

THE NEW YORK STATE HORSE HEALTH ASSURANCE PROGRAM



The NYSHHAP, a voluntary certification program, is designed to promote and teach a pro-active approach (or "an ounce of prevention" theory) to equine health, care, and welfare through the use of certain "best management practices" or standards.

The equine industry has unique challenges relative to biosecurity protocols due to the public traffic in facilities, increased travel of animals, increased importation of animals, lack of adequate quarantine areas for newly purchased animals, and limited options for manure disposal.

"Biosecurity" is more commonly associated with cattle operations than equine operations. However, recent outbreaks at equine facilities of infectious diseases like Equine Herpes Virus and Strangles warrant the need for equine biosecurity. The risk of infectious disease is best reduced by the use of biosecurity standards (or sanitary day-to-day practices) and routine attention to facility management.

The program provides a biosecurity plan and identifies areas of risk common to all equine operations, which include aspects of the farm operation, horse care, and personnel management. The plan focuses on animal health, animal/human traffic patterns, commodities, manure, and pastures.

A resource manual was developed and within this *Standards and Certification Manual*, each of these areas of risk is addressed with its own set of standards. After each standard, an explanation of the potential hazards it attempts to eliminate is provided. Operations are asked to use their veterinarian as a source of information and help in implementing the program.

The farm must be in 100% compliance with these basic equine management standards to be certified and once certified must pass an annual inspection to maintain their enrollment in the program.

The *Standards and Certification Manual* is provided free to anyone requesting a copy as well as an *Addendum of Sample Guidelines* which provides written protocols for implementing some of the standards.

Certification Process: The certification process involves the evaluation of each equine operation against the standards outlined in the *Standards and Certification Manual*. Steps to certification include the following:
1. Request the application and *Standards and Certification Manual* from the NYSHHAP Coordinator: Contact Dr. Lyda W. Denney at lyda.denney@agmkt.state.ny.us or call 315-430-2529

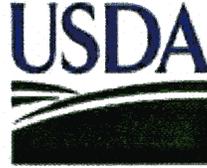
2. Complete the "Certification Self Study" form included in the manual on page 45; submit to NYSHHAP Coordinator: Dr. Lyda W. Denney, PO Box 809, Vernon, NY 13476

3. The operation will be contacted by the NYSHHAP Coordinator to schedule a certification visit with the NYSHHAP Coordinator; the same standards are used at the operation visit that were evaluated in the Certification Self Study step by the operation

4. Receive certification acknowledging the achievement at the time of the operation visit

Recognition: Once approved, the Division of Animal Industry will provide operations with a NYSHHAP "Certified Member" recognition sign, a "Biosecurity" sign, a certificate acknowledging exceptional commitment to horse health management, a notebook containing educational materials, a disinfectant mat, disinfectant, and a medical waste container. A "Microchip Benefit" has recently been introduced which entitles member operations to a supply of microchips and a reader at no cost. The microchip yields both a unique identification number as well as the animal's temperature when read!

We encourage horse operations, large and small, private and commercial to consider participating in the New York State Horse Health Assurance program. It provides a mechanism to manage a number of health risks associated with equine populations. Your participation and input will also drive the evolution of the program to better respond to future challenges. You may receive further information by contacting Dr. Lyda Denney: phone #315-430-2529, e-mail lyda.denney@agmkt.state.ny.us



Clarification of the Accreditation Standards for Accuracy of Certification of Inspection for Animals Moving in Interstate Commerce on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

The requirements governing the issuance of certificates are covered in title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 161.3, Standards for Accredited Veterinarian Duties. Specifically, 161.3(a) (1) states:

(1) Following the first two inspections of a herd or flock as part of a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal within 10 days prior to issuance.

(2) Following the third and subsequent inspections of a herd or flock in a regular health maintenance program, an accredited veterinarian shall not issue a certificate, form, record or report which reflects the results of any inspection, test, vaccination or treatment performed by him or her with respect to any animal in that program, unless he or she has personally inspected that animal within 30 days prior to issuance.

These standards require an accredited veterinarian to issue certificates that reflect the actual inspections that veterinarian has conducted. Specifically, if the animals being shipped were not inspected, the statements on the certificate should attest to the animals that the veterinarian did inspect, i.e., in the case of early weaned pigs, the sow herd which produced the early weaned pigs.

A clear example of these different types of statements is included on the VS Form 17-6: Certificate for Poultry or Hatching Eggs for Export. This certificate provides specific certification based on the flock of origin. The statement for hatching eggs or day old chicks allows accredited veterinarians to certify that "the flock or flocks and the hatchery or hatcheries from which the above-describe hatching eggs or newly hatching poultry originated were inspected by me or another accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to shipment...and found free from evidence of communicable diseases." This statement allows for movement of hatching eggs or day old chicks based on an accurate certification of the flock health status and inspection of the flock. However, the statement for poultry other than those just described attests to the inspection of the individual birds in question, and therefore those individual birds must have been inspected within the past 30 days before an accredited veterinarian can attest to that fact.

In summary:

The accreditation standards require accredited veterinarians to accurately attest to inspections they have conducted when preparing certificates reflecting such inspections. These standards do not require that animals born or hatched into a flock in a regular health maintenance program since the last inspection be individually inspected prior to movement, but they do require that the certificate accurately reflect whether veterinarians inspected the animal being moved or inspected the flock or herd of origin.