



**Animal Health Division**

**May 2015**

**We've moved!**

As of May 19, 2014,  
our new address is:

305 Interlocken Parkway  
Broomfield, CO 80023  
(303) 869-9130

**Inside this Issue**

- High Path Avian Influenza
- Official Animal Identification
- Trichomoniasis Rule Change
- ...and much more!

**Greetings!**

The Animal Health Division Newsletter is back! From Official Animal Identification to Vesicular Stomatitis to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, we have quite a few things to report. Read on for these and more!

Also, as a reminder, if you

suspect a reportable disease in an animal or observe a situation involving morbidity or mortality outside the normally expected clinical picture, please contact the State Veterinarian's Office immediately at (303) 869-9130. To reach us outside of regular business hours, call



the same number to obtain the phone number of the staff veterinarian on call.

For a list of [Colorado reportable diseases](#) [click here](#), or visit [www.colorado.gov/aganimals](http://www.colorado.gov/aganimals)

Thank you for your help, & let us know how we can help you!

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The United States Dept of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) has confirmed the presence of HPAI H5N2 and H5N8 in poultry flocks in thirteen states: Arkansas, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin. HPAI has been confirmed in wild birds in five additional states: Kentucky, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, & Wyoming.

"There are currently no cases of HPAI in Colorado. However, poultry producers and bird owners are encouraged to increase their disease prevention practices to help prevent the infection in our state," says State Veterinarian Dr. Keith Roehr. "Wild birds appear to be the vector for

HPAI infection of domestic poultry, and HPAI virus strains can travel in wild birds without making them appear sick; therefore it is especially important to limit the exposure of poultry to wildlife, wildlife areas, or through people who may have had contact with both."

Although USDA is developing an HPAI H5 vaccine as a backup tool, vaccines are not commonly used to control HPAI outbreaks due to trade regulations, and because no vaccine covers all viral strains.

Disease prevention is the best way to prevent HPAI.

- Avoid contact with sick or dead poultry or wildlife
- If contact occurs, wash hands with soap and water, and change clothing before having contact with healthy domestic poultry or birds

- Keep tools & equipment clean
- Poultry owners should not have contact with other flocks

As part of existing avian health programs and disease response plans, federal, state, and university partners are working jointly on HPAI surveillance and monitoring in Colorado.

The Centers for Disease Control considers the risk to people and our food supply from the HPAI H5 infections in birds to be low.

Report sick birds or bird deaths:  
*State Veterinarian* (303)869-9130  
*USDA* (303) 231-5385

Submit dead birds (free AI test)  
*CSU Vet Dx Lab* (970) 297-1281

Questions about sick/dead birds:  
*CO Avian Health Call Line (CSU)* (970) 297-4008

For symptom information and HPAI resources, see [page 6](#) of this newsletter.



*"Cattle do not have to be run through a chute to record UHF electronic IDs, and UHF ear tags can be read from a greater distance. Therefore, ear tag information can be captured from a pen of cattle."*

## Official Animal Identification

Dairy cattle of any age, and all beef cattle older than 18 months, must have official animal ID ear tags applied for importation into Colorado. Official IDs for the cattle older than 18 months must be individually listed on the CVI.

### Exceptions

Official ID requirements are waived for cattle being shipped

directly to a Colorado Approved Feedlot or directly to slaughter.

### Official ID ear-tags include:

- 15-digit Animal Identification Number: 840-series ear-tag (visual tag, RFID tag, or combination of the two)
- Silver "brite" metal ear-tag with state of origin two-digit code (NUES tag)
- Orange Brucellosis (OCV) ear tag

**Note:** 900-series ear-tags can no longer be used for official animal ID, although animals with 900-series tags applied *before* March 11, 2015 are considered to meet official ID requirements.

## Electronic Health Certificates

Electronic health certificates (eCVI and iCVI) are a convenient and streamlined method of collecting CVI data, and are being put to use by an increasing number of veterinarians.

### eCVI

A fillable pdf that contains data which can be extracted into CDA's animal health information management system, USAHerds.

### iCVI

An iPad App, which sends the CVI electronic data directly into USAHerds, without any need for manual data entry.

### Why should you use electronic health certificates?

- Time savings and improved efficiency
- Copies are sent electronically to shipping & receiving state offices – no postage costs!
- Multiple ID numbers can be imported into the certificate – no writing out tag numbers
- No need for attached sheets
- Improve legibility & accuracy
- Allow for real-time information exchange

Electronic CVIs provide valuable efficiency to veterinarians & clients, & ensure compliance with traceability requirements.

In the past twelve months, 327 eCVI users and 126 iCVI users in Colorado have registered through CDA, and have issued 4252 electronic health certificates.

**To get started** with electronic health certificates, contact the State Veterinarian's Office at (303) 869-9130 or take a look at the resources available on our [website](#).

## New Technology for Cattle ID – the UHF Project

A USDA project to place ultra-high-frequency (UHF) cattle ear tags is underway at two livestock auction markets in Colorado; The Livestock Exchange (LE) in Brush, and the Western Slope Cattlemen's Livestock Market.

The project places electronic UHF ear tags in animals and evaluates the ability to capture ear tag information efficiently and effectively. This technology is different than the current existing

electronic ear tags and capture equipment in that cattle do not have to be run through a chute to capture electronic IDs and UHF ear tags can be read from a greater distance. Therefore, ear tag information can be captured from walking through a pen of cattle. The project is designed to demonstrate the efficiencies and benefits of using electronic animal ID, and will advance animal traceability in the state and nation. In

addition, CDA is working with Fort Supply, the vendor for this equipment, to allow for automatic integration of animal health information into the CDA database.

LE Veterinarian Paul Chard has applied over 400 tags to adult bred cows for testing. At this point, the new electronic cattle tags show significant promise for improving capture of electronic animal ID data. [Video demonstration available here.](#)

## Vesicular Stomatitis Final Report

As of February 2015, the Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) State Veterinarian's Office released all quarantines related to the 2014 Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak in Colorado. In all, there were 556 livestock investigations in the state resulting in 370 quarantines.

The index case in Colorado occurred in mid-July and the last confirmed case was investigated in November;

quarantines were lifted once the affected animals were completely healed and no longer infectious. This outbreak was one of the longer VS outbreaks for Colorado.

The outbreak response was a collaborative effort between CDA, livestock owners, USDA Veterinary Services, USDA Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, veterinarians

in private practice, & many others that provided vital time & services during this response.

Canada has recently lifted all restrictions on Colorado related to VS. Recently, OIE has removed the 'foreign animal disease' designation from VS in equines; OIE's actions will lead to regulatory changes in the way VS investigations proceed for the coming year. CDA will communicate these changes as they are released.



*"Colorado has one or two cases of EHV-1 every year. Event organizers should consider requiring health certificates and vaccination records, limit direct horse contact and equipment sharing, and have a plan for management of suspect disease."*

## EHV-1 and Event Biosecurity

As May and June approach and we begin to ramp up to the equine show and event season, the Colorado Department of Agriculture reminds you to be aware of EHV-1. Although the last large outbreak of EHV-1 in Colorado was in 2011, we have 1 or 2 cases every year, and Texas, Michigan, Ohio, and Maryland have all reported EHV-1 cases in 2015. Many of these cases

were identified in horses that attended shows and exhibitions.

Biosecurity is the key to preventing the introduction and transmission of EHV-1, and Colorado Department of Agriculture offers [a Business Continuity Plan for Equine events](#), for use by the event organizers and event veterinarians. This plan, along with a number of

other resources, are available on the CDA website.

Event organizers should consider requiring health certificates and vaccination records, limit direct horse contact and equipment sharing, and have a plan for management of suspected cases of EHV-1. If you have questions, visit our website or contact the office of the State Veterinarian at (303)869-9130.

## AgConnect Colorado

AgConnect Colorado is customized data integration software which allows Colorado Department of Agriculture to quickly and efficiently integrate livestock movement data, disease incident information, and other disease response activities so that data can be visualized by mapping software. This data integration can be used both in an outbreak situation and for day-to-day regulatory work.

The 2014 outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis in Colorado livestock generated more than 500 Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigations, completed over a course of less than 5 months, presented significant logistical challenges. AgConnect data integration was a tremendous asset during the outbreak. Its ability to "reach" into USAHerds and generate maps allowed efficient, real-time mapping of premises during the outbreak.

Using this capability, CDA was able to map premises at different stages of quarantine, including under 'Quarantine', under a 'Hold Order' movement restriction, and 'Released Quarantine'. AgConnect enabled CDA to give the agricultural community better information on the outbreak. Additionally, AgConnect allowed CDA to quickly analyze and determine which premises could move livestock, and thus comply with temporary outbreak-specific export restrictions.



*"The official trichomoniasis test for import into Colorado or for change of ownership within the state is the PCR test. Culture is no longer considered an official test for regulatory purposes."*

## Trichomoniasis Rule Change

One of the big rule changes in 2015 for cattle producers is the revision of the trichomoniasis rule. The new revised Livestock Disease Control Rules (8 CCR 1201-19) contains the new trichomoniasis rule, which became effective December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Overall, the trichomoniasis rule has not changed dramatically, but there are some changes that affect producers & veterinarians.

### The main changes:

#### 1. Official trich test:

The official test for import into Colorado or for change of ownership within the state is the PCR test. Here is how it is worded: "Official *T. fetus* PCR test (Polymerase Chain Reaction)" means a method approved by the State Veterinarian that detects, through in vitro amplification, the presence of *T. fetus* DNA. *The previous rule allowed a trichomoniasis culture for import of out-of-state bulls or for a change of ownership.*

Culture will be acceptable for annual diagnostic tests when used as part of a preventative herd health plan but is not considered an official test for regulatory purposes such as change of ownership, importation, or movement to a grazing association.

#### 2. Length of validity of trich test for change of ownership or import into Colorado:

The official trichomoniasis test is now applicable for 60 days prior to importation or change of ownership. *The previous rule stated the test was only valid for 30 days prior to importation or change of ownership.*

#### 3. The test eligible age for bulls:

The new rule requires that bulls over 18 months of age be tested for trichomoniasis whether they are bulls imported from out of state, bulls changing ownership, or bulls commingling in grazing associations. *The previous rule*

*required that bulls being imported into Colorado be tested if over 12 months of age and had some provision for virgin bull status.*

#### 4. Identification and Laboratory Submission Forms:

There are some additional requirements for official animal ID for bulls being tested for trichomoniasis. The new rule states that the accredited veterinarian shall record the bull's official animal ID eartag on the *T. fetus* test submission form or apply an official animal ID tag to any bull that does not have one and record it on the *T. fetus* test submission form. An approved laboratory is required to immediately report any positive specimen to the State Veterinarian's Office. Such report should include the official animal ID eartag, brand, owner name, address, telephone number and the submitting veterinarian's name, address, and telephone number.

## Predator Control Activities

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has drafted a brochure for agricultural producers summarizing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Colorado Department of Agriculture regulations relating to control of depredating wildlife. After staff and legal counsel review of the draft language, it will be used along with photos and graphics to create a brochure that can be delivered to ag producers.

The Colorado Wool Growers use guard dogs on public lands to protect their flocks from predators. These guard dogs can be potentially aggressive, and a human – guard dog conflict arose last year.

USDA, CDA, and the Wool Growers Association are proactively working reduce chances of another conflict occurring. The Livestock

Protection Dog brochure is part of this planning, and will aid in increasing public awareness of guard dog use, on behalf of the Colorado wool growers. The brochure is available on the CDA website [here](#). CDA is also looking into funding for guard dog signage on public lands.

## Official PIN Tags for Breeding Pigs

As of Jan. 1, 2015, the majority of packers and processors that harvest breeding stock are requiring official premises identification tags (official PIN tags) be present on the animals as a condition of sale and processing.

The requirement DOES NOT apply to feeder pigs, market hogs, or show pigs being sold as market hogs.

There has been concern among small producers who need only a few tags, regarding the ability to order a small quantity of tags. The Colorado Department of Agriculture has contacted approved PIN tag manufacturers to inquire about ordering small quantities of tags. Several Ag companies, after consulting with the National Pork Board and USDA, have changed their rules to no longer require a minimum order for these PIN tags.

Two of the manufacturers – Destron Fearing and Allflex USA, Inc. – will allow producers to order whatever quantity of tags they need, whether that is 1 tag or 100 tags. These companies have been friendly and willing to work with producers ordering a smaller quantity of tags.

### Destron Fearing

Usually sell the tags in bags of 25. However, they will sell a smaller quantity as long as the producer specifies how many tags.

Customer service:  
[1-800-328-0118](tel:1-800-328-0118)

This number will direct the caller to a distributor, or alternatively, the producer can ask their veterinarian to call and order the tags.

### Allflex USA, Inc.

Will sell any quantity of tags.

Most veterinarians can sell these tags. Additionally, distributors and online retailers are listed on the website:

Distributors:  
<http://www.allflexusa.com/>

Online retailers:  
<http://www.allflexusa.com/online-resources/>

### Y-Text

Sells tags only in bags of 25. This company will ship tags directly to the producer.

Producers can order from their current Y-Text distributor. If producers do not have a distributor, they can contact: Colorado Animal Health Longmont, CO  
[303-772-2636](tel:303-772-2636)

**Information on the National Pork Board website about PIN tags:** <http://www.pork.org/programs-and-events/swine-id/pin-tag/>

**PIN Tag FAQ Sheet:**  
[http://www.pork.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/pin\\_faqs.pdf](http://www.pork.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/pin_faqs.pdf)



*"Several Ag companies, after consulting with the National Pork Board and USDA, have changed their rules to no longer require a minimum order for official PIN tags."*

## BAP Task Force

Due to ongoing questions and debate about the scope and authority of the Bureau of Animal Protection and its agents, the Commissioner of Agriculture have convened a task force to address a number of concerns with the

Bureau of Animal Protection. Specifically, the task force is addressing interpretation of BAP agent authority and maintaining the original intent of the law. The task force is chaired by Jim Miller, former Deputy Commissioner of

Agriculture, and members that include representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Humane Associations, Law Enforcement, the District Attorney, and veterinarians.



**Colorado Department of Agriculture**

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## Symptoms of HPAI

The current highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak has caused very high mortality in several species of poultry, with turkeys the most affected, followed by quail and chickens. The most common symptom among domestic poultry is death. Wild birds do not seem to be as severely affected.

Symptoms in domestic poultry include:

- Sudden death
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing
- Diarrhea



## Resources for HPAI

**USDA:** (303) 231-5385

<http://www.usda.gov/birdflu>

<http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/birdbiosecurity/AI/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/AI/)

**Colorado Dept of Agriculture (State Veterinarian):**  
(303) 869-9130

[www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals)

**CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab:** (970) 297-9281

<http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/vdl/Pages/default.aspx>

**AVMA:**

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Avian-influenza-FAQs-general.aspx>

**CDC:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm>

**World Health Organization (WHO):**

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs215/en/>

**FDA:**

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm085550.htm>

**Center for Food Safety & Public Health:**

[http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/highly\\_pathogenic\\_avian\\_influenza.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/highly_pathogenic_avian_influenza.pdf)

## About Our Organization

The mission of the Colorado Department of Agriculture is: to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; provide a safe high quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

The Animal Health Division, led by the State Veterinarian, works in close cooperation with the livestock industry and veterinary medical organizations, as well as other state and federal agencies, to protect the health, welfare, and

marketability of Colorado livestock.

