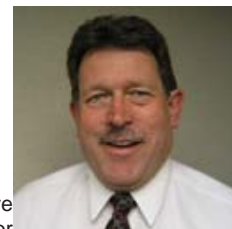


# Animal Industry



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Director

## Animal Industry

The Animal Industry Division of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has five main programs:

- 1) Animal Health – focused on prevention and control of animal diseases, with special attention to diseases that can be transmitted to humans.
- 2) Meat and Poultry Inspection — to assure wholesome products for consumers.
- 3) Livestock Inspection (brand registration and inspection) — to offer protection to the livestock industry through law enforcement.
- 4) Fish Health — protecting the fish health in the state and dealing with problems of fish food production and processing.
- 5) Elk Farming and Elk Hunting Parks

Major accomplishments in these areas during the past year are as follows:

### Animal Health

Disease free status was maintained in the following disease categories:

- Brucellosis
- Tuberculosis
- Scabies
- Pseudorabies
- Salmonella pullorum
- Mycoplasma gallisepticum

Disease monitoring programs that have continued from prior years include those for heartworm, equine encephalitis, equine infectious anemia, rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies, Salmonella sp., Mycoplasma sp., West Nile Virus, BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease), trichomoniasis, etc.

The Division participated in a West Nile Virus Surveillance program in partnership with the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association. The Division of Animal Industry role was to promote and monitor surveillance for WNV in horses. The Division paid for the laboratory cost of testing suspected cases and 62 horses were diagnosed positive for WNV. Funding was provided to the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing of sentinel chicken flocks and other birds. Much of this was accomplished with funding from the Utah Legislature and a grant from the Utah Department of Health.

The Division has actively promoted various animal health programs. The Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program, Voluntary

Johne's Disease Control Program, Trichomoniasis testing, the National Poultry Improvement Plan, and others are included in this effort. Division veterinarians met with the various livestock and poultry producer groups, farm organizations, veterinary associations and other groups in the state to receive input concerning their needs and to acquaint them with the programs.

An annual training session for Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program participants is offered and semiannual farm visits are made by Division veterinarians to verify compliance. Nearly 17,300 bulls were tested in the trichomoniasis testing program from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. Testing identified 67 infected bulls. The Division qualified for a grant of \$52,442 from USDA for funding of the Johne's Disease Control Program in 2006 (about half of the funding in 2005). Division veterinarians have certified 37 private veterinarians to perform risk assessments and develop management plans for participating herds. The grant funding paid for testing of more than 1900 animals in 8 herds and other program expenses.

The Division veterinarians monitored livestock imports into the state by reviewing incoming Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and issuing livestock entry permits to animals that meet Utah entry requirements. Violations of Utah import regulations were investigated, and citations were issued. Over 17,000 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for interstate movement of animals were received from non-Utah veterinarians. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for interstate movement to other states were monitored, filed, and forwarded to our animal health counterparts in the states of destination.

The division is responsible for licensing hatcheries, qualified feedlot operators, and swine garbage feeders in the state. The number of hatcheries in the state slightly decreased in the game bird industry. The division also administers the National Poultry Improvement Plan in the state. This is a voluntary testing program wherein a flock may be certified disease free in several important disease categories. Participants in the program enjoy significant benefits when shipping birds, eggs, and products in commerce.

The Division has maintained a cooperative agreement with FDA to monitor 50 licensed feed manufacturers in the state for enforcement of the ban on feeding meat and bone meal to ruminants. This is an important fire-wall to prevent the amplification of Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE) in our cattle population.

Homeland Security has again been a focus of the Division in 2006. The threat of agri-terrorism and the possibility of foreign animal diseases being introduced to the state make this a top

priority. Training has been obtained for five Division veterinarians as foreign animal disease diagnosticians. They have gained practical experience in volunteering to respond to disease outbreaks such as the foot and mouth disease outbreak in Great Britain and the exotic newcastle disease outbreak in California. The Division was successful in obtaining federal funding for developing a mobile emergency response capability. The Division has offered training and consultation in bio-security measures to various groups and state agencies.

The Animal Health section has the responsibility of providing veterinary supervision and service to the livestock auction markets in Utah in furtherance of our disease control and monitoring programs. The program is administered by the division, using private veterinarians on contract with the state. More than 500 weekly livestock sales conducted by eight licensed and bonded sale yards in the state were serviced under this program. Division veterinarians also provided oversight for veterinarians and technicians involved with brucellosis vaccinations.

#### Meat Inspection

The Meat Inspection Program added three more establishments to the program during the past year. Constant change within the Meat Inspection Program on the national level necessitates training of inspectors and plant owners that is real and ongoing. The Utah program is considered equal to the federal meat inspection program. Dr. Ron Nelson is the new FSIS Denver District Manager. One of his priorities is to reinstitute the T/A Program into the Utah Meat Inspection Program. We received our first federal plant in July under the T/A Program. We currently have 4 State Slaughter Plants, 18 Plants that are slaughter/processing, 13 plants that are processing only, and 13 T/A plants. This gives a total of 49 official plants. There are 3 more plants applying for T/A status. We also have 34 custom exempt plants for a total of 83. The 2006 Legislature approved an additional hiring of an FTE to keep up with the additional meat establishments that have been added over the last couple of years.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) continues to be an issue in the regulatory environment. Each establishment that slaughters or handles carcass beef had to write a plan on how they would handle specified risk materials from these carcasses. This is just one of many federal rules and regulations that the small establishment owner must comply with to remain in business. The Utah Meat and Poultry Inspection Program personnel have tried to help these small business owners as much as we can to make sure they understand what it takes to remain in compliance.

The program in the past year has made an effort to reduce the amount of paper work required by the individual inspector and to simplify the paper work required by the establishment. In turn, we have stressed to the inspector that they are responsible for verifying and validate that the food safety system in each establishment is being executed properly. To make sure these systems are being designed and validate properly, federally trained state personnel are conducting food safety assessments in each state establishment.

We are in the process of adding buffalo as an amenable product to the Utah Meat and Poultry inspection regulations. All domestic raised buffalo will be required to be slaughtered under inspection. A new slaughter plant in Fillmore was granted inspection in May of this year. Two other plants are in the process of remodeling to accommodate their increased business. In May of 2007 new sweeping regulations were issued, that will have an impact on the way a custom exempt plant does business.

Several intrastate shipments bills are working their way through Congress. If the bill passes, state inspected establishments would be able to ship their products across state lines.

#### Livestock Inspection

The Livestock (Brand) Inspection Bureau consists of 16 full time special function officers and 49 part time inspectors. Their job is to protect the Utah livestock industry from accidental straying or intentional theft of livestock. In addition to inspecting all cattle and horses at the state's seven weekly auctions, field inspections are done on all livestock prior to changing ownership, leaving the state and going to slaughter.

During 2006, a total of 639,779 individual cattle, horses and elk were inspected. Livestock worth an estimated \$1.6 million was returned to their proper owners. This was an increase in animals inspected from previous years due to restocking following the statewide drought of 2003. It was noted that the same number of producers were in operation, and that ranchers have held onto heifers to increase their herd size. Brand renewal was conducted in 2005 in Utah. Each brand owner received a renewal notice from the Department and those renewing their brand received a laminated wallet sized "proof of ownership" card. The ownership card is intended for use during travel and when selling animals at auctions. 20,000 brands and earmarks were renewed during the 2005 year. A brand book and CD are available for purchase that has the latest information. In addition to this, the Brand Bureau is actively involved in tying the existing brand program to the new National Animal Identification System, where each livestock owner will be issued a premises I.D. number. This number was added to the brand card for easy reference as the system develops. 1,000 National Premises numbers were issued to ranches during 2006 making a total of 8,000 premises recorded. Utah ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in percentage of premises recorded.

During the year Brand Inspectors collected \$554,339 in Beef Promotion Money. The brand department started collecting the cattlemen's part of predator control money in 1996. During 2006, livestock inspectors collected \$86,500 in predator control money. This money, like the beef promotion money, which has been collected by the brand inspectors for many years, will simply be forwarded to the Wildlife Services Program for its use. Sheep men will continue to have their allotment collected by the wool houses and forwarded to the department.

In an effort to assist and give training to the state's port of entry personnel, a livestock inspector was assigned to work monthly in each port of entry. These inspectors are authorized and equipped to chase down those livestock transporters who

ignore the signs requiring all livestock hauling vehicles to stop. This is an effort to help prevent diseased animals from entering the state and stolen animals from leaving the state.

A heightened awareness in the meat industry has also resulted in the upgrading of the Farm Custom Slaughter Program to insure the meat derived from home grown, non inspected livestock is prepared under the best conditions possible. The killing of “downer” non ambulatory animals has been eliminated from this program due to the BSE positive cow found in Washington State December 23, 2003.

In September 2005 a range rider/investigator was hired to travel from county to county in an effort to prevent intentional and accidental taking of another’s animals as they forage and are removed from open range situations. He has been actively involved in 35 cases of theft and loss of livestock in 16 counties during the 2006 year.

#### Fish Health

The fish health program controls the spread and prevents the entry of fish pathogens into Utah. This is done through regulating, inspecting, approving facilities for live sales, entry permits, and licensing facilities. Also, program members work closely with others in disease prevention and control to include the Utah Fish Health Policy Board, pathogen committees, nuisance species and mercury work groups.

Licensed facilities included 15 commercial aquaculture facilities (licensed for multiple species), 111 fee fishing facilities (seven of the aquaculture facilities were also licensed for fee-fishing), five brokers, five mosquito abatement districts, and three fish processors. The fee-fishing facilities were licensed for 23 species of aquatic animals including channel catfish, rainbow trout, bluegill, largemouth bass, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, fathead minnow, smallmouth bass, triploid grass carp, black crappie, Arctic char, Gambusia, ciclids, koi, common carp, tiger trout, kokanee salmon, coho salmon, tiger muskie, wipers, bullhead catfish, and cutbows.

During the FY there were 15 approval requests forwarded by UDAF to DWR for new species. One fee-fishing facility changed its registration to become licensed by DWR. During the period, 43 entry permits were issued for 17 species of aquatic animals for a total of approximately 1,180,122 fish, 1,471,000 eggs, and 176,333 lbs. of live aquatic animals imported into Utah. Total fish and eggs imported into Utah approximated 2,651,122.

Disease-free status was maintained for the following pathogens: IHNV, IPNV, VHSV, *Aeromonas salmonicida*, *Yersinia ruckeri*, *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, largemouth bass virus, *Ceratomyxa shasta*, SVCV, OMV, CCV, and EHNV. Testing during the year for shrimp viruses (TSV, IHNV, WSSV, YHV) did not take place, because Utah growers did not culture freshwater shrimp (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) for live sales. Disease surveillance has continued for whirling disease, proliferative kidney disease, and other non prohibited pathogens.

Inspection and health surveillance services included 37 onsite inspections or disease surveillance visits. Included in that total were 15 aquaculture facility inspections for approval to sell all species of live fish including trout. Forty-one water quality tests were conducted at 25 different sites. A total of 2,416 aquatic animals were sacrificed for laboratory testing. Of these, pathogen assays were conducted for 12 pathogens at qualified labs: IHNV (1,800), IPNV (2,090) VHSV (1,905), *Aeromonas salmonicida* (180), *Yersinia ruckeri* (180), *Renibacterium salmoninarum* (690), *Myxobolus cerebralis* (818), LMBV (120), SVCV (600), OMV (1800), LMBV (30), EHNV (120).

During the period two facilities were under biosecurity due to whirling disease (WD) contamination. Two facilities had quarantines released, both of which qualified for such following the passage of Senate Bill 195 and negative testing. Two more facilities qualified for licensing and approval for live sales during the first month of the next FY. Whirling disease was not detected in the 19 fee fishing sites surveyed for the parasite.

Fish health approvals and inspections were provided for 15 in-state facilities for the live sales of 12 species of aquatic animals including rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, walleye, hybrid tilapia (restricted to out-of-state sales), fathead minnow, *Gambusia*, brook trout, brown trout, tiger trout and walleye. Fish health approvals were granted to 18 out-of-state facilities for 19 species. At the beginning of the FY, six Utah facilities were licensed and approved to sell trout. At the end of the FY, eight Utah facilities were approved to sell trout, but three more facilities were licensed and approved for live sales during the first month of the next FY.