



# Animal Health Update

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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**Bovine Brucellosis:** Wyoming has [reported bovine brucellosis in a cattle herd](#) in Sweetwater County. [Brucellosis](#) (caused by *Brucella abortus*) causes abortions in cows and reduced fertility in bulls, and can also infect people, horses, and other species. UDAF is working with USDA and the Wyoming State Veterinarian to determine the risk to Utah cattle herds grazing in the county. This is the first diagnosis of bovine brucellosis in cattle outside the brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area since 2011.



## News Briefs:

- **Vesicular Stomatitis:** California is currently experiencing an outbreak of [vesicular stomatitis](#). Vesicular stomatitis causes blisters to form on hairless areas of horses, cattle, and some other species, and looks very similar to foot and mouth disease. UDAF is monitoring the outbreak and will alert veterinarians if the disease heads towards Utah. A webinar for veterinarians on vesicular stomatitis can be [viewed here](#). Suspected cases should be reported immediately to UDAF.
- **Animal Health Personnel:** Dr. Daniel Christensen will be the State Veterinarian starting August 7. We have appreciated everyone's patience and understanding during this transition. UDAF is also looking for two field veterinarians to [join our team](#) to protect Utah's animal owners from disease! This position is eligible for loan repayment through PSLF, [VMLRP](#), and the [Utah loan repayment program](#).
- **Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program:** Starting July 1, 2023, veterinarians can [apply for loan repayment](#) of up to \$100,000. Qualifying veterinarians must work in an animal shelter, for UDAF, in a [VMLRP shortage area](#), or on an Indian reservation for five years after application.
- **RFID Reader Cost-Share Program:** UDAF is providing a cost-share program for veterinarians for RFID readers along with training on the Allflex elist app and [VetCVI](#). [Details](#) and the [application](#) are available on the UDAF website.
- **Equine Neurologic Diseases:** Horse owners should monitor their horses for signs of neurologic disease. Mosquito numbers in the state are extremely high this year, and horse owners should vaccinate their horses for [West Nile Virus](#) as soon as possible. [Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy](#) (EHM) can also cause neurologic signs and is highly contagious. A case of EHM was recently reported in a horse imported to Utah for veterinary care, and the state of origin is working to track down other exposed horses.
- **Brucella ovis Free Flock Program:** UDAF is working on developing a [Brucella ovis](#) free flock program for sheep producers. This program would make it easier to export breeding sheep to other states. *B. ovis* causes reduced fertility in rams.
- **Scrapie:** Utah may lose its "[Consistent State](#)" status for scrapie in September due to non-compliance with federal law. Visit the [Utah Scrapie website](#) to learn more about tagging requirements. Scrapie tags are official identification tags, and should never be removed until the animal is at the slaughter plant.
- **Small egg producers:** Utah recently allowed small egg producers (< 3000 hens) to [sell eggs to restaurants](#) if they meet sanitation and labeling requirements and test for *Salmonella enteritidis*. The Animal Health Program will soon have a video available to demonstrate the testing process for *Salmonella enteritidis*. Flocks may also want to join the [National Poultry Improvement Program](#) (NPPI).

