

Healthy Animals for Healthy People and Communities

2019 Legislative Overview

BOARD MEMBERS



DEAN COMPART
President of the Board
Swine Producer, Nicollet



PETER RIPKA
Cattle Producer
Ogilvie



ERICA SAWATZKE
Turkey Producer
Kensington



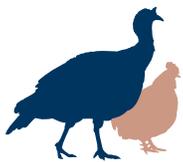
DR. MATT ANDERSON
Veterinarian
Zumbrota



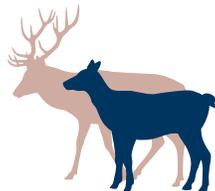
DR. GRAHAM BRAYSHAW
Veterinarian
Minneapolis

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STATE VETERINARIAN: Beth Thompson, JD, DVM

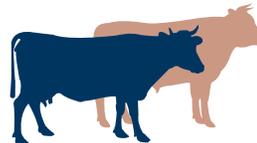
LIVESTOCK AND ANIMALS THE BOARD OVERSEES:



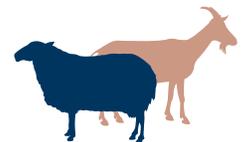
Poultry



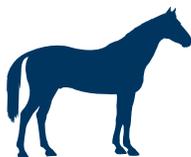
Farmed Deer and Elk



Cattle



Sheep and Goats



Horses



Companion Animals



Swine

QUICK FACTS:

- Headquartered in the Orville Freeman Building in St. Paul. Plus, the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory is an out-state branch office located in Willmar. It is operated in cooperation with the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Staff of 44 people, with 1/3 of them working in the field.
- Field staff inspect around 3,500 farms annually.

PROGRAMS WITHIN THE AGENCY:

Emergency Planning: The Board plans for and responds to livestock disease emergencies, serving as the lead state agency for these situations.

Disease Investigations: The Board investigates program diseases and clinical signs in sick animals that could be foreign animal diseases. The reportable disease list is available on the Board's website.

Rabies: The Board is responsible for tracking and investigating rabies exposure in domestic animals.

Swine: The Board monitors swine diseases and tracks interstate movement of swine. The Board is also actively involved in Secure Pork Supply education within the state.

Poultry: The Board oversees industry participation in the National Poultry Improvement Plan, which requires active surveillance, trains individuals to collect and test samples in the field as part of poultry surveillance programs, and permits and inspects poultry hatcheries, dealers and processing plants.

Farmed Cervids (Deer and Elk): The Board regulates farmed cervid herds to track animal movement and monitor herds for chronic wasting disease, and other program diseases.

Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders: The Board licenses and inspects breeders who meet the legal definition.

Kennels: The Board licenses and inspects kennels that obtain impounded, owner surrendered, strayed, or abandoned dogs and cats.

Premises Identification: The Board registers animal premises and maintains records of animal health data.

Carcass Disposal: The Board guides producers in how to properly dispose of carcasses.

Horses: The Board monitors specific diseases of concern in horses, and conducts investigations to reduce the spread of a disease when it's identified.

Markets and Sales: The Board permits and inspects livestock auction markets where animals are bought and sold, to ensure the animals are healthy and identified correctly.

Scrapie: The Board is part of a national program to eradicate this disease of sheep and goats.

Cattle Health: The Board monitors cattle populations for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis and cattle movement between states.

Exhibitions: The Board permits exhibitions and outlines the responsibilities of the fair manager and veterinarian. The Board also works closely with the Department of Health on any zoonotic concerns, which are diseases impacting both people and animals.

Brands: The Board registers and maintains livestock brand records.

Biologics: The Board regulates the sale and distribution of certain vaccines and antigens used in detection and diagnosis of disease in domestic animals.

Animal Disease Traceability: The USDA has plans to phase out visual-only official identification ear tags for cattle and bison. The Board has distributed these tags to producers and veterinarians, at no cost to them, since 2012. The current federal proposal will allow the visual only tags to continue to be available at no cost to producers and veterinarians through the Board office until 12/31/2019. This will be the start of a transition to electronic ear tags. The Board is awaiting more details on any available federal funds to support this transition.



DISEASES ON OUR RADAR FOR 2019 AND BEYOND:



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the spring and fall. The primary concern for this disease is the poultry population.

African Swine Fever (ASF). This is a Foreign Animal Disease currently causing significant mortality and morbidity in China and parts of Europe. There is concern it may spread further, especially to the United States. Clinical signs may mimic some current domestic diseases of swine.



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). There have been additional cases identified in wild deer in Southeast Minnesota and in the CWD monitored herd in Crow Wing County. It's a disease of concern because CWD is always fatal, and animals shed the infectious agent long before showing signs; thereby contaminating the environment and potentially infecting additional cervids.

Virulent Newcastle Disease. A contagious and fatal viral disease affecting birds and poultry. California is in the midst of a disease response dating back to May 2018.



Senecavirus A. The primary concern for this disease is the swine population. It's also significant because it shares some clinical signs with Foot and Mouth Disease.

WE WORK WITH AND SERVE:



Farmers.



County, state and federal agencies.



Private veterinarians.



Universities, diagnostic laboratories and researchers.



Agricultural companies, cooperatives and contractors.



Law enforcement.



Livestock membership organizations.



General public.



Fairs and exhibitions.



U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services division.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Dr. Mackenzie Reberg was hired in 2018 and works on the cervid program and biologics.

2018 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) functional exercise:

- The exercise was held May 2018 and involved industry and government collaboration.
- FMD affects cattle, swine, sheep and all cloven hoofed animals.
- The Board response will be coordinated with other states as all commodity groups are dependent on interstate commerce.
- FMD is a livestock disease, repercussions would reverberate through all agriculture.
- Currently working on the After Action and Improvement Plan following the exercise. This is scheduled to be completed in 2019.



2019 African Swine Fever National Exercises. With the concern of ASF spreading to the United States, USDA and the 14 top hog producing states in the country are conducting and planning several ASF response exercises. There will be three table top exercises working on national policies and individual state response plans. This will culminate in a three day functional exercise September 2019.

2018-2019 Board response to H5N2 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza in commercial meat-type turkey flocks in Kandiyohi and Stearns Counties. Flocks were identified, quarantined and marketed when approved by the Board. There was minimal impact to growers and companies and no known spread to surrounding states.

The Board is pursuing a rule change in 2019 to remove the Mycoplasma testing requirement for small, backyard poultry producers who have an interest in locating and raising rare heritage, exotic or exhibition type turkeys. The rule change would still require commercial operations to maintain their Mycoplasma-clean status. Mycoplasmas can have significant bird health and economic impacts if left unchecked.

The Board went live with a **new tool for processing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs)** in January 2019. This will continue the Board's transition to electronic records storage and streamline electronic data capture methods.

WHAT WE DON'T DO:

- **Animal humane investigations** (those are handled by local law enforcement).
- **Livestock marketing and development** (Department of Agriculture oversees this area).
- **Research animal diseases** (University of Minnesota does this).
- **License veterinarians in Minnesota** (The Board of Veterinary Medicine is responsible for licensing; USDA is responsible for accreditation).
- **Oversee Veterinary Feed Directives** (Food and Drug Administration is the contact).



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