

Healthy Animals for Healthy People and Communities

2023 Legislative Overview

BOARD MEMBERS:

ERICA SAWATZKE
President of the Board
Poultry Producer, Kensington

DR. PEGGY ANNE HAWKINS
Vice President of the Board
Veterinarian, Northfield

DR. JESSICA KOPPIEN-FOX
Veterinarian
Marshall

ALEX STADE
Cattle Producer
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, Prior Lake

JIM VAGTS
Livestock Producer
Harmony
(Term expires 01/2023)

DEAN COMPART
Swine Producer
Nicollet
(Term expires 01/2023)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STATE VETERINARIAN:

Dr. Marion Garcia, DVM MSc, Diplomate ACVPM

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMALS THE BOARD OVERSEES:



Poultry



Farmed Deer and Elk



Cattle



Sheep and Goats



Horses



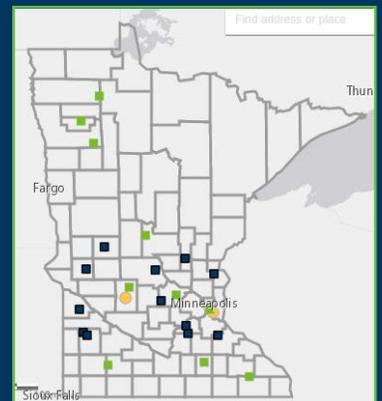
Companion Animals



Swine

EMPLOYEES:

- Headquartered in the Orville Freeman Building in St. Paul and an office at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) in Willmar. The MPTL is part of the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Staff of 41 people, with 1/3 being animal health technicians and veterinarians working in the field throughout the state. Seeking to grow in order to meet program requirements.



PROGRAMS WITHIN THE AGENCY:

Emergency Planning: The Board plans for and leads the response to livestock and companion animal disease emergencies.

Disease Investigations: The Board investigates reportable diseases and clinical signs in sick animals. This is important because these diseases can impact America's food production and potentially spread to other species, including humans. There are 5 veterinarians on staff who are trained and certified by USDA as Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians.

Rabies: The Board tracks and investigates rabies exposure in domestic animals.

Swine: The Board monitors swine diseases and tracks interstate movement of swine. The Board has been a national leader in implementing the Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), is actively involved in the national Secure Pork Supply program and has established a statewide Emergency Disease Management Committee for Swine.

Poultry: The Board oversees industry participation in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI), which requires active surveillance, trains individuals to collect and test samples for surveillance programs, and permits and inspects poultry hatcheries, breeding flock facilities, dealers, table egg layers and processing plants. It also leads the Emergency Disease Management Committee for Poultry.

Farmed Cervids (Deer and Elk): The Board began regulating registered farmed cervid herds in 2004 after the 2003 legislature repealed DNR's licensure of captive deer, elk, moose or caribou. At that time, the Board identified 775 registered cervid herds: today there are 227, a decrease of over 70% of these family-run small businesses. After a 2018 legislative audit, the 2019 legislature expanded cervid regulations under the Board's purview. In 2021 the legislature introduced concurrent authority of white-tailed deer between the Board and DNR. Interstate exports from Minnesota cervid farms far outnumber imports. In 2022 there were 107 farmed Cervidae imported into Minnesota and 585 exported to other states.

Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders: The Board first licensed and inspected commercial breeders in 2015. Since then, the board has licensed an average of 120

breeders per year. The Board launched the Commercial Breeder Excellence Program in 2020 to highlight breeders exceeding licensing standards in five areas of care.

Kennels: The Board licenses and inspects the over 80 kennels that obtain impounded, owner surrendered, strayed, or abandoned dogs and cats.

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

Carcass Disposal: The Board oversees and educates producers on the correct and legal disposal of livestock 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 participates in this national program which requires official identification of and Scrapie testing in sheep and goats to eradicate this disease.

Cattle Health: The Board monitors cattle populations for diseases like bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and anthrax and tracks cattle movements into and out of the state.

Exhibitions: The Board permits livestock and poultry exhibitions like county fairs and outlines the responsibilities of the fair manager and official 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 design records, although they aren't officially recognized in Minnesota.

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

Animal Disease Traceability: The Board continues advancing electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVIs) and more than 55 percent of CVIs processed last year were eCVIs. The USDA also continues moving toward electronic and has started rulemaking for RFID tags.



DISEASES ON OUR RADAR FOR 2023 AND BEYOND:



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI).



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
The Board regulates routine CWD testing of all dead or killed farmed Cervidae 12 months of age and older.



African Swine Fever (ASF). This is a Foreign Animal Disease currently causing significant mortality and morbidity in Asia, Europe and the Caribbean. The finding of ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti is the first time the disease has been diagnosed in the hemisphere since the 1980's.



Canine Brucellosis is a disease found in dogs and can potentially spread to people.

Rabies is a zoonotic disease with dangerous potential to infect people and their pets. The Board works to educate and partner with veterinarians to vaccinate domestic animals.

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.

WE ARE PART OF THE TEAM MAKING MINNESOTA A TOP AG STATE!

Minnesota is the #1 state for turkeys raised. The Board responded to 80 HPAI cases on commercial turkey farms during the 2022 outbreak. There are nearly 1,000 commercial turkey farms in the state: the Board partners with producers and veterinarians to keep birds disease-free.

Minnesota is the #2 hog producing state. The Board responded to 50 Foreign Animal Disease investigations involving pigs last year, all of which were negative. There are nearly 2,000 swine premises in the state. Many of these investigations are spurred at the processing plant and traced backward to farms. This highlights a secure supply chain with the ability to rapidly trace any suspected disease.

Minnesota is also in the top 10 nationally in cattle and dairy inventory and production. The Board's annual bovine surveillance, in cooperation with veterinarians, collects thousands of samples for diseases like tuberculosis. Routine surveillance is the key to identifying a disease early and also proves to the world we have healthy animals.

BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATES:

Staffing:

New State Veterinarian (September 2022), Assistant Director (May 2022), Compliance Unit Supervisor (July 2022). Hiring additional positions in early 2023.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health oversees companion animals.

Canine brucellosis cases were on the rise in 2022. There were 27 investigations resulting in 14 positive animals compared to the past 2 FYs in which there were 4 and 5 positive animals respectively. The increased cases of canine brucellosis were linked to dogs being imported from areas of the country where the disease is endemic in stray dogs. Each detection is disheartening because one case can lead to many more affected dogs being discovered. Since each canine brucellosis-positive dog is considered not-curable it must either be euthanized or quarantined for life. Some of the recent cases affected entire litters and Board staff tracked down individual litter mates in their new adoptive homes to evaluate the risk of disease spread.

Farmed Cervid Program:

- The Board of Animal Health, University of Minnesota and cervid farmers are collaborating to understand and stop the spread of CWD.
- Determining Genomically Estimated Breeding Value to identify animals least susceptible to CWD.

The Board of Animal Health is leveraging USDA CWD Cooperative Agreement Funding to determine the Genomically Estimated Breeding Value (GEBV) in more than 3,000 Minnesota farmed white-tailed deer. The GEBV looks at genetic markers and the animals' susceptibility to CWD. To determine the susceptibility of an individual animal, more than 100,000 regions of the white-tailed deer genome are analyzed to identify regions unique to animals known to be CWD positive. All genetic information for animals with a GEBV is saved in the North American Deer Registry database and used for comparison. A computer scans this genomic data and provides a score that shows how similar it is to CWD-positive animals. This allows geneticists to classify animals into three categories: highly susceptible, moderately susceptible, and minimally susceptible. Farmers can use those ratings to make breeding or culling decisions on their farm.

H5N1 2022 (as of 12/31/2022):

- The first cases of the current H5N1 in Minnesota were confirmed on March 25, 2022.
- 110 flocks.
 - 80 flocks in spring wave
 - 30 flocks in fall wave
- More than 4.2 million birds.
- Nearly 10,000 tests for HPAI processed by MPTL and VDL. (estimated 100,000-plus birds tested)
- 75% of cases were commercial poultry, and 25% were backyard birds.
- Based on USDA analysis of more than 3,700 full genome sequences and data, as of September 2022, at least 85% of analyzed U.S. detections in poultry premises and non-poultry flocks are consistent with independent introductions.

KEY COLLABORATIONS IN 2022:

Preventing the introduction of CWD to cervid farms.

Dr. Scott Wells, a faculty member at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, received USDA CWD Cooperative Agreement Funding to work with cervid farmers on biosecurity. This project seeks to identify risks that may expose farmed Cervidae to CWD and to develop a biosecurity plan which would reduce the risk of CWD introduction onto farms. The most recent study published by the U of M researchers showed that most CWD infections on farms in Minnesota and other states since 2015 did not result from moving CWD positive deer from another infected farm. Instead, most infected farms were in regions with CWD-positive wild deer, which could serve as a source of infection through indirect contact with farmed cervids. Additional research is needed to help cervid farmers reduce their risks of becoming infected through indirect exposures from infected wild

deer. Farmers can complete a CWD Biosecurity Assessment to prevent CWD introduction.

Multi-agency response to HPAI in Minnesota. The Board of Animal Health is a small agency with a big mission. As the number of HPAI cases increased, the board along with the veterinary diagnostic lab initially received support from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture then later from USDA federal disease response teams. These different responders collaborate as one on the Incident Management Team.

New companion animal task force. The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association requested the formation of a task force to address companion animal health concerns. The Board assembled a diverse group of individuals with companion animal expertise to tackle issues related to the 12,231 cats and dogs imported into our state by animal welfare groups and breeders in FY 22.