

**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture  
Animal Health & ID

# Animal Health Notes

## April 2005

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### Report Emergency Diseases

To report a suspected Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) or other animal disease emergency, please call:

**503 – 986 – 4680**

During office hours a live person will answer that number. After 5 pm and on weekends and holidays, you will get a recording that directs you to press 2 to get the phone numbers of veterinarians on call. Please note these after-hours numbers are for emergency reporting only.

### West Nile Virus (WNV) Update

The first WNV isolation in Oregon was reported in Linn County in August 2004. The virus has since been tracked in eight counties. The location of cases shows how wide spread the virus has become in our state. By the end of the year 32 horses and 5 people were diagnosed with the virus in Oregon.

We anticipate an increased infection rate in the mosquito populations this season and our office is strongly recommending that horses be properly vaccinated or receive a booster dose during the next few weeks before the build up of mosquito populations occurs. We believe this action now may optimize effective protection for horses during coming mosquito season.

### Where to send samples for testing?

The Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) at the College of Veterinary Medicine is now ready to test horse serum for West Nile Virus.

**Can you get reimbursed for test costs? Yes! In order to get paid for the cost of the lab test(s), please copy the equine submission form on page 2, fill it out and send it along with your serum sample(s) to: Oregon State University, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 134 Magruder Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.**

Department of Human Services Public Health Veterinarian and Epidemiologist, Dr. Emilio DeBess reminds everyone that the offer is being made for testing in equines that are showing some clinical signs compatible with WNV and the lab must have a copy of the information on the form.

You will be billed for test costs by OSU-VDL unless you send in a completed copy of the equine submission form.

# Oregon West Nile Virus Surveillance Equine Submission Form

**\*\*WE ONLY TEST CLINICAL CASES OF POSSIBLE WVN\*\***

**OWNER:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE COLLECTED BY:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Collection \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNS/SYMPTOMS:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ataxia / weakness              | <input type="checkbox"/> licking                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> anorexia (off feed)            | <input type="checkbox"/> blinking                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> circling                       | <input type="checkbox"/> head tilt                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> facial twitching               | <input type="checkbox"/> hypersensitive to touch      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chewing                        | <input type="checkbox"/> personality/behavior changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mental depression / sleepiness | <input type="checkbox"/> complete paralysis           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____                    |   |

Number of sick horses \_\_\_\_\_ Total number on premises \_\_\_\_\_  
Have horses been vaccinated?  Yes  No If yes, when \_\_\_\_\_  
Out of state travel?  Yes  No  
If Yes, to where? \_\_\_\_\_ Return date \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIMENS SUBMITTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RESULTS:**

Test Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Results \_\_\_\_\_

Please report test results to: Dr. Don Hansen, phone 503-986-4760 and  
Dr. Emilio DeBess, phone 503-731-4024

Send a copy of this form and serum sample to the diagnostic lab.

## **New Faces at ODA-Animal Health & Identification (AHID)**

Tracy Junge (Young) joined our AHID team in February of 2005, as the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Coordinator. Tracy grew up in Eugene, OR, and went to college at Oregon State University. Currently Tracy lives on her farm in Salem with her three children; Lisa, Tyler, and Scott. Tracy and her kids raise Shetland sheep and Hampshire 4-H lambs. Tracy is enjoying the challenges of this new position. She has also found it fascinating to learn about all the different components of animal health and ID.

## **Update on BSE Surveillance in the U.S.**

USDA achieves goal of 270,000 for number of samples tested for BSE. The surveillance program was designed as a one-time effort that will provide a snapshot of the domestic cattle population to help define whether BSE is present in the United States, and if so help calculate at what level.

Experience in Europe has shown that testing high-risk cattle is the method most likely to identify BSE if it is present. Therefore, USDA tailored its testing program to collect the majority of samples from the following categories: Non-ambulatory cattle; Cattle exhibiting signs of a central nervous system disorder; Cattle exhibiting other signs that may be associated with BSE, such as emaciation or injury; and Dead cattle.

The aim was to sample up to 270,000 head out of an estimated population of 450,000 high-risk adult cattle in a 12- to 18-month period. With 270,000 animals sampled, APHIS is 99% confident it is able to detect BSE at a rate of 1 in 10 million adult cattle. In other words, the program could detect BSE even if there were only five positive animals in the US population of adult cattle.

## **Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT)**

Fifty-eight OVERT veterinarians participated in a CE seminar dealing with "Veterinary and Public Health Aspects of Avian Influenza". The seminar was presented in six locations around the state during January and February.

OVERT members will confront a foreign animal disease that is also a serious human health risk in the next CE seminar. The seminar will be a tabletop exercise and held in four locations around the state in June.

A more general "Introduction To OVERT" seminar is planned for Baker City. This is part of an effort to recruit more eastern Oregon veterinarians as team members.

Veterinarians desiring to be a part of the response team should give us a call at 503-986-4680, fill out an application and get on the OVERT contact list. In addition to the June seminars, a more extensive training seminar is currently in the planning stages for September.

## **Update on Johne's Disease Program**

There are still openings for veterinarians to take our on-line course and become certified to do Johne's risk assessments and management plans. You can earn 6 C.E. credits. The course has been designed for busy practitioners. Each module is designed to take no more than an hour to complete but also depends on the speed of your computer modem. If you are interested in taking this on-line course, please contact Don Hansen or Bruce Mueller at 503-986-4680 to get signed up.

## **Johne's Herd-Management Plans**

It is time for the annual renewal of Johne's Management Plans with your clients. We are still able to pay veterinarians \$250 for each plan submitted. Just as before, the name of each herd and/or owner may be coded to maintain the privacy of the owner. Since the renewal session is mostly an update of last year's risk assessment and management plan, it should take two hours or less. Please submit signed copies of your client's Risk Assessment and Management Plan by fax to 503-986-4734.

We are still interested in enrolling new herds. As before, we will pay \$250 to veterinarians for completed client risk assessments and management plans. If you want more copies of the Handbooks just call us at 503-986-4680 and they will be sent to you at no charge.

## **New Environmental Sampling Protocol**

Based on last year's environmental sample results, we have changed the protocol. We believe this new procedure will be more accurate and meaningful. Please take note of the changes. Environmental samples should be taken as follows:

- **Four samples** from the **alley** approaching and/or leaving the milking parlor.
- **Two samples** from the **manure pit or lagoon**.
- Samples should be taken **with an inverted plastic bag**. Please do not use a palpation sleeve. It is just too difficult for the lab to deal with.
- **Each sample should be a composite of four different "grab samples"**. For each sample, pick up manure from at least four individual spots within the alley or manure pit and retain all of the manure in the sample bag.
- Samples should be sent to the Oregon Department of Agriculture-Animal Health Lab in Salem for culture. Send to: ODA Animal Health Laboratory, 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532. The cost of culturing is covered by the grant.

## **Sampling or testing animals**

Producers can have all mature cattle in their herd tested at no charge to them.

*Practitioners are not required to collect these samples.* Producers (or their veterinarian)

need only to contact Bruce Mueller at ODA-AHID and request herd testing. He will make necessary arrangements to sample the herd. All samples will be coded to assure confidentiality. Coded test results will be sent to producer's veterinarian and the practitioner is expected to send the results on to their client.

## **National Animal and Premises ID System**

As mentioned in the December newsletter, the USDA has released grant funds for testing aspects of the National Animal Identification System. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is participating in one of these grants with California, Arizona, and Texas. We are helping livestock producers to register their premises and tracking a number of dairy cows and calves entering commerce.

The first step to the national system is the registration of premises. The USDA defines a premises as "an identifiable physical location that, in the judgment of the State Veterinarian, represents a unique and describable geographic entity where activity affecting the health and / or traceability of food producing animals may occur." In other words, a premises is a location, which has livestock and / or livestock handling facilities.

On February 15th, the Oregon premises registration website was launched. It can be found by going on the ODA website <[www.oregon.gov/oda/ahid](http://www.oregon.gov/oda/ahid)>. For those who don't have web access or would prefer not to enter the information themselves, they can call Tracy Junge (pronounced Young) at the ODA- Animal Health and ID at 503-986-4694.

## **Scrapie Genotype Testing Program for Rams**

ODA, AHID has received a USDA Cooperative Agreement to fund Scrapie-resistance Codon 171 testing, for **rams only**, through August 20, 2005. ODA will pay up to \$11.00 per test and up to \$50.00 one time fee to offset the cost of the veterinarian's fee.

This information has been distributed through the Oregon Sheep Growers Association, and last year scrapie program participants. However not all sheep raisers are members, therefore we are asking you to inform or remind your clients of this program.

**Funds are limited therefore, sheep growers are advised to call our office to be sure that funds are still available before they test their rams.** This is especially important in the final months of the agreement. If you want more information for you and your clients, such as how and where to submit blood samples, what labs perform the tests, how the sheep owners can be reimbursed etc., visit our web site at <http://egov.oregon.gov/oda/ahid/index.shtml> or call Dan Jemelka at 503-986-4680.

Your assistance in this program is appreciated.

## Other States Departments of Agriculture Telephone Numbers

Alabama	334-240-7255	Montana	406-444-2976
Alaska	907-745-3236	Nebraska	402-471-2351
Arizona	602-542-4293	Nevada	775-688-1180
Arkansas	501-907-2400	New Hampshire	603-271-2404
California	916-651-6278	New Jersey Dog & Cat Other	609-588-3121 609-292-3965
Colorado	303-239-4161	New Mexico	505-841-6161
Connecticut	860-713-2504	New York	518-457-3971
Delaware	320-739-4811	North Carolina Dog & Cat Other	919-733-3410 919-733-7601
Florida	850-415-0900	North Dakota	701-328-2655
Georgia	404-656-3667	Ohio	614-728-6220
Hawaii- Dog & Cat Other	808-483-7151 808-483-7111	Oklahoma	405-522-6141
Idaho	208-332-8540	Oregon	503-986-4679
Illinois	217-782-4944	Pennsylvania	717-783-5301
Indiana	317-227-0316	Rhode Island	401-222-2781
Iowa	515-281-5547	South Carolina	803-788-2260
Kansas	785-296-2326	South Dakota	605-773-3321
Kentucky	502-564-3956	Tennessee	615-837-5120
Louisiana	225-925-3980	Texas Dog & Cat Other	512-458-7255 512-719-0777
Maine	207-287-3701	Utah	801-538-7164
Maryland	410-841-5810	Vermont	802-828-2421
Massachusetts	617-626-1797	Virginia	804-786-2483
Michigan	517-373-1077	Washington	360-902-1878
Minnesota	651-296-2942	West Virginia	304-558-2214
Mississippi	601-359-1170	Wisconsin	608-224-4879
Missouri	573-751-3377	Wyoming	307-777-7515

For requirements for **international shipments**- including Canada and Mexico- Please call **USDA Veterinary Services at 503-399-5869**.

Sources for more information can be found at the ODA Animal Health & Identification Division web site at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/index.shtml>.

## Packing and Shipping of Veterinary Samples

As of January 2005, veterinary diagnostic samples should be shipped by ground transport according to the guidelines outlined below. The possible exceptions to this are Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) agents, rabies, blue tongue and vesicular stomatitis specimens

The United States Postal Service has specific guidelines for the proper preparation of biological materials for shipment. Any shipping service may refuse to handle any package that shows signs of internal breakage, spillage, or dampness. As the shipper, you could be held legally responsible for improperly packaged specimens. Careful packaging is essential. All veterinary samples should be packaged using the following minimum guidelines:

- Submit all specimens in a leak proof container.
- Surround that container with sufficient absorbent material to absorb any possible leakage.
- Containers should then be enclosed in a sturdy and sealed secondary container (cardboard, plastic, Styrofoam, etc.).
- If more than one primary container is placed in the secondary packaging, each container must be wrapped with enough absorbent material to ensure that contact is prevented and that the absorbent material can absorb the entire contents of all materials being shipped.
- Fresh tissues, milk and feces should be placed in individual, well sealed, heavy plastic bags or other containers. Double bag to prevent leakage.
- Ship refrigerated and frozen specimens with adequate cold packs to ensure samples are kept cool or frozen during shipment.
- **Do not** submit samples in syringes.
- **Do not** send needles in samples.
- **Do not** use ice cubes or water filled baggies as a coolant.
- **Do not** wrap submission form(s) around sample(s).
- Enclose completed submission forms in a **separate** plastic bag, and place them between the inner sample container and the outer shipping container.

The following guidelines should be followed when submitting multiple blood samples: Each tube should be clearly labeled with the position (sequence/tube) number from the left side of the submission form and, if possible, the animal identification as it appears on the submission form. Place tubes in shipping container in the same order as entered on the form. Use partitioned boxes to keep samples in order.

Current requirements for air transportation of veterinary diagnostic specimen guidelines are available through ODA upon request.

Before shipping veterinary diagnostic samples that may contain FAD, Blue Tongue, Vesicular Stomatitis, or Rabies organisms, please contact the ODA Animal Health Lab 503-986-4686 and/or the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at 541-737-3261. Oregon State web-based training modules found at <https://lrn.hr.state.or.us/ps/p&s.cfm>.

## Do your clients know these new rules for dairy and beef?

### Washington now requires the following:

- All dairy imports over 6 months old must be TB tested. Less than 6 months must be identified and restricted to the destination until tested at 6 months old.

### California now requires the following:

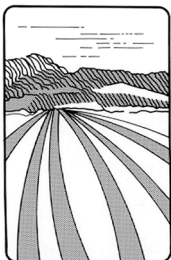
- All breeding dairy cattle over 6 months must be TB tested within 60 days of entry.

### Idaho now requires the following:

- Beef bulls over 18 months of age must be tested trichomonosis.
- All dairy breeding cattle over 6 months must be TB tested within 60 days of entry.

**Animal Health Notes** is a newsletter for licensed, deputy state and accredited veterinarians in Oregon and is produced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Animal Health & Identification Division, 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem OR 97301-2532.

The information is provided to help you serve your clients better and to protect the health of Oregon's animals. **In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this publication will be made available in alternate formats upon request.** Tristen Berg, Editor, phone 503-986-4690, e-mail [tberg@oda.state.or.us](mailto:tberg@oda.state.or.us) or FAX 503-986-4734. TTY 503-986-4762.



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Department  
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635 Capitol Street NE  
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**For veterinarians and clinic staff, please share this with your office and keep for future reference.**



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