease

Karen Gideon, Farm Deer Program Coordinator

Chronic Wasting Disease Program Update - 2007

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

is a transmissible neurological disease of deer and elk that produces small lesions in brains of infected animals. It is characterized by loss of body condition, behavioral abnormalities and death. CWD is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), and is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep. Infectious agents of CWD are neither bacteria nor viruses, but are hypothesized to be prions. Prions are infectious proteins without associated nucleic acids. Although CWD is a contagious fatal disease among deer and elk, research suggests that humans, cattle and other domestic livestock are resistant to natural transmission. While the possibility of human infection remains a concern, it is important to note there have been no verified cases of humans contracting CWD. Only four species of the deer family are known to be naturally susceptible to CWD: elk, mule deer, white-tail deer and moose. Susceptibility of other members of the deer family (cervids) and other wildlife species is not known, although ongoing research is further exploring this question.

The Deerhandler™

In 2006, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship purchased a mobile Deerhandler™ and 20 black poly covered 7' x 8' panels to use for an alley way and/or a holding pen. The Department will allow all deer producers enrolled in

the CWD Program, or wanting to enroll in the Program, to use this equipment for handling deer for CWD Program purposes and animal health related activities. To receive additional information, contact this office at 515/242-5950.

Update - Iowa's CWD Voluntary Program

There are 156 cervid herds currently enrolled in Iowa's CWD Program. Of these 156, 79 herds are whitetail deer, 52 herds are elk, 7 house deer/elk species, 7 have mixed deer,



7 are county conservation boards and 3 park/zoos. These herds have a total of 5,484 animals that are enrolled in the program, broken down into 2,447 elk, 2,944 whitetail, 69 fallow deer, 11 reindeer, 9 mule deer, 3 muntjacs and 1 whitetail/mule deer mix.

Annual Inventory Reconciliation

No changes have been made on Iowa's CWD Program. A herd is certified for 12 months. Each cervidae herd enrolled in the CWD Program must have an annual inventory conducted by a state district veterinarian. Inventory requirements are:

- 1) Records kept documenting the history/accountability of

all animals in the herd. This includes identification, date of birth and sex of all animals born or received on the premises.

- 2) All animals must have two forms of official identification which are outlined in the rules under 64.104 Definitions "Official Cervid Identification".
- 3) Copies of all health certificates properly filled out and signed by an accredited veterinarian shall be kept to document movement in or out of the herd.
- 4) Surveillance will be maintained by collecting and submitting appropriate samples from all cases of mortality, including slaughter, in animals 16 months of age and older and keeping copies of the laboratory reports.

Intrastate Movement

All intrastate movement of CWD susceptible cervidae, other than direct movement to slaughter, shall be allowed only from herds that have been enrolled in Iowa's CWD monitoring program and have successfully completed at least one year.

CWD Testing

The National Veterinary Services Laboratory requests that the obex be submitted in formalin, one medial retropharyngeal lymph node submitted in formalin, and the other medial retropharyngeal lymph node fresh in a whirl pack on ice.

It is Iowa's CWD Program requirements for submission of the obex as well as the medial retropharyngeal nodes on all captive elk and deer 16 months and older. The VS-10-4 form required for laboratory submissions must be completely filled out, showing all forms of identification, mailed with the specimen

(Continued on page 15)

(CWD Continued from page 14)

submission and a copy faxed to the State Veterinarian's office at 515/281-4282.

Iowa is considering a rule change of the minimum age for CWD testing to be reduced from 16 months to 12 months. We are waiting for the USDA, APHIS rules to be finalized before implementation, but are anticipating this change.

Final Rule for Tuberculosis Testing (Cervidae)

A final rule change concerning the frequency of testing of cervidae herds in the Tuberculosis Accreditation Program was filed on 01/11/2006. The following testing requirements have been changed:

- 1) Only two whole herd tests are required to achieve accredited status (formerly three annual tests were needed).
- 2) Accredited herds will test every three years to maintain their status (formerly it was every two years).

Intrastate Movement Requirements

66.14(1) All intrastate movements of Cervidae other than to a state or federally inspected slaughter establishment shall be accompanied by an intrastate movement certificate of veterinary inspection signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. Movement of CWD susceptible Cervidae, other than direct movement to slaughter, shall only be allowed from herds that have been enrolled in the Iowa CWD monitoring program and have successfully completed at least one year.

Import Requirements

CWD susceptible Cervidae shall only be allowed into Iowa from herds which have satisfactorily completed at least three years in an official recognized CWD monitoring program. However, Cervidae originating from an area considered to be endemic to Chronic Wasting Disease shall not be allowed entry into Iowa. Cervidae that originate from a herd that has had animal introductions from an area endemic to

chronic wasting disease during the preceding five years shall not be allowed entry into Iowa.

A permit number must be received by the licensed, accredited veterinarian signing the certificate and issued by Iowa's State Veterinarian prior to movement. For further import requirements, refer to CWD Rule **21—65.12(163)** posted on IDALS website, or contact the Department of Agriculture at 515/281-5547 or 515/242-5950.

All cervidae leaving Iowa

must meet the state of destinations' entry requirements prior to movement.

Contact Information

CWD Program rules, information, examples of properly executed health certificates (intrastate or interstate), laminated Brain Stem including the Obex and Retropharyngeal Lymph Node Collection Procedure sheets, and VS-10-4 forms are available by contacting: Karen Gideon, Farm Deer Program Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, Bureau of Animal Industry, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, 515/242-5950. Also, the Chronic Wasting Disease rules can be accessed at <http://www.agriculture@idals.state.ia.us> Click on Animal Diseases, Chronic Wasting Disease, and Legislative Rules (Pages 17-21).



Johne's

Iowa Voluntary Johne's Control Program – Dr. Randy L. Wheeler (Designated Johne's Coordinator)

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) began participating in the National Johne's Disease Control Program, which provides guidelines for detecting infected animals and minimizing risks to herd mates through management practices in 2003. One of the goals of the Iowa program is to increase education about Johne's disease and the Iowa Program. In 2006, the Iowa voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program increased participation and interest due to the new testing methods, the incentive component for testing, and management tools including vaccination.

Year	2006	2005	2004	2003
Herds enrolled	59	27	26	2
Beef	32	4	0	1
Dairy	27	23	26	1

Fourteen herds have been elevated to either Level 1 or 2 status in the Test-Negative classification component of the Program in 2006. A note of interest is that 46 of the 59 program herds had Johne's diagnosed within the last (3) years and six of those herds are now in the Program Test-negative Status classification (no known Johne's infection from appropriate Program testing).

Incentives for free 2007 Program Johne's testing of qualified cattle herds are currently available, but funding will be limited. Your State District veterinarians presently assist in Program management.

Johne's vaccine use of infected herds in Iowa is at an all time high (11,268 doses vs. 9368 doses). Studies show that vaccination reduces clinical signs, shedding and helps prevent Johne's infection. Five new dairy herds were added to the vaccination component of the Program in 2006.

Vaccine use is still obtained through IDALS approval only. Requirements for vaccination agreement and approval include:

1. Herd is known infected (has a positive fecal or PCR)
2. Johne's Program Risk Assessment
3. Premises ID
4. Whole herd TB test (animals 2 yrs. and older)
5. Authorization of State Veterinarian

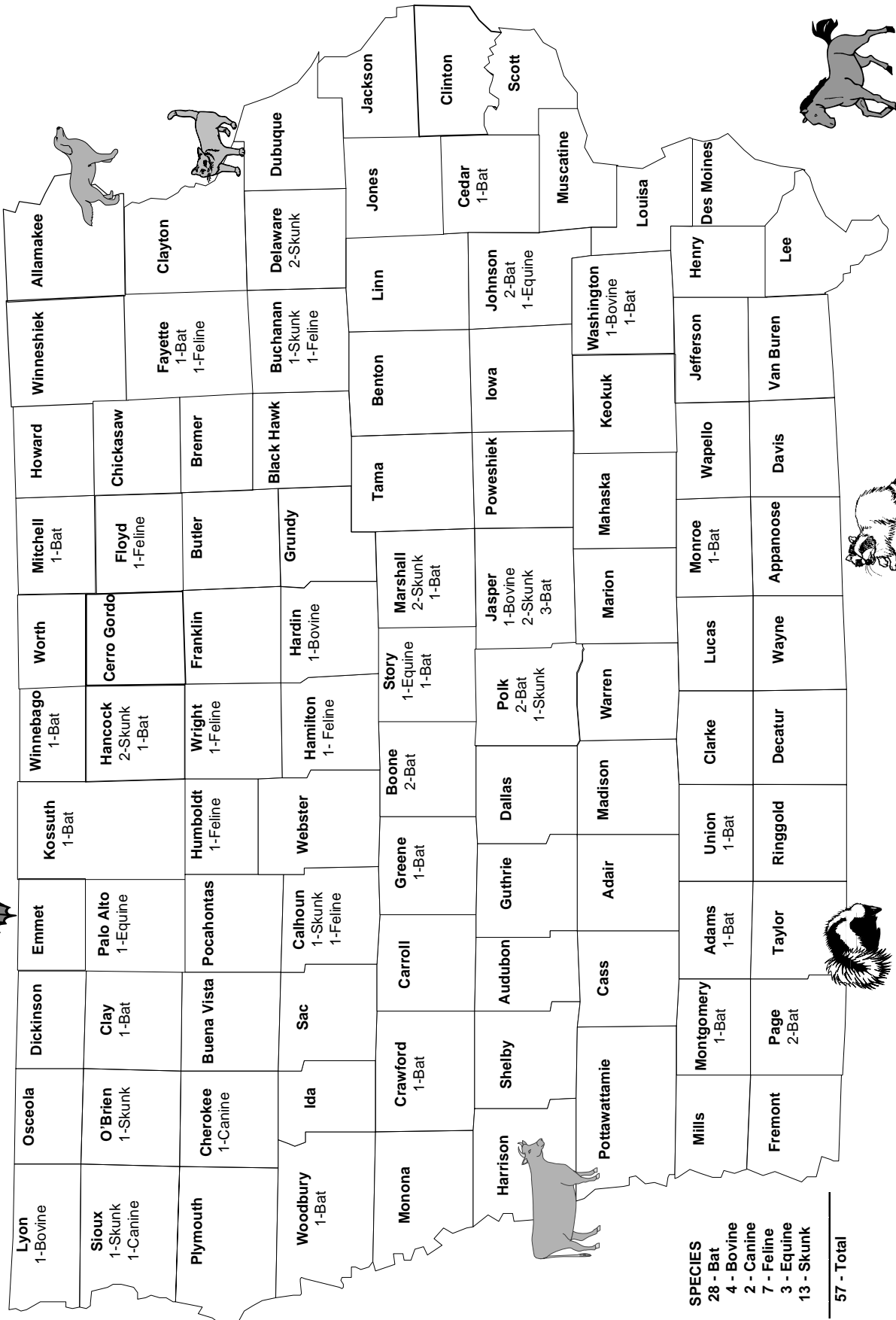
Iowa State's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab now has the new liquid culture (TREK) system for fecal culturing of individual and pooled samples. This method of culture is more rapid and sensitive than previous solid culturing. Results can be determined in 7 weeks or less compared to the 16 weeks with solid culture. VDL is also using an improved ELISA test to enhance blood testing for Johne's screening.

It is estimated that >50% of the dairies and >10% of beef herds in the U.S. are infected with Johne's.

Remember Johne's is a REPORTABLE (but is not a quarantineable) disease and the Iowa Program is completely voluntary and confidentiality of test results will be maintained within limits of Iowa law.



2006 IOWA RABIES MAP
01/01/2006 through 12/30/2006 MMWR WK 52



SPECIES
 28 - Bat
 4 - Bovine
 2 - Canine
 7 - Feline
 3 - Equine
 13 - Skunk
57 - Total

2007 Exhibition Regulations

Included with this Newsletter are the 2007 Iowa exhibition regulations. Please keep these on hand to use when preparing health certificates for the Fair. Please do yourself, our profession, the exhibitors, and the regulatory personnel a favor—do not issue a health certificate if the animal does not meet all the requirements. Exhibiting livestock is a high-risk activity with respect to possible disease transmission.



In This Issue...

2007 Exhibition Regulations, CWD Update, Rabies summary, feral swine, Johne's, Animal ID, and more.

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