

KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH



NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

Edited by
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KANSAS LIVESTOCK COMMISSIONER, GEORGE TEAGARDEN TO RETIRE IN MAY 2010

Since 1994, George Teagarden has worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the health of Kansas livestock. His retirement from Kansas Animal Health Department leaves a legacy of dedication and commitment that have garnered the respect of livestock stakeholders not only in Kansas, but across the nation.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER TEAGARDEN

By Sam Graham, DVM

In 1994, I was Acting Commissioner, greeting the candidates for their interview for the Commissioner's position with the Animal Health Board. I had met all of them before except for George Teagarden. Some private investigation of him and his history in the livestock industry and in government as a State Legislator seemed appropriate. I quickly learned that he was a hard worker, honest, fair, steady, calm, and trustworthy. I expected him to show up in a Boy Scout Uniform. George did not disappoint: he is a gentleman.

To be successful as the Livestock Commissioner one must develop a respectful relationship with the livestock industry, state agencies, elected officials, the veterinary profession, and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. I knew that George could manage the relationships with the livestock folks and state government but thought that the veterinarians and the Feds could be problematic. I should not have worried. Mr. T (as we know him) was the first Commissioner since Glenn Pickett who was not a veterinarian, so it was necessary for him to win the respect of the profession, and he did. It was his responsibility to establish an equal partnership with Federal Agencies, and he did. His quiet confidence and firm leadership turned critics into supporters.

A lot of good things happened during George's reign including the completion of several disease eradication programs. The State of Kansas was classified as free of Brucellosis on July 1, 1999, free of Pseudo rabies on August 1, 1999, and free of TB on June 17, 1995.

There is one program that belongs to Commissioner Teagarden—the State Emergency Animal Disease Response Program. It was through his vision that the program was born and became nationally recognized. His tireless efforts brought about partnerships at county, state, and federal levels. He was one of the first to recognize that private entities and government agencies must cooperate to ensure successful completion of disease eradication and control.

All of us at KAHD have been honored to be a part of George Teagarden's team. We respect and thank him for a job well done, and wish George and his wife Loretta the best always.

KAHD/Legislative Shrimp Peel & Oyster Feed

About 25 years ago, Dr. Wilbur Jay joined others in providing mountain oysters and boiled shrimp for the now annual Legislative Shrimp Peel and Oyster Feed in support of the Special Olympics. Legislators and lobbyists co-sponsor this event in April which raises \$10-15,000 each year for the Special Olympics.

The Livestock Commissioner is in charge of the mountain oyster inventory. 300# of oysters are needed each year.

If you have mountain oysters that you could donate to this special event, please contact George Teagarden at 785-296-2326 or any of our disease control field staff.

We will make arrangements to pick up the staples.

CHANGES TO USDA VETERINARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM REQUIRES ACTION BY ALL ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS

Background: The National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) was established by USDA in 1921 so that accredited veterinary practitioners could assist Federal and State veterinarians in controlling animal diseases and facilitating the movement of animals and products. The mission of the NVAP is to ensure the health of our nation's livestock and animal population and to protect public health and well being.

Veterinarians who are accredited through NVAP work cooperatively with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and State Animal Health Officials to protect and improve the health, quality, productivity, and marketability of U.S. animals and products by preventing, controlling and eradicating livestock diseases.

Brief overview of changes: The NVAP is undergoing changes intended to address the needs of the increasingly complex and fast-paced world of animal health, business, trade, and travel. The new program will require renewal every three years. Veterinarians accredited through the new program will be required to complete supplemental training, somewhat similar to the continuing education required to maintain a veterinary license in many states. In addition, under this restructured program, veterinarians will be required to obtain their accreditation in one of two different categories. Category I veterinarians would essentially be veterinarians working pets and non-livestock species (e.g. small animal practitioners). Category II veterinarians would be those who work with any/all species (e.g. mixed animal or large animal practitioners). *NOTE: Practitioners who issue health certificates for pet birds would need to obtain Category II accreditation.* This is a simplification of the new program and the categories, but you can refer to the links and references below for more detailed information.

These changes have been in development since 2004. In 2002, the AVMA advocated a change, which has urged USDA to make needed modifications to the NVAP, and supports the revisions being made. An article discussing these changes was published in JAVMA this year and is available on line. (www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jan10/100115a.asp).

What currently accredited veterinarians must do? Veterinarians who are already accredited as of February 1, 2010 must elect to participate in the new NVAP by August 2, 2010. In order to apply for participation in the new program, you must complete an application (i.e. a VS Form 1-36A) and submit it to the NVAP staff in Riverdale, MD. Instructions for applying and the form to use are

available at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/av_participate.shtml

Once you apply and obtain your accreditation in one of the two new categories, no further training will be required until it comes time for you to renew your accreditation. At that time, you will be notified by USDA-APHIS that your accreditation is up for renewal and you will need to complete applicable refresher training or document that you have already done so. Essentially, currently accredited veterinarians will be “grandfathered in” by USDA until they come up for renewal. Renewals for currently accredited veterinarians will be staggered over the next 3 to 5 years.

If you are currently accredited and do not elect to participate in the restructured NVAP by Aug. 2, 2010 your current accreditation will expire (expiration will occur on August 3). In addition, if you have attended an accreditation seminar and/or core orientation within the last 3 years but have not applied for your accreditation, your orientation will expire as well and you would then be required to attend another seminar/orientation in order to qualify for accreditation.

How to obtain further information. Further information and guidance can be found at the following website.

- 1) **National Veterinary Accreditation Program Home Page** with in-depth information about the program changes, NVAP Updates, factsheets, and frequently asked questions.
(<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap>)
- 2) **APHIS Press Release** announcing the new program
(<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2009/12/updatevet.shtml>)

And as always you can contact your local Kansas Area Office at (785) 270-1300 (Ask for Catherine Welcher)

Good News – Another Kansas Dairy Tests Clean for TB

By Bill Bryant, DVM

An investigation of a Kansas dairy involving a missing animal that had originated in a Texas herd and was infected with tuberculosis resulted in the need to conduct a whole herd test. A team of Kansas state and federal personnel and a couple of borrowed folks from out of state completed the test of 2,251 animals in January with 86 animals responding to the caudal fold test. This is a response rate of around 4% which is about the average response rate for dairies in western Kansas. Confirmatory gamma interferon tests done on blood drawn from the responders were all reported as negative. This is certainly good news.

Getting this many animals tested in one day is quite an undertaking which requires much planning and coordination, and could not have been accomplished without the sincere cooperation of the dairy owner and employees. Our thanks go out to them.

Congratulations to all involved!

SIGN SEEN AT A ZOO EXHIBIT:
PLEASE BE SAFE!
DO NOT STAND, SIT, CLIMB OR LEAN ON ZOO FENCES. IF YOU FALL AND ARE EATEN BY OUR ANIMALS, IT COULD CAUSE THEM TO BECOME SICK.
THANK YOU

Canada to Require Record Keeping on Slaughter Horses

By Bill Bryant, DVM

It may seem like a stretch to include Canadian regulations in our newsletter to some folks, but slaughter horses are a reality even in Kansas and horse owners and their veterinarians should be aware of their options since horses are no longer allowed to be slaughtered in the United States. Beginning Jan. 31, 2010 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requested owners of horses or other equines who plan to sell their animals to meat processors in Canada to keep records of health information. That means keeping records of all vaccines or medications administered or fed to their animals and of any occurrence of illness in those animals, the agency stated. The advice applies to any equine owners "who wish to keep their sale options open" for their animals, the agency said.

Collecting such data "will better prepare the equine industry for July 31, 2010," the agency said; when it will be mandatory for all federally-inspected equine processing plants to have complete records dating back six months for all domestic and imported animals presented for slaughter. The record-keeping requirements apply to owners of horses and their crosses, referred to as equine.

The CFIA plans to launch a new *Equine Information Document* (EID) as the first step in the development of a "comprehensive food safety and traceability program for the Canadian equine industry" for domestic and international markets. Anyone selling equine may have to provide an EID at ownership transfer, the agency said, and that will need an owner-signed declaration to verify the accuracy of the information.

CFIA also noted that a number of medications and substances are banned from being administered or fed to equines intended to be slaughtered for human consumption. The CFIA has a list of those medications and substances on its website, along with a list of drugs allowed for use in equines with a six-month withdrawal period.

Veterinary World Quick Notes

NEW TEXAS STATE VETERINARIAN

Veterinarian Dee Ellis of Rockdale has been named as Texas' new state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. Dr. Ellis will replace Dr. Bob Hillman, who will retire December 31 after serving in livestock and poultry health leadership capacities for more than three decades and as Texas' state veterinarian nearly seven years.

AVMA Weighing in on the Movies!

Disney's "The Princess and the Frog" implicated in salmonella cases:

The Disney animated film "The Princess and the Frog" has been linked to more than 50 reports of salmonella poisoning in U.S. children. The outbreak has prompted AVMA and other animal groups to warn owners of exotic frogs against allowing their children to handle their pets.

"Ticked"!

Since 2003, there has been a 750 % increase in fever-tick infestations in South Texas, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: It's the worst situation in 37 years. All told, 1.5 million acres of Texas ranchland are under quarantine because of the tick.

Two Zoonotic Influenza Response Workshops

are being presented by:

Dr. Ingrid Garrison (KHDE) and

Dr. Paul Grosdidier (KAHD)

Dates are:

February 23 at Lawrence

March 2 at Wichita

The workshop objective is to bring together a cadre of responders who will be critical to bring a zoonotic outbreak under control. (Public Health, Veterinarians, Law Enforcement, EMS, Public Information Officers, and others.) They will be interfacing to talk about how to collaborate in an emergency.

If you are interested, call Karen Domer at Kansas Animal Health Dept.

785-296-2326

**NUMBER OF PREMISES
REGISTERED IN KANSAS
FOR THE NAIS PROGRAM:
8,268**

New Johne's Disease Question & Answer Brochure Available Free

A good source of information about Johne's disease is a recently released 16-page brochure that is free to beef producers and veterinarians.

The new brochure describes how animals become infected with the organism that causes Johne's disease, details measures producers can take to help prevent and control Johne's disease and explains herd testing strategies. The brochure, which is underwritten by USDA-APHIS-VS and produced by the National Johne's Education Initiative overseen by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, is science based and written in producer language.

To learn more about Johne's disease or to obtain your free copy of the new 16-page Johne's disease question & answer brochure: <http://www.johnesdisease.org> or call the National Institute for Animal Agriculture at (719) 538-8843. Veterinarians may want to order a supply of these free brochures for their clients.

Chronic Wasting Disease Update – 2009 Testing

By Bill Bryant, DVM

While testing is not yet complete on all samples collected during the 2009 hunting season, recent information (as of 1/22/10) from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) indicates the finding of six samples testing positive for CWD with four more samples being called presumptive positives. All collected samples are tested at the K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and any that test positive for CWD are considered "presumptive positives" until confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, IA.

This year two more counties, (Thomas and Graham) have been added to Decatur, Rawlins, Sheridan and Cheyenne for a total of six counties where CWD has been found. It was first detected in Kansas in Cheyenne County in 2005.

There is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or livestock, but precautions are advised. Hunters are advised not to eat meat from animals known to be infected and common sense precautions are advised when field dressing and processing meat from animals taken in areas where CWD is found.

More information on CWD can be found on KDWP's website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us or at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website, www.cwd-info.org.

USDA Puts New Face on Animal Traceability

By Bryan Rickard

On Friday, (Feb. 5, 2010), the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, announced that the current NAIS program is being phased out and will be replaced by a flexible Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) system. The new ADT system framework will provide for the basic structure of an improved animal disease traceability system in the United States.

In the announcement, Secretary Vilsack noted that the ADT system, (at the Federal USDA level) will focus primarily on livestock involved in interstate shipments. Intrastate livestock movements will be administered at the State level, which will provide for a more flexible tracing system.

Vilsack said the new system will be implemented "transparently" through federal regulations and the "full rulemaking process". He went on to say that the developmental process for the ADT system will include: "A new round of consultations with livestock industry groups and animal health leaders for the States and Tribal Nations that will initiate a dialogue about the possible ways of achieving the flexible, coordinated approach to animal disease traceability that we envision. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability."

Secretary Vilsack added, "One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our framework for animal disease traceability. We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process."

In a separate release, House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., said that she was encouraged that USDA is formulating a detailed plan, but "I am concerned that we are moving from a single system capable of integrating and analyzing information across state lines to a collection of over 50 plus smaller systems that rely on different technology, which will be less effective for national animal disease surveillance and response efforts. As the federal agency receiving funds, designing and implementing the program, USDA needs to maintain accountability for a successful animal disease traceability system."

A copy of Secretary Vilsack's press release can be viewed at: www.aphis.usda.gov. There is also a Q & A document pertaining to the ADT system available online at:

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/faq_traceability.pdf

For additional information on the Animal Disease Traceability system:

Contact Bryan Rickard or Sarah Hill at Kansas Animal Health Department

Eradication of Rinderpest

From NIAA Weekly News

The world's most devastating cattle disease, Rinderpest (also known as "the cattle plague"), will soon be declared eradicated, according to world health bodies. The FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) headed an international effort to eradicate the disease, in 1994. Juan Lubroth, chief veterinary officer for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, says he is "confident" that the world is already free of the disease. The FAO and the OIE expect to make an official declaration that Rinderpest has been eradicated in 18 months, after a two year evaluation period is complete, as reported by Nature News.

Capitalizing on Momentum from SAMS KO Exercise

By Karen Domer

As follow-up to the Kansas/Oklahoma October 2009 SAMS KO exercise for Stopping Livestock Movement in a Foreign Animal Disease event; Kansas Animal Health Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Transportation, and Kansas Department of Agriculture personnel will be traveling to each of the 7 Kansas Homeland Security Regions through April to talk to local, instate, and border-state responders. We will spend a day at each location, educating on the threat to Kansas (and the U.S.) of Foreign Animal Disease, making responders aware of the FAD Response Plan that Kansas and each Kansas County has, and addressing roles and responsibilities of stake-holders in a FAD event. We will focus on permitted livestock movement and the aspects of implementing that in an emergency. Both controlling movement of livestock to get spread of the disease in question halted, and starting up movement again in risk-free areas for commerce as soon as possible are going to be critical to our economy. Knowledge and cooperation between authorities and the public will be necessary.

Screening reveals more Piroplasmosis cases in US

By Bill Bryant, DVM

As of mid January, over 350 horses (out of more than 1,600 tested during epidemiological testing for piroplasmosis in Texas and trace-out states) have been found to be positive for *Babesia equi* the causative agent for equine piroplasmosis. In response to this situation the US Department of Agriculture established an enhanced screening program of racehorses in New Mexico which continues to pick up cases of equine piroplasmosis. So far more than 3,000 horses have been screened for the blood-borne parasitic disease. Thirteen horses have returned positive tests. "Preliminary results of the investigation indicate that the transmission of the organism may have resulted from management practices – use of shared needles or substances between horses rather than by a tick vector," reports Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator for the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. A comprehensive investigation into all cases was continuing. We still aren't recommending routine testing for "piro", but want our practitioners in the field to be aware of what is happening around the country. Testing for piroplasmosis should be considered and may be indicated when clinical signs of the disease are present, especially in the Quarter Horse breed, even outside of the "tick season".

Order Restricting Sale or Transportation of Prairie Dogs and African Rodents

Commissioner Teagarden has issued an order, pursuant to K.S.A. 47-1713, that until further notice: It shall be illegal to import any prairie dog or African rodent into the State of Kansas. It also shall be illegal to sell prairie dogs or any African rodent for the purpose of becoming pets in the State of Kansas. Legally obtained prairie dogs can be sold to a zoo or other exhibitions for display only. *(Due to the fact that prairie dogs and certain African rodents can carry and spread zoonotic diseases, such as plague and tularemia to humans, as well as other animals.)*

**K-State's Beef Cattle Institute
To Host 2010 International Symposium
On Beef Cattle Welfare**

From CattleNetwork.com

Amid consumers' growing interest in how their food is produced, Kansas State University's Beef Cattle Institute will host the 2010 International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare May 19-21 on the K-State campus in Manhattan.

This symposium will provide everyone who is involved in the beef cattle industry - from producer to veterinarian to feed-yard manager and transport specialist to processor - the opportunity to have constructive discussion on well-being issues facing our industry. The speakers we have lined up for this are the leading experts in the field. Their depth, range and unique focus will provide all attendees with networking and problem solving opportunities."

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/yaxuuh6>

Composting mortalities may be an option for carcass disposal as a result of the new "spinal column" rules. For good information, and links to other sites for carcass mortality management, go to K-State's Research and Extension website:

http://www.extension.org/pages/Managing_Livestock_and_Poultry_Mortalities

KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

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Working together to protect the health
of Kansas livestock