



State Vet Reissues Spring Pig Weigh-in Ban

To continue protecting Wisconsin's pork industry from the spread of a deadly, communicable virus among pigs, Dr. Paul McGraw, state veterinarian at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is reissuing a ban on the spring pig weigh-ins that usually take place in preparation for Wisconsin's numerous county fairs. McGraw also recommends only terminal swine shows be held given the concerns regarding the spread of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), and influenza.

"The precautions we took last year helped keep our infection rates down in Wisconsin, so I want to make sure that continues," McGraw said. For example, Wisconsin has had 7 known positive cases of PEDv since the virus was first found in the U.S. pig population in 2013. Only two cases have been reported since the mandatory reporting requirement went into effect in June 2014. Meanwhile, industry analysts estimate more than eight million swine nationwide have died from PEDv alone in the same time period.

Banning spring weigh-ins is a crucial step toward minimizing the effect of PEDv, PRRS and influenza on Wisconsin pork producers. In addition, McGraw still recommends that fairs hold terminal shows, where pigs go to slaughter after the show. It is completely up to the counties to develop plans locally with locker plants and slaughter facilities to make this work for them.

"We have a very active fair season here in Wisconsin, so it's important that we take all the disease transmission risks into consideration—this is not just about PEDv," McGraw says. "The only safe way to control these diseases is to ensure that the pigs comingled at fairs and shows are sent directly to slaughter."

Swine farmers are encouraged to use proper biosecurity methods, including washing trucks and trailers between loads, washing boots and clothing, and establishing a line of separation between clean and dirty areas. The National Pork Board has developed a wide variety of biosecurity information that is free and available at www.pork.org.

Changes Coming for 900 Series ID Tags

Livestock producers should be aware of some important changes concerning the use of 900 series prefix tags and American ID.

Starting March 11, 2015, only tags that start with 840 and tags that follow the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES, metal, silver, brite tags) will be recognized as official identification. Any tag with a 900 series prefix or American ID will not be accepted as official ID for cattle unless that animal was tagged before March 11, 2015.

"We suggest that livestock producers get an early start and use 840 tags when needed for official identification to avoid any confusion and possible improper tagging," says Dr. Paul McGraw, Wisconsin State Veterinarian.

The rules changed in early 2013 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a final rule establishing general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate.

“If a 900 series tag or American ID is newly applied to an animal on or after March 11 2015, the tag will not be considered official identification and another tag will need to be applied,” McGraw says.

Another change is that metal USDA approved tags that follow the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) will be acceptable as official identification provided they have a U.S. shield. Tags purchased in the last couple of years will have the U.S. shield, but tags purchased prior to that time may not. All tags applied as official identification on or after March 11, 2015 are required to have a U.S. shield.

“If your tags do not have the U.S. shield, you need to order new tags bearing the shield,” McGraw says. Unused tags without the US shield can be returned to Hasco for proper disposal.

Check datcp.wi.gov for more information about [Animal Disease Traceability](#).

State Vet Issues Waivers for Official Identification of Farm-Raised Deer

Two waivers for farm-raised deer change Wisconsin regulations to better align with federal official individual identification requirements.

Effective January 22, a microchip implant in a FRD is now considered official identification if it meets certain requirements. Previously, official individual identification of FRD was only an official eartag with either a NUES or 15-digit number beginning with 840. To align with federal regulations, the department has issued a waiver that allows a microchip implant applied to a FRD to be considered official identification as long as it meets the following requirements:

- If applied prior to March 11, 2014 it is considered official for the life of the animal.
- If applied to a cervid from March 11, 2014 to March 11, 2015, any microchip implant that is ISO 11784/11785 bearing a 15-digit number beginning with 840 or the 3-digit manufacturer code (in the 900 series) will be considered official identification for the life of the animal.
- If applied after March 11, 2015, any microchip bearing a 15-digit number beginning with 840 will be recognized as official identification.

In coordination with the first waiver, the second waiver allows a microchip meeting the above requirements to be considered official individual identification for FRD that are added to a hunting preserve. Previously, a FRD was required to have “one visible official individual identification and one microchip implanted at the base of the ear or the base of the tail of the deer.” The waiver allows for the option that the visible tag is either official or unique to the herd if the microchip implanted meets the requirements above.

Division Amends Policy on Identification of Swine for Slaughter

Amidst concerns from slaughter plants about the lack of traceability caused by sows and boars losing their official backtags during transport, a new policy has been implemented by the State Veterinarian. In response to the problem, slaughter plants began identifying all cull sows and boars destined for slaughter with a premises identification number (PIN) eartag.

The PIN eartag makes it easier to identify the premises from which the animals came and is less likely to be lost during transport. In addition the PIN eartag is a more permanent and better method of tracking an animal to its farm of origin in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

Wisconsin regulations currently require that animal dealers, markets and truckers identify any sow, boar or stag with an official swine backtag and record the backtag number if the swine does not already have official identification, when the swine is received for sale or shipment to slaughter. Since a rule change can take up to two years to implement, the department has approved the use of PIN eartags, in addition to backtags as an approved form of official identification for swine being shipped to slaughter, until the rule making process is complete.

Wisconsin animal health agencies test response capabilities in 2-day exercise

Would Wisconsin have the ability to efficiently respond to a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak if it were to occur? That very question was asked and answered on January 27-28 as 90 participants turned out at Volk Field in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin to take part in a full-scale exercise of the Wisconsin Draft National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) Plan. The answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

The two-day event brought together subject matter experts and local representatives from numerous agencies that would likely be involved in supporting Wisconsin's logistical response to a damaging animal disease. Exercise participants role-played their response to a FMD outbreak that necessitated the deployment of NVS countermeasures. A semi-truck carried supplies and simulated vaccine to a facility provided by the Wisconsin National Guard and exercise players went about establishing a warehouse system that tested their ability to receive, store, pick, stage and distribute NVS countermeasures. Evaluators observed the activity and provided feedback to participants who can then reflect on the experience and adjust procedures to become more effective.

Braving 35 mph winds and below freezing temperatures, the following day some participants attended an APHIS Veterinary Services sponsored demonstration of a portable wash tunnel. This prototype technology, developed by IS4S-Integrated Solutions for Systems, allows for the set-up of a fully automated wash tunnel capable of sanitizing varying size and scale vehicles. Observers watched as trucks entered the wash tunnel for a disinfecting bath. This was the first time the technology had been tested in a cold weather environment.

USDA Accreditation and TB Certification seminars coming up

We'll be joining staff from USDA-Veterinary Services for the Wisconsin-specific accreditation seminar Tuesday evening, February 24 at the [University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine](#), Room 2360. Registration begins at 5:00, with the seminar starting at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge. Please indicate your desire to attend by emailing [Valencia Watts](#).

You must complete this seminar in order to do regulatory veterinary work in Wisconsin, including signing certificates of veterinary inspection for in-state, interstate, or international movement. In addition to this seminar, you must also complete [online training](#).

TB certification training for veterinarians will be held the following evening on Wednesday, February 25 at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine in the lecture hall from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. The doors to the main entrance to the school will be locked, but SVM staff will be present prior to the start of the training to open the door for private practitioners attending the training. The next accreditation seminar will be later in the year.

Avian Influenza: Small Flock Poultry Veterinary Medicine Workshop

Avian influenza is the subject of a free upcoming training on March 11 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Madison DATCP headquarters, 2811 Agriculture Drive. The class is for veterinarians who work with small flock poultry and qualifies for 3 hours of veterinary continuing education credit. Avian influenza is the highlighted topic, but other subjects including WVDL sample submission and backyard biosecurity will also be addressed.

Pre-registration for the workshop is required. Please contact Margie Proost at 608-224-4877 or by [email](#) by March 4 to register.

For those that are interested in this topic but are unable to travel to the workshop, a limited number can join the meeting via webcast. For this option, you must contact Margie by February 27 for instructions about how to connect. This opportunity is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Johne's disease news

Rule changes that occurred August 2012 caused Risk Assessments and herd Management Plans (RAMPs) for the Johne's Disease Control Program to be current for 3 years instead of the previous 1 year. RAMPs that were current as of that date had their expiration dates extended out an additional 2 years. Many of those RAMPs are now coming due. If you have herds participating in the Johne's Disease Control Program, especially if they are vaccinating against Johne's disease or if the herd is classifying, make sure that their RAMP remains current. If you are not sure, you can check for RAMP renewal dates at [Johne's Disease Online Services](#) or you can call 608-224-4893.

Speaking of RAMP renewals, the Johne's .org News has a wide variety of information available. A recent posting highlights a new App that makes performing a herd RAMP quickly and easily while also helping to save the planet. Other stories include proceedings of the 12th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis and a clinical trial currently underway for treating Crohn's disease with anti-MAP antibiotics. All the details are on the website: <http://www.johnes.org/>