



# Utah Animal Health Update

Message from the State Veterinarian—Bruce L. King, DVM

Volume II Issue I April 2013

We here at the Division of Animal Industry are excited about making available to you an update on what is happening in reference to production animal agriculture in Utah. It is our intent to publish and make available to you electronically by way of this publication updates at least bi-annually. It seems that most things related to animal agriculture are experiencing intense change. One example would be the Animal Disease Traceability Rule (ADT) which was published in the Federal Register on January 9, 2013 and came into effect on March 11, 2013. In a nut shell, this rule requires that animals traveling interstate need to be officially identified. By animals I mean the following: elk, cattle, bison, horses, mules, donkeys, poultry, sheep, goats, and swine. There are new and emerging diseases that are here and on the horizon that would remind us all that “**Biosecurity**” is a must. Please be careful out there. I would like to also recognize and thank all the veterinarians out there that work in production animal agriculture. The key to protecting agriculture from any emerging or foreign animal disease is early recognition. We here at the Division find ourselves woefully unable to meet this crucial need without the trained professionals that we refer to as accredited veterinarians. We would like your feedback on this publication. I again would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I know of no better people than those that work in agriculture.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. King, DVM  
Director of Animal Industry



### Inside this issue:

Message from State Vet	1.
<u>Equine Herpes Virus I</u>	1,2
<u>Animals in Disasters Workshop</u>	2
<u>Fish Health</u>	3
<u>Brucellosis Rule</u>	3
<u>Administrative Rule Changes</u>	4
<u>Animal Traceability Rule</u>	5
<u>Brand Inspection and ADT</u>	6

### Equine Herpes Virus1 Neurological Form in Cache County

A mare in Cache County began showing neurological symptoms on February 19, 2013. After a necropsy and additional testing, EHV-1 was diagnosed on February 26, 2013 on that mare as well as a second horse. It quickly became apparent that the Cache County Fairground Arena was a location that all of the horses had visited recently. A total of nine horses were confirmed positive during this outbreak. Three additional horses that had signs consistent with EHV-1 tested negative. A total of seven locations were quarantined during the outbreak. Four horses were euthanized for humane reasons. A couple of lessons were learned from the response to the outbreak. Horses that exhibit symptoms should be immediately removed from any contact with other horses. It was found that spacing horses with an empty stall between them was not adequate to prevent spread of the virus. This may result in implementing additional quarantines, but appears to be a needed procedure.

[continued p. 2](#)



*Nasal swab sampling for Equine Herpes Virus 1 with personal protective equipment*



The Utah Emergency Animal Response Coalition (UEARC), in conjunction with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Department of Emergency Management, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) sponsored the two day event. National and international speakers were brought in for the workshop as well as local experts. Topics including Response to Super Storm Sandy, Effects of the Utah 2012 Fires, Safe Handling of Canines and Felines During Disasters, Keeping Your Business Viable, and Veterinary Triage along with many others. Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell gave the keynote address.

This annual workshop is held each year in late March or early April. Sixteen hours of Continuing Education Credits (C.E.) was available to veterinarians who attended. Attendees included veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control officers, local, state and federal government personnel, emergency managers, first responders, and volunteers.

Plan on attending in 2014!



MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE ASPCA



#### Equine Herpes Virus1 Neurological Form in Cache County

cont. from page 1

Another lesson learned has to do with notifying people about the outbreak. We received several complaints from both horse owners and veterinarians that they were not aware of the outbreak. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) sent out alert notices to our Utah Veterinary Alert System (UTVA), produced press releases for the media (which was covered by many news outlets, including Cache County newspapers), placed information on our webpage, sent out notices to producer groups that we have lists for, including a list of event managers in the state. We do not maintain nor do we have access to equine group lists in the state. This would be something that UDAF could work on for the future. Veterinarians could make sure that they are associated with the UTVA and check their e-mail regularly. Horse owners could put pressure on facility managers and event coordinators to keep e-mails on file for all participants so that rapid contact can be made with large numbers of participants.

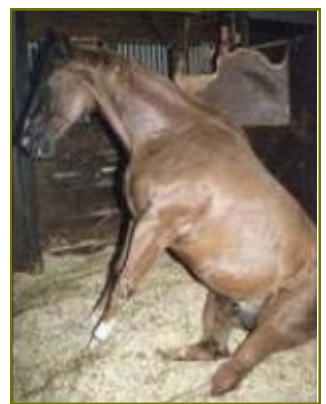


Figure 1. A horse in the classic neurologic “dog sitting” stance that is unable to rise into a normal stance. (Photo courtesy of Dr. George Allen)

## FISH HEALTH PROGRAM PROMOTES AQUACULTURE

The Utah Department of Agriculture (UDAF) Fish Health Program continually strives to meet the needs of licensed aquaculture facilities. They provide a number of services that are beneficial to their customers. Mark Martin (Fish Health Program Manager) works to solve fish health problems and to provide consultation to aquaculture operators. It is his objective to prevent the spread and introduction of fish disease into Utah. Entry permits are issued to regulate the importation of game fish into Utah. Facilities are either approved or not approved to import fish into Utah based on their stock inspection histories, health statements and facility disease histories. Mark performs water quality tests as requested by operators and growers and when new aquaculture facilities are licensed. All water quality results are followed up with a letter to the provider outlining the test findings. A whirling disease pamphlet was produced and distributed to help educate the public on how to prevent the spread of the disease. Each aquaculture facility approved to sell live fish to the public is inspected annually with the assistance of UDAF Veterinarians. Fish tissues are sampled and sent to independent labs to be analyzed for diseases. Each facility is permitted to sell fish in Utah only if the results are negative. Remediation actions are undertaken if the results are positive. The Fish Health Program also responds to consumer and operator complaints and requests. Mark also provides on-site diagnostic evaluations, consultations and services as needed. The Fish Health Program coordinates efforts with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), who is responsible for species approval and site recommendations. It is the aim of the Fish Health Program to assist aquaculture operators to succeed in business and prevent fish diseases from entering the State of Utah.



## Brucellosis Rules for Utah

Livestock Auction Owners, Veterinarians, and Cattle Producers,

The rule that covers brucellosis vaccination and testing of replacement beef heifers and breeding cows, in and imported into Utah, has recently changed. Although the intent of the rule to protect Utah cattle from the threat of brucellosis has not changed, there are changes that auction owners, veterinarians, and cattle producers should be made aware.

1. All replacement beef heifer calves from four to 12 months of age should be official calfhood vaccinates (OCV) for brucellosis, and appropriately tattooed and tagged by an accredited veterinarian.
2. Unvaccinated or unverifiable brucellosis vaccinated beef cattle over 12 months of age must be tested negative for brucellosis if sold for breeding animals in Utah.
3. Beef cattle imported into Utah must be calfhood vaccinates (OCV) with a recognized brucellosis tattoo or be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days of being imported.
4. All cattle coming from a designated brucellosis surveillance area in Idaho, Montana or Wyoming must be tested for brucellosis if test eligible within 30 days of being imported.

Contract veterinarians at each livestock auction should be available to vaccinate heifer breeding replacements that move through the livestock auction. The OCV brucellosis tag is recognized as an official identification for interstate movement under the new Animal Disease Traceability rule that went into effect on March 11, 2013. Veterinarians will also test and officially tag cattle that do not have visible signs of vaccination. Test negative females may be utilized as replacement stock and will be officially recognized under the animal disease traceability identification rules.

If you have questions or concerns with this clarification of our brucellosis rules, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Bruce L. King, DVM  
State Veterinarian

## 2013 Administrative Rule Changes

On April 10, 2013 the administrative rule R58-1 that covers the importation of animals into Utah was changed in part to reflect the enactment of the federal animal traceability rule; and, to make needed changes to brucellosis testing requirements; and, to which animals are required to enter the state with an import permit. The specific changes are as follows:

- The word “Identification” was added to the title to reflect the addition of language to conform with the federal animal disease traceability rule that went into law on March, 11, 2013
- Several definitions were edited or new definitions were added for: Animal identification number (AIN), Approved livestock facility, Approved tagging site, Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Dairy Cattle, Designated brucellosis surveillance area, Exotic animal, Flock-based number system, Flock identification number (FIN), Group/lot identification number (GIN), Import permit, Interstate movement, Location identification (LID) number, National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES), Official eartag, Official eartag shield, Official identification device or method, Official identification number, Officially identified, Premises identification number (PIN), Suspect, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved backtag, and Zoological animal
- Section R58-1-3 was added that covers official identification devices and methods that are required for animals coming into Utah
- Subsection R58-1-5(3) was added that states that a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must be submitted to the Department “within 7 calendar days from date on which the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or other document is received or issued”
- Although it has been working knowledge, language was added to subsection R58-1-5(6) that states that “Certificates of Veterinary Inspection are considered valid for 30 days from the date of inspection.”
- Subsection R58-1-6(2)(ii) allows individual identification that is listed on official brucellosis or tuberculosis test sheets to be included as an attachment to the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection as long as a copy is stapled to each copy
- Section R58-1-7 has new brucellosis vaccination and testing requirements as follows:
  - ◊ All cattle and bison heifers that are between 4 to 12 months of age must be vaccinated for brucellosis
  - ◊ All cattle and bison cattle that are over 12 months of age must either be calfhood vaccinated for brucellosis and have a recognized vaccination tattoo or be tested negative for brucellosis if unvaccinated
  - ◊ All cattle and bison cattle that are over 12 months of age must be tested negative for brucellosis if coming from a designated brucellosis surveillance area ;
- All stallions and semen imported into Utah must have an import permit issued prior to entry into the state
- Import requirements were added that requires poultry to be imported from an NPIP source flock or tested negative for pullorum-typhoid Salmonella if from a non-NPIP source flock
- An import permit is now required for all goats and camelids and requires all goats and sheep that enter the state to comply with federal scrapie identification requirements
- The requirement for obtaining an import permit for psittacine and passerine birds and raptors was removed
- Language was added that states that “All dogs, cats and ferrets over three months of age must be currently vaccinated against rabies before entering Utah” to clarify the age of vaccination requirement
- Puppies and kittens that are less eight weeks of age cannot be imported into Utah unless accompanied by the mother
- A section was added that covers the requirements for exotic animals.

## What the new Animal Traceability Rule means for the accredited veterinarian

- Anytime an accredited veterinarian distributes an official identification device they must maintain for five years a record of the names and addresses of anyone to whom the devices were distributed. (9 CFR 86.3(a))
- All Certificates of Veterinary Inspection must be submitted to the office of the State Veterinarian within 7 calendar days from the date of issue. (9 CFR 86.5(b)(1))
- When completing a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), the accredited veterinarian must make sure the following appears on the certificate:

1. The species of animals
2. The number of animals
3. The purpose for which the animals are to be moved
4. The physical address at which the animals were loaded for interstate movement
5. The physical address to which the animals are destined



6. The names of the consignor and the consignee and their addresses if different from the address at which the animals were loaded or the address to which the animals are destined
7. Must list the official identification number of each animal unless they are moving under a group/lot identification number (GIN)
8. As an alternative to typing or writing individual animal identification on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, if agreed to by the receiving State or Tribe, another document may be used to provide this information, but only under the following conditions:
  - a) The document must be a State form or APHIS form that requires individual identification of animals or a printout of official identification numbers generated by computer or other means;
  - b) A legible copy of the document must be stapled to the original and each copy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection;
  - c) Each copy of the document must identify each animal to be moved with the ICVI, but any information pertaining to other animals, and any unused space on the document for recording animal identification, must be crossed out in ink; and
  - d) The following information must be written in ink in the identification column on the original and each copy of the ICVI and must be circled or boxed, also in ink, so that no additional information can be added:
    - (i) The name of the document; and
    - (ii) Either the unique serial number on the document or, if the document is not imprinted with a serial number, both the name of the person who prepared the document and the date the document was signed. (9 CFR 86.1)

- An accredited veterinarian issuing or receiving a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or other interstate movement document must keep a copy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or alternate documentation. For poultry and swine, such documents must be kept for at least two years, and for cattle and bison, sheep and goats, cervids, and equines, five years. (9 CFR 86.5(b)(2))

## Brand Inspections and Animal Disease Traceability System – ADT

The Brand Inspection Program is designed to prevent the theft of livestock and to detect the true owners of estray livestock. The brand Inspector decides that the individual presenting an animal for inspection is the lawful owner or has right to the possession and executes a Brand Inspection Certificate, that document is the official certification of ownership. Branding your livestock and following the Utah Brand and Anti-theft laws, ensures that that livestock thieves will be deterred and any lost animals will be returned home.

Animal disease traceability, or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when, is very important to ensure a rapid response when animal disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.

Under the final ADT rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or other documentation, such as Owner-Shipper Statements or Brand Certificates.



The ADT rule:

- Accepts the use of brands, tattoos and brand registration as official identification
- Permanently maintains the use of backtags as an alternative to official eartags for cattle and bison moved directly to slaughter
- Accepts movement documentation other than an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) for all ages and classes of cattle
- Clarifies that all livestock moved interstate to a custom slaughter facility are exempt from the regulations

In summary, following the Utah Brand and Anti-theft act will allow interstate travel of livestock in compliance with the ADT rule. One exception is dairy animals that are not branded and are not required to have a brand inspection under 60 days of age. These animals will still need individual identification.