



Animal Health News



Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and Coggins Forms

As a reminder, the Agency of Agriculture is no longer providing paper copies of Coggins test forms or Vermont Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. Veterinarians have a number of alternate options to obtain these forms - please visit the [Animal Health website](#) to review. If you are interested in utilizing the free of charge Vermont electronic CVI pdf or the Ipad application for Vermont CVIs, please call the Animal Health Office at (802) 828-2421 to schedule a training with Dr. Mehlenbacher.

Avian Influenza Update

Since December 2014, the [United States Department of Agriculture](#) has confirmed many cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in the Pacific, Central, and Mississippi flyways (or migratory bird paths).

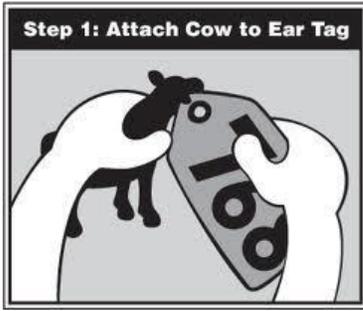
The disease has been found in wild birds, as well as in multiple backyard and commercial poultry flocks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections to be low. No human cases of these HPAI H5 viruses have been detected in the United States or internationally. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has posted a number of resources, including biosecurity recommendations for poultry producers, on the [Animal Health website](#).



Influenza in poultry falls into two groups: low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI), or highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Similar to influenza symptoms in people, birds infected with LPAI usually experience only mild signs if any, including respiratory signs such as conjunctivitis and nasal discharge, ruffled feathers or a drop in egg production. Unlike LPAI, the first indication of HPAI in poultry is sudden death, often without signs of illness.

If you have clients reporting any of the following in their flocks, please have them call the Animal Health Section at (802) 828-2421:

- * Unusual or high death loss
 - * Influenza-like signs such as nasal secretions, puffy eyes, ruffled feathers or a drop in egg production
 - * Loss of appetite
 - * Paralysis and other nervous signs
 - * Lack of vocalization
-



Official Identification of Livestock

The final date for implementation of the federal rule on official identification in livestock took effect on March 11, 2015. As of this date, all official identification placed in cattle, bison, farmed cervidae, sheep, goat and pig ears must

display the U.S. shield. Examples of official ID meeting these criteria include:

- * The 15-digit Animal Identification Number (AIN) ear tags beginning with a country code ('840' for the U.S.)
- * The National Uniform Ear-tagging System (NUES) ear tags beginning with an official state number ('13" in Vermont) displaying the U.S. shield.

Ear tags that were previously considered official ID and were applied to an animal before March 11, 2015 will be official for the life of the animal. Examples include:

- * A 15-digit AIN ear tag beginning with 'USA' or a number between '900-998'; or
- * An American ID tag, beginning with 'USA' followed by eight or nine numbers.

However, these tags **can no longer** be put into livestock and used as official ID as of March 11, 2015.

[USDA APHIS Animal Disease Traceability](#)

Fair Season Quickly Approaching!

Vermont's fairs, shows and exhibitions allow the public an opportunity to be exposed to livestock and poultry with which they might not otherwise interact. Managers, Superintendents and other officials at these events must take care to ensure that animals are handled and housed appropriately and that they meet the animal health requirements for entry onto the grounds.



The Animal Health Section of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets works closely with and supports the multiple fairs and exhibitions that showcase Vermont's livestock and poultry. In order to protect Vermont's resident livestock herd, members of the public, and other animals that are at the fair or exhibition, Animal Health Section veterinarians and specialists are often present on the fairgrounds to monitor for compliance with important animal health requirements.

Fair Veterinarian

If you are providing veterinary care at one of Vermont's fairs this season, please visit the Animal Health [website to view out of state import requirements along with recommended biosecurity and animal health practices](#).

Drug Testing at Horse and Pony Pull Events

If you are a veterinarian working with a fair to draw blood samples for drug testing at horse pull events, please be advised that as of last season the procedure has been updated. Veterinarians are responsible for providing their own sample collection supplies and for submitting the collected samples directly to the [state laboratory](#). Sample submission forms can be obtained by calling the state lab at (802) 585-4441, Monday through Friday, well enough in advance of the pulling event that forms can be mailed to the attending veterinarian.

Sample Collection:

Collect three 10 ml Green Top (Sodium Heparin 143 IU) Vacutainer tubes of blood per pulling animal. Label the sample with animal name or ID number and owner's last name. Wrap tape around the top of collection tube and cork to maintain for sample integrity. Sample tube identification must correlate with the paperwork.

General Packaging Advice:

Place samples in a sealed Ziploc bag with paper towels or other absorbent material. Make sure submission form(s) are in a separate sealed Ziploc bag. Ship samples on ice packs along with paperwork in a Styrofoam cooler/cardboard box, making sure to pad the samples with newspaper, bubble wrap or similar materials to prevent breakage. Send packages overnight no later than Thursday as the laboratory is not open to receive packages on the weekend. UPS, Fed Express and US Mail will not deliver leaking packages.

Shipping Address:

Ship the samples using US Priority Mail, Next Day UPS or Federal Express.
Vermont Agency of Agriculture Laboratory
105 Carrigan Drive – Room 200 Burlington, VT 05405

Hand delivered packages can be dropped off at the Agriculture Laboratory located on the UVM Campus in the Hills Agricultural Science Building. Call for directions.

Laboratory Contacts:

Wendy Blackman (802) 585-4438
John Jaworski (802) 585-4441

USDA Animal Export Update

Federal endorsement of all international health certificates that you complete on behalf of your clients exporting livestock and companion animals is now handled through the USDA Import-Export office in Albany, NY. Encourage your clients to plan ahead and allow extra time for the processing of this required paperwork. Please view the recent [letter](#) from USDA for more information on this topic and to obtain contact information for the Import-Export office in Albany, NY.

On-Farm Feed Safety Guidelines from FDA

The FDA has issued a draft guidance entitled - "[Ensuring Safety of Animal Feed Maintained and Fed On-Farm](#)". Comments on the draft are due by June 3, 2015. The guidance is intended to help animal producers in developing and implementing on-farm practices to ensure that animal feed is maintained and fed in a safe manner. The guidance provides recommendations for safe feeding practices that farms should consider adopting. Some of the recommendations include knowing the requirements for animal feed in your state; obtaining feed from safe and reliable sources; taking steps (pest control, regular cleaning of feeding areas and equipment, good storage practices) to minimize the occurrence of contaminants in feed; initiating safe pasture/fodder management practices (rotational grazing, adequate time between dispersion of animal waste in pastures and grazing or forage harvesting); locating pastures in environments not prone to exposure to feed contaminants from outside sources (run off, groundwater, floodwater, or airborne feed contaminants); and ensuring that bedding materials for animals have been produced using GAPs and are free from contaminants that may cause food safety risks if consumed, absorbed through the skin, or inhaled.

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