

# Animal Industry



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The Animal Industry Division of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has six main programs:

- 1) Animal Health – focused on prevention and control of animal diseases, with special attention to diseases that can be transmitted to humans.
- 2) Meat and Poultry Inspection — to assure wholesome products for consumers.
- 3) Livestock Inspection (brand registration and inspection) — to offer protection to the livestock industry through law enforcement.
- 4) Fish Health — protecting the fish health in the state and dealing with problems of fish food production and processing.
- 5) Elk Farming and Elk Hunting Parks
- 6) Organic Food Program / Investigation and Compliance

Major accomplishments in these areas during the past year are as follows:

## Animal Health

Disease free status was maintained in the following disease categories:

- \*Brucellosis \*Tuberculosis \*Scabies \*Pseudorabies
- \*Salmonella pullorum \*Mycoplasma gallisepticum

Disease monitoring programs that have continued from prior years include those for heartworm, equine encephalitis, equine infectious anemia, rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies, salmonella sp., mycoplasma sp., West Nile Virus, BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease), Trichomoniasis, etc.

The Division participated in a West Nile Virus Surveillance program in partnership with the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association. The Division of Animal Industry role was to promote and monitor surveillance for WNV in horses. The Division paid for the laboratory cost of testing suspected cases and 67 horses were diagnosed positive for WNV. The Division also distributed an updated pamphlet alerting horse owners concerning this disease and updated our website. Funding was provided to the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing of sentinel chicken flocks and other birds. Much of this was accomplished with funding from the Utah legislature and a grant from the Utah Department of Health.

The Division has actively promoted various Health Assurance Programs and has served to certify participants. Such programs as Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program, Utah Cattle

Health Assurance Program, Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program, Beef Quality Assurance, Trichomoniasis testing, the National Poultry Improvement Plan, and others are included in this effort. Division veterinarians met with the various livestock enterprise groups, farm organizations, veterinary associations and other groups in the state to receive input concerning their needs and to acquaint them with new programs. An annual training session for Utah Egg Quality Assurance Program participants is offered and semiannual farm visits are made by Division veterinarians to verify compliance. Nearly 16,000 bulls were tested in the Trichomoniasis testing program. Testing identified 51 infected bulls

The Division qualified for a grant of \$110,000 from USDA for funding of the Johne's Disease Control Program in 2005. Division veterinarians have certified 37 private veterinarians to perform risk assessments and develop management plans for participating herds. The grant funding paid for testing of more than 2,000 animals in 26 herds and other program expenses. A temporary part-time employee was added to promote the program with industry. This is a significant benefit for Utah producers.

The Division veterinarians monitored livestock imports into the state by reviewing incoming Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and issuing livestock entry permits to animals that meet Utah entry requirements. Violations of Utah import regulations were investigated, and citations were issued. Over 18,000 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for interstate movement of animals were received from Utah veterinarians. These documents were monitored, filed, and forwarded to our animal health counterparts in the states of destination.

The division is responsible for licensing hatcheries, qualified feedlot operators, and swine garbage feeders in the state. The number of hatcheries in the state continues to increase in the game bird industry. The division also administers the National Poultry Improvement Plan in the state. This is a voluntary testing program wherein a flock may be certified disease free in several important disease categories. Participants in the program enjoy significant benefits when shipping birds, eggs, and products in commerce.

The Division has maintained a cooperative agreement with FDA to monitor 50 licensed feed manufacturers in the state for enforcement of the ban on feeding meat and bone meal to ruminants. This is an important fire-wall to prevent the amplification of Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE) in our cattle population, if the disease were to gain entry to this country.

Homeland Security has again been a focus of the Division in 2005. The threat of agri-terrorism and the possibility of foreign animal diseases being introduced to the state make this a top priority. Training has been obtained for five Division veterinarians as foreign animal disease diagnosticians. They have gained practical experience in volunteering to respond to disease outbreaks such as the foot and mouth disease outbreak in Great Britain and the exotic newcastle disease outbreak in California. The Division was successful in obtaining federal funding for developing a mobile emergency response capability. A portable corral and chute system was purchased this year as an addition to our air curtain incinerator and mobile response trailers. The Division has offered training and consultation in bio-security measures to various groups and state agencies.

The Animal Health section has the responsibility of providing veterinary supervision and service to the livestock auction markets in Utah in furtherance of our disease control and monitoring programs. The program is administered by the division, using private veterinarians on contract with the state. More than 500 weekly livestock sales conducted by eight licensed and bonded sale yards in the state were serviced under this program. Division veterinarians also provided oversight for veterinarians and technicians involved with brucellosis vaccinations.

### **Meat Inspection**

The Meat Inspection Program added three more establishments to the program. Constant change within the Meat Inspection Program on the national level necessitates training of inspectors and plant owners that is real and ongoing. The Utah program is considered equal to the federal meat inspection program

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) continues to be an issue in the regulatory environment. Each establishment that slaughters or handles carcass beef had to write a plan on how they would handle specified risk materials from these carcasses. This is just one of many federal rules and regulations that the small establishment owner must comply with to remain in business. The Utah Meat and Poultry Inspection Program personnel have tried to help these small business owners as much as we can to make sure they understand what it takes to remain in compliance.

The program in the past year has made an effort to reduce the amount of paper work required by the individual inspector and to simplify the paper work required by the establishment.

In turn, we have stressed to the inspector that they are responsible to verify and validate that the food safety system in each establishment is being executed properly. To make sure these systems are being designed and validated properly, federally trained state personnel are conducting food safety assessments in each state establishment.

### **Livestock Inspection**

The Livestock (Brand) Inspection Bureau consists of 14 full time special function officers and 50 part time inspectors. Their job is to protect the Utah livestock industry from accidental straying or intentional theft of livestock. In addition to inspecting all cattle and horses at the state's eight weekly auctions, field inspections are done on all livestock prior to changing ownership, leaving the state and going to slaughter.

During 2005, a total of 574,426 individual cattle, horses and elk were inspected. Livestock worth an estimated \$1.3 million was returned to their proper owners. This was a reduction in animals inspected from previous years due to the statewide drought of 2003. It was noted that the same number of producers were in operation, but most had reduced their herd size due to summer grazing conditions. It should also be noted that ranchers have held onto heifers to increase their herd size.

Brand renewal was conducted in 2005 in Utah. Each brand owner received a renewal notice from the Department and those renewing their brand received a laminated wallet sized "proof of ownership" card. The ownership card is intended for use during travel and when selling animals at auctions. 20,000 brands and earmarks were renewed during the year. A new brand book and CD are available for purchase that has the latest information. In addition to this, the Brand Bureau is actively involved in tying the existing brand program to the new National Animal Identification System, where each livestock owner will be issued a premises I.D. number. This number was added to the brand card for easy reference as the system develops. 7,000 National Premises numbers were issued to ranches during 2005.

The brand department started collecting the cattlemen's part of predator control money in 1996. During 2005, livestock inspectors collected \$113,500 in predator control money. This money, like the beef promotion money, which has been collected by the brand inspectors for many years, will simply be forwarded to the Wildlife Services Program for its use. Sheep men will continue to have their allotment collected by the wool houses and forwarded to the department.

In an effort to assist and give training to the state's port of entry personnel, a livestock inspector was assigned to work monthly in each port of entry. These inspectors are authorized and equipped to chase down those livestock transporters who ignore the signs requiring all livestock hauling vehicles to stop. This is an effort to help prevent diseased animals from entering the state and stolen animals from leaving the state.

A heightened awareness in the meat industry has also resulted in the upgrading of the Farm Custom Slaughter Program to insure the meat derived from home grown, non inspected livestock is prepared under the best conditions possible.

The killing of "downer" non ambulatory animals has been eliminated from this program due to the BSE positive cow found in Washington State December 23, 2003.

In September 2005 a range rider/investigator was hired to travel from county to county in an effort to prevent intentional and accidental taking of another's animals as they forage and are removed from open range situations. He has been actively involved in theft and loss of livestock in 12 counties during the last quarter of the year.

### **Elk Farming and Hunting Parks**

During the 1997 legislative session, the Domestic Elk Farming bill was passed allowing the farming of domestic elk on an individual's property. The brand bureau has been asked to regulate this industry. In 1999, an amendment to the original law allows the licensing of domestic elk hunting parks. Livestock inspectors are involved in the inspection of new facilities and elk as they come and go from each licensed farm or park. They help verify identification, ownership, health and genetic purity of every animal. 44 new farms and six hunting parks have been licensed with a total of 2,523 elk on inventory. This is a slight reduction in animals and farms from the previous year. We believe this is due to the loss of the velvet antler business and the decreased value of the animals. An eight-member elk advisory council was formed to make recommendations and give direction to this industry. The bureau has insured that every domestic elk that died or was harvested during 2005 had a brain sample submitted for the testing of CWD. To this point, no domestic elk have tested positive for this disease in Utah. Yearly re-licensing inspections are conducted by the livestock inspectors to verify facility maintenance, inventory and disease control.

### **Fish Health 2005 Annual Report**

The fish health program has continued to be proactive in controlling the spread and preventing the entry of fish pathogens in Utah. This is done through regulating, inspecting, approving live sales, licensing facilities and attending meetings (Fish Health Policy Board, pathogen committee, nuisance species and mercury work group).

Disease-free status was maintained for the following: IHN, IPN, VHS, furunculosis, redmouth, bacterial kidney disease, largemouth bass virus, ceratomyxosis, SVC, OMV, CCV, EHN, TSV, IHNV, WSSV, and YHV. Disease monitoring has continued with whirling disease (WD) and proliferative kidney disease.

Inspection and health monitoring services included: 35 on-site inspections or disease monitoring visits and 11 on-site water quality tests. A total of 2,913 aquatic animals were sacrificed for laboratory testing. Of these the following number of pathogen assays were conducted for 17 pathogens at qualified labs: IHN (1,929), IPN (2,134), VHSV (1,929), BF (300), BR (300), BKD (480), WD (1,268), LMBV (266), CS (240), SVCV (45), OMV (1,519), CCV (140), EHN (315), TSV (60), IHNV (60), WSSV (60), YHV (60).

Whirling disease continues to be a major regulatory concern. During the period, five aquaculture facilities remained under quarantine due to WD found in 2004; four facilities had quarantines released; and one quarantine was placed during the period. Two facilities were cleaned of WD contagion and cleared

for live sales. One closed facility was depopulated prior to quarantine removal. Ten fee fishing facilities, that had purchased potentially positive WD-infected trout in 2004, were tested for WD during the FY. Two of these sites had trout that tested WD positive. On four occasions, facilities under quarantine due to WD were authorized to move live fish out-of-state.

Licensed facilities during the period included 24 commercial aquaculture facilities, 118 fee fishing facilities, five brokers and three fish processors. The 118 fee fishing licenses comprised 24 species of aquatic animals including: channel catfish (27), rainbow trout (117), freshwater prawns (2), bluegill (38), largemouth bass (41), brook trout (46), brown trout (70), cutthroat trout (36), fathead minnow (6), smallmouth bass (11), triploid grass carp (16), crappie (3), Arctic char (4), gambusia (6), cichlids (2), koi (1), common carp (1), tiger trout (4), kokanee salmon (3), coho salmon (1), tiger muskie (2), wipers (2), bullhead catfish (2), cutbows (7).

Fish health approvals and inspections were provided for fourteen in-state facilities for the live sale of twelve species of aquatic animals including rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, walleye, tilapia (restricted to out-of-state sales), fathead minnow, gambusia, brook trout, brown trout, freshwater prawns, and tiger trout. Fish health approvals were granted to sixteen out-of-state facilities for eighteen species. At the end of the FY, six in-state facilities were approved to sell rainbow trout.

One new biosecurity plan was signed during the year, and one biosecurity plan is under development. Several biosecurity plans are carryovers from previous years.

There were 12 approval requests to DWR for new species. One fee fishing facility changed its registration to private pond, and one private pond facility changed its registration to fee fishing.

During the period, 58 entry permits were issued for 13 species of aquatic animals for a total of approximately 1,306,060 fish, 939,000 eggs, and 137,095 lb of live aquatic animals imported into Utah.