



KANSAS ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS

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SMALL ANIMAL FACILITIES SEMINAR

The first Small Animal Facilities Seminar, hosted by the Animal Facilities Inspection Program with support from the Kansas Pet Professionals and the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, will be held June 9-10 at the Acorns Resort at Milford Lake.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide the pet animal industry of Kansas an opportunity to heighten its knowledge of pet animal health through continued education.

The seminar will promote collaboration between a variety of license types to enhance animal health techniques and provide statutory and regulatory updates to the pet animal industry.

Keynote speakers will be Dr. Cheryl Morris from the Henry

Doorly Zoo and Aquarium and Dr. Don Bramlage from Revival Animal Health. Breakout sessions will include topics on nutrition, shelter medicine, handling and behavior, brucellosis, vaccines, contingency planning, reptile/bird/small mammal, KDA regulations and USDA regulations.

All current AFI licensees received official invitations with registration information in early April.

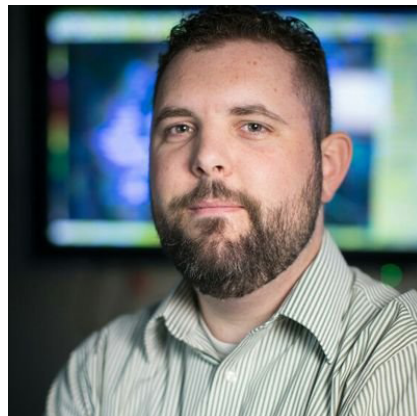
Refer questions to Tyler Brewington by emailing tyler.brewington@ks.gov or by calling 785-564-6605. For more information, visit www.agriculture.ks.gov/afi.

Registration for this year's event is closed, but contact our office if you are interested in the next educational opportunity.

Department Changes

David Hogg (left) will serve as the assistant emergency management coordinator, managing the launch of the KAERC program. See more about the new program on page 4.

Dr. William Brown, the Kansas animal health commissioner since 2010, has announced his retirement. Current deputy animal health commissioner Dr. Justin Smith was selected to succeed Brown. See more on page 3.



CERVID TUBERCULOSIS AND BRUCELLOSIS

Owners of captive deer or elk herds moving live animals interstate often must have an accredited tuberculosis (TB)-free herd. Most states require animals to either move directly from a certified brucellosis-free herd, or to have been tested negative for brucellosis within a specified period of time, usually 30 to 45 days prior to entry.

For live cervids moving between owners within Kansas, animals must originate from an accredited TB-free herd, or have tested negative for TB by one of two approved tests within 60 days prior to movement. Both tests must be done by a federally accredited veterinarian licensed in Kansas who is also approved to conduct TB testing in cervids.

The standard test approved for all cervids is the single cervical TB test (SCT). This is a skin test, much like TB testing in humans, and it requires injecting 0.1 ml of TB antigen into the skin of the animal. Then the animal must be captured again in three days, and the test must be read by the same veterinarian that injected it for consistency.

The most common test, which is currently only approved for use in whitetail deer, red deer, elk, fallow deer and reindeer (caribou), is the new dual pathway platform (DPP) test. Blood samples are sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) where serum is used to test for TB. For this test, cervids only need to be captured once.

KDAH wishes to remind producers and veterinarians to be sure the proper paperwork for the brucellosis test (form VS4-33), and the TB test (form VS6-12), is completed, signed and submitted to the USDA/APHIS office in Topeka. Contact their office at:

1131 SW Winding Rd, Ste A
Topeka, KS 66615
Phone: (785) 228-6565
FAX: (785) 228-6570

CANINE BRUCELLOSIS

Brucellosis is a contagious disease spread through sexual transmission or contact with infected fluids. It is a leading cause of infertility in canine breeding stock. Not only is this a highly contagious disease affecting dogs, but it's also a zoonotic disease, which means it can affect humans as well as livestock and other pet animals.

Individuals assisting in the delivery of pups have the greatest risk of potential exposure through contact with bodily fluids during whelping. If a human is immunocompromised and comes into contact with bodily fluids from a positive canine through either a wound or nasal contact, the person may be at risk of contracting the disease.

KDAH would like to remind breeders and pet animal facilities of some basic practices and guidelines to prevent the spread of this contagious disease.

- All new arrivals to your kennel should be quarantined until they have at least two consecutive negative test results approximately 4 to 6 weeks apart, prior to introducing the dog into general population.
- Utilizing personal protective equipment during whelping is recommended for all kennel operators assisting with whelping.
- Good biosecurity between dogs and between kennel buildings should always be top priority to prevent any type of disease from entering or spreading throughout your facility.

If you see a trend of infertility or an unusual increase of abortions in your kennel, KDAH recommends that you contact your local veterinarian and test for canine brucellosis.

Positive cases of canine brucellosis in Kansas must be reported to the animal health commissioner. KDAH is available to assist with any questions you may have regarding this reportable disease.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

DR. BILL BROWN

After a 50-year career in veterinary medicine, Dr. William Brown announced his retirement in February, effective July 2017.

Brown joined the Army while in veterinary school at Kansas State University and spent the first two years after graduation at Fort Wolters in Texas as the post veterinarian and assistant preventative officer.

After leaving the military, Brown entered private practice, but soon joined the Army Reserves as part of the Army Veterinary Corps. Still in the Reserves, Brown sold his private practice and spent 17 years in the corporate world working for DEKALB Swine Breeders, Monsanto, and Newsham Genetics.

In 2010, Brown took the position as the Kansas livestock commissioner, overseeing the department's merge with the Kansas Department of Agriculture where he became the Kansas animal health commissioner.

"One of the charges from the legislature's Senate Ag Committee was to increase the technology component of the Kansas Animal Health Department," Brown said. Considerable progress was made in that area, which has made KDAH more efficient, organized and user friendly.

"The other area I wanted to develop was a team that could facilitate change. The culture and mindset of teamwork was paramount, especially once we made the move to Manhattan," Brown said.

With his KDAH career closing, Dr. Brown looks to the future as an opportunity to explore new adventures. A lifelong passion for running led Brown to a total of 39 marathons, domestically and abroad, with a 40th race in the works.



DR. JUSTIN SMITH

Dr. Justin Smith has been named as the new Kansas animal health commissioner.

The Kansas Animal Health Board worked with a search committee to conduct a nationwide search which culminated with a final interview and public presentation on May 8. The Board nominated three candidates from which Dr. Smith was selected to serve in the role.

"The Animal Health Board received some outstanding candidates for the position of animal health commissioner," said Terry Schwarz, chair of the Kansas Animal Health Board. "The selection was a thorough process in which Dr. Smith excelled in all categories. The Board is excited to have Dr. Smith as the new commissioner, working on the various issues facing the Kansas animal health industry. We look forward to working with Dr. Smith as he takes over the leadership set into motion by Dr. Brown.

"We also want to thank Dr. Brown for his service to the animal health industry, and we wish him all the best in his next pursuits," Schwarz emphasized.

Dr. Smith has been serving as deputy commissioner in the KDA Division of Animal Health since 2013. He has been a valuable part of the agency, leading the animal disease control team, helping organize and execute foreign animal disease preparation efforts, and engaging industry in the work of the division along with many other duties.

Prior to coming to KDA as a field veterinarian in 2011, Dr. Smith managed a western Kansas ranch, worked as a private practicing veterinarian and as a livestock extension agent.



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KDA LAUNCHES KANSAS AGRICULTURE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CORPS

The Kansas Agriculture Emergency Response Corps (KAERC), which will launch later this year, will expand and capitalize on the skill sets of citizens throughout the state of Kansas and will soon begin accepting volunteers.

The program is looking for anyone from appraisers to lab technicians, or from individuals with experience in finance and accounting to large equipment drivers with their Commercial Driver's Licenses.

"The goal is, should we ever have to implement a full-scale ag emergency response plan for an animal disease, for a plant disease event, for any agricultural emergency, we could have enough trained individuals in the state of Kansas to help," said Mary Soukup, KDA assistant to the secretary.

Sandy Johnson, emergency management coordinator at KDA, said the idea is to expand upon – not replace – the current Veterinary Response Corps that utilizes trained and licensed veterinarians to respond in animal health emergencies, adding that volunteers will also receive moderate training.

"It will mostly be online training modules, all based on the FEMA training that we, as state employees, are required to take," she said. "There will be base-level courses that volunteers will be required to complete so they have an understanding of the response system and the overall framework we use."

If certain emergency response jobs require specific training, such as for a specific software or protocol, volunteers may need and receive additional training.

"We will also offer ongoing outreach and education," Soukup said. "If there is a unique learning opportunity for volunteers, he or she could take part in that."

After the required training is completed, Soukup said the newly hired assistant emergency management coordinator, David Hogg, will be in regular communication with the volunteers.

Recent years have brought various, smaller-scale disease outbreaks in the state of Kansas, such as avian influenza in 2015.

The ability to have someone local who, in the event of an avian influenza outbreak, knows where birds are in backyard flocks and can help get information accurately disseminated throughout the community, according to Soukup, will be invaluable.

"It's an opportunity to serve your industry and your state, and an opportunity to really be a part of the response plan to stop an emergency situation," Soukup said.

For more information on the KAERC program or how to apply to become a volunteer, contact David at david.hogg@ks.gov or 785-564-7468.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Small Animal Facilities Seminar: June 9-10, 2017

Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Response Exercise: December 18-20, 2017



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PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR EMERGENCY EXERCISE

The emergency response exercise, which will involve a foreign animal disease (FAD), will be held December 18-20, 2017. Producers are encouraged to host a FAD drill this summer and participate in the exercise in December.

KDAH received positive feedback from the feedyard and dairies who participated last year, and their involvement made the exercise more beneficial for the emergency response team.

At least six premises are needed to “infect” for the exercise. The time commitment is one half day before the exercise for the sampling drill and two days in December. Producers play from home, so no travel is necessary.

If you are interested in participating, contact emergency management coordinator Sandy Johnson at sandy.johnson@ks.gov.

INTERNS TO ASSIST WITH WRITTEN BIOSECURITY PLANS

The KDA animal health and dairy programs have hired student interns to assist producers seeking to complete biosecurity plans.

Interns will complete most of the work off-site, but they will need to spend at least one day on the premises, gathering information.

Biosecurity is important in the event of an FAD outbreak, and the KDAH hopes to assist producers become more biosecure. If you would like help creating a plan for your dairy or feedyard, contact Sandy Johnson at sandy.johnson@ks.gov.

HPAI PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION

Recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have occurred in various states in the last few months.

KDAH would like to remind producers that avian influenza is capable of causing catastrophic losses within the poultry industry, and now is the time to review your biosecurity plans, or to develop one if you do not have one.

Common biosecurity breaches include:

- Sharing employees or insemination crews between operations
- Employees from separate operations living together and passing infected material to each other while at home or in vehicles
- Sharing services such as grain hauling, rendering, or manure disposal, with vehicles driving into areas where poultry workers move back and forth
- Infected debris spread on tires or hauled litter
- Employees having contact with wild waterfowl via hunting activities
- Failure to maintain a line of separation between poultry barns and other off-site activities
- Failure to maintain a line of separation between poultry houses on a single facility

If an outbreak of AI occurs and poultry owners need to obtain funding for euthanized poultry or for premises cleaning and disinfection, producers will need both a DUNS Number and a Premises Identification Number (PIN). The DUNS number can be obtained at <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. PINs are obtained by contacting Lindy Singular at the KDAH at 785-564-6601 or lindy.singular@ks.gov. Having these numbers in advance will help expedite response work and indemnity payments.

For more information, contact Dr. Paul Grosdidier at 785-633-3638 or at paul.grosdidier@ks.gov.

CATTLE DISEASES OF CONCERN

Tuberculosis

In February, bovine tuberculosis was identified in three beef cows during routine slaughter inspection at two Nebraska slaughter plants. The herd of origin was traced back to a South Dakota beef herd. This herd was tested by state and federal animal health officials, revealing an additional 41 infected animals. These animals were removed and the remaining herd is in the process of being depopulated through slaughter.

Kansas officials identified five premises that have been determined to be epidemiologically linked to the first index herd during the last five years. One of the five herds has completed testing, allowing the quarantine to be lifted. The remaining herds remain under restrictions until herd testing and the investigation can be completed.

Texas Cattle Fever Tick

A Control Purpose Quarantine Area (CPQA) was established in a portion of Live Oak County, Texas, on November 30, 2016, after fever ticks were confirmed on a premises in the area. Since this 2016 detection, the Texas Animal Health Commission has confirmed a total of nine infested premises in the CPQA.

The protozoa *Babesia*, commonly known as cattle fever, attacks and destroys the host's red blood cells, ultimately resulting in death for up to 90 percent of susceptible cattle.

The tick species of concern is a tropical variety that would not likely survive Kansas winters. TAHC officials have a comprehensive surveillance and treatment program for animals in the quarantine areas. No animals from an infected premises are allowed to move once the tick is detected. Cattle from adjacent, exposed, or check premises are required to go through a thorough inspection process and a systemic treatment protocol.

Johne's Disease

Johne's disease (pronounced yo-knees) is a chronic, incurable bowel disease of cattle. Animals are most commonly infected from birth to 6 months of age by fecal to oral transmission, but can also be infected in-utero infection and through colostrum. Although calves are infected at a young age, the clinical manifestations of chronic diarrhea, debilitation and weight loss tend to not appear until around 5 years of age or older.

This disease has a huge impact on production and profitability, and some research has labeled it as being possibly zoonotic (also capable of infecting humans).

In recent years, Kansas has seen a steady increase in the number of Johne's cases diagnosed in beef and dairy cattle, as well as milking goat herds. The Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab has a map of cases diagnosed since 2016 at: www.ksvdl.org/disease-trends.html.

Trichomoniasis

In the first three months of 2017, eight positive cases of trichomoniasis (trich) were diagnosed in five different herds, each resulting in herd quarantines. Six additional herds have been placed under quarantine due to exposure in the past 12 months to positive herds.

The quarantine requires all sexually intact animals of breeding age be confined to the current premises until surveillance testing has been completed. All bulls must have two negative trich tests at least 14 days apart, and all cows must either have calved in the current year with no subsequent bull exposure or be confirmed by a veterinarian to be at least 120 days pregnant.

More information and a map of the Kansas positive trich cases during the last four years can be seen at: www.agriculture.ks.gov/ADCtrich.