

Mission Statement

The Animal Health Branch is California's organized, professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and the State's economy from catastrophic animal diseases and other health or agricultural problems.

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Branch Newsletter

Volume 43

April 2019

Virulent Newcastle Disease Incident Update

By Felicia Pohl, BS; Elise Chad, DVM, MS; and Anita Edmondson, BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

Since May 2018, virulent Newcastle disease (vND), a severe foreign animal disease of poultry, has been detected in backyard and commercial/independent/small poultry businesses in Southern California. Recent isolated cases of vND have been detected in Utah, Northern California and Arizona. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is actively engaged in eradicating the disease; an average of 200 incident personnel have been on site daily. As of April 2, 2019, vND has been detected in 442 poultry flocks in California that include four (4) commercial poultry flocks, six (6) non-commercial layer operations, one (1) live bird market, and two (2) retail feed stores. In addition, two (2) veterinary hospitals, one (1) in Los Angeles County and one (1) in San Mateo County, have had vND confirmed patients. Over 1.1 million birds have been euthanized, over 111,000 premises/residences have been visited for surveillance, and approximately 6,500 of those premises had poultry and were quarantined.



vND Clinical Signs

- General Appearance - swelling around the eyes & neck, twisted head & neck, circling, complete paralysis, muscle tremors, drooping wings
- Respiratory - gasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing
- Digestive - greenish, watery diarrhea
- Egg Production - medium to big drop in production, thin-shelled eggs
- Death - increased death loss in flock, sudden death

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/signsofvnd>

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Incident Update (continued)

Regional Quarantine

To prevent on-going spread of vND, the State Veterinarian has imposed a Regional Quarantine, pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562, **on the owners of all poultry, poultry products, associated poultry materials and non-poultry species in all of Los Angeles County and specified sections of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.** Additionally, it is recommended that all poultry exhibitions and on-farm inspections of live poultry areas are cancelled statewide, until further notice.

Quarantine Boundaries: All of Los Angeles County. That portion of San Bernardino County to the south and west of the boundary delineated by State Highway 58 from the Kern County line to Interstate Highway 15, Interstate Highway 15 from State Highway 58 to State Highway 247, State Highway 247 from Interstate Highway 15 to State Highway 62, State Highway 62 west from State Highway 247 to the Riverside County line. That portion of Riverside County west of the boundary delineated by State Highway 62 from the San Bernardino County line to Interstate Highway 10, Interstate Highway 10 from State Highway 62 to State Highway 86, State Highway 86 from Interstate Highway 10 to the Imperial County line. See quarantine map at: www.cdffa.ca.gov/go/vnd



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Virulent Newcastle Disease Incident Update (continued)

Required Actions: (Pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code 9562 and Title 3 California Code of Regulations, Section 1301 et seq) you are required to:

Report

- All bird owners shall immediately report any clinical signs suggestive of vND to the Sick Bird Hotline (866-922-2473).
- All commercial/independent/small poultry businesses shall immediately report any clinical signs suggestive of vND and any significant changes to their health and/or production monitoring records as required by CDFA.*

Test

- All bird owners shall allow diagnostic testing of their birds for vND.
- All commercial/independent/small poultry businesses shall test their poultry for vND as required by CDFA.*

Isolate

- All poultry must be isolated from all non-poultry species.
- All poultry must be confined to a premises in a pen, cage or some other means that prevents poultry from moving off the premises.
- No poultry can move off a premises without prior written permission from CDFA.*
- All commercial/independent/small poultry businesses must receive prior written permission from the CDFA before movements into, within, or out of this region of poultry, poultry products, poultry associated materials or other items that could spread vND (due to contact with poultry, poultry products or poultry associated materials).*
- No movement of any non-poultry species from premises that also house poultry without prior written permission from CDFA.*

Cease

- No exhibitions of poultry (including racing pigeons) or non-poultry species without prior written permission from CDFA.*
- No live poultry shall leave any live bird market, pet store, feed store or other retail establishment without prior written permission from CDFA.*
- No shipping, transporting, or receiving live poultry or poultry hatching eggs out of or into this regional quarantine area without prior written permission from CDFA.* This includes shipments via the United States Postal Service, private package shipping companies or similar methods.

Enhance Biosecurity

- All commercial/independent/small poultry businesses shall enhance their biosecurity as required by CDFA.*
- All retail establishments selling poultry feed shall enhance their biosecurity as required by CDFA.*

***For more information about movement restrictions, biosecurity and testing requirements, please call 866-922-2473 or email SFSPermits@cdfa.ca.gov**

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Incident Update (continued)

Definitions (as defined in regional quarantine):

Poultry: Including all chickens, turkeys, turkins, pheasants, peafowl, guinea fowl, quail, ducks, geese, swans, gallinules, doves, pigeons, grouse, partridges, francolin, tinamou, ostriches, and other ratites (including but not limited to the rhea, emu, and cassowary), and hatching or embryonated eggs.

Poultry Products: Eggs, manure, feed, carcasses, feathers, used poultry equipment.

Non-poultry species: All other avian species.

Owner: Owners of all poultry and non-poultry species, and operators of poultry-related businesses in the quarantined region.

Exhibition: Any event, gathering or activity where live poultry from various sources are brought together for public display, competitive or non-competitive showing, racing, fighting or trade at venues that include, but are not limited to auctions, bird shows, fair exhibits, swap meets, flea markets, poultry sporting events and at individual residences.

Violations: Failure to comply with the requirements of this Quarantine Notice may result in a fine (FAC 9166). If the violation causes vND to spread beyond the quarantine boundaries, the violator may be civilly liable for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for each act that constitutes a violation (FAC 9574).

More information can be found at the CDFA AHB Virulent Newcastle Disease website which has the regional quarantine, biosecurity tips, and relevant links and contacts:

www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/vnd

Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners Collecting Samples for Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)

Veterinarians need to practice **strict** biosecurity between avian patients to assure that there is no opportunity for disease transmission between patients.

Healthy bird sampling is **not** recommended. Please evaluate risk and contact the sick bird hotline to coordinate shipment of your samples. Please call the sick bird hotline when submitting samples or carcasses of sick birds: **866-922-2473**

Swab samples are the preferred method for diagnosing vND. Please do not collect blood samples. When submitting a carcass that is suspicious for vND, it will be swabbed and the carcass will be destroyed. If vND is negative, a second bird, if available, may be submitted for necropsy. If necropsies are requested by the vND incident, carcasses must be sent to the **San Bernardino CAHFS Laboratory**.

All swabs for vND must be mailed to UC Davis laboratory. Please **DO NOT SEND** any samples to the San Bernardino, Tulare, or Turlock CAHFS laboratories.

For complete sampling instructions, visit the webpage at:

www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/vnd

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations: January 1 - March 31, 2019

Dr. Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

Since May 2018, the State and Federal animal health officials are continuing their efforts to control and eradicate a virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) outbreak among poultry population in Southern California through active surveillance, outreach, and epidemiological investigations. In the same time, the state is still experiencing a large number of Seneca Virus-A (SVA) infection among the swine population shipped to the slaughterhouses. Two hundred and eight (208) cases with symptoms similar to swine vesicular disease were tested for SVA and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The SVA disease symptoms are very similar to FMD and could be a source of confusion. All of the samples tested were positive to SVA and negative to FMD.

From January 1 to March 31, 2019, a total of two hundred and twenty-six (226) Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigations have been conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) personnel (Table 1). Any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out. Private practitioners, diagnostic laboratories, animal hospitals, and producers must report signs of the emergency conditions outlined in the California "List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products" within twenty-four (24) hours by calling the CDFA AHB or the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services District Office in their area. The AHB district offices' contact information can be found on the last page.

The CDFA Animal Health Branch's mission is to maximize preparedness amongst the branch employees to respond effectively to any potential FAD incidents in California. AHB personnel enhance their professional skill with continued preparedness/response training and exercises.

Table 1. Summary of FAD Investigations during January 1 to March 31, 2019 by Districts

AHB Districts	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Seneca Virus-A (SVA), Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD)	Porcine	Swab	187	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive
Redding	Avian Influenza Virus (AIV), vND	Avian	Swab	3	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	2	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for SVA
	Schmallenberg Virus	Ovine	Swab	2	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	Pox Virus	Ovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
Ontario	Classical Swine Fever (CSF)	Porcine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Positive for SVA Negative for CSF
	Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD)	Lagomorph	Carcass	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative
	vND	Avian	Swab	9	NVSL, CAHFS-D	7 Positive 2 Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA, SVD	Porcine	Swab	18	NVSL, CAHFS-D	All positive for SVA
	vND	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-D	Negative

*NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory
CAHFS: California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory
D: Davis

Equine Health Program Updates

By Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy at Golden Gate Fields

On March 26, 2019; a 3-year-old Thoroughbred filly at Golden Gate Fields Racetrack, in Alameda County, displaying severe neurologic signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). Due to severity of neurologic signs, the horse was euthanized on Saturday, March 23rd. Animal Health Branch (AHB) staff performed an onsite disease risk assessment of the premises. Epidemiologic investigation identified one barn of 46 exposed horses which were placed under quarantine. Quarantine requirements include implementation of enhanced biosecurity measures such as restricted movement of quarantined horses, designated restricted exercise areas and times, cleaning and disinfection protocols for equipment, isolation of clinical horses in designated isolation stabling, and twice daily recording of temperatures. AHB personnel and track management implemented a business continuity plan to allow racing to continue with horses from the other barns. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) worked with California Horse Racing Board officials to monitor the situation and ensure adherence to quarantine protocols. The quarantine was released on April 6th, 2019 after no additional cases were confirmed.

For more information visit:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_herpes_virus.html

Equine Influenza in Imported Horses

Internationally, it is being reported as one of the worst years for Equine Influenza. Since the beginning of the year confirmed cases have been reported in the United States, Belgium, France, Germany, Nigeria, Ireland, and Great Britain. The detections in Britain brought equestrian sports to a standstill.

As a monitored condition in California, the department has been monitoring confirmed cases by laboratories and practitioners. Since January 1, 2019, there have been at least ten (10) confirmed cases of Equine Influenza in imported horses. A reminder to clients, imported or new arrivals pose a risk of disease entry and as such should be isolated.

For more information on Equine Influenza visit the infectious disease guidelines of the American Association of Equine Practitioners at:

https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines/EQUINE%20INFLUENZA_Final.pdf

West Nile Virus Reporting

West Nile virus (WNV) continues to be an important cause of mosquito-borne neurologic illness and death among humans and horses in California. We encourage timely and accurate identification of WNV infection in horses. Reporting of suspect equine WNV cases to local health officials is a valuable component of arbovirus disease surveillance and helps to direct mosquito control efforts designed to prevent WNV infection in both horses and humans. Additionally, horse owners are urged to ensure that horses are current on WNV vaccination.

For more information visit :

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/WNV_Info.html

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Equine Health Program Updates (continued)

Show Season Is Here - Horse Show Drug Testers Needed

As show season is approaching, the Equine Medication Monitoring Program is seeking horse show drug testers. Interested individuals with equine experience and knowledge of the show industry should email their resume to EMMP@cdfa.ca.gov

For more information on the program or drugs and medication guidelines visit:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/EMMP/

Status Update on the Electronic Equine Passport

In January 2019, Global Vetlink introduced an electronic Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eeCVI) to replace their equine passport system. Unfortunately, the initial version released does not include a signature block on the final document produced. California laws require certificates to include a signature for it to be an official document used for interstate movement into California. The company is working on a solution to meet California's entry requirement and hopes to have it released in the summer. At this time, the department is not accepting or allowing issuance of these documents.

New Federal Regulation Improves Scrapie Eradication Program

By Hector Webster, DMV, MS

A long-awaited Scrapie rule was published this week in the Federal Register. The rule was first proposed in 2015 by U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

For the most part, the sheep and goat industry will not notice much of a difference in the Scrapie eradication program, but some segments will see a change. Particularly, changes will be noticed by goat producers and those moving animals in slaughter channels or transporting unidentified sheep or goats.

Importantly, the rule incorporates into regulation APHIS' long-standing policy to use genetic testing to identify genetically resistant or less susceptible sheep for exemption from destruction and as qualifying for interstate movement. The rule takes effect on April 24, 2019. Many of the specific requirements regarding official eartags and official ID methods such as tattoos and implantable electronic ID (microchips) and on how indemnity is calculated have been moved to the Scrapie Program Standards, Volume 1: National Scrapie Eradication Program.

Educational materials are available to help producers with the federal regulation changes from the National Scrapie Eradication Program Website at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program>

California Bovine Tuberculosis Investigation Update

By Alyssa Louie, DVM, MPVM and Anita Edmondson, BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS

In July 2017, a TB-infected dairy cow was detected at slaughter in California. The tuberculosis strain type was not closely related to any previous affected U.S. herd. The dairy of origin was identified, quarantined, and over 7,000 cattle were tested in October 2017. No additional disease was detected. The herd was re-tested early in 2018 – results were all negative for bovine tuberculosis and the quarantine was released. A follow-up whole herd test was conducted by State and Federal animal health officials a year later, in March 2019. Out of nearly 4,000 cattle, there were just over 50 CFT responders; these were CCT tested, and three CCT responders went for necropsy. Necropsy results and samples were not consistent with bovine tuberculosis, though they will be submitted for culture, and the investigation has been closed.

The Animal Health Branch is following up on some potentially exposed trace animals from a TB-affected dairy in Texas.

We'd like to remind California practitioners scheduling TB-testing to include time for follow up of CFT responders; with the gamma interferon test still suspended, more time is needed to complete CCT testing. If there are any CCT responders, additional time would be needed for necropsy at the CAHFS laboratory or re-testing, potentially delaying movement and operations.



Human Brucellosis Case in New York Linked to Raw Milk Consumption

By Alyssa Louie, DVM, MPVM and Anita Edmondson, BVM&S, MPVM, MRCVS



Not far on the heels of two individuals in Texas and New Jersey diagnosed with Brucellosis from the RB51 vaccine strain, linked with raw milk consumption in 2017, a third case of RB51 infection was detected in a New York resident in November 2018. The likely source of infection was identified as raw milk or other dairy products from a dairy in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The dairy was quarantined, and Department of Agriculture and State Health officials in New York and Pennsylvania advised the public to discard unpasteurized milk or dairy products from the dairy, and about the risks of consuming raw milk products. Testing of milk samples was positive for RB51, and a test-positive cow was removed from the milking herd. The Center for Disease Control and State health officials continued investigating potential exposures to RB51 via consumption of raw milk from the Pennsylvania dairy in 19 states, including California.

Public health and food safety reminders: symptoms of Brucella infection in humans include fever, sweats, loss of appetite, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint pain. Consuming raw dairy products or imported soft cheeses made from unpasteurized milk are the main source of human infection.

For more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/index.html>

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/brucellosis_info.html

Veterinarian Pleads Guilty to Helping Illegally Move 60,000 Cattle

By Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

A veterinarian in Kentucky has pled guilty to federal charges for aiding a company in illegally moving cattle across state lines with fraudulent paperwork. The indictment from the Department of Justice released on Sept. 6, 2018 alleged that the veterinarian falsely certified inspecting cattle. He had, in fact, pre-signed the interstate certificate of veterinary inspection without inspecting the cattle. On January 17, 2019, the veterinarian entered a guilty plea before appearing before a Federal grand jury in Lexington. The veterinarian faces up to five years of prison for a charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Full Text: <https://www.drovers.com/article/veterinarian-pleads-guilty-helping-illegally-move-60000-cattle>

Transition to Electronic Identification Tags for Cattle

By Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

Last year, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that one of its goals for advancing animal disease traceability (ADT) in all dairy cattle and sexually intact beef cattle eighteen (18) months of age and over is to transition to the use of electronic forms of official identification (ID), or Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID). Visual only ID tags, including silver brite and orange brucellosis vaccination (bangs) metal clip tags, will be phased out. This transition is expected to take place over the next few years. Manufacturers of these visual only clip tags will no longer be providing these tags during 2021-2022. By January 1, 2023, all official ID devices must be electronic. The above timeline is tentative, and state veterinarians are working with the USDA to ensure that that industry, veterinarians, and animal health officials are prepared for this transition to mandatory electronic ID tags.

Seizure of One Million Pounds of Smuggled Pork from China

By Katie Flynn, BVMS, MRCVS

During the week of March 15, 2019, USDA-trained detector dogs played a major role in the seizure of roughly one million pounds of pork smuggled from China. The seizure was in an effort to battle the spread of African Swine Fever, a contagious, deadly virus which has killed more than a million pigs in China. The disease has never been reported in the United States. However, if African Swine Fever infected American livestock, it could cause an estimated \$10 billion in damage to the pork industry in just one year.

For more information on current national efforts to prevent introduction of African Swine Fever, visit:

<https://www.pork.org/food-safety/african-swine-fever-need-know/>

<http://nppc.org/asf/>



Got bird photos?

Submit them
for a chance to be featured in the
2020 CDFA Avian Calendar



Submit your high quality
poultry, pet bird, waterfowl, and wild bird
photographs to:

felicia.pohl@cdfa.ca.gov

by **May 31st, 2019**

Make sure to include:

- ✓ Your Name
- ✓ Contact Information
- ✓ Bird Species or Breed (if known)

Photo Rules:

- Photos **MUST** be in Landscape Orientation
- Photos **MUST** be at least 300 dpi
- No people or other animals in photos
- You **MUST** own the copyrights in your photos





Staff Biographies



Deanna Zipser grew up on her family's pig farm in Waterford, CA where she helped raise pigs for 4-H and FFA students to show as project pigs at local county fairs. She was heavily involved in the local 4-H and FFA chapter where she showed pigs, sheep and held offices in both organizations. Her love for the swine industry led her to pursue an Animal Science degree in Livestock Business Management with an emphasis in Swine Production at California State University, Fresno. During her time at Fresno State, Deanna worked on the swine unit and showed pigs for Fresno State's Collegiate Show Team. After graduating, Deanna worked on a commercial swine operation in Minnesota as a Farrowing Specialist, where she learned integral skills in biosecurity, herd health, and management.

Deanna started working as a Livestock Inspector for CDFA's Animal Health Branch in November of 2018 and is excited to help farmers and ranchers navigate the State permit process and continue to learn about all aspects of the agriculture industry. In her spare time, Deanna can be found raising pigs, working at a small animal veterinary clinic or playing with her Border Collie, Preslee.

Lauren Eis is one of the Office Technicians for the Animal Health Branch in Sacramento. She grew up in Southern California, where she discovered her love for animal agriculture while attending middle school on a working farm. Lauren received her B.S. from UC Davis in Agricultural and Environmental Education, with an emphasis in Animal Science. Her time between classes was devoted to working at the campus Meat Lab, where she helped to educate other students on meat processing, fabrication, and sales. She also volunteered fostering neo-natal kittens for the UC Davis Vet School, before eventually giving in and permanently adopting a large Siamese cat named Khaleesi. In her free time, Lauren enjoys cooking, gardening, and sewing.



Having just started her career with the State in October of 2018, Lauren is excited to contribute to the Animal Health Branch through both her passion for animals and through her experience in Agricultural Education.

Contact Information



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FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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