

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.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Animal Health Branch Newsletter

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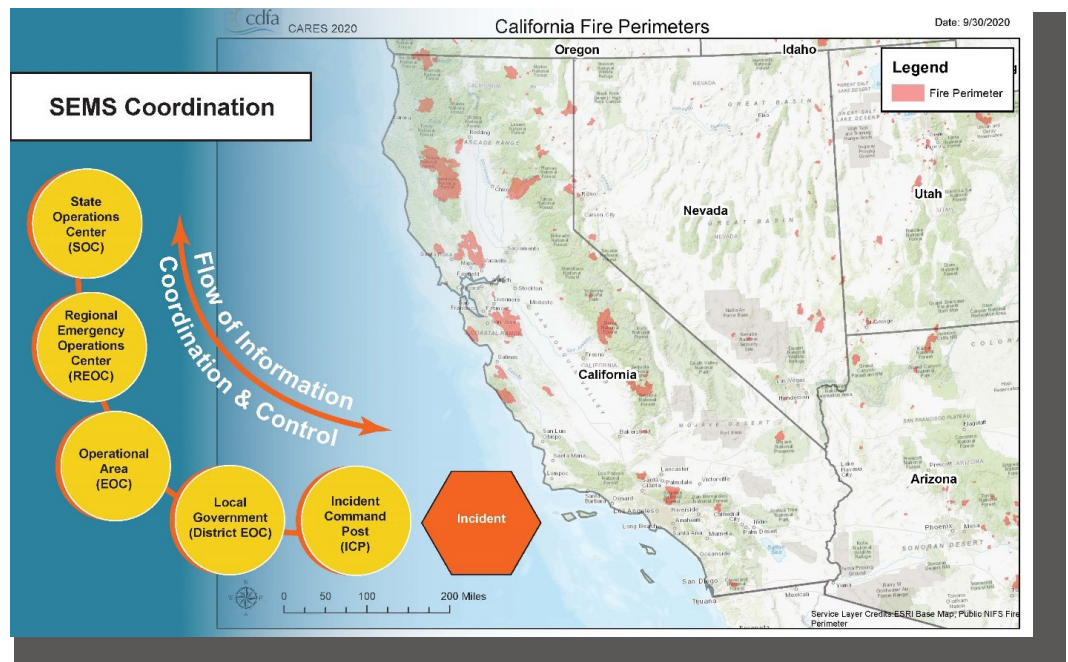
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California Animal Response Emergency System CARES Program Update

By: Nick Johnson, Livestock Inspector, Mandy Johnson, Sr. ESC, and George Atwell, AGPA

The CDFA California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Program is the state-level organization providing guidance and operational support to counties managing animal care and shelter needs during disasters and emergencies. To coordinate animal care resources, the CDFA CARES Program staff coordinate with county animal services and volunteer organizations to deploy animal care personnel for local responses. CDFA personnel are also deployed to help manage the response to animals in disasters by serving as part of the incident management team in the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The CARES Program deploys resources in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).



Under SEMS, resources for emergencies begin with local deployments. As resources become exhausted, the county can seek additional assistance from the region, then the state, and finally from federal agencies. The CDFA CARES Program was activated in August 2020 to support
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CARES Program Update - *continued*

Solano and Monterey Counties and again in September 2020 during the North Complex Fire to support Butte county. Upon receipt of the counties' identified and requested needs through the State Operations Center, the CARES program located and coordinated deployment of animal control officers and animal care specialists from various agencies and organizations throughout California to assist in the management and operation of the emergency animal shelters and evacuation efforts. Additionally, CDFA staff deployed to the Butte County Animal Emergency Operations Center to support the incident management team with planning and resource management.

As the complexity and frequency of California's emergencies continue to increase, there will always be a need for caring, qualified, and trained personnel to help care for animals affected by disasters.

For more information, please visit the CARES Website at www.Cal-CARES.com or contact the Animal Health Branch at 916-900-5002.

Brucellosis Contract Renewals

By: Elizabeth Francia Wilson, Sr. Livestock Inspector

Brucellosis contract renewals will begin to be mailed out to current contract veterinarians this month. All contracts are renewed every two years with an expiration date of 12/31. Veterinarians must have a current signed contract on file with CDFA in order to purchase and use Brucellosis vaccine to vaccinate calves in California. Please sign and return your contract without delay, so there will be no lapse in your ability to receive vaccine. You may sign and email your completed form to bruce.vaccine@cdfa.ca.gov rather than by mail if preferred. For further questions, please contact your local district office or Beth Francia at 916-900-5041. Thank you.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations July 1 - September 30, 2020

By: Alireza Javidmehr, DVM, MPVM, PhD

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 investigated two hundred and twenty-two (222) Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) suspicious cases from July 1 to September 30, 2020 (Table 1). Any animal diseases presenting similar signs to FADs must be treated as such until FADs can be ruled out.

Senecavirus A (SVA) infections among the swine shipped to slaughterhouses in the Modesto area triggered one hundred eighty-five (185) FAD investigations, almost 83% of all statewide FAD investigations. Even though SVA is an endemic disease, due to the similarity of symptoms to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), it triggers a FAD investigation.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus type2 (RHDV2) was confirmed in a small backyard rabbitry in southern California for the first time in early July 2020. Since the first detection, RHDV2 has been detected in two additional backyard rabbitries in the same geographical region, and based on the USDA-APHIS re-classification criteria, not triggering further FAD investigations. RHDV2 is highly contagious and lethal to both wild and domestic rabbits, hares, and pikas. Rabbit owners can protect their animals by following strict biosecurity measures and vaccination in consulting

(Continued on page 3)

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations - continued

with their private veterinarian. More information about the RHDV2 can be found on the [AHB webpage](#).

To protect California's livestock industry and for food supply security, 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 USDAAPHIS VS District Office in their area. The AHB district offices' contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Table 1. Summary of FAD investigations from July 1 to September 30, 2020

AHB Districts	Disease	Species	Sample Type	Number of Investigations	Destination Lab*	NVSL Result
Modesto	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Senecavirus A (SVA)	Porcine	Swab	185	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA
	Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)	Equine	Swab, Serum	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	Avian Influenza (AI)	Avian	Swab	3	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type2 (RHDV2)	Rabbit	Swab	2	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	FMD	Bovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	FMD	Caprine	Swab, Blood	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
Ontario	RHDV2	Rabbit	Swab	5	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	One positive domestic rabbit
	Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)	Avian	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
Redding	FMD, SVA	Porcine	Swab	4	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA
	African Swine Fever (ASF)	Porcine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	Rabies, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	Bovine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	VSV	Equine	Swab	2	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
	RHDV2	Rabbit	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative
Tulare	FMD, SVA	Porcine	Swab	13	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	All positive for SVA
	VSV	Equine	Swab	1	NVSL, CAHFS-Davis	Negative

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

Vesicular Stomatitis Updates

By: Emily Nietrzeba, DVM, MPH

Vesicular stomatitis (VS) is a viral infection that can affect horses, cattle, and pigs, and can also but rarely be seen in goats, sheep, and llamas. Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) transmission occurs via direct contact with sores of infected animals or vector-borne blood transmission

Since the start of the 2020 VS outbreak on April 13th, 325 VSV-affected premises have been identified (205 confirmed positive, 120 suspect). Three hundred twelve (312) of these premises had only equine species clinically affected, twelve (12) premises had clinically affected cattle, and one (1) premises had



both equine species and cattle clinically affected. VSV-affected states during the 2020 outbreak include Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

To date, all VSV-quarantined premises have been released: New Mexico (since June 4, 2020), Texas (since June 8, 2020), Arizona (since July 8, 2020), Nebraska (since July 30, 2020), Arkansas (since August 19, 2020), Oklahoma (since August 26, 2020), Missouri (since September 22, 2020), and Kansas (since September 23, 2020). There are currently no active quarantines on previously VSV-affected premises in the United States.

Veterinarians suspicious of vesicular stomatitis lesions should immediately contact their local CDFA district office and/or USDA APHIS field office to report the case and receive guidance on sample collection.

West Nile Virus Updates

By: Emily Nietrzeba, DVM, MPH



Fifteen (15) horses have been confirmed positive as of October 6th for West Nile Virus (WNV) in California for the year 2020. The positive horses were located in Amador, Butte, Glenn, Kings, Merced, Nevada, Riverside (2), San Bernardino, San Joaquin (3), and Stanislaus (3) counties. Nine (9) of the fifteen (15) horses were unvaccinated, four (4) horses had unknown vaccine history, and two (2) horses were vaccinated for WNV. Eleven (11) of the infected horses are alive and/or recovering, one (1) horse died, and three (3) horses were euthanized due to severity of clinical signs. Horses ranged in age from 1 to 17 years, with both genders and multiple breeds represented.

West Nile Virus is the leading cause of arthropod-borne encephalitis (brain inflammation) in horses and humans in the United States. The virus is present in all forty-eight (48) continental states, Mexico, and Canada, and is transmitted from avian reservoir hosts to mammals by a variety of mosquito species. It is important to remember that both humans and horses are considered dead-end hosts for WNV and the virus is not directly contagious from horse
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West Nile Virus Updates - *continued*

to horse or horse to human. WNV vaccination is considered a core vaccination by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and an essential standard of care for all horses in North America.

Any horse displaying abnormal behavior or neurologic signs should be examined by a veterinarian to rule out neurologic diseases, such as WNV, equine herpesviral myeloencephalopathy (EHM), equine protozoal myeloencephalopathy (EPM), Eastern/Western equine encephalomyelitis (EEE/WEE), and rabies.

Blood samples should be collected by a veterinarian and sent for diagnostic testing. The WNV IgM capture ELISA test is a specific test that detects acute WNV infection in animals, is usually positive within six (6) days post infection, and can remain positive for up to two (2) months post infection. A positive WNV IgM capture ELISA test is indicative of recent infection. Unexposed animals vaccinated for WNV will test negative on the WNV IgM capture ELISA test.

Update on Distribution of RFID Tags

By: Kelly Mammen, BS, Livestock Inspector

The Animal Health Branch continues to distribute Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) ear tags (provided by the USDA), ear tag applicators, and wand readers at no-cost to veterinarians. California has been allotted 659,413 tags by the USDA, and, as of September 30th, has received 103,480 white tags and 72,600 orange tags. The AHB has purchased eighty (80) wand readers and 750 ear tag applicators (both Allflex and Datamars brands) to be lent to veterinarians and plans to purchase additional wand readers. There continue to be delays in the shipment of the RFID tags to California due to COVID-19, but the USDA is working to resolve these delays. Veterinary practitioners may contact their local AHB district office to request RFID tags, ear tag applicators, and/or wand readers.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Nominations

By: Marissa Silva, DVM, MVB

Are you a veterinarian practicing in an underserved rural area or know of an area in need of additional livestock veterinarians? Do you need additional support to reach underserved rural communities? Help CDFA to identify regions for USDA funding to expand veterinary services to rural communities.

The USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is currently accepting nominations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) which provides incentives for veterinarians to practice in areas currently lacking livestock veterinary expertise. Veterinarians willing to commit to at least three (3) years of service may receive up to \$25,000 a year against student loan debts.

Nominations may be used to attract new veterinarians into an area, to encourage existing veterinarians to practice in the area, or to retain veterinary services in an area. CDFA will facilitate the submission of nominees to the NIFA committee which ultimately designates shortage regions based on a national needs assessment.

Two categories of shortages are being accepted: "full-time" food/large animal shortages, or a rural position where at least 30% of the practice is food animal (documentation required).

If your area is experiencing a veterinary shortage, or to find out more information, please contact CDFA_AUS@CDFA.CA.GOV by October 30th.

Livestock Entering California During Wildfire Season

By: Kristen Cox, BS, Livestock Inspector; Rebecca Campagna, DVM, MPH

Many areas in California are currently under mandatory evacuation order, and livestock should not be shipped to these areas. Due to animal health and welfare concerns, the CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) will not issue entry permits for livestock to ship to areas under a current evacuation order. Please refer to the Cal Fire website for current location of wildfires in California: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/>.

In support of the ongoing wildfire emergencies in Oregon and California, the AHB will not be enforcing entry requirements for livestock evacuating from Oregon fires and taking temporary shelter in California, provided they do not change ownership and they return to Oregon within sixty (60) days. We recommend that all Oregon livestock are kept separate from California livestock and that facilities practice good biosecurity to protect from disease spread.

Facilities housing evacuated animals must keep records of these animals (including any official identification), when the animals arrived, and their owner's contact information. Additionally, livestock owners must report the physical address of the California premises to the AHB as soon as the facility is known, preferably twenty-four (24) hours prior to arrival.

This exemption was enacted September 11, 2020 and may be revoked at any time.

For questions or to report movement information, please email evet@cdfa.ca.gov or call the AHB Movement Section/ Permit Line at 916-900-5052.

Laying the Egg Foundation at California Avian Health Education Network (CAHEN)

By: Alexi Haack, DVM and Charlene Rivera, DVM

Since our debut in June 2020, the California Avian Health Education Network (CAHEN) has been working diligently to continue our avian disease testing in the Southern California region. Over 2000 virulent Newcastle disease (vND) tests have been conducted on backyard flocks, live bird markets, auctions, pet stores, production flocks, and more! To expand poultry education services, we have two exciting new developments: the Social Nestbox and the Gamefowl Wellness Program.

Backyard owners that had difficulties accessing high quality answers to their poultry questions now can find veterinarian reviewed avian resources online at the the Social Netbox. Regularly updated topics range from cage selection in parrots to biosecurity in a backyard laying flock of chickens. For bird owners seeking medical advice, the "Find a Vet" page assembles contact and location information for Southern California's avian and poultry veterinarians. Check out the website at www.socalnestbox.com!

CAHEN has been working alongside UC Davis poultry veterinarian Dr. Rodrigo Gallardo to develop the new Gamefowl Wellness Program. The program has been designed to address education, outreach, and surveillance to Southern California's gamefowl flocks. Of primary importance is providing training to breeders on proper administration and use of Newcastle disease vaccine. Wellness participants will also be trained on biosecurity, disease detection and prevention, nutrition, and management practices. The program had a successful first introductory meeting with gamefowl breeders on Oct 1st.

Our work never stops to help Californians be better prepared to stop the next poultry disease outbreak. Our next major projects aim to foster community relationships by creating resources for educators such as 4-H and FFA groups, teachers running egg hatching projects, and veterinarians who are seeing clients who have poultry at home. Stay tuned for more and if you have any questions, our flock can be reached at CDFA.AHFSS_CAHEN@cdfa.ca.gov.



Staff Biographies



Dr. Joshua Kloeppe has been a Veterinarian General for CDFA in the Ontario District since November 2019. Dr. Kloeppe grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and split time in southern New Mexico during his early years where his family raised and trained Quarter Horses. Growing up with Quarter Horses, as well as countless other pets, fueled his passion for equine medicine and served as his motivation to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. He completed a bachelor's degree in Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University. He then went on to complete a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University, School of Veterinary Medicine.

After veterinary school, Dr. Kloeppe moved back to Albuquerque where he went into private practice as an ambulatory equine veterinarian. After three (3) years of ambulatory work, he found himself wanting more experience with equine critical care and surgery. He entered an internship in Santa Fe, New Mexico at an equine surgical and critical care facility that served as the only surgical clinic in southwestern New Mexico. After nearly a year and a half of his internship, his passion for regulatory medicine began to surpass his passion for private practice. An unexpected move to Southern California for his fiancée's veterinary career allowed him to pursue a career in regulatory medicine with the CDFA in Ontario.

In his free time, Dr. Kloeppe enjoys spending time hiking, camping, and any other outdoor activity that allows him, his fiancée, and their dog "Beef" to explore Southern California together.

Esteban Escobedo joined the CDFA, Animal Health Branch, Ontario District as a part-time Avian Technician in January of 2013 and became a Livestock Inspector in May 2015. Esteban has held the position of Sr. Livestock Inspector, Specialist since October 2017. Prior to joining AHB, Esteban worked for the Equine Medication Monitoring Program, testing at horse shows between 2012-2013. Esteban studied Int'l Ag Development at UC Davis. Esteban's passion has always been animal health/welfare as he worked with various private equine and bovine practitioners for over twenty-five (25) years. Esteban feels fortunate to have been able to make a difference in his community as the OPS Chief and Outreach/Education Branch Director for the vND outbreak in Southern California 2018-2019.



Esteban was born with a club foot and was told by his orthopedic doctors he would only be able to walk, but after various surgeries, perseverance and faith, he was able to overcome this obstacle and fulfill his dreams. Esteban grew up competing both in the Mexican and American Rodeo circuit, competing in team roping, bull riding, bareback riding in various PRCA, PBR, and IPRA rodeos. Esteban is currently the Animal Welfare Commissioner for the Mexican Federation of Charros in California (FMCH), where he thrives to expose the historical and cultural beauty of sanctioned

charro competitions as well as teach the charro community about animal husbandry. Esteban has competed in all ten (10) events in the charro competitions, which also include bull and bronc riding, team roping, reining, and other roping events for the past thirty-six (36) years. Other than rodeo, Esteban's other passion is baseball, playing in high school, college, and AA ball. Esteban lives in Riverside with his beautiful wife and all their pets.

Contact Information



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health and Food Safety Services
Animal Health Branch
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Physical Address:
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Index.html
Email: ahbfeedback@cdfa.ca.gov

Animal Health Branch

Dr. Kent Fowler, Chief
Headquarters: (916) 900-5002
Fax: (916) 900-5333
Permit Line: (916) 900-5052

State Veterinarian and Director, Animal Health and Food Safety Services

Dr. Annette Jones
(916) 900-5000

District Offices Veterinarian In Charge (VIC)

Redding: Dr. Michael Poulos
2135 Civic Center Drive, Room 8
Redding, California 96001
(530) 225-2140

Modesto: Dr. Randy Anderson
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite F
Modesto, California 95358
(209) 491-9350

Tulare: Dr. Gregory Ledbetter
18760 Road 112
Tulare, California 93274
(559) 685-3500

Ontario: Dr. Alisha Olmstead
1910 South Archibald Avenue, Suite Y
Ontario, California 91761
(909) 947-4462

Other AHFSS Branches

Bureau of Livestock Identification
John Suther, Chief
(916) 900-5006

Milk and Dairy Food Safety
Dr. Stephen Beam, Chief
(916) 900-5008

Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety
Paula Batarseh, Chief
(916) 900-5004

Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship
Dr. Dennis Wilson, Chief
(916) 576-0300

United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Donald Herriott
District Director, District 3

Dr. Larry Rawson
Assistant District Director, District 3 (CA/HI)

USDA, APHIS, VS, SPRS
(916) 854-3950/Toll Free: (877) 741-3690

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- **Field Veterinarians**
- **Policy Veterinarians**
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Positions**

Excellent BENEFITS

Current CDFA Vacant Positions can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDFA-Openings>

For more information, call: **916-900-5002** or email:
ahbfeedback@cdfa.ca.gov





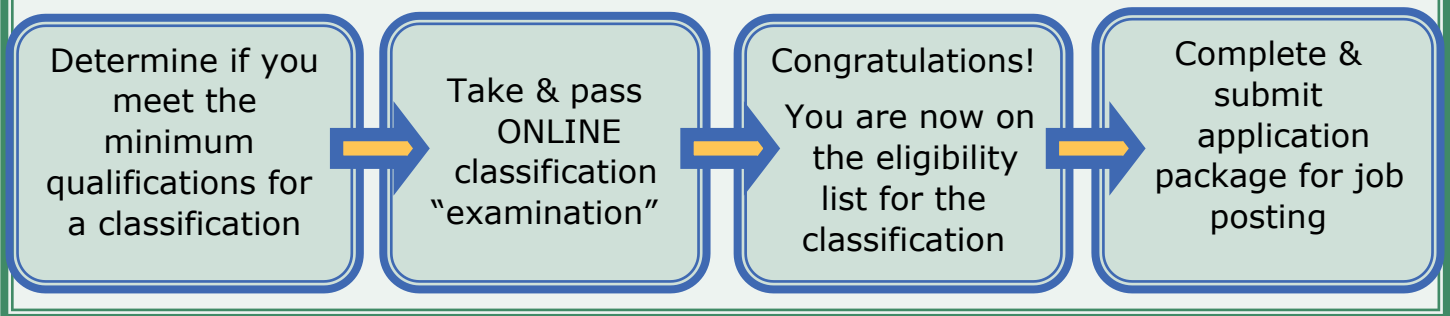
Join us at the CDFA Animal Health Branch



CDFA Animal Health Branch:

As part of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS) Division, the Animal Health Branch (AHB) functions as **California's organized, professional veterinary medical unit to protect public health, animal agriculture, and the economy from catastrophic animal diseases and other related health and agricultural problems.** AHB addresses livestock diseases and issues that require statewide coordinated resources; responds to outbreaks and natural disasters that impact animal industry or affect animals; implements programs that protect public health and animal agriculture; and ensures the availability, affordability, and wholesomeness of food.

How to Apply for a State Job 101:



AHB Vacancies Coming Soon with Links to Minimum Qualifications & Exams

Veterinarian (General) - Sacramento, Modesto, & Tulare
<https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/JOBSGEN/9PB30.PDF>
Supervising Veterinarian - Sacramento
<https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/JOBSGEN/9PB33.PDF>
Livestock Inspector - Modesto
<https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/JOBSGEN/9PB11.PDF>
AHB Branch Chief - Sacramento

Check status frequently!

Classification Definitions, Minimum Qualifications, and Typical Tasks

[http://bit.do/
Cal Job Descriptions](http://bit.do/Cal%20Job%20Descriptions)

Current CDFA Vacant Positions:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDFA-Openings>

For more information, call: **916-900-5002** or email: ahbfeedback@cdfa.ca.gov