

NYS Accredited Vet Newsletter

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Spring 2012

Division of Animal Industry

IMPROVEMENT NEEDED WITH CATTLE CFT RESPONDER RATES

Last year, the number of live cattle exported from the United States doubled to 190,538. This is in addition to a 50% increase in 2010. Surprisingly, the majority of these animals are being imported by Turkey and Russia. A temporary export inspection facility was set up last year in Turner, Maine where 25 shipments, approximately 17,000 head of dairy cattle, were shipped.

The increase of exports of live cattle has led to greater scrutiny of the United States cattle tuberculosis testing procedures. The specificity of the caudal tail fold test in cattle has been established as 98% to 99%. Thus, the average response rate for caudal fold testing in tuberculosis free cattle should be 1 to 2 percent. Responses are usually due to exposure to other acid fast organisms like saprophytic strains of *Mycobacterium avium*. These exposures and the subsequent caudal fold reactivity tend to be seen in clusters, not uniformly. Thus 50 or 100 cows might be tested on one farm without a reaction while a test of a smaller group with different environmental exposures could result in multiple responses.

In 2005 and 2006, response rates in New York were 0.18 and 0.19, respectively. The department began to send out copies of USDA Veterinary Services memorandum 552.15 with each tuberculin order in August of 2006. The response rate has averaged 0.45% since then. It has been a considerable improvement but still less than the 1% to 2% response rate expected. Last year in New York, 144 accredited veterinarians did 9,890 caudal tail fold tuberculosis tests on cattle. Only 36 responses were reported for a response rate of 0.36%. Nationally, the response rate is 1.44%.

As exports of United States cattle increase, our trading partners are starting to question the low caudal tail fold response rates on tests done by private accredited veterinarians. In many countries, full time regulatory veterinarians do all of the export testing. In the United States, we have trusted that our accredited veterinarians will read the tests impartially and report all response.

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It is assumed that all accredited veterinarians are capable of doing an intradermal injection correctly and that the injecting veterinarian is reading the test at 72 plus or minus 6 hours post injection. However there is some anecdotal information that some veterinarians due to poor training or complacency are not reporting all responders.

NY Accredited Vet Stats:

Fed FY2011— 9,890 CFT tests on bovine in NYS with 36 responders reported = 0.364% responder rate

#Accred Vets doing CFT in NYS—144

Fed FY2010— 8,252 CFT tests on bovine in NYS with 36 responders reported = 0.44% responder rate

Accred Vets doing CFT in NYS—143

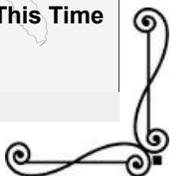


Nationally:

Fed FY 2010— ~1.3 million CFT tests on bovine with 18,719 responders reported = 1.44% responder rate

Accred Vets doing CFT nationally — 5,154

Fed FY 2011 Data Not Available at This Time



The USDA Veterinary Services Memorandum (552.15) noted above states:

“Reading the test- The tail must be raised sufficiently to stretch the caudal fold slightly. Palpate the length of the caudal fold thickness that was injected for responses. Any increase in caudal fold thickness either observed or palpated at the site of injection is considered a response.”

The department currently has 10 regional field veterinarians trained to do the follow up comparative cervical test. The list can be found at: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/DAI-Internet-Field-Phone-List.pdf>.

The comparative cervical test must be injected within 7 days of the caudal fold read date. The comparative cervical test takes 72 hours between injection and reading. It is imperative to call a regional veterinarian or the Albany office as soon as possible after a response on a caudal tail fold test is read so that the comparative cervical test can be done immediately. Failure to notify us in a timely manner may result in the farm being quarantined for 60 days. (If the comparative cervical test is not done within 7 days of the caudal fold test read, it cannot be done for 60 days.)

It should be emphasized to dealers and farmers that cattle are not automatically negative on the caudal tail fold test and they are taking a risk to line up trucking of the cattle for the day the animals are being read. If there are imminent time constraints that cannot be avoided, it may be wise to call your regional veterinarian to see if they will be available to do a follow-up comparative cervical test soon after the caudal tail fold test read date. If you are injecting on Monday or Tuesday and the regional veterinarian can make it to the farm on Friday, the cattle can be cleared by the following Monday, three or four days sooner than if the regional veterinarian tests them the following week.



USDA Veterinary Services has a new veterinarian based at **JFK International Airport**. In addition to managing the importation of livestock into the United States, **Dr. Lori Harms** is available to assist **pet exporters and veterinary practitioners with health certification**. Please continue to use the USDA Veterinary Services office in Albany for international movement of livestock and small animal certificates being mailed to USDA for review. Pet owners and agents wishing to present health certificates for review and stamping in person at the JFK airport location should contact Dr. Harms at **718-553-3570** for more information, or check out the following web site: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/states/newyork_info.html

YOUR RENEWAL IN THE NATIONAL VETERINARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (NVAP)

Veterinary Accreditation renewals will be coming due beginning in January 2013. The following information is directly quoted from the NVAP website (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/>):

You have been assigned an Accreditation Renewal Date (ARD). If you do not know your ARD, contact your local USDA APHIS VS Area Office (NY=518-218-7540). If the NVAP has your correct e-mail address in your accreditation records, an e-mail reminder of your renewal will be sent to you at six (6), three (3), and one (1) month prior to your ARD. It is essential that if you change your e-mail address, you notify your local USDA APHIS VS Area Office so that they can update your record. If you did not provide an e-mail address, the NVAP will send you a reminder notice via USPS prior to your ARD.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do not submit anything related to your completion of APHIS-approved supplemental training (AAST) for accreditation renewal prior to six (6) months before your renewal date.



As our mild winter comes to an end, it's time to start thinking about spring vaccinations, deworming and other routine preventative care as the weather warms up. From a regulatory perspective, it seems we dodged the "neuropathic EHV-1 bullet" that we've seen during the cold, damp, winter months in New York in recent years. It's now time to shift our focus to arboviruses – specifically to Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) as mosquitoes reemerge.

Since 2009, confirmed equine cases of EEE in NYS have been on the rise. In 2009, there were 7 cases, in 2010 there were 10 cases and last year there were 12 cases. Unfortunately, since 2009, there was a human fatality each year in NYS due to EEE. There were 2 other confirmed human fatalities from EEE in NYS history – 1971 and 1983. Last year, we had the novel finding of EEE in two Saint Bernard pups in Central New York. As experts try to determine the reasons for the recent increases in human and animal mortalities, we need to continue to be vigilant and proactive both as veterinary professionals and public health professionals.

Due to the tragic death of the child near Oswego last year from EEE, there is a great deal of attention and legitimate concern about the disease. Accordingly, there is a renewed emphasis to spread the message about defending both humans and animals against mosquito-borne disease.

Here are three important points:



- First I'd like all veterinarians in contact with horse owners to remind them of the benefits, efficacy, and affordability of equine vaccines. There's no good reason for any horse to die in NY from EEE or WNV.
- Second, I want to emphasize that since EEE, WNV and rabies are reportable zoonoses, both private and regulatory vets play important roles in protecting both animal and human health. With EEE and WNV, symptomatic horses may serve to warn of heightened disease risk in a geographic area prompting humans to take necessary precautions. The Division of Animal Industry and the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab are available to assist all New York veterinarians with sample submissions and reporting.
- Third, you need to know that the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Animal Industry (NYSDAM-DAI), will be increasing its outreach efforts directly to horse owners about arboviruses. In response to this outreach, you may see an uptick in inquiries about arboviruses, prevention and vaccination. Whenever possible, NYSDAM-DAI will post outreach materials on our webpage and continue to inform you, our accredited veterinarians, of these outreach efforts and confirmed equine arboviral cases this summer through our e-Alert system.

Lastly, we all need to remember that here in NY; we always need to keep **rabies** in the differential list when confronted with a patient exhibiting CNS deficits. Good communications with your local public health officials is important in these situations. A directory of local health departments can be found at www.nysacho.org. You can reach the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at **518-473-4439**. If you need assistance working with your Local Health Department or the NYS Department of Health about a potential rabies case, please call us. The Division of Animal Industry number is **518-457-3502**. After business hours, emergency calls are forwarded to the State Office of Emergency Management who will contact either me or one of my staff to respond. The New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab is available at **607-253-3900**. For equine disease issues, you should ask for Dr. Linda Mittel at the Lab.



HELPFUL WILDLIFE HEALTH LINKS AT NYSDEC WEBSITE

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's website above is a helpful source of information about common questions that you may get about wild animals. This site can provide guidance about the following topics:

- What to do if you find orphaned wildlife
- How to report injured wildlife
- What to do if you see a wild animal that appears to be diseased*
- What do if you see a dead animal*
- What do if you encounter an animal that looks rabid*
- What to do if you find a cat or dog in a wild animal trap

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/261.html



There is also information about wild animal diseases like brain worm infestation and EHD to topics about the feeding and care of young wildlife.

*Remember that the appearance of diseased or dead in some wildlife species may be an early indicator of disease that could affect domestic livestock. Do not completely disregard all morbidity and mortality in wildlife as just caused by natural or non-infectious causes. We need to be thinking about the 'big picture' of reportable or emerging diseases.

2012 STATE AND COUNTY FAIRS

The 2012 Fair season is just around the corner. For **Category 2 vets** who will be issuing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) or performing other official tests for exhibition animals, please review the NY requirements for animals entering NY state and county fairs. There are not many changes from 2011. This link will take you to the NY fair requirements: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/AIHome.html> Scroll to the section called "County and State Fair Information."

For your convenience, if you have clients who are *showing animals in nearby states*, we have links to fair regulations in PA, MA, NJ, CT, VT.

PA: http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_24476_10297_0_43/AgWebsite/PublicationDetail.aspx?name=Fair-Rules-2012&navid=11&parentnavid=0&pubid=746& Click on "[Download]"

MA: http://www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/docs/Fair_%20Regs_%202012.pdf

NJ: <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/FairRequirements.pdf> - available by April 1

CT: <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1367&Q=259102&doagPNavCtr=#39911>

VT: <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/fscp/animalHealth/regulations.html> - click on 'Importation Regs,' there are no specific fair regs per se



NY VETERINARY MEDICAL LICENSE C.E. (CONTINUING ED) LINKS

Occasionally the Division of Animal Industry gets calls about the new continuing education requirements for NY veterinary medical licenses. Even though NY veterinary medical licenses are under the jurisdiction of the NYS Education Department, Office of the Professions, we will try to keep you informed of any updates to this new requirement. Here are two links to the NYS Education Dept website which you may find helpful.

The first link is a general FAQ sheet about C.E. <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/vetmed/vetcefaqs.htm/prof/vetmed/>

The second link is a table which shows you how many C.E. credits you will need to complete before you renew your license. <http://www.op.nysed.gov/vetmed/vettable.pdf>

Remember, there is continuing education requirements for both your veterinary license and your veterinary accreditation.

The European Union is enforcing a new certificate for dogs, cats, and ferrets for entry into European Union member countries.

The new certificate, which is required as of March 1, 2012 can be found on the USDA-APHIS website at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_european_union.shtml

An annotated version of the certificate, with instructions on how to properly complete the certificate are also found on the same website.

Bilingual certificates will be available under the individual EU Member State's name and can be found by going to:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

And clicking the letter at the bottom of the page that corresponds with the first letter of the importing country's name.



The significant changes in the new certificates are as follows:

1. Rabies titers are no longer required for entry into **any** EU Member State.
2. Tick treatment is no longer required for entry into **any** EU Member State.
3. Echinococcus (tapeworm) treatment required only for dogs traveling to the UK, Ireland, Finland and Malta. The treatment schedule has changed and must now occur not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before the time of scheduled entry into these Member States.
4. The certificate is now **only valid for 10 days** from the date of issue.
 - a. For countries requiring tapeworm treatment (The United Kingdom, Ireland, Malta, and Finland) the treatment must be completed before USDA APHIS can endorse the certificate. This makes the health certificate functionally valid for a maximum of 5 days from the date of issue.

The animal must still be implanted with a microchip prior to rabies vaccination for entry into the European Union. These new certificates are significantly different than the previous versions of the European Union certificates so please use care when completing the certificate. If you have any questions you may contact the USDA office at 518-218-7540 or by email at: vspsny@aphis.usda.gov

CATEGORY 2 VETS — We have been receiving calfhood brucellosis vaccination charts and TB test records with 12 of 15 digit ear tags recorded as the official ID. It took some clever thinking to figure out that the first 3 digits were '840.' When filling out any accredited paperwork or test records where official ID is required, please record ALL LETTERS AND NUMBERS from each ear tag. The only situation where fragments of ID may be recorded is when multiple animals that are consecutively listed on one form have a common fragment of common letters or numbers which would allow the use of the 'down arrow' denoting that all animals written below have tags with that part of their ID number in common.

Do not shorten any ear tag sequence on paperwork by omitting the '840' of a 15 digit number tag, if all 15 numbers are listed on the tag. Please do not assume we know it is an '840' tag. Fifteen digit tag numbers which start with the manufacturer code numbers (i.e. 982, 985) are still in use. Imported Canadian cattle have 15 digit tags that start with '124.' Herd management numbers and animal names are not 'official ID.' Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in this matter because recording all numbers is critical for traceability purposes.

~Special thanks to Dr. Belinda Thompson for the front page photograph~