

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) is gearing up for a new area of regulation: commercial dog breeders and brokers. Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, commercial dog breeders and brokers who meet certain production guidelines will be required to register their operations with BOAH. They will also be required to maintain minimum standards of care for their dogs, as outlined in HEA 1468 passed in April by the Indiana General Assembly.

BOAH has been handed a big challenge: to build a program from scratch in only a matter of months. Compared to other animal industries, such as cattle, dog breeding is completely new to the agency. Our people have been working to gather information and advice from counterparts in other states. We are trying to take the best of the best ideas to develop a program that runs efficiently, accomplishes the mission and doesn't create more bureaucracy.

The process has included visiting dog breeding operations to learn about production systems of all types and sizes and breeds, management issues and their marketing or trade channels. The breeders told us about what does and does not work, and how they care for their animals. We also talked to the veterinarians who work with these breeders about health issues.

BOAH has a lot of work to do before the registration requirement takes effect in January. We are working to flesh-out policies to develop guidance documents, registration forms and materials to provide to dog breeders and brokers. As information comes together we are posting it to our web site. Our goal is to create information packets to send out within the next few weeks, which leads to what may be our biggest challenge: identifying those who need to be registered.

BOAH is building a contact list of dog breeders and brokers, so they can be informed of the new law. If you or someone you know should be added to the mailing list for dog breeders and brokers information packets, contact BOAH at e-mail: animalhealth@boah.in.gov or phone: 317/227-0375. Materials will be posted online at www.boah.in.gov as well.

As we move through this start-up process, BOAH continues to be committed to building a high-quality program from the beginning.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular April 16 meeting, Board members:

- Dr. John Baker was elected as Board Chairman, and Mr. Pearce McKinney as Vice-Chairman.
- Mr. Clark Sennett was re-nominated as Hearing Officer.

DURING THEIR regular July 23 meeting, Board members:

- Readopted rules, without changes, regarding interstate movement.
- Heard the first reading of a proposed rule on tuberculosis control; which includes adding intrastate movement requirements.

NEXT REGULAR Board meeting will be October 1, 2009.

Animal Health

PURDUE UNIVERSITY'S Graduate Certificate Program in Veterinary Homeland Security has been

Board Members:

John E. Baker, DVM, Chair
Kay Boyd, DVM
Ted Harpold, DVM
Brian Humphrey
Jay Houchin
Merrill Kelsay
Bruce McDavitt, DVM
Pearce McKinney
Clark Sennett
Larry Stauffer, DVM
H. Leon Thacker, DVM

Bret D Marsh, DVM
State Veterinarian

chosen by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation as one of six disaster-related training sessions to receive a grant for \$5,000.

VETERINARY SERVICES (VS) has cancelled the toll-free, 800 number veterinarians could call for information about state import regulations and disease status as of June 30th. The information is still available from the USDA-VS web site http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/, but as always, veterinarians should contact the state of destination directly to verify information.

Companion Animal

BOAH IS preparing to register commercial dog breeders in Indiana. Registering of breeders and brokers goes into effect January 1, 2010. A copy of the bill and information detailing the regulation can be found on the BOAH web site, www.boah.in.gov. A link to the information can be found on the main page of the web site under Headline News.

Premise ID

AS OF June 30, the number of livestock premises currently registered in Indiana are: avian: 5670; bovine: 23,445; camelid: 483; goats: 7305; cervids: 668; equine: 6630; fish: 429; sheep: 5732 and swine: 10,809, for a total of 39,014 premises. To date, Indiana has approximately 99% of all known premises in the state registered.

LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION season is here. Indiana requires a premise ID for most livestock, so be sure to allot time to apply for and receive a prem ID before a show. The process usually does not take long, but last-minute requests by phone may not be fulfilled immediately. PremID request forms are available online at www.in.boah.gov.

Avian

LOW-PATH avian influenza (AI) was diagnosed on a single farm in Tennessee in late April. Testing indicates exposure to the H7 strain of AI. Minnesota is also dealing with a case, where turkeys tested positive for H7N9 in mid-May.

BOAH VETERINARIAN Michael Kopp has been busy traveling around the state with the Indiana State Poultry Association meeting with poultry producers to discuss their facilities, poultry health and other relevant issues. Dr. Kopp has also been participating in various activities related to the National Poultry Improvement Plan. Dr. Kopp continues to work towards safer poultry production in Indiana.

Cattle/Ruminants

THE DISCOVERY of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in a third cervid herd, in Indiana, DOES NOT affect the state's TB status. Only TB positives in cattle and bison can alter the classification. Indiana has held bovine TB-free status since 1984. That ranking will continue until two positive cattle and/or bison herds are found within 48 months.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT of Agriculture announced, in June, a herd of cattle has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB). Trace-outs and quarantines continue as the state tries to isolate the issue. Changes occur frequently; for the most up-to-date information please visit <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/>.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS has been confirmed in a Texas dairy herd. Several cattle reacted to a TB test conducted prior to a sale; the herd has been in quarantine since. Texas is considered a TB-free state.

Equine

INDIANA COMPLETED treatment of all contagious equine metritis (CEM) horses in the state, and currently has no traces. CEM was discovered in late 2008 and has affected

animals in 48 states. A total of 21 stallions and five mares have been confirmed positive nationwide, while almost 1,000 horses have been considered exposed. None of the positive horses have been declared as the source of the outbreak.

A TEXAS HORSE is the nation's first case of vesicular stomatitis (VS) for 2009. VS is a sporadically occurring virus that is endemic to the United States. Horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and deer are susceptible and can show signs for the disease such as blisters, lesions and sloughing of the skin on the muzzles, tongue, teats and above the hooves that can be distinguished from foot-and-mouth disease only in a laboratory. The horse and its herd are under quarantine until all lesions have healed and the state veterinarian's office releases the quarantine.

EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS has been detected in seven horses in Missouri. The horses, as well as others that came into contact with the infected animals, have been put under quarantine for testing. More information can be found at the Missouri Department of Agriculture's web site at: www.mda.mo.gov/animals/health.

Meat & Poultry Inspection

DR. DAVID BOUGH, deputy director of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, attended the USDA/FSIS Enforcement, Assessment, Investigation Officer training in April and May at College Station, Texas. The training allows Dr. Bough to perform food safety assessments (FSAs) in Indiana's meat and poultry plants. This new program provides another layer of verification that meat inspection protocols are being followed closely.

THE CURTIS Amendment continues to be implemented in meat and poultry processing plants across the state. Under this exemption, custom-exempt animals can be slaughtered in officially inspected plants. By having more plants listed as custom-exempt and operating on the Curtis Amendment, less time is needed for state inspectors to visit plants that are processing meat that will not be sold to the public. This will save the state resources in a tight budget climate.

Cervids

THREE CERVID farms in Indiana have tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. In late June, BOAH was notified of a TB-positive elk in a Wayne County herd. This was traced from the index herd in Franklin County identified in mid-May. Soon after, a Harrison County farm had positive laboratory tests. BOAH is working closely with the producers to eradicate the disease. More information on the current and ever-changing TB situation in Indiana can be found on the main page of the BOAH web site at: www.boah.in.gov.

AT THE July 23 quarterly board meeting BOAH reviewed proposed changes to a rule regarding TB testing for cervids. The proposed rule would require cervids moving intrastate to test for TB. A copy of the proposed rule and a summary can be found on the BOAH web site www.boah.in.gov. The official version will be published in the Indiana register in August. Comments will be taken until the public hearing October 1, 2009. They can be submitted via e-mail to gghaynes@boah.in.gov, or through U.S. mail to: Indiana State Board of Animal Health, c/o Gary Haynes, 805 Beachway Dr., Ste. 50, Indianapolis, IN 46224. Questions can also be directed to Gary Haynes at the e-mail address listed above or by calling 317/227-0349.

840 Tag Pilot Program

FREE 840 RFID tags are still available for cattle producers. Full-duplex, standard performance button tags are provided for beef producers, while half-duplex, high-performance button tags are being offered for dairies. All tags contain a 15-digit identification number beginning with the U.S. designation code "840". More detailed information and an application for the tags is available on the BOAH web site. Tags are intended for breeding stock only.

BRUCellosis CALFHood vaccination 840 tags are also still being offered to Indiana licensed/accredited veterinarians who administer the vaccine. Contact Dr. Kerry Peterson at kepeter@boah.in.gov and indicate the number of tags needed.

Sheep/Goats

SHEEP AND goat producers have been sent a mailing to update their flock information. If you know someone who has sheep and/or goats and has not received a letter, please contact us so that the producer can be added to our database. The updated system assists BOAH in disease investigations in Indiana.

Dairy

HOMESTEAD FOOD processing legislation was passed by Indiana legislature this spring. The bill lessens regulations on certain types of food processes, but has not changed for meat, poultry and dairy product processing. All of these products must still be processed, licensed and approved by the BOAH Dairy or Meat and Poultry Inspection Division to meet federal standards.

LOW DAIRY prices paid to farmers continues to put financial stress on milking operations. Several producers in Indiana have had to declare bankruptcy or sell out in the past few weeks. Milk processing facilities are full and milk has been dumped in some locations across the Midwest because it is less expensive to remove the cream and dump the skim milk than to absorb the cost of transportation to a distant processor. Recent statistics show licensed Grade A and Grade B dairy farms in Indiana has fallen one percent from 2007 to 2008.

Swine

THE NOVEL H1N1 virus infecting thousands of humans across the world has negatively impacted the national swine industry, even though the virus has yet to be isolated in pigs. In response to society's concerns, BOAH has been working with USDA, industry groups, and representatives from other states to draft a commercial industry response. The article will list recommendations and guidelines for biosecurity and disease prevention to producers both on the farm and during exhibitions. Testing protocols and guidelines, in the event of a disease outbreak, are also being included.

SWINE COMMUTER herd agreements are still available for producers who have regular, consistent movements of hogs between out-of-state sites. Once approved, commuter agreements cut paperwork and streamline health requirements for interstate movement. Producers interested in an agreement should contact Dr. Melissa Justice at 317/439-4888 or mjustice@boah.in.gov.

SEVERAL SWINE veterinarians are working to establish a porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) control project in their areas. The project will help producers understand their risk of PRRS and create guidelines to limit the spread or eliminate the disease in their herd. This unique project is completely voluntary and is joint effort from producers and private swine veterinarians.