

# KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH



## NEWS

NUMBER OF PREMISES  
REGISTERED IN KANSAS  
FOR THE NAIS  
PROGRAM:  
**8,204**

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EDITED BY

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### SAM'S KO (STOP LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT) EXERCISE

By Karen Domer

Kansas and Oklahoma participated together on October 22 to do a first of its kind bi-state exercise in stopping livestock movement on their shared KS/Oklahoma border. Actual livestock transports and livestock-related transports were stopped at Sitka, Kansas and Turpin, Oklahoma checkpoints, where respective state and local law enforcement practiced permitting the transports, according to risk of spreading foot and mouth disease in susceptible animals.

There has been no reported case of foot and mouth disease in U.S. livestock since 1929, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 19.5 million head of livestock moved across state lines in 2008, for feeding and breeding purposes. That presents huge concerns for how we will control an outbreak that could occur either naturally or intentionally. Kansas Livestock Commissioner George Teagarden believes the biggest threat for an outbreak would involve terrorist introduction meant to harm the U.S. economy. The Kansas and Federal Bureaus of Investigation are closely monitoring any terrorist intelligence that would indicate a planned FMD introduction, and will investigate any real outbreak as intentional.

The exercise was comprehensive in scope; activating both state Emergency Operations Centers, a Simulation Cell, and a Kansas Agriculture Departmental Operations Coordination Center besides the 2 checkpoints. Over 350 people from 10 states either participated or observed the exercise, in order to take lessons learned back to their own states.

Goals of the exercise were: communications, determining resources necessary for stopping livestock movement, arriving at consensus for border states on the most practical & effective methods for stopping livestock movement during outbreaks affecting non-border states, and evaluating the functionality and implementation of each state's plan for stopping livestock movement. We also looked at the feasibility of using KDOT roadside mixing strips for livestock permitting checkpoints.

Focus on Foreign Animal Disease response in the near future will include establishing specific checkpoints and county responders around the Kansas border. Further training of KAHD's Kansas Volunteer Veterinary Response Corps is also being planned.

Side note: "SAM'S KO" exercise was named in honor of Dr. Sam Graham, recently retired from KAHD as a Field Veterinarian. He was instrumental in proposing to use KDOT roadside mixing strips as Checkpoints for a Stop Movement Order. They are much safer for both traffic and responders, and will speed up the permitting process. SAM's KO stands for "Stop Animal Movement State-wide Kansas/Oklahoma"

## Vaccinating for Brucellosis

By Paul Grosdidier, D VM

Kansas has been free of Brucellosis since 1999, but many people still want their heifers vaccinated for Brucellosis (Bangs disease), and there are still some states that require all female cattle entering to be official brucellosis vaccinates. In order to be an "Official Brucellosis Vaccinate", the official identification (usually the orange metal bangs tag or registration tattoo number) must be recorded on the proper brucellosis vaccination form, and this form sent to the state animal health officials in the state in which it was vaccinated. In Kansas, these identification numbers are recorded on a computer, and these numbers are used not only in tracing livestock diseases, but in finding the owners of stray livestock.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that some veterinarians are NOT sending in the vaccination charts. This means these animals are not legal vaccinates, and their identification numbers are not recorded. More importantly, failure to turn in these forms is something for which a veterinarian's federal accreditation can be suspended or revoked.

If you are calf-hood vaccinating heifers for brucellosis, please help yourself and your client by taking the time to complete the vaccination forms and sending them into the Kansas Animal Health Department office.

## New FDA Final Feed Rule to Cause "Fall Out" to Cattlemen

By Bill Bryant, DVM

A new ruling by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) first published in April of 2008 was to take affect on April 27, 2009. To allow more time for renderers to come into compliance and for public comment the implementation was delayed for six months until October 27, 2009. Without fanfare or public announcement I believe that it is now in place. Among other things this rule states that brains and spinal cord must be removed from all cattle 30 months of age or older before by-products from those animals can be processed into feed ingredients for *any* animal species.

This has placed a tremendous burden on the rendering industry which will have to document that no specified risk materials (SRM) have been processed. Large packing plants that kill fat animals only will most likely make the investment necessary to remove the spinal column of cattle in order to qualify, but cow-kill plants, small processors, sale barns, veterinary clinics, dairies, and cow-calf producers among others will be left with no place to go with dead carcasses or offal from animals over 30 months of age.

The essence of the matter is that no cattle carcasses over 30 months of age can be rendered for processed feed and consequently no renderers or very few will pick up carcasses of that age. Therein lies a tremendous problem that was never addressed by FDA. They are not charged with regulatory disposal issues, and admit that costs are more than originally estimated (between \$65 and \$85 million) for implementing this rule.

There has been little or no action on this issue by other federal agencies such as USDA or EPA who may become involved with the disposal of dead carcasses issue.

The current Kansas law as it applies to the disposal of dead animals is KSA 47-1219. Unlawful disposal; penalty.

- (a) Any person or persons who shall put any dead animals, carcasses of such animals or domestic fowl, or any part thereof, into any well, spring, brook, branch, river, creek, pond, road, street, alley, lane, lot, field, meadow or common shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding \$100.
- (b) Any owner or owners of any dead animals, carcasses of such animals or domestic fowl, or any part thereof, who shall knowingly permit the same to remain in any well, spring, brook, branch, river, creek, pond, road, street, alley, lane, lot, field, meadow or common to the injury or the health or to the annoyance of or damage to the citizens of the state or any of them, shall be deemed guilty of a

misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding \$100. Every 24 hours the owners shall permit the same to remain thereafter shall be deemed an additional offense.

- (c) Persons disposing of dead animals shall do so in one of the following ways: (1) burial; (2) incineration; (3) delivery or unloading of the carcasses of dead animals or packing house refuse at a disposal plant, substation, rendering plant or place of transfer licensed by the Commissioner, or (4) in accordance with rules and regulations adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 1998 Supp. 65-1,199. This statute gives the Kansas Department of Health and Environment the authority to establish rules and regulations in regard to composting. Carcasses can be composted legally if done in the proper manner.

I don't have a good answer when asked by producers what they are supposed to do with their deads other than the above legal means of disposal, but I think they need a heads-up to let them know what the new rule is so they can make some plans for carcass disposal. None of this is good news but it is already upon us as many of the renderers are ceasing to pick up carcasses over 30 months of age already. The method that they are using to determine age is dentition. If the second set of incisors has erupted on cattle they will be considered over 30 months and not eligible for pick up.

### Veterinary World Quick Notes

- \*ArGen-X BV, a year-old Dutch biotech start-up, is looking to llamas as a source for antibodies, hoping to sidestep many of the problems associated with transgenic mice.
- \* Washington (Oct. 20) - The Senate has approved \$32 million for a massive Kansas lab (NBAF) aimed at research on foot-and-mouth and other diseases.
- \*Ohio (Nov. 4): Voters have delivered a victory to large farm operators, approving a new industry-dominated board to oversee livestock care. (Intent is to prevent animal rights activists from imposing impractical changes to present industry standards)
- \*Washington (Oct. 26) - Two years after the last U.S. horse slaughter plant ceased operations, the government wants to look into the implications the closures have had on horse welfare. Congress has requested the Government Accountability Office to study the issue and report its findings by March 1, 2010.
- \*Oct. 26: To achieve the best human and animal health protection possible, the National Pork Board is advising producers, farm personnel and others who have contact with pigs to get the regular seasonal flu vaccination as soon as possible. When available, this group should get the novel H1N1 vaccination as well.

## International Export Update from USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services

By Kim Kirkham, DVM

All practitioners involved with the export of live animals, semen and embryos should be aware that user fee charges for federal endorsement have increased, effective October 1, 2009. Please contact the Topeka Area Office to confirm charges associated with your specific export needs. Call our office at (785) 270-1300 or e-mail us at [kansas.export.desk@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:kansas.export.desk@aphis.usda.gov). Also, be reminded that your clients should make an appointment with our office, to have certificates endorsed. Certificates may also be mailed to our office for processing.

Recent changes of interest:

- The regulations for the export of horses to Mexico were slightly revised in August of this year. Please note that a model health certificate has been placed on our website to be used for such shipments.
- Due to the recent finding of piroplasmiasis in Texas, Canada has imposed additional equine trade restrictions. Please be aware that another certification statement will need to be added to Certificate Addendums for horses to Canada. You may contact our office to obtain such model Addendums for your use.

**International Animal Export Regulations website:**

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

## History and Evolution of Kansas Animal Health Department

By Commissioner George Teagarden

1884: Kansas Legislature approved formation of the "Kansas Livestock Sanitary Commission", a stand-alone agency of state government. Issues of the time were Texas Fever and railroad tariffs. Ironically, we are still dealing with Texas Fever. (Fever tick)

1927: The national TB eradication program began. The "program" diseases that we are involved with are generally zoonotic. Tuberculosis was endemic in cattle and many people who worked with livestock were affected. TB was fairly common in slaughter house workers. Though TB was essentially eradicated in the U.S. 15 years ago, there has been a resurgence of the disease with exposure coming from imported cattle, wildlife and possibly people. This resurgence has also occurred in the human population.

1929: The state Livestock Brand Registration was established. Formerly, this program had been conducted by individual counties. Brand inspection is still conducted by county option within the state. Our department is charged with providing inspectors if within our means.

1943: A national brucellosis eradication program was implemented. Charles Bangs, England, identified the disease in 1934, thus it is often referred to as "bangs". This effort continues in the Greater Yellowstone Area yet today, with the last infections coming from wildlife exposure.

1950's: Swine fever (hog cholera) was causing a huge loss in the swine industry. Kansas has a statute that allows the livestock commissioner to appoint (hire) county hog cholera directors. The intent was to push for eradication on a county by county basis, most likely because our disease control staff could not keep up the intense effort.

In the late 1950s, the federal government made a big push to eradicate brucellosis from the U.S. Practically every herd in the nation was tested, with 2,200 herds identified as infected in Kansas. *Personal note*, my father's herd of registered Shorthorns was infected and he lost 50% of those animals by the time the herd tested clean. It is my firm belief that we imported the disease with one of two heifers that my brothers won at a breed field day judging contest.

1969: The Legislature revised the statutes, combined the Sanitary Commission and Brand Commission and gave it a new name, the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD).

With the enormous cooperation between the livestock industry, USDA Veterinary Services and the Kansas Animal Health Department; Kansas is now classified as "free" of bovine tuberculosis, bovine and swine brucellosis and pseudorabies (PRV).

1989: The original Pet Animal Act was implemented. Licensure and inspection of kennels and other companion animal facilities was delegated to KAHD.

More recently, in cooperation with USDA, a number of programs have been added to KAHD's responsibilities. They are: Johnes, Scrapie, Equine Infectious Anemia, Piroplasmosis, Chronic Wasting disease, and National Poultry Improvement Program. We also test for Pullorum and Avian Influenza.

We have put a lot of effort into a National Animal Identification System which would modernize our disease control efforts tremendously. In 2003, we TB-tested 85,000 dairy cows because of possible exposure to TB. A modern, electronic identification system would have made that a 5,000 head test. We continue to have traces for brucellosis and TB from other states.

1995: KAHD implemented restrictions on feral swine. Four years ago, these restrictions were expanded because we were losing ground on the control and eradication of this invasive specie. Feral swine often are infected with pseudorabies and/or brucella suis. Texas has found 38 cases of brucella suis infection in cattle within the last year. These animals are a threat to the health of our domestic swine industry. Feral swine are not only very destructive to native habitat and ground nesting birds, but also destroy riparian areas, growing crops and pasture land.

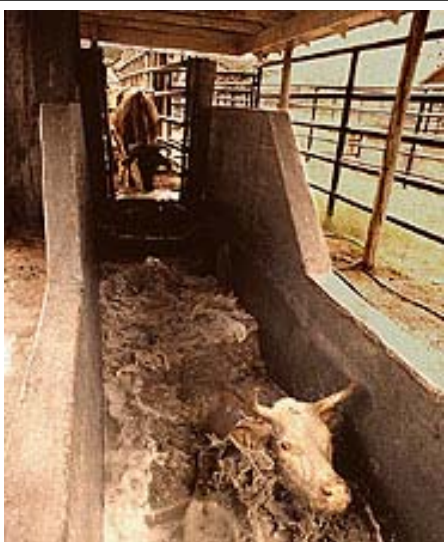
We continue to conduct market and feedlot inspections. Foreign Animal Disease investigations are conducted when warranted by our Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians.

On the rationale of economy of scale, there have been notions that the KAHD should be consolidated with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Folding KAHD into another cabinet level agency will diminish our effectiveness because of the politically-charged atmosphere. Our disease control and eradication efforts are based on science. Science often loses out in a political environment.

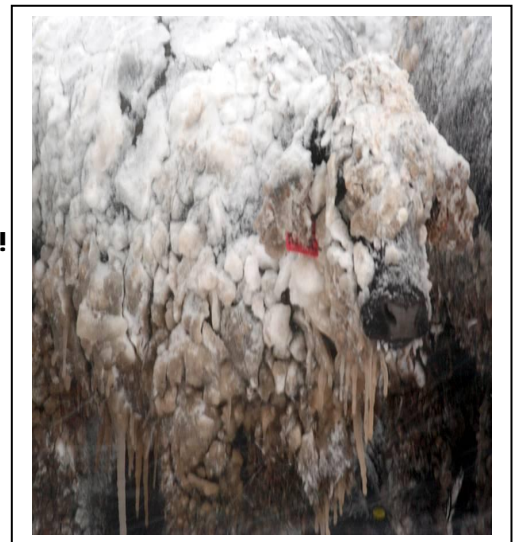
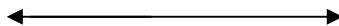
Emergency response to a highly contagious foreign animal disease is a huge concern of our department. We spend countless hours planning and exercising for such an event that could ruin the livestock industry if the disease is not controlled and eradicated in a very timely manner. A wide spread outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease could destroy the economy of the state and nation.

#### Johne's Disease on the Increase

In just over 10 years, the contagious bacterial disease of the intestinal tract known as Johne's disease has become prevalent in as many as 70 percent of U.S. dairy herds. National Animal Disease Center (NADC) microbiologist Judy Stable said this increase is due to the fast expansion of large dairy herds throughout the country. "Studies showed that in 1996, Johne's disease was in about 22 percent of the U.S. herds, but because of rapid expansion of herds across the country, producers unknowingly purchased young heifers and older cows which were infected with the disease and thus have raised the prevalence of Johne's to be present in nearly 70 percent of the herds," she said. Stable, along with other scientists at NADC and the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) are performing research on the main organism causing the disease--Mycobacterium paratuberculosis. The organism is also referred to as Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis (MAP). MAP is a relative of the bacterium that causes tuberculosis in humans and animals. MAP only grows in animals. It cannot grow and multiply in nature; however, if soil or water is contaminated with this bacterium, it can survive over a year because of its resistance to heat, cold and drying. Stable said her initial research, when she joined ARS in 1992, was to learn more about the basic immunology and pathogen interaction of MAP. But now, that research has changed to move more toward making an early-detection diagnostic test for producers to use and eventually a vaccine that will work against Johne's. "Back in 1992, we were more anti-vaccine, but now we realize we need to use the tools we can, to fight against disease in the least expensive approach for producers. Ultimately, that is a vaccine. A vaccine will be much more cost-effective than testing a whole herd, culling affected animals and replacing them with disease-free animals."



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## Coggins (EIA) Testing

By Paul Grosdidier, DVM

In a given year, Kansas normally has only 2-4 horses that are found to be infected with Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). However Kansas has found as many as 14 infected horses in one year. This depends of course upon the presence of one or more infected horses being on a premises as well as the population of blood sucking insects; especially horse flies that transmit infection from one horse to another.

The best way to prevent a disease from spreading is to avoid introducing it altogether. For this reason, horses coming into the state as well as most horses going to fairs and exhibitions in Kansas are required to have a negative EIA test within the previous year. Since they are paying for these tests, horse owners have the right to expect that the veterinarian testing these horses is properly identifying them so the "Coggins" papers can be readily identified as belonging to that horse. Unfortunately, there are still many veterinarians that do not make any note of markings, scars, brands or anything else that matches that horse to the paper presented. Though it takes a little more time to make note of these markings on the official form, it does make it possible to have some confidence that the horse presented is the horse represented on the papers. This has become an issue when we have an EIA positive horse show up, but the Coggins form is so vague it could match up to any number of horses on that premises.

Please take the time to properly identify horses by color, markings, brands, distinctive scars or other identifying features. It will be appreciated by the people who look at these papers and may save you having to deal with an angry client whose horse was not allowed to show due to questions about its identification.

### **KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS**

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**Working together to protect the health  
of Kansas livestock**