

Animal Health Update

News from the Wisconsin State Veterinarian

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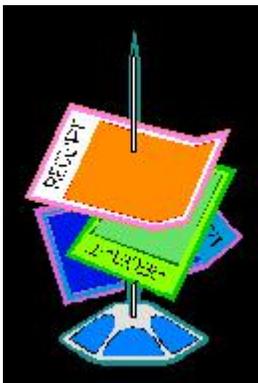
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Welcome to the third issue of *Animal Health Update*. We're addressing this newsletter to veterinarians and others who work with animals in Wisconsin. We'll try to offer something for large- and small-animal veterinarians every month, and we've broken down our email list so when we have special editions with breaking news, we can target it to the right audience. Please feel free to forward this message to colleagues, clients and others you think could benefit. If you've received it directly from us, you're already subscribed. If it was forwarded to you, please feel free to join the subscription list by clicking on the link above. And if you prefer not to receive this newsletter, just click on the "Safe Unsubscribe" link below.

Beware: Johne's deadlines ahead

February 2009 seems distant, we know -- but veterinarians, please remind your clients that is the deadline to submit their eligible Johne's disease management expenses for reimbursement. Once we hit the rush of harvest and then the holidays, it's easy to lose sight of those looming dates.



Producers whose RAMP (risk assessment/management plan) is completed and who have incurred testing or vaccinating costs can submit invoices anytime. They don't need to submit all costs at the same time; however, we will not send reimbursement until their costs equal the amount they were awarded (as stated in their notification letter earlier this year.)

Please remember that all services must be from calendar year 2008.

They can either send an invoice, or download the [online expense form](#).

Also, if you have completed RAMPs this year for clients who missed the cutoff to apply for the program, they may still qualify if there is money left next March. They need to send us a 2008 eligibility request, an invoice

and a w-9 tax ID form.

For questions, contact [Debbie Elliott](#) by email or call 608-224-4893.

Update: TB in California

With the discovery of three dairy herds infected with bovine tuberculosis since January, California's TB status is about to slip to "modified accredited advanced." The USDA has not yet downgraded the status, but federal regulations require the change if two or more infected herds are found within 48 months.

For Wisconsin, this means that cattle, bison and goats from California require a negative TB test in the 60 days before shipment, unless they originate from an accredited TB-free herd. If they are going directly to an approved feedlot or to slaughter, they don't need TB tests, but they do need

official identification. We do not require an import permit from California.

For more information about import regulations, email [Annette Carasco](#) or call her at 608 224-4680. To learn more about the California TB situation, visit the [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) online.

Don't forget the zebras

You know the old saying: "When you hear hoof beats, look for horses -- not zebras." But "zebras" - foreign animal diseases and old diseases thought to be eradicated - pop up with disturbing frequency.

You might remember monkeypox, an African disease that showed up in the Western Hemisphere for the first time five years ago -- right here in Wisconsin. Texas recently had a similarly bizarre find when a cow turned up with a strain of malignant catarrhal fever normally associated with wildebeests. It wasn't hard to connect the dots in this case; captive wildebeests were kept on the same property.



Texas is also fighting a border war against fever ticks, which had been kept at bay for more than half a century. The ticks harbor the parasite *Babesia bigemina*, a one-celled organism that attacks blood cells and kills its victims by hypoxia/anoxia. A permanent quarantine zone established along the Mexican border in 1943 deterred the infestations that had plagued the state's cattle industry until last year. Now, animal health authorities in Texas have temporarily quarantined more than 1,000 square miles outside the permanent zone while they try to eradicate the ticks once again.

And of course there's the resurgence of that old enemy, bovine tuberculosis, that has Wisconsin in a "TB sandwich" between Minnesota and Michigan.

So, please, don't get complacent. Don't assume the signs you're seeing are from a common disease. If there's any question of a foreign animal disease or other reportable disease, contact DATCP or the USDA. You can find a list of [one-day reportable diseases](#) and [ten-day reportable diseases](#) online.

We have the entire list of possible contacts for you, should you suspect a reportable disease, including after-hours numbers and your district veterinarians. Please remember, don't leave a message -- either on a machine or with a person. Keep going down the list until you talk to a state or federal veterinarian personally. Here's [how to report diseases](#).

Fees to increase Sept. 1

Unlike many animal health programs in most other states, which are funded by tax dollars, much of our funding comes from user fees -- for licenses, permits, forms, dog tags, etc. We try to hold the line, but when our costs rise, those fees need to rise. Also, in the past several years, our work load has shifted somewhat to programs where users were paying lower fees than the time we spent on them justified. As a result, we will be raising some of our fees beginning Sept. 1:

- Certificates of veterinary inspection and intrastate health certificates will increase to \$5.60 and 60 cents, respectively.
- Fish import permits will increase to \$90.
- Type 1 fish farm registration (those not selling/distributing live fish or eggs to other farms) will increase to \$37.50 a year for one location or \$50 for multiple locations.
- Type 2 fish farm registration (those selling/distributing live fish or eggs to other farms) will increase to \$125 for up to five locations; \$150 for 6-10 locations; \$200 for 11-20 locations; and \$300 for more than 20 locations.

Fish health rule changes afoot (afin?)

A new emergency rule took effect July 9 governing VHS and other fish



health requirements. Under the rule:

- A fish health certificate is required to move fish from a fish farm to any location in the state other than a farm owned by the same operator.
- Fish or fish eggs reintroduced to the same water body where they were collected are exempt from VHS testing requirements if
 - DATCP and DNR approve the reintroduction.
 - The fish/eggs have not been mixed with those from any other water source.
 - They are introduced at the same point in the river where they were collected, or downstream.
 - They are being reintroduced to benefit the population of a desirable sport fish.
- Fish cannot be moved, even between farms owned by the same operator, if they are known to be infected with a reportable disease.
- Health certificates covering a fish farm or fish shipment are voided if fish or eggs not covered by a valid certificate are added.

For information, email aquaculture program coordinator [Dr. Myron Kebus](#), or call 608-224-4876.

Cephalosporins: Read the label!

The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine has prohibited extralabel use of cephalosporins in food-producing animals, effective Oct. 1. However, you still have an opportunity to comment until Sept. 2.

While extralabel use of veterinary drugs is ordinarily acceptable under limited circumstances, the FDA does have the authority to prohibit such use when a public health risk exists. In this case, there is evidence that extralabel use is contributing to the emergence of zoonotic food-borne pathogens that are resistant to drugs in the cephalosporin class. This class is critically important for treating infections in humans; in particular, ceftriaxone and cefotaxime are the antibiotics of choice for *Salmonella* infections in children.

More information, including how to send comments, is available on [FDA's web site](#).

Quick takes

- Remember that registration is due Aug. 22 for this year's humane officer training, set for Sept. 22-26 in Madison. Find details [here](#). Have more questions? Contact state humane officer [Dr. Yvonne Bellay](#) by email or call 608-224-4888.
- With fair season in full swing and World Dairy Expo approaching, keep in mind that certificates of veterinary inspection are good for only 30 days. *There is no longer an extension to 90 days for exhibition.*
- Veterinarians, please coordinate caudal fold TB tests with your district veterinarian, so that we can be sure to do follow-up comparative cervical testing on any suspects within the required 10 days. Otherwise, we have to quarantine the herd and you'll have an unhappy client. Don't have your district veterinarian's name or number? Click [here](#).
- We've changed our brucellosis-free certification requirements for cervids to align them with TB-free certification, so owners can have their animals tested for both diseases simultaneously. Two whole-herd tests will now be required, rather than three, and the certification will last three years. For questions, contact brucellosis epidemiologist [Dr. Paul McGraw](#) by email or call 608-224-4884.

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