



# MBAH News & Views

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Dr. Jim Watson, DVM

Dr. Brigid Elchos, DVM

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Regulatory Updates
- Disease Updates
- Backyard Poultry
- Animal Traceability

## Board of Animal Health Updates

It has been a really busy spring for the Board of Animal Health.

The tornadoes in April kept things extremely hectic for several weeks. I was proud to see how our emergency management plans immediately moved into action the morning after the tornadoes. Our poultry team was very busy with destroyed poultry farms and the loss of 1 million birds which had to be disposed of properly. MSU CVM carried out the large and small animal field response, as well as assessments on veterinary clinics; Personnel from MSU Extension and MART performed assessments for agriculture and small issues, respectively; and MART, along with our non-governmental organization partners, responded to small animal sheltering issues. The MBAH Emergency Management Team coordinated all activities and communicated the response information to State and other stakeholders.

It was also good to see how our different partners worked together across the spectrum of emergency management issues from pet response to agricultural losses.

While you can never be truly prepared for another Katrina, we have all the pieces in place for an effective response should we ever experience a disaster of that magnitude again.

Jim Watson, DVM  
State Veterinarian

### Animal Traceability Rule

The Animal Traceability Rule or ADT as it is commonly called has been in effect for over a year, and has been in the educational phase of implementation. USDA is in the process of implementing the compliance phase of the program. **The primary role of the Accredited Veterinarian is to ensure animals covered in the rule are properly identified and listed on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), and the CVIs are turned into the state office within seven days. CVI's and tagging records must be kept for 5 years.**

**The ADT rule requires the use of silver "Brite Tags" or 840 electronic id tags, however, states are allowed to make individual agreements and some states will allow registration tattoos and brands as official identification.** The cattle currently covered under the rule are beef cattle over 18mos of age, all dairy cattle (steers tagged, but not listed), all rodeo and exhibition cattle. There are some states that have more stringent requirements, for example, most states require all breeding cattle, not just those over 18mos of age, to be individually listed on a CVI. All livestock and poultry are covered under the ADT Rule, check our website for information on other species.





# Regulatory Update

## Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED)

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) was found in Mississippi in March on a small swine operation raising animals for exhibition purposes.

PEDv is reported to have killed over 10 million pigs in the US since its first detection in April of 2013. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 USDA made PEDv and delta corona virus of swine reportable.

To prevent movement restrictions, a farm must develop a herd plan that includes biosecurity measures to prevent spread of disease and facilitate elimination of the disease from the infected farm. Cases of piglet mortality and acute diarrhea should be reported to the Board of Animal Health so we can begin a disease investigation.

Funding will be available to provide assistance to owners of positive herds in order to establish biosecurity and cleaning and disinfection measures.

There is an excellent website, [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org), which has resources devoted to PEDv information and updates.

Even if the disease is not confirmed with a laboratory finding, suspicious cases are still reportable.

## Disease Reporting is a crucial action that protects our State against new or emerging diseases.

Accredited veterinarians are very important as the front line of defense especially when these diseases are recognized and reported promptly. Another defense is the regulations and the regulatory action that can be, and is, taken by the MBAH in response to disease reports.

Unfortunately, there have been several instances this year where tests for reportable diseases were run by out-of-state labs and our office was not notified by the veterinarian.

Trichomoniasis, EEE and WNV are some of the diseases that seem to fall through the cracks when out-of-state labs are used. Your accreditation is at risk when diseases are not reported in a timely manner.

Remember, even if the disease is not confirmed with a laboratory finding, suspicious cases are still reportable. It is also important to note the USDA is making some changes to the list of reportable diseases and placing some emphasis on strengthening the language requiring certain diseases to be reported.



We will keep you updated on the progress of that activity.

# Chickens, Ducks, Guineas and More



Chickens, ducks, guineas and many other types of poultry adorn backyards in rural areas, towns, even cities.

The increase in backyard production is due to many factors including 4-H and FFA programs, poultry auctions, swaps and sales, in addition to, poultry shows, farmers markets and fresh egg sales.

Mississippians are learning more about our state poultry regulations in order to protect the health of the poultry industry, both commercial and non-commercial.

One such backyard flock owner is **Jon Ethridge** (pictured above) of Coats Creek Farms in Magee. Jon is one of our backyard flock owners that is NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) certified. He has over 15 different breeds of chickens and three different breeds of ducks, along with a pair of Sebastopol geese and a few exotic.

The MBAH has two testing programs for backyard flock owners to choose from, and, we will be glad to talk with owners' about these programs.

We want to educate how to maintain healthy flocks, while teaching our youth proper techniques in raising poultry, while encouraging them to show birds thru 4-H, FFA or a poultry show club.

The 2nd annual Mississippi State Fair Open Poultry Show is set for October 11th; and, that same day our Mississippi Poultry Chain will have their state competition. For information on Mississippi's poultry programs contact **Betty Roberts with the MBAH at 601-832-3351.**



## Trichomoniasis

Due to past problems with quality control of submitted samples, a trichomoniasis certification program has been established for veterinarians interested in submitting samples for testing.

The first trichomoniasis certification training was held at the 2014 MVMA Winter Meeting. For individuals who perform trichomoniasis sample collection and submission and did not attend the session at the Winter Meeting in Starkville this past February, call our office to request a copy of the DVD recorded from that session.

As many of you already know, pooling of samples for PCR has been validated, and so we will allow pooling as an approved method as long as the protocol established by the diagnostic laboratory is followed.

In order to prevent overgrowth of organisms, it is very important to follow the proper protocol and shipping times for valid test results. States are continuing to work together to standardize state entry requirements; however, it is important to call the state of destination to verify their entry requirements.



Mississippi Board of Animal Health  
121 N. Jefferson St.  
P.O. Box 3889  
Jackson, MS 39207  
Phone—601-359-1170  
Fax—601-359-1177

Dr. Jim Watson  
State Veterinarian  
jimw@mdac.ms.gov

Dr. Brigid Elchos  
Deputy State Veterinarian  
brigid@mdac.ms.gov

Newsletter Editor—Beth Adcock



The MS State Equine Association recently presented the first scholarship from the \$25,000 they donated to the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Congratulations Trusten Moore (center), a rising senior at the CVM. (Pictured from left to right Dr. George Hopper [CALs Dean], James Watts [MS State Equine Association], Trusten Moore [student], James Rasberry [MS State Equine Association], and Dr. Jerry Gilbert [Provost/Executive Vice President]. Mr. Rasberry is President of the MS State Equine Association and a member of the MS Board of Animal Health.

Find up to date information at  
[www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth](http://www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of an increasing number of dogs with questionable documentation of prior rabies vaccination.

The dogs are being imported into the U.S. from rabies-endemic countries. CDC has learned of several instances when importers have provided inaccurate rabies vaccine certificates for puppies arriving into the United States. These documents state that the puppies are older than 4 months of age and fully immunized against rabies. However, upon examination, these animals were found to be less than 4 months old and sometimes as young as 4-8 weeks of age. Documentation has also included falsification of birth location and breed registration.

Federal regulations require that dogs coming from rabies-endemic countries be fully immunized against rabies [i.e., puppies at least 3 months of age must receive the initial rabies vaccination at least **30 days prior to U.S. arrival, and adult dogs (i.e., ≥15 months old) should be current on rabies booster vaccination**]. Dogs that are not fully immunized and are coming from rabies-endemic countries may be allowed entry into the U.S. at the discretion of CDC, if the importer signs a confinement agreement. This agreement requires the importer to confine the dogs at a specified location until they can be vaccinated against rabies and for 30 days thereafter. Any adult dogs with a history of previous rabies vaccination (i.e., expired vaccination) may be released from confinement immediately after revaccination.

More information is available on the following websites:

CDC -- Animal Importation information <http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/>  
State -- MS Board of Animal Health <http://www.mbah.ms.gov>

