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South Dakota Animal Industry Board

Quarterly Newsletter

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BOVINE TRICHOMONIASIS (TRICH) FOUND IN TWO OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY CATTLE HERDS

Bovine trichomoniasis (trich) has been detected in two northwestern Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon) County cattle herds. Animal Industry Board (AIB) staff is assisting the producers and their veterinarians in developing management plans to contain and recover from this disease. Neighboring herd owners with potential contact animals have been informed of the risk to their livestock.

The South Dakota trich rules instituted in 2005 have served to decrease the incidence of this disease significantly, this is the first case diagnosed in SD since July 2013. Non-virgin bulls loaned, leased, or sold for breeding purposes into or within South Dakota must be tested negative for trich. The rules also prohibit the sale, loan or lease of non-virgin, non-pregnant cows for breeding purposes in the state.

Trich should be considered whenever a producer encounters a lower than expected pregnancy/calving rate in their herd. It is often difficult to know if a cattle herd has had exposure to stray bulls or cows over the course of summer grazing. Testing the herd bulls for Trich should be one tool used to minimize concern for this disease.



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SENECAVIRUS A

Senecavirus A, or Seneca Valley Virus (SVV), is a vesicular disease of swine that has recently been diagnosed in market weight pigs in southeastern South Dakota and in several other mid-western states. Pigs of all ages may be affected. This disease causes lameness, blisters on the coronary bands, snouts, and mouths of pigs – similar to FMD and other vesicular diseases of swine. Suspicious cases must be reported immediately to state or federal animal health officials to rule-out foreign animal diseases. Complete epidemiologic information about the current SVV outbreak is lacking.

VESICULAR STOMATITIS VIRUS (VSV)

Since late July, 50 cases of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) have been reported in South Dakota. These include 42 equine cases and 8 cases involving bovine. All of the cases have been reported in the western part of the state in Butte, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, Oglala Lakota, and Pennington Counties. The weekly case count steadily increased to a high of nine in the week of August 23-29, 2015. The weekly case count then decreased for four weeks, and the outbreak briefly appeared to be over in late September, before a new spike of cases in late October resulted in the current count.

Although VSV is considered to be highly contagious within an affected herd, many SD producers were able to limit the number of animals affected by utilizing good insect control and in some cases, isolating the affected animals from the rest of the herd. Despite these precautions, the bovine herds still experienced 15-20% affected rates in most cases. Equine producers were more successful in keeping the percentage of affected animals to a lower rate.

With the onset of freezing temperatures as we get deeper into fall, the vectors which have contributed to the spread of the disease will be less abundant and the state can be free of the disease in the near future. Until then, veterinarians and producers should maintain vigilance in assessing animals for potential disease and report suspicious lesions to the AIB immediately. Veterinarians are reminded that livestock other than horses presenting with vesicular lesions must be investigated for potential foreign animal diseases by regulatory veterinarians.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Surveillance testing of wild birds in South Dakota has identified birds with exposure to avian influenza virus, although not the highly pathogenic strain that wreaked havoc on midwestern poultry operations last spring. The need for improved biosecurity and vigilance in the poultry industry is evident. USDA has given conditional approval for a vaccine that is effective against the H5N2 highly pathogenic strain, should the virus return in commercial poultry. Whether or not the vaccine will be used depends on a complex set of circumstances including trade, severity of infection, and which sector of the poultry industry may be affected.

VETERINARY MEDICAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

There were six designated shortage situations in South Dakota for the 2015 cycle of the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). Only one of these designated shortages was awarded by USDA's, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The program will pay up to \$25,000 per year, for a period of three years, towards qualified educational loans for eligible veterinarians who are awarded with and agree to serve in a NIFA designated veterinarian shortage situation.

Looking forward, nominations for designated shortage situations for the 2106 cycle will begin later in November 2015, and close in the beginning of February 2016. If you would like to assist in the development of a nomination for South Dakota please contact Dr. Todd Tedrow at the AIB office at 605-773-3321 or aibmail@state.sd.us.

More information about the VMLRP can be found at NIFA's website:
http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp.html

*Best wishes for a safe and
happy holiday season!*