

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

For several years the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (MPIP) has been working with the meat processing industry to implement efficiency measures in the state inspection program. Much has been accomplished. The MPIP is now providing inspection service with one-third fewer employees than when the program was moved to BOAH in 1996, while at the same time the number of state-inspected plants has increased.

As we enter 2010 the MPIP is at another crossroads. During the last two years state revenues have declined at a rapid rate. The State of Indiana is taking all necessary action to deal with the funding decline. State funding for the MPIP is being reduced by 50 percent for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010. Because the MPIP is funded with a 50 percent federal match, BOAH will also lose 50 percent of the federal money for the MPIP. The total reduction is nearly \$2 million dollars. BOAH is preparing a plan to accomplish this goal. Beginning immediately, the MPIP must significantly reduce expenditures to respond to the reduction in funding. Without substantial changes, there is a real risk that the program will be terminated.

In response to the reduced funding reality, BOAH will be forced to reduce its inspection and support staff. With changes in MPIP staffing, BOAH will not be able to maintain the current level of inspection service. MPIP will no longer be able to provide inspection service for custom or other work that does not require official state inspection. Inspection will be provided only when required. Each plant must consolidate work requiring inspection to the fewest number of days and hours possible. These days or parts of days will be the official state-inspected slaughter and processing daytimes for that facility. All other times will be custom slaughter and exempt processing times.

The MPIP Area Supervisors have begun consulting with each plant to establish the new inspection schedule. The MPIP will likely not be able to accommodate every request for service.

Livestock producers who use the services of state-inspected slaughter and/or processing facilities may notice changes to schedules at their local plants. Some facilities may shift the type(s) of services offered to their customers (for example, moving from state-inspected status to custom-exempt). This could have an effect on the way final products may be used by the end customer. That said, BOAH is committed to maintaining an efficient, quality state inspection program that is "equal to" federal requirements for food safety, while providing a valuable service to Indiana agriculture. To accomplish that goal in the current economy, MPIP and industry must work together to make changes to the program.

In addition to the budget impact on MPIP, BOAH's Animal Health programs are being cut by 10 percent during the fiscal year 2011, with significant cost-cutting measures to begin in the current fiscal year, ending June 30.

As a part of those cost-cutting measures, the BOAH central office will be relocating to another, currently undetermined, location to capture the savings associated with the current leased office space. While most employees are stationed in field locations across the state, this move will impact approximately 30 central office staff.

In the meantime, BOAH is committed to maintaining a high level of service to all citizens of the state of Indiana.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

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Bret D Marsh, DVM
State Veterinarian

BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular October 1 meeting, Board members:

- Adopted the final rule for bovine tuberculosis control in Indiana (LSA #09-491). See Cervid section for more information.

Federal Accreditation Update

FOLLOWING THE trend of a changing veterinary community, the National Veterinary Accreditation Program is also changing. After Feb. 1, 2010 the program will have two accreditation categories, instead of one, based on the species accreditation duties individuals will perform. The categories are: Category I animals: includes all species except food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm-raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock; and Category II animals: All animals. USDA-APHIS will also be providing training to keep veterinarians up-to-date with information necessary to support the agency's efforts. Information about the accreditation program can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/>. Note to veterinarians: If you were accredited before the Feb. 1 date, you must apply to continue your accreditation.

Companion Animal

A SOUTHERN Indiana man died from rabies in October. He was the first human death in the state since 2006, and only the second since 1959. After clinical signs begin, rabies is 100 percent fatal, without rapid post-exposure treatment. Information about submitting animals for rabies testing can be found on the BOAH Web site.

INDIANA'S RABIES lab identified 39 positive bats in 2009. While the raw number is higher than most years, the percentage of positives (about 10 percent) is about average.

REGISTRATION FOR the Commercial Dog Breeder and Broker program has now begun. Breeders and brokers falling within specific guidelines are now required to register with BOAH and pay a set registration fee. As of Jan. 7, 2010 57 commercial dog breeders and two commercial dog brokers were registered with BOAH.

Premise ID

CURRENT PREMISES registered are as follows: avian: 5898; bovine: 23,582; camelid: 489; caprine: 7447; cervids: 687; equine: 6692; fish: 598; ovine: 5813; and porcine: 10,983, for a total of 44,730 premises. To note, a year ago the total number of registered premises was 36,485. Fish premises increased nearly 300 percent from 2008 to 2009, which was the largest increase of all Indiana premise categories.

Equine

WEST NILE virus (WNV) was confirmed in a Hoosier horse in September 2009. The horse, located in LaGrange County, had been vaccinated for WNV two years ago. Ten other horses were located on the premise, but they all appeared healthy. In, 2007 Indiana had six WNV positive horses.

A RANCH in south Texas is infected with equine piroplasmiasis. Horses on the ranch have been quarantined while an investigation is conducted. Texas reported several trace-outs to Indiana. To date, two mares have tested positive in the state. USDA has screened all horses imported into the United States for piroplasmiasis for nearly 30 years.

Avian

IN AN effort to clarify the debate about proper cage sizes for chickens, researchers at Clemson University are comparing how different housing affects egg-laying hens. Caged hens vs. non-caged hens will be compared on behaviors such as wing-stretching, perching and foraging. Another study, between the University of California at Davis and Michigan State University will analyze cage issues as well as their care and impact on the environment, human health, and food quality and safety.

Scrapie

A REVISED copy of “A Guide to the National Scrapie Eradication Program for Veterinarians” is now available in CD format as a part of the Eradicate Scrapie! initiative. The initiative is conducted by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture on behalf of USDA’s APHIS-VS. The revised version contains the latest information for veterinarians to provide to their clients, as well as information for practitioners such as procedures for collecting and submitting samples for testing. The guide is also available in PDF format online at www.eradicatescrapie.org to be downloaded.

Cattle/Ruminants

TESTING CONTINUES on cattle located inside the 3-mile radius from the bovine tuberculosis-infected cervid herd in southeastern Indiana. The radius includes 22 premises. As of Dec. 9, 2009, 15 herds, made up of 275 animals, have completed testing as of Dec. 9, 2009. Private practitioners from the area are conducting the tests, while BOAH field staff are reading the results.

THE MODIFIED accredited (MA) Bovine TB zone in Michigan will shrink from 13 counties to five, beginning Jan. 4, 2010. The eight counties taken out of the MA zone are no longer considered high-risk, and they will be considered modified accredited advanced (MAA), like the remainder of the lower-peninsula of Michigan. Cattle in the MAA zone will need to have electronic ID before moving off the farm in an effort to track spread. The Upper Peninsula remains TB-free.

BRUCELLOSIS WAS found in a beef cow in eastern Idaho in late November 2009. Officials are working to determine if the positive animal is an isolated case, or if more animals could be infected. The beef cow was from a newly assembled 600-head herd. Idaho State Veterinarian Bill Barton issued a memo stating no calves or bred females have been sold from the herd.

SOUTH DAKOTA is now the most recent state to announce the discovery of bovine tuberculosis in cattle. A 3-year-old cow from a herd has been confirmed positive. State Veterinarian Dr. Dustin Oedekoven said animals in contact with the infected cow and those purchased from the infected herd are being tested. South Dakota will maintain TB-Free status since the discovery of the positive cow is the first.

Meat & Poultry

THE DIRECTORS of the Meat and Poultry Division have kept busy the past quarter attending conferences. Dr. David Bough attended the Frontline Supervisory Conference and Dr. Jim Scott attended the State MPI Program Directors meeting on new Public Health Information Systems. These meetings addressed important FSIS policy development details and implementation schedules. USDA/FSIS hosted and paid for both functions.

THE FOOD Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has opened a help-desk to answer questions about agency requirements. The program was designed to reconnect consumers to producers through the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” initiative. Smaller establishments supplying meat, poultry, and egg products are encouraged to contact the FSIS staff through a toll-free number at 1-877-FSISHelp or the e-mail address InfoSource@fsis.usda.gov. The help-desk will be open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST, excluding federal holidays.

Dairy

THE DAIRY Division conducted its second pasteurization equipment sealing course. The first course was offered in May, numerous requests for more has prompted the staff to offer the course on a continual basis. Attendees will be able to conduct tests on pasteurization equipment and legally seal a particular piece of equipment. This benefits processors during the holidays or weekends when a BOAH dairy inspector is unable to be present. The inspector then follows-up as soon as possible to verify the seals and test.

MARKET REPORTS show Indiana's milk production increased 4.4 percent during 2009. Of the top 10 milk-producing states in the United States, Indiana had the largest increase. Also notable, California's and Washington's milk production dropped more than 5 percent each.

Swine

NOVEMBER 2, 2009 Indiana identified the first commercial herd positive for the 2009 novel strain of H1N1 flu. A breed-to-wean facility and a finishing barn, by the same owner, had numerous animals with respiratory illness shortly after several workers had been out sick. The animals have fully recovered from the flu and operations continue as usual.

Cervids

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010, cervids moving intrastate will be required to test for bovine tuberculosis (TB) within 90 days of their movement. The board approved the rule at the October board meeting. The action comes as a result of the recent TB cases in three Indiana farmed-cervid herds. A copy of the new rule, with further explanation, can be found on the BOAH Web site, www.boah.in.gov.

MORE THAN 400 white-tailed deer heads were collected from seven counties during opening weekend of firearms hunting season in Indiana to test for bovine TB. This step was taken in the areas around the three positive farmed-cervid herds to determine if the disease had spread into the wild deer population. Exactly 431 heads were sampled from the following counties: Dearborn, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Randolph, Union and Wayne. Animals with lesions were sampled and submitted for further testing. Confirmatory laboratory tests will take several weeks to months to complete. The official USDA laboratories will be running cultures as staff time allows. Once set, culture results may take 6 weeks to 8 weeks.

Wildlife

A NEW disease is threatening the nation's bat population. White nose syndrome (WNS) is responsible for very high mortality rates of bats in or near their winter hibernation sites. The disease is believed to have originated in New York state around 2006. Since then, nine states along the East Coast have become infected. Last summer the Indiana Department of Natural Resources closed several state-owned caves because people are a common vector for spreading the disease.