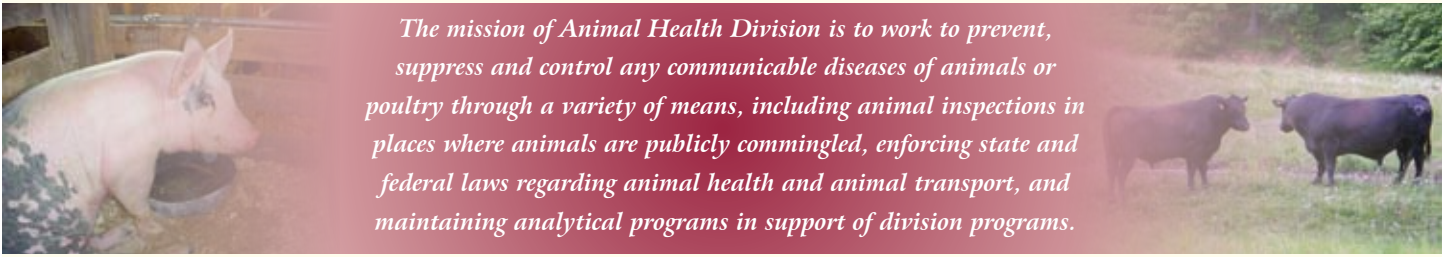


ANIMAL HEALTH



The mission of Animal Health Division is to work to prevent, suppress and control any communicable diseases of animals or poultry through a variety of means, including animal inspections in places where animals are publicly commingled, enforcing state and federal laws regarding animal health and animal transport, and maintaining analytical programs in support of division programs.

Animal Inspections

Animal Health Division Livestock Technicians examined more than 168,000 animals for signs of disease at markets, fairs and festivals – as well as on the farm. During the past year, Animal Health inspectors examined approximately 93,000 cattle, 9,370 goats, 12,826 equines, 15,680 sheep, 5,100 swine, 31,800 poultry, plus various other animals in West Virginia’s fair/festival and livestock marketing systems.

Animals are examined for health issues and to ensure they are properly identified (where required) and have valid required health certificates.

The Division conducts annual inspections of 99 Honor Flocks and maintains records on 49 Certified and Accredited Herds. The Division has also expanded regulatory efforts and outreach for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) by increasing surveillance at equine events.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes West Virginia as one of a handful of states that has crossed the 50 percent threshold in registering agricultural premises.

In addition, USDA has recognized the state for implementing the Standardized Premise Registration System (SPRS),

for focusing on equine and bovine premise registration, for improving traceback capabilities by officially identifying livestock participating in USDA disease programs and for increasing outreach and education for producers.

Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) Compliance

New federal COOL standards require retailers to develop and maintain an audit trail on the products they sell to verify the country of origin. As a result, feedlots are asking for affidavits to support country-of-origin confirmation on calves purchased. Producers must keep sufficient records to support their claim of origin. However, typical business records are sufficient to prove origin if an audit occurs. Cattle producers with production and financial records should feel confident in providing a signed affidavit on their country of origin.

Equine Issues

West Virginia changed its requirements for Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) testing to harmonize its regulations with federal standards. Equine owners must now show a negative Coggins test within the past 12 months before any change of ownership or public showing of animals. West Virginia’s previous standard was 24 months.

Reed Canary Grass

Producers and veterinarians reported an excessive number of cattle losses in southern West Virginia during the past year and WVDA was asked to assist in tracing the cause. Several possibilities, including disease, were considered, but pathologists from Virginia Tech’s Veterinary School were confident that reed

Primary Species at Premises	Estimated # of Total Premises per species	# of Premises with NAIS Premise Identification Number as of 3/31/09
Cattle	10,039	7,289
Poultry	2,283	1,231
Swine	996	770
Sheep	1,259	858
Goats	2,136	986
Equine	6,927	1,890
Aquaculture	18	18

canary grass toxicosis was a primary cause of death. Although unusual, drought conditions may have elevated the level of toxic substances in the grass. The harsh winter and the age and health of the cattle in question also may have been contributing factors.

Rabies

Animal Health officials responded to rabies outbreaks on farms in Monroe and Hardy Counties. In one case, sheep with the disease were depopulated. Another farm is under quarantine until it can be conclusively determined that no infection has occurred.

Poultry Industry

West Virginia is primarily comprised of meat-type chicken and turkey producers and their parent hatching egg production flocks. Commercial poultry is the state's largest agricultural sector, with a \$220 million annual value of production. Poultry disease surveillance is essential to protect a valuable rural industry, and to ensure that foreign markets remain open to U.S. poultry.

West Virginia's main focus in the poultry industry has historically been in the commercial arena. However, to protect commercial birds, as well as "backyard" flocks, Animal Health Division increased attention on the non-commercial flocks in the state. Animal Health Division is registering non-commercial poultry owners and has implemented an education program aimed at owners of small, non-commercial poultry flocks and small-scale sales operations, such as auctions, flea markets, swap meets, farmers markets and feed stores.

The Division is attempting to reach a broader audience with our message of good biosecurity practices and the danger avian influenza (AI) poses to small farms and West Virginia's commercial poultry industry. AI surveillance and control of this disease

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is essential to maintain free international trade and eliminate production losses due to infection.

Scrapie

Animal Health Division participates in the USDA Scrapie Surveillance Program by providing outreach and education about scrapie, as well as testing rams and ewes so




that producers can identify genetically resistant stock for use in breeding programs. The national goal is to eliminate scrapie from the United States.

Disease Status

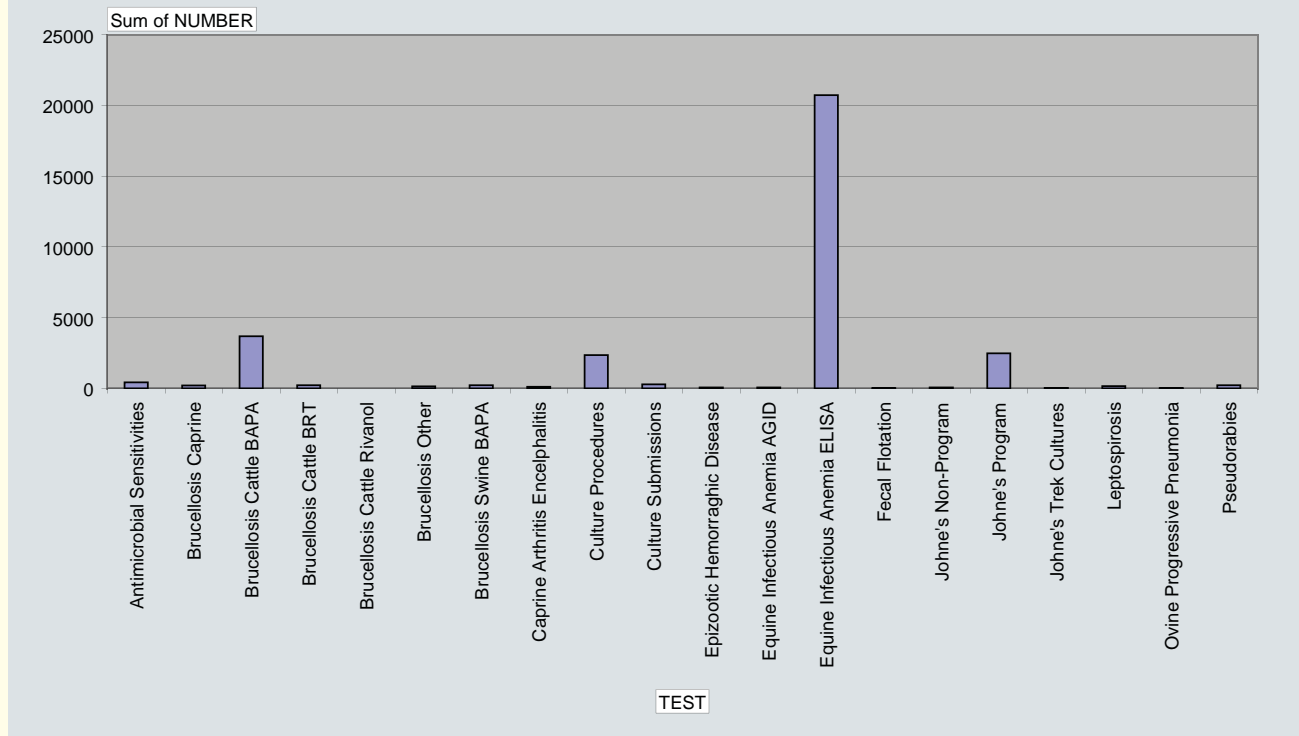
In West Virginia, brucellosis in cattle was eradicated in 1986. Swine brucellosis was eradicated in 1989, and swine pseudorabies was eradicated in the United States in 2005. The state was declared bovine tuberculosis free in 1987. Also in 1987, West Virginia was declared a *Salmonella pullorum* (typhoid) and *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* clean state for turkeys by the USDA under the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

From July 2008 through June 2009, testing has been performed and reported to USDA-APHIS-VS [Veterinary Services] pursuant to annual maintenance of West Virginia's disease-free certifications. Free status must be maintained in order to avoid import and export restrictions on West Virginia livestock. 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.



Animal Health staff swab a pheasant for Avian Influenza testing. This was a hands-on exercise that involved biosecurity training, captive training and testing.

GUTHRIE LABORATORY TESTING



Guthrie Laboratory Testing

Identification, eradication and maintenance of disease free status for West Virginia are essential functions of the Animal Health Division. Testing for brucellosis and pseudorabies is conducted in the Guthrie Laboratory to ensure this. Testing records are maintained by division staff.

Homeland Security Annual Progress Report

The WVDA's Homeland Security Section provides training, guidance and preparation for emergency response situations that may present themselves to the Department. Education of staff and stakeholders relating to awareness of disease, disaster or other emergency situations is paramount. Knowledge of available physical and human resources, both within the WVDA and throughout the community, are important keys to response preparation. It is important to keep a well-trained, well-informed staff with equipment in good working order and with sufficient supplies to respond quickly if need arises.

Activities include training and response events. The WVDA has an ongoing learning curve based on actual situations, with modifications for improvement predicated on analyses of difficulties encountered in actual responses. Community awareness of WVDA resources is a part of our interactive commitment. The activities of WVDA's Homeland Security Division cross many departmental, governmental and civic lines. Preparation along with education and outreach to other agencies is at the forefront of our objectives.