



DATCP, WPA work together to control PRRS

A disclosure of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) status of swine is now requested as part of the import permit process. The new disclosure requirement, which became effective March 1, comes as a result of a 20-month initiative by the Wisconsin Pork Association's PRRS Committee to control the spread of the disease. Disclosure is made on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and the import permit application, which are submitted and reviewed before a permit is issued.

"The value of the genetics of hog breeders in Wisconsin requires that we protect the industry from this devastating disease," said Secretary Ben Brancel. "The first step toward providing this protection is having knowledge of the status of PRRS in the pigs entering the state."

WPA believes the incidence of PRRS in Wisconsin is low compared to other hog dense states, which makes it even more important to keep the disease out of Wisconsin. While vaccines may limit PRRS' effect, they are not 100 percent effective. Therefore, the group also recommends taking extra biosecurity steps to reduce the chance of spreading the disease. These steps include controlling movement of both swine and people, monitoring vehicle access to farms, and working with veterinarians and neighbors to control further spread.

To apply, the importer or veterinarian must fill out the swine only import permit application form found at animalmovement.datcp.wi.gov and send it along with the certificate of veterinary inspection to datcpanimalimports@wi.gov or fax to (608) 224-4871. A department veterinarian will review the application and CVI for the correct statement disclosing the PRRS status as well as correct official identification. Once approved, the permit number will be faxed back. The permit number should then be written on all copies of the CVI. This service is available 8:00 AM to 4:15 PM Monday through Friday. Permits are not issued after hours or on weekends or holidays, however [blanket permits](#) can be issued ahead of time for weekend sales. Call (608) 224-4874 for more information.

Veterinarians advised to remain vigilant with proper on-farm medication use

The USDA beefed up testing for drug residues in the meat supply in July 2012. While Wisconsin's drug residue numbers have declined dramatically in the last three years, dropping from 290 cases in 2010 to just 67 in 2012, continued education and veterinary oversight is needed to monitor the livestock industry.

Extra label drug use (ELDU) without observance of increased withdrawal times appears to be one of the primary challenges for producers. When a drug is administered for treatment, producers must ensure the drug is out of the animal's system before sending it to slaughter.

State animal health officials attribute the dramatic decrease in drug residue cases since 2010 to the education efforts of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) and the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW) initiative, *What Matters: Veterinarians and producers working together to ensure safe milk and meat*.

Part of the What Matters initiative, is the nationally-recognized HACCP for Proper Drug Use program developed by the WVMA in 2011. The HACCP program, identifies six steps veterinarians and producers follow to ensure not only food safety, but appropriate drug use. Because of the uniqueness of each dairy, the HACCP programs need to be developed one dairy at a time. These are the six steps:

- Veterinarian/Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) —Identify roles and responsibilities of the VCPR team
- Drug List—Veterinarians and producers need to identify ALL (over the counter, prescription, extra label and illegal) drugs used on the dairy
- Protocols—The VCPR veterinarian needs to write protocols with emphasis on label treatments with known withdrawal times and scientifically derived withdrawal times when ELDU is needed for animal welfare
- SOPs—Writing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for members of the VCPR team
- Records—Developing records plan which gathers the fundamental information needed for food safety (animal ID, condition, date treated, drug used, dosage, route, duration, meat and milk withdrawal), and capturing management level information for establishing appropriate drug use, which is then available as a guide to oversight of drug use.
- Oversight—Establish an oversight of treated animals' plan that verifies food safety, appropriate drug use, welfare of treatments and manages not only medical effectiveness of treatment but economic effectiveness of the plan.

State animal health veterinarians first became involved in the surveillance effort in the late 1990s when the United States Food and Drug Administration sought subcontractors to assist with inspections. Animal health veterinarians are a natural choice because they are able to evaluate the farm and its processes to identify where potential problems arose. Field veterinarians work with the FDA to investigate cases, but enforcement falls squarely on the FDA. Our staff takes the opportunity to provide education and guidance to producers about how to minimize problems and avoid economic loss by following proper medication use guidelines.

Pullorum testing certification seminars coming up

Pullorum testing is overwhelmingly popular this year, so to accommodate the requests DATCP has scheduled two training seminars. The first will be held Wednesday evening, April 10, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the main office of the Hancock Agricultural Research Station, located at N3909 County Rd V, Hancock, Wis. The second will be held Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. – Noon in the 1st floor Board Room of **DATCP headquarters** located at 2811 Agriculture Drive in Madison. Both seminars are for people who would like to become a certified pullorum tester for poultry in Wisconsin. There is no cost to attend the seminar.

Certified testers can test their own or others' poultry so that flocks can qualify for the National Poultry Improvement Program, Wisconsin Tested Flock Program, or individual testing requirements. These testing programs allow owners to move birds for fairs, exhibits, and sales. Certified testers must be at least 18 years old, and adhere to NPIP and Wisconsin Tested Flock program standards. They do not need to be veterinarians or veterinary technicians. The seminar will explain the requirements for the poultry testing programs, and demonstrate how to test for poultry diseases – pullorum and mycoplasma gallisepticum.

Pre-registration is required – please contact Margie Proost as soon as possible to register at 608-224-4877 or email to margaret.proost@wisconsin.gov or mail to PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911.

The \$25 fee to become certified must be mailed to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection within two weeks after attending the seminar along with a form that will be supplied at the seminar.

Cervid TB Stat Pak test is approved for use in Wisconsin

DATCP announced in February that two new serologic tests for detecting tuberculosis (TB) in deer and elk are approved for use in Wisconsin. The Cervid TB Stat-Pak and Dual Path Platform (DPP) tests meet state and federal regulatory requirements as an alternative method of testing the captive cervids living on more than 513 deer farms across the state.

“The new tests are an improvement over traditional skin testing because they are easier to perform and more precise,” says Secretary Ben Brancel, head of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). “Our intent is to make it easier for the state’s deer farmers to maintain a healthy industry here in Wisconsin.”

Traditional skin testing requires animals to be restrained between two to four times to inject and read a primary and secondary test, if required. The new tests require only one restraint for collection of a blood sample, which can be used for both primary and secondary testing purposes. In addition, the new tests have demonstrated greater accuracy and specificity that meets or exceeds current skin testing methods now used in Wisconsin.

USDA and DATCP require that sample collection for both tests be performed by approved cervid TB accredited veterinarians. These veterinarians must complete USDA training on sample collection and test submission before being authorized to submit samples for testing. SCT certified veterinarians need only complete the webinar and self-report to DATCP to be added to the list of approved doctors. Those who are not yet SCT certified must complete the webinar and self-report, but will also need to schedule a one-on-one meeting with a district veterinarian to discuss cervid TB and the specifics of cervid TB testing. The following are links to the resources found on our website:

- [USDA Training](#)
- [Approved Cervid TB Stat Pak veterinarians](#)

Answering your questions about traceability

In case you are still a little confused about the changes to animal identification for interstate movement, DATCP has developed some new resource materials. We compiled the most frequently asked questions into two FAQ fact sheets to

provide answers. One version is aimed at answering questions specifically for markets and market veterinarians dealing with animals entering Wisconsin. Another version is written for private veterinarians shipping animals out of Wisconsin. Both are found on our [website](#).

Fair and rodeo season's coming

Even though there's still snow on the ground, before we know it fairs and rodeos will suddenly begin. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is joining other agencies in making recommendations on how to reduce the risk of transmitting the influenza virus among swine at fair exhibitions.

"We have developed some helpful tools that show organizers can use to manage the animal and public health risk associated with influenza viruses. We also suggest these be combined with an overall biosecurity plan," said Dr. Paul McGraw, assistant state veterinarian for DATCP.

These tools include vaccination protocols, limiting the length of stay and time between shows, and barn monitoring schedules.

A multi-agency collaboration group that includes DATCP, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Pork Producers Association recommends:

- All swine should be vaccinated for influenza prior to the opening day of the exhibition, but no more than 120 days from opening day.
- If possible, exhibition organizers should limit the amount of time swine are congregated to not more than 72 hours and make sure to wait seven days between shows.
- Pigs should be observed at least 2 to 3 times daily for signs of disease or infection. Exhibition organizers should work with the fair veterinarian to have a plan in place to deal with sick pigs, which could include isolation and returning to their farm of origin.

"It is up to the fair veterinarian to evaluate the animal and make a final determination if the pig can remain on the exhibition premises," McGraw says.

You can find our 2013 animal health rules for fair animals, rodeo regulations and swine exhibition recommendations online at datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Fairs_and_Shows.

Small Bites

Here at the State Veterinarian's office we receive only the **White** copy of the Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for Interstate Movement. These would be for the AH-IN-2 (Large Animal), the AH-IN-20 (Small Animal), the AH-IN-2A (Continuation for Interstate Movement) and the AH-IN-4 (Equine). The **Canary** copy is mailed by the veterinarian or clinic to the State Veterinarian of the state of destination (addresses are on the back of the certificates). The **Pink** copy accompanies shipment or is given to the owner. The issuing veterinarian keeps the **Goldenrod** copy.