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VESICULAR STOMATITIS DIAGNOSED IN WHEELER COUNTY NEBRASKA

LINCOLN – According to State Veterinarian Dr. Dennis Hughes, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) has confirmed a diagnosis of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in cattle on two farms in Wheeler County. Livestock on both farms have been placed under quarantine.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NDA veterinarians submitted samples from the infected cattle to a USDA laboratory on Friday with final test results confirmed late yesterday. The positive diagnosis makes Nebraska the third state to have VS this year following Texas and Colorado.

“Vesicular Stomatitis is typically transmitted via biting insects and midges. With our recent hard freezes in Nebraska, we are cautiously optimistic we won’t see the disease spreading as rapidly as we would expect in warmer weather,” said Dr. Hughes. “Our team is working to determine the source of the disease, and because the disease also can be transmitted by nose to nose contact, we are taking all appropriate measures to protect surrounding livestock herds from the disease.”

VS can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats and a number of other animals. Adult cattle will typically recover in 10-15 days after the onset of symptoms.

NDA urges producers with animals that might be experiencing these symptoms to contact their veterinarian immediately.

According to Hughes, the positive diagnosis might trigger animal import regulations in other states so producers moving livestock from Nebraska into another state are encouraged to contact the destination state's State Veterinarian's office to learn about specific import requirements.

The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has information about VS available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/pnr38ee>

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