



Animal Health Update

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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Johne's Disease—[Johne's disease](#), also called paratuberculosis, is a chronic bacterial infection of ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats, and cervids). The bacteria cause the intestine to thicken, which prevents nutrients from being absorbed and leads to severe weight loss, diarrhea, and eventually the death of the animal. There is no treatment or vaccine for Johne's disease. The bacteria is spread through feces and milk, so control of the disease focuses on [pasteurization of milk](#) when possible and [avoiding fecal contamination](#) of feed and water. The disease can be diagnosed through a [PCR test](#) of feces or a [test on blood or milk](#). It is unknown if Johne's disease affects people; some studies have shown a [possible link](#) to Crohn's Disease.



News Briefs:

- **Vesicular Stomatitis**—Since October 31, 2025, Arizona has reported six cases of [vesicular stomatitis](#) in Cochise, Gila, Maricopa, and Santa Cruz counties. Vesicular stomatitis causes blister-like sores around the mouth, nose, and teats of horses, cattle, and occasionally other livestock. The blisters break easily, so owners may see crusty lesions instead of blisters. The blisters are painful, so animals may be reluctant to eat or drink, and may drool excessively. All suspected cases of vesicular stomatitis must be [reported](#) to our office. Because we were seeing cases so late in the year in Arizona, we are more likely to have a large outbreak in the Southwestern US in 2026
- **Brand Renewal**—All brands in Utah were required to be renewed by the end of 2025. Any brands that were not renewed are available for registration. People wishing to apply for a brand should contact the UDAF [Brand Inspection Program](#) at (801) 982-2240.
- **New World Screwworm**—[New world screwworm](#) continues to move northward in Mexico, with the most recent detection being found in the state of Tamaulipas, approximately 190 miles from the Texas border. Our office has been working with industry groups and other state agencies to prepare to respond to a detection of screwworm here in Utah. [Sampling kits](#) are [available](#) for veterinarians and producers.
- **Pre-Harvest Food Safety Accreditation Module**—Dr. Willy Lanier, the State Public Health Veterinarian with the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, helped develop a module for accredited veterinarians titled "The [Veterinarian's Role in Microbial Preharvest Food Safety](#)." Topics include food safety hazards, investigating foodborne outbreaks, and model practices for preharvest food safety.
- **Biosecurity Plans**—During a foreign animal disease outbreak, such as foot and mouth disease or avian influenza, any commercial farms within the disease control area must have an approved biosecurity plan to move animals or animal products. These plans state the actions that producers will take to prevent disease from spreading to their animals. A [basic biosecurity plan template](#) for livestock is available on the UDAF website.
- **Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM)** - the recent outbreak of [EHM](#) in barrel racing and roping horses associated with events in Texas and Oklahoma highlights the importance of [biosecurity](#) when attending [equine events](#). Horses infected with equine herpesvirus carry the disease for life and may start to shed the virus when stressed. Horse owners should follow basic precautions to [protect their horses](#).

