

ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION

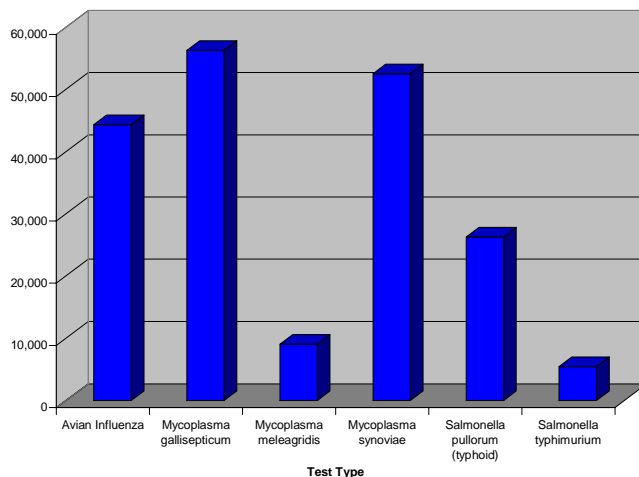
During Fiscal Year 2006, Animal Health Division has accepted and carried out program objectives under a West Virginia Legislature Special Appropriation for Animal Identification; a number of United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS) Cooperative Agreements; one West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources grant and completing a funding cycle provided by the West Virginia Homeland Security Agency. The Division has maintained surveillance on various continual Division programs that verify the animal disease-free status of the state.

Poultry Industry

West Virginia is primarily comprised of meat-type chicken and turkey producers and their parent hatching egg production flocks. This program has progressed positively with cooperation between WVDA, USDA, and the various poultry companies in the state. The companies are encouraged to perform a higher instance of testing because of the free analysis offered by the Division. The initial Avian Influenza (AI) State Response Plan has been drafted.

Activities under the AI programs include the purchase of needed equipment to handle the supplementary testing

Poultry Serological Testing



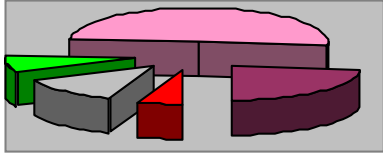
Animal Health staff attended several fairs, festivals, and calf pool meetings throughout the state to work on identifying new producers that have not yet registered their farm or premise. Staff has been successful in registering nearly two-thirds of the livestock premises in the State since the NAIS inception only a few years ago. This is one of the top rates in the country.

being completed in the Moorefield Laboratory.

West Virginia's main focus in the poultry industry, to this point has been specifically toward the commercial arena. To carry out objectives, we must move some of our focus to our lack of information regarding non-commercial flocks in the state. The Animal Health Division will begin extensive surveillance and education that will include working with owners of backyard/hobby/small production flocks, producers, and stakeholders in auctions, small sales, flea markets, swap meets, farmers markets, and feed stores to monitor for AI, promote biosecurity, and identify poultry populations with great risk of AI infection. Surveillance and control of this disease is essential to maintain free international trade and eliminate production loss due to infection. The ability for West Virginia to adequately monitor and survey for this disease will be dependant on the funding offered by USDA/APHIS to carry out the extensive activities to be completed under this agreement. WVDA will make additions to its field personnel to complete extensive outreach, education, monitoring and testing. In addition, it is imperative to locate and identify waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird breeding flocks. Site visits (GPS readings) and sample collection for exhibition-type poultry at exhibitions, swaps, shows, fairs, markets and other types of sales is necessary. Samples that would serve as risk-based surveillance for H5/H7 subtypes of Avian Influenza. Risk factors from exhibition poultry include proximity to commercial poultry operations, proximity to wildlife/waterfowl refuges, and/or location within a major migratory flyway of waterfowl.

In West Virginia there are sixteen commercial shooting preserves that "raise for release" or purchase to release upland game birds. There are thirty-four Game Farm License Dealers (birds only) that are licensed by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section. This agreement from USDA allows for testing and surveillance of these premises for AI.

Other Serological Testing



- Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (59 ELISA tests)
- Leptosporosis (142 MA Tests)
- Neospora caninum (86 ELISA tests)
- Cultures (552, all types)
- Antimicrobial Susceptibilities (250, Kirby-Bauer)

Above and above right: The laboratories at Guthrie and Moorefield complete an array of program testing and diagnostic testing from samples collected from West Virginia producers and veterinarians.

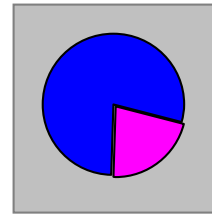
While carrying out the objectives under these programs, WVDA can ensure the health of West Virginia's largest agriculture industry – poultry.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has not stopped at poultry to ensure animal health. Our second largest and most successful program to date is the National Animal Identification System program (NAIS). USDA has offered several strategic plans on this program's implementation schedule. Upon each draft of this plan, WV continues to surpass national standards. Staff has been successful in registering nearly two-thirds of the livestock premises in the State since the NAIS inception only a few years ago. This is one of the top rates in the country. This effort has been successful in large part due to the special funding provided by the West Virginia Legislature.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has continued its focus on premise registration during the summer months with outreach and education. Our current registration is at 67%. That is nearly 8,500 of the 12,500 livestock premises in the state.

In West Virginia, brucellosis in cattle was declared eradicated in 1986. Swine brucellosis was declared eradicated in 1989, and swine pseudorabies was declared

Equine Infectious Anemia and Johne's Testing



- Equine Infectious Anemia (17,362 AGID tests)
- Johne's (4553 ELISA tests)

eradicated in the United States in 2005. The state was declared bovine tuberculosis free in 1987. Also in 1987, West Virginia was declared a *Salmonella pullorum* (typhoid) and *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* clean state for turkeys by the United States Department of Agriculture under the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

From July 05-June 06 the following testing has been performed and reported to USDA APHIS VS pursuant to annual maintenance of West Virginia's disease free certifications. The laboratories at Guthrie and Moorefield complete an array of program testing and diagnostic testing from samples from West Virginia producers and veterinarians.

Animal Health has continued its cooperative efforts with USDA-APHIS-VS by applying for and acquiring funding to carry out activities under several Cooperative Agreements. These Agreements offer funding to the Division to carry out federally approved and sponsored programs. From the September 2005 to December 2006, Animal Health has applied for

and accepted funding in the amount of \$723,771 to carry out explicit objectives under these national programs. Field staff have been busy not only promoting the health of animals coming into market places, fairs/festivals, and special sales; they have been promoting federal producer assistance programs geared toward animal health.

Non-Commerical Flock Education

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Approved until December 2006

- Johne's Disease in Cattle
- BSE in Cattle
- Scrapie in Sheep
- Garbage Feeding to Swine
- Laboratory
- Foreign Animal Disease Response (FAD)
- National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

Approved until July 2007

- Avian Influenza-project period from:
- National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)
 - Low Path Avian Influenza(LPAI)
- NPIP High Path AI (HPAI) Supplemental
- Live Bird Market System
- Upland Game Bird

There are several programs Animal Health will re-apply for from January 2007 to December 2007. It is estimated that funding will be requested in the amount of \$423,996 from the following programs for this period.

- Johne's Disease in Cattle
- Garbage Feeding in Swine
- Laboratory
- Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Response
- National Animal Identification System (NAIS)
- Scrapie in Sheep

The Division received \$40,000 from a State Department of Health and Human Resources' grant for the purchase of personal protective equipment and outreach for pandemic flu preparedness. The Cooperative Agreements that have taken priority in the Division are the four Avian Influenza programs, NAIS and FAD. USDA/APHIS/Vs has requested with our involvement in the AI Cooperative Agreements, and we prioritize the programs due to the threat of AI arriving in the Continental US.



WVDA has been working with calf pool producers to become familiar with the USDA Process Verification Program (PVP). This program is a voluntary value-added result of the ID program. Feeder calves that are source- and age-verified by the electronic tags (see calf tagging photo above) and records that producers keep, are bringing premium prices at sales. The PVP is a cooperative effort with West Virginia University Extension Service.