



Animal Health Update

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Winter 2024

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Psittacosis: In September 2023, two bird owners experienced outbreaks of [psittacosis](#) in their birds. Psittacosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia psittaci*. Signs in birds include a poor appetite, ruffled appearance, discharge from the eye or nose, and diarrhea. Psittacosis can also be spread to people through dried manure or handling birds. In people, psittacosis causes fever, headache, chills, cough, and breathing difficulty. Bird owners can prevent the spread of disease by cleaning cages often and testing birds that have been in contact with birds outside the home.



News Briefs:

- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza:** Two backyard producers tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza in November, bringing the total number of Utah affected premises in 2024 to four. Backyard producers can find more information on how to protect their birds on the [UDAF Avian Influenza website](#).
- **Mystery Dog Illness:** The Animal Health Program responded to several animal owners and media organizations concerned about the “mystery” [dog respiratory illness](#) that was reported in the fall. Veterinarians who suspect cases of the illness should report it to the State Veterinarian by phone or the [online reportable disease form](#).
- **RFID Tags:** UDAF is purchasing 10,000 [RFID tags](#) to distribute to beef cattle producers throughout the state. If you are a beef producer or beef cattle veterinarian interested in getting tags for a herd, please email statevet@utah.gov. The Animal Health Program provided a [cost-share program](#) for veterinarians to purchase RFID readers and provided training on the readers and VetCVI to 19 participating veterinarians throughout the state.
- **Trichomoniasis:** Two herds have been diagnosed with [trichomoniasis](#) in Millard County. The source of the outbreak is still under investigation. All beef bulls in Utah must be tested annually between October 1 and May 15. Untested bulls can be reported to brand inspectors or to the Animal Health Program.
- **African Swine Fever:** UDAF is working with the [Utah Pork Producers Association](#) on a planning exercise for commercial and backyard swine producers to prepare for African Swine Fever. This exercise will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting on March 21 and 22 in Lehi. Interested producers should email amandaprice@utah.gov for more information. Swine owners can find more information on how to protect pigs through the [USDA Protect our Pigs website](#).
- **VetCVI:** UDAF is offering [VetCVI](#), a free program, to veterinarians for health certificates, brucellosis vaccination charts, and TB test charts. User guides and [Videos](#) are available on our website.
- **Horse Racing:** The [Utah Horse Racing Commission](#)-sanctioned races will be held April 6-7, April 21, May 4-5, and May 19 at Weber Downs in Ogden.

| 2023 Animal Imports | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Species | Number imported |
| Birds | 8.1 million |
| Cattle | 60,000 |
| Pigs | 26,000 |
| Horses | 7,300 |
| Sheep and Goats | 5,800 |
| Other species | 7,700 |

