

# issues

## Message from the State Veterinarian

After months of testing, traces, paperwork, and producer interviews, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) staff has wrapped up the cattle investigation of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in a Dearborn County, Indiana beef operation. The quarantine issued on the index herd was lifted in August after the site was cleaned, disinfected, and then left empty for 60 days. Of the more than 1000 head of cattle and three goats tested, only 15 positive animals were identified as TB-positive—all located on the index site. Wildlife samples from around the index site were collected, and none tested positive for the disease.

While cattle testing is complete, sampling will continue with the opening of hunting season on white-tailed deer. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be collecting heads from hunter-harvested deer at select high-volume check stations in the southeastern portion of the state during firearms opening weekend. BOAH veterinarians will collect tissues from the heads for testing at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Purdue.

All of the investigative and sampling efforts could not have been completed without the cooperation of the DNR, our partners at Indiana's USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and numerous private practitioners who dedicated their time and talents. This cooperative effort was reflected in the speed this TB investigation was completed.

Indiana has held its bovine TB-Free status since 1984—even despite recent events. The state will continue to maintain that rating, because the proper steps were taken to limit the possibility of another infection. Maintaining a Free status is so important to commerce in our state. Without Free status, producers would be required to test their animals before shipping them interstate. This places an added burden on the producer by increasing the cost and amount of time it takes to move animals.

Throughout this investigation, what became most obvious was the value of Indiana's premise ID program and the importance of electronic animal identification. Our ability to identify cattle locations and producer contact information with the click of a mouse saved BOAH countless man hours and travel expenses in these tough budgetary times. **That** has been the most important partnership component of this entire incident. My thanks to all the producers, veterinarians, Extension educators and the many others who helped make Indiana's premise ID program the best in the nation.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
Indiana State Veterinarian

## BOAH Board Actions

**DURING THEIR** regular July 28 meeting, Board members:

- passed the final version of the standards of care for livestock and poultry. The rule should take effect December 1, following a signature by the Governor.

**NOTE:** The next board meeting will be held in the Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on October 27, 2011.

**THE BOARD** welcomes new member David White of White's Livestock Auction. He will represent the state's livestock dealers and markets on the board.

**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  
David White

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
State Veterinarian

## Companion Animal

**COMPANION ANIMAL** Director at BOAH, Dr. Sandra Norman, is a member of the Pet Event Tracking Network, or PETNet. PETNet allows federal and state officials to report and track possible disease outbreaks and incidents related to pet food products in one central database. Dr. Norman can be contacted at [snorman@boah.in.gov](mailto:snorman@boah.in.gov) with information on either topic.

**VETERINARIANS ARE** encouraged to sign up for the new Pet Health Partnership. The collaboration between AAHA and AVMA created the Canine and Feline Preventative Healthcare Guidelines. The new guidelines, published as single-page documents, are easy to use in a practice. Veterinarians can tap into and use materials to help strengthen pet owners' compliance with routine care. The partnership website, [www.pethealthpartnership.org](http://www.pethealthpartnership.org), provides more information.

**VETERINARIANS CAN** apply their new USDA accreditation module training towards Indiana continuing education (CE) credit. Those wishing to use the training need to be sure they receive the CE certificate, which is issued at the end of the course.

## Premise ID

**THE CURRENT** number of Indiana premises registered as farm sites are as follows: avian: 6943; bovine: 24,774; camelid: 473; caprine: 7551; cervids: 955; equine: 7418; fish: 998; ovine: 5405; and porcine: 11,773. The total number of farm sites registered in the state is 51,441. BOAH is continually working in the database, so if any farms have gone out of business, please advise our office so that we can update the information.

## Equine

**CONTAGIOUS EQUINE** Metritis (CEM) has been found in a four-year-old Arabian stallion located in Arizona. A total of five horses have been quarantined on the premise of the positive stallion for precautionary measures. Arizona officials are working with their federal partners to trace mares that were bred to the stallion this season. All semen collected from the quarantined stallions has been stopped and all frozen semen has been quarantined.

**WEST NILE** virus has infected at least four horses in Indiana this year. All positive cases were a result of the owners not vaccinating their animals. While mosquito season is winding down for the year, veterinarians should remind their equine owners that vaccinations are worth the cost when the loss could be their animals.

**IN AN** effort to increase transparency and accessibility to the public, USDA-APHIS is posting information on violators of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and Horse Protection Act (HPA). The documents are available at [www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/foia\\_reading\\_room.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/foia_reading_room.shtml). The AWA requires that minimum standards of care and treatment be provided for certain animals bred for commercial sale, used in research, transported commercially or exhibited to the public. APHIS inspectors conduct routine, unannounced inspections of all licensed facilities.

## Cattle/Ruminants

**MICHIGAN'S BOVINE** tuberculosis status was upgraded by the USDA in September. Fifty-seven counties joined the majority of Michigan, which is classified as Accredited-Free. Presque Isle County has also been upgraded from Modified Accredited to Modified Accredited Advanced. This upgrade lessens the movement restrictions on cattle and bison from the state.

**ANTHRAX HAS** been confirmed in an Aurora County, South Dakota cattle herd. Only one cow in a herd of 175 head has died. Anthrax spores can survive in the soil

of a farm indefinitely, inflicting great economic animal production loss to the owner.

**TEXAS ANIMAL** Health Commission (TAHC) adopted changes to their cattle trichomoniasis (trich) rules, which became effective August 14, 2011. TAHC will no longer accept “virgin” bulls from other states. All bulls 12 months of age or older must have a negative PCR trich test to enter; negative test cultures are no longer being accepted. Out-of-state bulls are allowed entry without testing only if they are going directly to trich-certified feedyard facilities, and they must have a VS 1-27 form issued by an accredited veterinarian and an entry permit number issued by TAHC. More information can be found at [http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal\\_health/trich/trich.html](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/trich/trich.html).

**SINCE TEXAS** has experienced a record-setting drought this summer, cattle producers have been forced to sell off their animals in large number since they can no longer provide adequate food and nutrition. The rapid movement of a large volume of cattle has caused issues with the proper credentialing of animals. Questions about Texas animals should be directed to the Texas Animal Health Commission at (800) 550-8242.

**MINNESOTA'S BOVINE** tuberculosis (TB) status has officially been upgraded to TB-free by USDA. The animal health board said 2010 was the first year since 2005 with no confirmed TB positives in wild deer. However, the Minnesota DNR will continue conducting surveillance of harvested wild deer.

## Dairy

**TWO INDIANA** artisan dairy processors have been approved for production in the past month. Caprini Creamery in Spiceland is owned and operated by Kristy Kikly. Kikly will produce several varieties of goat cheese and cheese spread. Peter Scherf, owner and operator of Scherf Dairy in Michigan City, is now bottling cream line milk products from the Jersey cows he milks.

**THE NATIONAL** Association of State Departments of Agriculture recently conducted a Raw Milk Survey. The last time the survey was conducted was 2008. Since then, the number of states allowing the sale of raw milk, and those prohibiting it, has remained the same. Fifty states participated in the survey and 20 states, including Indiana, still do not allow the sale of raw milk. The 30 remaining states allow sales of raw milk at varying degrees.

**MORE THAN** 150 new milk haulers and trailers for Ruan Milk Transport have been licensed and inspected by the BOAH Dairy Division. These new haulers will be moving milk from Fair Oaks Dairy to Kroger plants in Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The trucks will be running off methane gas produced on the farms, which has been converted into compressed natural gas.

## Meat & Poultry

**BRUCELLOSIS SURVEILLANCE** sampling has been discontinued in Indiana slaughter plants, effective July 2011, since all 50 states are now free of the disease in domestic animals. Select federal facilities will continue sampling for the 2012 fiscal year. This change applies to cattle, bison, farm-raised cervidae, and swine. The only brucellosis testing in-state will be for accreditation or animal movement, when required. Also, swine will no longer be sampled for pseudorabies at slaughter.

**E. COLI (O157:H7)** for many years has been recognized as a harmful bacteria to human health. For this reason the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has routinely screened for that particular strain in meat and poultry processing plants. FSIS has recently proposed six additional strains of *E. coli* for sampling and testing. These six strains, known as the Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) can also be harmful to humans. The proposed implementation date is March 5, 2012 after a comment period.

## Cervids

**INDIANA'S DEPARTMENT** of Natural Resources will continue to monitor and collect samples for bovine tuberculosis in hunter-harvested deer during opening weekend for firearms. The surveillance will be concentrated to the areas where bovine TB has been found in the past in southeastern Indiana. Hunters who notice abnormalities in the carcass of free-ranging whitetail should contact BOAH (24 hours a day) at 877-747-3038. The agency can dispatch a veterinarian to make an assessment and collect

samples for TB surveillance. The hunter will receive a replacement tag for the deer if the veterinarian determines the animal needs further testing. More information, including photos of what to look for in a deer, is online at [www.in.gov/boah/files/lesion\\_guide.pdf](http://www.in.gov/boah/files/lesion_guide.pdf).

**DURING DEER** hunting season, Hoosiers should keep an eye out for epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). BOAH has received reports of positive cases in southern Indiana and southern Michigan. Clinical signs of EHD can be similar to those for chronic wasting disease, which includes excessive drooling, weakness, and a loss of fear of humans. The virus does not infect humans.

## Wildlife

**IN SEPTEMBER**, USDA-Wildlife Services distributed approximately 80,000 oral rabies vaccination baits in West Virginia to test the effectiveness of the vaccine on raccoons **and** striped skunks. This is the first time the new ONRAB® vaccine has been tested in the United States. To make the baits attractive, the blister packs containing the vaccine are coated with a sweet attractant that includes vegetable-based fats, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavor, and dark-green food-grade dye. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 90 percent of reported rabies cases in the United States are in wildlife.

## Swine Health Advisory Committee

**MEMBERS OF** the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) subcommittee met in September to discuss progress in three PRRS control study regions being conducted around the state. They are among the most densely populated pork-producing areas in Indiana. The committee heard updates from National Pork Board on research projects and a report from a producer who has invested in filtration upgrades to his operation.

## Traceability

**THE USDA** is currently accepting comments on the latest proposed rule for animal disease traceability. USDA is proposing that official identification options be chosen by each individual state and tribe. However, livestock that move interstate will need to be officially identified and have an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection. The proposed rule encourages the use of low-cost technology, such as metal ear tags in cattle. Amidst these changes, the animal identification requirements in Indiana remain the same. Comments to USDA's proposed rule can be submitted online at [www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0091](http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2009-0091).

## Accreditation

**THE NATIONAL** Veterinary Accreditation Program enrollment period ended October 1, 2011, USDA announced. Veterinarians who did not elect to participate in the program are no longer authorized to perform accredited work. In Indiana, this means veterinarians who are not accredited CANNOT administer the rabies vaccine to cats, dogs, or ferrets. If you have any questions, or for information about becoming accredited, e-mail Ron Brock at the Indiana USDA Veterinary Services office at [Ronald.D.Brock@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Ronald.D.Brock@aphis.usda.gov).

## Aquaculture

**KOIHHERPESVIRUS** (KHv) has been found in wild carp in the St. Joseph River in Elkhart County. A joint investigation by BOAH, DNR, and the Elkhart County Health Department made the discovery after a summer fish kill. Koi herpesvirus can be found globally and it causes significant loss in wild populations and captive environments when the fish populations become stressed. The virus cannot be transmitted to humans.