

Animal Health Update

News from the Wisconsin State Veterinarian

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection • Division of Animal Health • 608-224-4872 • animals@wisconsin.gov



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Welcome to the first issue of *Animal Health Update*. We'll use this newsletter to keep you up to date on changes in Wisconsin's animal health rules and laws, alert you to emerging animal health threats, let you know when we have training opportunities available -- and to offer any other information you might find useful. We plan to publish once a month, but when something happens that you need to know about immediately, we'll issue extra editions.

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. But don't be hasty -- we think you'll find this a useful service.

We need you for the Animal Response Corps

Some of you probably signed on a few years ago for the Wisconsin Veterinary Corps.

Unfortunately that effort languished with loss of staff, but we have a new Animal Emergency Coordinator -- Dr. Darlene Konkle. One of her top goals is to re-invigorate and expand our volunteer corps to help out during emergencies.



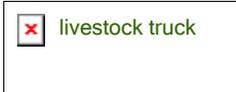
We need an "all-hazards" team to respond not only during major disease outbreaks, but also when animals are involved in natural and manmade disasters -- from tornadoes to train wrecks, from floods to spills. We're looking for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students, animal caregivers and handlers -- to help with both large and small animals.

This is a volunteer effort, but you'll get education and training in emergency response and foreign animal diseases, and the chance to network with your peers. And maybe the best benefit of all: You'll have an important role to play when disaster strikes, helping people and animals in your own community.

Watch for more info this summer, and seminars in the fall. If you were part of the Wisconsin Veterinary Corps, please contact Dr. Konkle if you're still interested. If you're not sure, we can put you on an email list to keep you posted. You can reach Dr. Konkle at 608-224-4902 or darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov.

Shipping cattle, bison, goats from Minnesota? Call us first

Minnesota's tuberculosis status has recently been downgraded to "modified accredited." In response, we've instituted new requirements for cattle, bison and goats entering Wisconsin from Minnesota:



Import permit -- call 608-224-4872 weekdays between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Central Time to request a permit or request a permit [online](#).

- Must originate from a herd that has had a negative whole-herd test in the past 12 months; test date must be on the certificate of veterinary inspection.
- If the test was more than 60 days before import, or if animals being imported weren't part of the test, individual animals need negative tests in the 60 days before import.
- Animals must be quarantined and retested 60-90 after arrival.

Please note that Wisconsin animals purchased at Minnesota sales cannot re-enter Wisconsin unless all animals at the sale come from whole-herd-test herds. The same holds true for the Minnesota State Fair and other shows; Wisconsin animals shown there will not be permitted back into Wisconsin if show officials don't require Minnesota cattle to come from tested herds.

Questions? Give us at call at 608-224-4872.

What's new in the Wisconsin Johne's Disease Control Program?

Wisconsin has received federal funding for 2008 to help pay veterinarians for risk assessments and manage plans (RAMP) and producers for testing and vaccinating.

We've sent award letters to herd owners who completed enrollment requirements for the reimbursement program by the deadline, with the amount they are eligible to receive for their farm this year. The awards were based on RAMP renewal costs and \$2.25/head for testing and vaccinating costs.

Veterinarians, do you need to find a place to refer clients to sell or purchase low-risk cattle? Check our [online test-negative site](#) first. Currently, there are only a few herds listed, but more are eligible. Is your client's herd one of them?

For more information about the state's voluntary control program, check our [website](#), or contact Dr. Beth Patton, elisabeth.patton@wisconsin.gov, 608-224-4891.

Answers to some FAQ's about brucellosis. . .

Brucellosis in cervids: It takes two negative whole-herd tests of all sexually intact cervids six months of age and older, completed 9-15 months apart, for a herd to be certified brucellosis-free. The BAPA or RAP are the tests of choice for brucellosis certification. The laboratory does not send test results to us, so the herd veterinarian needs to send a copy of the results along with a letter requesting certification to Dr. Paul McGraw, assistant state veterinarian and state brucellosis epidemiologist. To maintain certification, all sexually intact cervids one year of age and older must be retested within 33 and 39 months of the last certification date, with results and letter of request again sent to the Division of Animal Health.

Brucellosis in cattle and bison: The calfhood vaccination age for brucellosis in cattle and bison is 4-12 months of age. Because of the low risk in most of the nation, we do not require or recommend vaccination. The only reservoir of *Brucellosis abortus* is the wild bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Unless your clients are marketing breeding stock to states that require calfhood vaccination as a condition of import, there is no benefit in vaccinating for brucellosis.

Canadian and Mexican export requirements changing

Wisconsin is one of the nation's leading international exporters of live animals and animal products. Recently, there have been frequent changes to the regulations required to export live animals and animal products to Mexico and the European Union. Due to the numerous updates occurring to the regulations and the health certificate requirements, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services in Wisconsin recommends that you verify the [most current requirements](#) by visiting



APHIS online. You can also call the Wisconsin office at 608-270-4000.

And some quick reminders:

*Mark Wednesday, July 16, on your calendar if you need to complete the National Veterinary Accreditation Program seminar. The seminar will be at 1 p.m. in Room 106 at the State Agriculture Building, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison. To register, call Marla Kieler at 608-298-4081.

*We've registered more than 60,000 livestock premises in Wisconsin, which makes us better prepared to respond to an animal disease emergency. Any assistance you could provide to clients, producers and other stakeholders would be much appreciated. If you want to read more about premises registration, click [here](#).

*Before completing certificates of veterinary inspection for clients shipping animals out of state, be sure to check with the destination state to be sure of meeting all the requirements. You can find info about the states [here](#).

*Looking for the animal health rules for fair exhibit animals? Visit our [website](#).

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