Equine EEE Cases for 2010 Already Ties 2009’s Case Numbers

Late last week, the Division of Animal Industry learned about 3 additional confirmed cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Upstate NY. These 3 new cases bring the total to date to 7. In 2009, there were a total of 7 confirmed equine EEE cases.

The 5th and 6th cases were from the same premise. The horses lived in Onondaga County, near the Oswego County border. These hackney crosses went down acutely and had no vaccination history, according to the private veterinarian. There are other horses on the premises, none of which are showing signs of illness. Brain samples were sent to NYSDOH’s Wadsworth Center for Rabies and Arboviral testing. Only the EEE test results were positive.

The 7th case was an unvaccinated 2 year old mare from Pulaski, NY, in Oswego out on pasture, was found ataxic by its owner. When brought into the barn, the horse went down. The private vet reported deteriorating symptoms including decreased gut sounds, fever and uncoordinated head movement. After two days of unsuccessful “home remedies” by the owner, the horse’s blood was sampled for West Nile Virus (WNV) before it died. Blood samples were sent to the NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University. Upon receipt of the blood samples, the private vet was called and urged to test the samples for EEE as well. The private vet agreed and the samples were forwarded to NVSL for EEE testing as well. The test results for this mare were negative for WNV but positive for EEE on IgM Capture ELISA.

There have been no confirmed equine cases of West Nile Virus in NY to date.

Please remember that all neurologic equine cases need to be reported to the Division of Animal Industry as well as the local health department. Ideally, all neurologic cases should include rabies in the differential diagnosis list.

What is this?? Test your Swine Health Knowledge

~Sick pigs noticed at a 2010 county fair 2 days after check-in. Small group of pigs (6 total) were affected in the group.

~Red, raised areas of skin all over the body, high fevers (of around 105 degrees F), lethargy, off feed

~Attending vet at the fair started the animals on penicillin. The animals were sent home immediately to continue antibiotic treatment and supportive care.

~The vet at the fair told the owners that this condition has zoonotic potential.....

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS???
(see page 4 for answer)
The USDA-APHIS announced on September 28, 2010, that they have extended the deadline for accredited veterinarians who wish to participate in the NVAP. Accredited veterinarians who have not yet signed up for the new accreditation program can still do so, even though the original August 2, 2010, deadline has passed. Veterinarians who would like to sign up should go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/. On this website there are instructions for veterinarians who are currently accredited and for veterinarians who are interested in becoming accredited for the first time.

For those accredited veterinarians who already signed up for the NVAP and are waiting for their VS1-36A form to be processed, please be patient. The NVAP staff is working diligently to get the forms processed. Currently, there are nearly 1,300 actively accredited vets in New York who had their form processed and have received their new 6 digit national accreditation number (NAN). This number is increasing steadily every day.

Once you receive your NAN, be sure to write all 6 digits on any form that requires your new accreditation number. Do not omit any zeroes at the beginning of your NAN. This is critical in identifying you as an accredited veterinarian. Think of it this way, would you omit a zero at the beginning of your social security number? Once you receive official notification of your new NAN, start using your NAN immediately.

For those veterinarians who have yet to sign up or decide upon Category 1 or Category 2 status, keep this in mind—‘birds’ include all avian species from parakeets to poultry. This fact may sway your decision. If you see pet birds in your practice, you will need to select Category 2. On a similar note, if you were accredited under the old system and you chose Category 1, you can no longer do accredited work on avian species.

There is not much new to report regarding the continuing education requirements for the NVAP. Expect to see online materials next spring (2011) at the earliest. When new information becomes available, we will let you know.

**Bovine FAD Investigation**

A cow calf operation in Western NY was the location of a recent foreign animal disease (FAD) investigation. On a Friday afternoon, a herdsman noticed one of his mixed breed brood cows breathing heavy and shaking her head. Over the weekend these signs improved but her teats had darkened in color. The private vet was called out on Tuesday to examine the cow. The cow got separated from her calf when bringing her into the chute for the exam, which consequently brought on aggressive behavior from the cow. The private vet noticed scaly skin and crusting on the muzzle and teats. Sloughed skin was also observed from the nostrils and around the eyes. The cow had conjunctivitis but no corneal abnormalities. The vet didn’t take a rectal temperature but obtained blood samples. The blood samples were sent to the NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (NYSVDL) requesting tests for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF), Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), Bluetongue, and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). For those who don’t routinely work with cattle, most of these diseases are reportable to state and federal animal health officials!

Once the samples arrived at the lab, the lab was very concerned about the list of requested tests and clinical history written on the lab submission form. Lab personnel contacted the private vet about his submission. The private vet then contacted one of the Division of Animal Industry’s field veterinarians to discuss his findings. Both vets agreed to meet the same day (Wednesday) at the farm to examine the cow.

Later on Wednesday, both vets and the owner re-examined the cow. The cow’s maternal instincts around her calf and her normally aggressive temperament made a thorough exam difficult and dangerous. However the DAI field vet, who is also a foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD), agreed with the gross findings. The FADD called the DAI and USDA-APHIS-VS offices in Albany to initiate an official FAD investigation. After
1) **Eligibility Requirements for NYS Contract Case Pricing:** submissions must meet all the following criteria:

- The herd, flock or animal is located in New York State and is being raised for food and/or fiber production. Horses suspected of having a condition that may threaten the health of other animals or humans are covered. When special situations or conditions arise, a New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Veterinarian or his/her designee will make the final determination with respect to eligibility for Contract Case Pricing.
- The history of the case suggests a condition or contagious/infectious disease that would threaten other animals or humans.
- The animals are experiencing a condition previously undiagnosed in their herd or flock. Surveillance testing to monitor, control or eradicate previously diagnosed or endemic conditions does not qualify for contract pricing.
- Samples must be submitted by a licensed veterinarian or veterinarian employed by a New York State university.
- A completed lab General Submission Form must accompany all sample submissions. The form must include:
  - Complete history of the animals or samples submitted including the herd size and date of onset in the herd/flock, the morbidity and mortality rate for the herd/flock, as well as a summary of the clinical signs, course of the disease, and response to treatment (additional information can be attached to the form).
  - Complete veterinarian and owner identification and contact information, including phone numbers.
  - Available Federal Premises ID number.

   Additionally:

   A) Samples from up to 10 representative animals from an affected premises can be submitted as a single case problem except for necropsies which are limited to 3 animals per case. Samples exceeding this limit will be billed at full price.
   
   B) Disease conditions in other types of animals may be considered for Contract Case Pricing if the disease or condition has implications for livestock and/or public health.

2) **Contract Case Pricing Fees**

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will subsidize the clients of the NYSVDL who submit samples that are eligible for Contract Case Pricing by limiting the maximum cost per submission to $50.00 (as of 12.1.08). Tests that generally do not qualify for Contract Case Pricing include but are not limited to the following:

- Endocrinology Tests
- Clinical Pathology Tests
- Toxicology Tests
- Comparative Coagulation Tests
- Tests referred to other laboratories
- Routine Wound Cultures
- Surgical biopsy histopathology

Necropsy costs for NYS Contract Cases are only partially subsidized, limiting the maximum cost per submission to $100.00. This price includes all ancillary tests which would qualify under Contract Case Pricing.

A separate New York State subsidized fee of $15.00 applies to virus isolation.

**Keep NY’s Animal Agriculture Healthy!**
Dr. Elizabeth Bunting is the most recent addition to the Veterinary Support Services group at the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University. Dr. Bunting’s primary responsibility will be to provide consultation on diagnostic submissions and test results for zoo, wildlife and exotic animal species. A 1997 graduate of the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Bunting became interested in wildlife medicine while working as a student intern at Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, a large avian rehabilitation hospital. She worked in the Philadelphia area for 5 years as a small and exotic animal private veterinarian at the Philadelphia Zoo before a residency in zoo and wildlife medicine, as well as research projects in penguin pharmacology and exotic cat nutrition. She is interested in fostering collaborative research in zoo and wildlife health.

Dr. Bunting may be reached at the NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at 607-253-3900.

Welcome Dr. Bunting!

Food and Drug Recall Mobile Phone App

Test Your Swine Health Knowledge - ERYSIPELAS! (“Diamond Skin Disease”) Page 4

The pigs at the local fair had erysipelas. (Here’s a refresher courtesy of the Merck Veterinary Manual.)

Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae can become endemic on farms since it can survive in soil, water, decaying organic matter and car- and oronasal secretions of infected pigs Recovered pigs can be lifelong carriers of the disease. Clinical dis- Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae is usually localized and is termed erysipeloid. It should not be confused with erysipelas in humans, a superficial cellulitis caused by a group A beta-hemolytic strep.

Zoonotic note: In humans, infection from Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae is usually localized and is termed erysipeloid. It should not be confused with erysipelas in humans, a superficial cellulitis caused by a group A beta-hemolytic strep.


Veterinary Support Services Adds a New Veterinarian to the Team—Dr. Bunting

The NYS Dept of Ag & Markets, Division of Animal Industry will be having a booth at the NYS Veterinary Conference on October 1-2 at Cornell University. Be sure to stop by and visit Drs. McConnon and Scrafford in the Hagan Room.

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Dr. Bunting may be reached at the NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at 607-253-3900.

Welcome Dr. Bunting!

Food and Drug Recall Mobile Phone App
The Division of Animal Industry has made some important changes to the AI-4 form, “Certificate of Veterinary Inspection—Interstate Shipment.” The current form, with a revision date of 8/08 in the upper left corner, is used for interstate movement of cattle, sheep, goats, cervidae, swine or ‘other.’

The AI-4 has now been revised to now include horses on the certificate. Previously, horses had their own certificate of veterinary inspection for interstate movement, the AI-2 (revision date of 6/04). With the addition of horses to the AI-4, the Division of Animal Industry will no longer be distributing the AI-2 forms effective October 15, 2010.

There were 2 main reasons to add the horse category onto the AI-4 form—one was a cost cutting measure and the other was to enhance traceability. In an effort to decrease printing costs of forms used in the office, all Division forms are analyzed to determine if any forms can be combined. The AI-2 and AI-4 is one such example where this could occur. Many other states have successfully produced CVIs with both livestock and equine requirements on the same form. Second, and most importantly, the old AI-2 form, had no serial number on each form. This was a problem when a traceback investigation was necessary. There was no way to know to which veterinarian the form had been issued. Also unnumbered forms are easier to alter and misuse. You will notice that the redesigned AI-4 is not too much different from the existing AI-4.

Here are a few key things to note:
- the new AI-4 form will be available around October 15, 2010
- the AI-2 forms still in circulation will still be accepted, but once you run out, you will receive the new AI-4
- if you have AI-2 forms right now and would like to receive new AI-4 forms when they become available, please contact Gerard or Mary Beth at 518-457-1709
- for those vets more familiar with the AI-2, the distribution of colored copies of the new AI-4 has a slightly different order than that of the AI-2, please be sure to take note of that when distributing the colored copies
- please remember that only one species is allowed per CVI, do not put multiple species on the same CVI (i.e.-petting zoos, circuses, other travelling exhibits)
- you can continue to use existing AI-4 forms if you would like for livestock

Other states, as well as the USDA, will be notified of the form change. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Courtney McCracken at 518-457-3502.

The New Combined CVI for Interstate Shipment (AI-4) to now include Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets – Division of Animal Industry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alleva New York 12345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>518-457-3502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 518-457-3502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certification of Veterinary Inspection - Interstate Shipment

- Date of Shipment: CVI to remain in effect for 30 days following the date of inspection.
- Horse Category: Only one horse per CVI.
- Other States, USDA will be notified of the form change.

Please contact Dr. Courtney McCracken at 518-457-3502 for any questions.

[Draft Illustration of New AI-4 Form]
discussions with the owner, the owner elected the euthanize the cow for diagnostic and safety purposes.

On Thursday morning, the cow was euthanized. Two DAI field vets, both FADDs, performed the necropsy and took official samples to be sent to Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab– Plum Island, NY. The necropsy findings revealed a crusty nose with thickened skin around the mucocutaneous junctions of the nose and mouth. The ventral tip of the tongue had yellow crusting. Skin on the teats and udder was darkened, thickened and peeling. No fresh vesicles were seen. There were no lesions around the coronary bands on any of the feet. The internal organs were normal except for evidence of rounded edges on the liver. There was also liver abscesses grossly observed.

The test results from FADDL-Plum Island were negative for VSV and FMD. The MCF and BVD tests, which were not completed at FADDL-Plum Island were negative as well. However, the cow was positive for Parapoxvirus. Parapoxvirus may not account for all of the lesions seen but fortunately, the diagnosis was not a foreign animal disease.

However, there is an important lesson or two to take from this story. We really cannot emphasize this enough, especially in light of the recent Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Japan where FMD was noticed but went unreported for days:

1) Lesions such as sloughed skin or vesicles on muzzles, teats, feet, etc. warrant including foreign animal diseases on your differential list and warrant an immediate call to a state or federal animal health official. Since foreign animal diseases are extremely contagious, do not wait until you get back to the office at the end of the day to make the call. Timely response can limit a potentially serious disease outbreak.

2) Whenever diseases such as VSV or FMD are on your differential list for a case, you should be calling the Division of Animal Industry or USDA APHIS VS for assistance before you submit laboratory specimens. Many of our veterinarians received Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) training at Plum Island and can assist you with collecting the correct specimens, selection of proper transport media, and getting the samples to the most appropriate lab to diagnose the suspected diseases.

3) State and federal agencies are here to help you “on the front lines.” We know that there are situations where you will see lesions that look suspicious but end up being nothing serious. However, it is not worth risking the health of the US herd to take the “wait and see” approach to these cases. Many times these investigations turn out to be nothing serious. We are glad to see those investigations end and no one will criticize you for being cautious. If you are need the assistance of a FADD, the Division of Animal Industry has 13 FADDs on staff and USDA-APHIS-VS New York office has 9 FADDs on staff to assist you anytime you have a question or concern.

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**Parapoxvirus, aka Pseudocowpox, “Milker's Nodules”**

Pseudocowpox is in the family of pox diseases. Pox diseases are acute viral diseases that affect many animals, including humans. Typically these diseases involve lesions of the skin and mucosae that progress from macules to papules, vesicles and pustules before crusting and healing.

Pseudocowpox is a common, mild infection of the udder and teats of cattle. It is closely related to 'orf' and bovine popular stomatitis. Lesions begin as small, red papules on the teats or udder. The skin can then start to scab. After several months, the teats can have a rough feel and appearance, which can be confused with traumatic injury. Control of infection within a herd is difficult and depends essentially on hygienic measures.

Humans can become infected with painless but itchy purplish red nodules on the fingers and hands. These lesions usually disappear after several weeks.