

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

Today electronic devices are being used for almost every task known to man—from communicating with others to reading by ourselves. Technological advancements over the past 25 years have had exponential growth because of consumers' desire to be more connected and to "make life easier." While BOAH has made a few changes to keep pace with technology, we have always tried to keep our clients first on our minds.

This past winter our agency conducted a survey to see where the veterinary community stood on more advancements in BOAH's use of technology.

An online survey was sent to veterinarians to find out how they communicate in the digital age. We were overwhelmed when more than 300 DVMs responded. An overwhelming majority of practitioners have some sort of high-speed internet connection, whether at home or in the office. And nearly 78 percent of those individuals said they use the internet mostly as a resource tool. Here at the Board of Animal Health, we have tried to construct our website as a method to find information about rules and regulations for veterinarians and animal owners. The BOAH website also allows visitors to sign up for e-mail notifications when the information on particular web pages has been revised. This e-mail alert is the best way for clients to know the most up-to-date information about the agency. By clicking on the red exclamation point located at the top of several BOAH web pages, visitors can select to receive e-mail notices from numerous BOAH and state of Indiana topics.

Another interesting note from the survey: More than 15 percent of those who replied said they use a smart phone to read e-mails. Since smart phone usage will most likely increase, we are formatting our e-mails to ensure they are a conducive option for those using that tool.

The survey results also showed the type and frequency of communications from our office are well received by veterinary practitioners; therefore, we will continue to use the same practices for delivering information. Although most of the e-mails from our agency are directed towards a veterinary audience, all of BOAH's stakeholders are encouraged to pass the information along to others who might find it valuable. Several veterinarians and veterinary practices already do this. Approximately one-third of the responders send the BOAH newsletters and updates to other staff members and clients.

While an overwhelming majority of veterinarians and veterinary practices use internet-based systems, a significant percentage still do not have internet capabilities. Our agency continues to keep all veterinarians in mind as we relay important information.

Our agency will continue to operate the same way we have with communicating with veterinarians around the state—all the while we will always analyze our processes for reaching everyone. Please feel free to submit comments about our practices on communications and services to our Public Information Director.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

Accreditation

INDIANA PRACTITIONERS that have applied for USDA accreditation renewal should have received their information and confirmation letter. The letter will denote your new expiration date and details on continuing education credits needed for renewals. Anyone who has **NOT** should contact the USDA-VS office at 317/347-3100. Many Hoosier veterinarians have not yet "elected

Board Members:

Sandra Amass, DVM
John E. Baker, DVM, Chair
Kay Boyd, DVM
Brent W. Harnish
Ted Harpold, DVM
Jay Houchin
Pearce McKinney
Clark Sennett
Larry Stauffer, DVM
Sarah Wagler

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
State Veterinarian

to participate” (i.e. applied to maintain) their federal accreditation status. Practitioners, even those who work only with small animals, perform several tasks that require accreditation. Numerous states require interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (or health papers) be endorsed by accredited veterinarians in order for companion animals to legally enter their states. **To administer the rabies vaccine legally in Indiana, a veterinarian must be licensed and accredited.** Practitioners who have not yet applied for accreditation should do so soon, before the “old” accreditation expires. Those who apply after July 1, will be required to complete eight to ten hours of Initial Accreditation Training.

BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular January 13 meeting, Board members:

- voted on the proposal to change the rabies vaccination law. The proposal passed with an amendment to drop the provision allowing registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants to administer the vaccine;
 - passed an emergency rule for Thoroughbreds and quarter horses to test negative for equine piroplasmiasis before the animals can enter a racing facility (see below);
 - conducted the first reading on a proposed permanent rule to require a negative equine piroplasmiasis test before horses can enter a racing facility; and
 - adopted a resolution to delegate authority to the State Veterinarian.
- **NOTE:** The next board meeting will be held in the Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on April 14, 2011.

Companion Animal

AFTER HEAVY debate among the BOAH board members, at the last quarterly meeting, an amended version of the proposed rabies rule was passed. The measure allowing registered veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants to administer the rabies vaccine was removed and the rule passed updating the Compendium Reference only. As a review, the current rabies law remains; only licensed and accredited veterinarians may give the rabies vaccination.

CANADA HAS changed the documentation requirements for dogs and cats being shipped into the country, beyond the usual identification tag and certificate of veterinary inspection. Veterinarians are advised to contact Indiana’s USDA-APHIS regional office at 317/347-3100 for specific information about the new form. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s website also has more information, which is available here: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/export/exporte.shtml>.

PETS OWNERS should be aware that Mexico is constantly changing requirements for animals being imported into Mexico. Veterinarians need to call the Indiana USDA-APHIS office to find out the necessary requirements immediately before the pets travel.

Premise ID

THE CURRENT number of premises registered as farm sites are as follows: avian: 6050; bovine: 22,598; camelid: 429; caprine: 6996; cervids: 461; equine: 6940; fish: 647; ovine: 5077; and porcine: 11,117. The total number of farm sites registered in the state is 37,640.

Equine

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, all thoroughbred horses and quarter horses must test negative for equine piroplasmiasis before entering a premise where a horse race meet is being held. This rule also applies to pony horses and other equids for exhibition purposes at Indiana track facilities only. This rule does not apply to 4-H horses shown at fairs. Visit the BOAH website, www.boah.in.gov, to view a complete listing of testing requirements.



VIRGINIA IS now requiring all horse owners to carry papers showing their animals are not infected with equine infectious anemia. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said this regulation applies to animals participating in shows, fairs, races, or other gatherings throughout the Old Dominion State. A copy of the press release can be found on Virginia's website: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/news/releases-b/021511eiareg.shtml>.

Cattle/Ruminants

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA is now the focus of an investigation after the state's first bovine tuberculosis case in a herd in nearly three decades was identified in late February. A beef herd was identified after a cow that tested positive on routine slaughter surveillance was traced to the farm. The epidemiological work surrounding this case has just begun. BOAH staff will notify producers and veterinarians should they be involved in the trace.

CATTLE TRAVELING to Wisconsin are now required to have a negative tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entering the state. Beef and dairy cattle of all ages must comply. The only exemptions are animals transported direct to slaughter, or cattle going to one of their 20 approved feedlots. Wisconsin has not applied the testing rules to Indiana alone, the test provision is written into their state law requiring all states with a confirmed positive to comply. All the information about compliance for animals traveling to Wisconsin from Indiana can be found here http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Animal_Movement/Cattle_Bison/Indiana/index.aspx.

A TOTAL of 78 counties are now using 840 radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for their 4-H cattle programs this year. BOAH has been offering the tag for more than two years now to cattle producers across the state with a lot of success. The RFID tags are not only considered official identification by USDA, but they also aid in disease traceability.

A 6-WEEK OLD calf from Ohio was confirmed rabid with an eastern raccoon rabies variant in December 2010. The calf came to the Ohio operation after being purchased from a south central Pennsylvanian farm and auction in November 2010. After the diagnosis, the affected farm was placed under quarantine and the 68 remaining calves that were purchased at the Pennsylvania auction were euthanized.

WYOMING ANIMAL health officials report a cow originating from the state showed serological evidence of brucellosis at a Montana auction market. Plans for more testing of the suspect cow and the herd from which she originated are being made. Since this case is not confirmed positive, the herd is not considered infected by USDA-APHIS.

Meat & Poultry

THE POSITION of Enforcement Investigations and Analysis Officer with the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division was recently filled by Blaine Brown of Frankfort, IN. Among other responsibilities, Blaine will conduct food safety assessments at meat plants across the state. He is originally from Pennsylvania, is a Penn State graduate, and has extensive experience in meat processing facilities.

Dairy

SMALL ARTISAN dairy processors recently had the opportunity to learn more about the trade. The BOAH Dairy Division hosted Doug Westendorp, a small-volume dairy bottler from Michigan, who shared experiences in starting up a milk bottling plant. This was the second time BOAH had hosted a meeting of this type to educate producers about the aspects of entering this niche market.

WISCONSIN HAS reported a case of an individual impersonating a dairy inspector. A person showed up on a Wisconsin goat farm claiming to be a state inspector, spent a short time on the premise, and left without any record of the visit. The farmer then contacted the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, suspicious about the visit. Rumors are circulating that some animal rights activist groups are posing as state officials, taking the information they gather back to make a case for "animal abuse". Hoosiers are cautioned to ask for identification before letting anyone unknown onto their property and to take note of vehicle license plates. BOAH dairy inspectors will have official vehicles with state vehicle plates.

SARA HORNING of Anderson, Ind. is the newest member of BOAH's Dairy Division. Sara is a farm and plant inspector for six counties northeast of Indianapolis, including the Nestle plant in Anderson.

Wildlife

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME has caused quite a lot of concern about the well-being of bats in Indiana. So much concern that the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has decided to close public access to all caves, sinkholes, tunnels, and abandoned mines on all DNR-owned property until further notice. The only exception is Twin Caves at Spring Mill State Park. Experts believe the fungus, which is causing more than 90 percent mortality of bats in infected caverns, is transported between caves by humans. A complete list of the affected caves can be found on the DNR website <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/5404.htm>.

Aquaculture

THE INDIANA Aquaculture Association has reorganized after several years of inactivity. New officers were elected and the new team has laid out plans for 2011 and beyond. The group decided to regather after realizing the large potential Indiana has for aquaculture growth. New businesses can look to the association for assistance, or simply as a networking tool. The Indiana Aquaculture Association Inc. website will soon be updated at <http://aquanic.org/iaa/> to include a list of new officers.

Scrapie

GENETIC BLOOD testing is still available for scrapie resistance in sheep. The testing is free for breeds that are considered more genetically prone to scrapie. More program details and an application for the test can be acquired from Dr. Cheryl Miller. Dr. Miller can be reached at 317/402-1527, or by e-mail to cmiller@boah.in.gov.

Swine

A MEETING of swine producers and practitioners in January resulted in the reactivation of the Swine Health Advisory Committee. Growing interest in the swine disease porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) prompted BOAH to host the January meeting in order to decide the next course of action. The swine health advisory committee is comprised of producers and practitioners. A subcommittee of veterinarians and subject-matter experts is analyzing the science behind PRRS in order to give technical guidance to the main committee.

Cervids

MANY CERVID producers have recently decided to move their tuberculosis and brucellosis testing date from the fall of 2011 to the spring of 2011. While the switch is permissible, the BOAH central office must be notified of the change. The BOAH office must be called so that a written notification of the requested test date change can be sent back to the producer for a signature. That written notification must be returned to the central office for our records and for the change to be permanent. Producers should contact Ed Lucas toll-free at 1-877-747-3038 x 317 or [5](mailto:edlucas@boah.in.gov) to submit their change request.

NATURAL RESOURCE officials in both Maryland and Minnesota have confirmed cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in white-tailed deer since the first of the year. The positive deer in Maryland was killed by a hunter from Allegany County. Routine surveillance in Minnesota uncovered that state's positive cervid. Since Maryland and Minnesota have confirmed cases, cervids cannot be imported into Indiana until each state is CWD-free for five years.

A FEDERAL chronic wasting disease rule is expected to be published at any time. The rule is currently in the final clearance stages. The changes may affect Indiana's cervid import rule, but BOAH is unaware of any major mandatory import alterations. Meanwhile, BOAH is taking this opportunity to evaluate the state's current importation rules. At this time input is being collected from producers about proposed changes. Comments may be sent to Dr. Shelly Chavis at schavis@boah.in.gov.