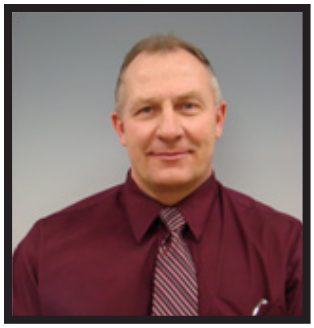
Animal and Plant Health Protection
NEWSLETTER
Summer, 2013

Expired Trichomoniasis Media



It has been brought to the attention of this office that many submissions for Trichomoniasis testing were sent in media pouches or tubes that have date expired. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA) import regulations for Trichomoniasis will not accept such samples for valid diagnosis. Other state's Trichomoniasis import regulations would also disqualify the results from expired media.

A negative Trichomoniasis diagnosis derived from expired transport media could very likely be a false negative result. Even if testing were done for non-regulatory purposes, a negative Trichomoniasis result using expired media is not a valid or acceptable test. This situation could cause spread of a dangerous reproductive disease of high economic significance, and involve potential litigation to the veterinarian who submitted the sample. The process of running a bull through the chute to obtain a sample should not be wasted by using expired transport media, nor should an owner expect anything less than an accurate test sample.

A phone conference was held with University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)-Veterinary Diagnostic Center (VDC) to discuss this problem. A discussion with Dr. Kathleen Akin, USDA-Veterinary Services (VS) Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for Nebraska, also indicated that a veterinarian's accreditation could be in danger. After the discussions, it was determined that all samples submitted to UNL-VDC with expired media would not be accepted for testing after July 15, 2013.

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Tritrichomonas foetus PCR Testing

Sample Preparation

Clip the hair around the preputial orifice in bulls. Flush the preputial cavity with sterile saline solution (not water) to clean out the mud and manure, if necessary (decreases the risk of overgrowth of non T. foetus bacterium).

Sample Collection

- Bulls: direct the pipette to the distal penis in the sheath. Scrape the mucosa of the distal penis and the fornix area while applying suction with syringe or bulb to obtain the specimen.
- Cows: advance the pipette gently to the floor of the vaginal fornix, and aspirate mucus.

The following web site has an excellent video of Tritrichomonas foetus and Campylobacter foetus sampling. http://genex.crinet.com/page1475/campylobacter

Preparation of In-pouch or Transit Tube (label the in-pouch/transit tube with the sample related information)

- In-pouch: manually express the liquid, so all the liquid is in the lower chamber. Open the pouch by tearing off the top. There is a preformed score to facilitate tearing. Use the integral white tabs to open and secure the mouth of the pouch open.
- Transit Tube: Open the transit tube by twisting the cap off. Be sure to be ready to use the transit tubes as removing the cap breaks the seal.

Inoculation of Sample

Insert the sample to the tube/pouch (0.5 - 1.0 mL of specimen). Secure the cap on the tube or express the entire contents of the pouch into the lower chamber. Avoid trapping air. Roll the pouch top tightly, until the wire tape is at the top of the label and fold the wire tabs to seal the pouch.

Incubation and Shipping of Samples

Incubate the In-pouches/Transit Tube at around 37°C (98°F) for 18-24 hours and then freezing them at 20°C before shipping. The incubation will increase the number of trich in the pouches and the freezing will then stop the growth of contaminating bacteria which can inhibit the PCR process. This will also make it easier for collection of samples at the end of the week, since once they are frozen there is no rush to get them to the lab. If you do not have an incubator, you can take a Styrofoam container and insert a microwaved

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ice pack (warm to the touch) or a hand warmer to create a make-shift incubator. Don't put the In-pouches/ Transit Tubes directly on the heat source as they may overheat. Once they have incubated for a day, freeze the In-pouches/Transit Tubes and ship them to the lab on ice packs. If you are unable to incubate the samples for the first 24 hours, don't freeze the samples just ship them at room temperature as soon as possible. Please indicate on your submission form, if the samples have been incubated and frozen or not.

Please feel free to contact the VDC bacteriology staff at (402) 472-8470 with any questions.

*Biomed In-pouch and TF transit tubes package inserts.

EIA Cases Confirmed in Nebraska Horses

NDA has confirmed 12 cases of equine infectious anemia (EIA) in one horse herd located in Northwestern Nebraska. State Veterinarian Dr. Dennis Hughes said EIA affects only horses, mules and donkeys, and is usually fatal to these animals. No other animals or humans can be infected with this disease.

EIA is a blood borne disease and is typically transmitted by biting insects (such as horseflies and deerflies), but also can be transmitted from horse to horse through infected needles. There are no treatment options for infected horses, Hughes said.

Horse owners are encouraged to take biosecurity precautions to reduce the risk of infection in their herds, including: implement control measures, including husbandry practices, that reduce biting insects, such as horseflies and deerflies; follow the rule of one horse-one needle; and additions to herds should have a negative Coggins test before being allowed to intermingle with other equine. For more information related to actions to further protect horses visit: www.nda.nebraska.gov.

EIA symptoms include: fever, depression, weight loss, swelling and anemia. Producers with horses, donkeys, or mules that exhibit these symptoms are urged to contact their veterinarian immediately.

Dr. Hughes reminds those who are importing horses into Nebraska for show/exhibition or other reasons to follow Nebraska's horse import regulations, which includes the requirement of a negative Coggins test – the test utilized to determine the presence of EIA. Producers with questions about import regulations should contact NDA at (402) 471-2351.

Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV1) Infections

Equine Herpes Virus Type 1 (EHV-1) is described to be a highly contagious pathogen that is ubiquitous in horse populations throughout the world. EHV-1 is a disease that has been around for a long time, but seems to have become more virulent in the last few years. Recently, outbreaks of Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) caused by EHV-1 have been diagnosed in multiple states. The following states have had cases of EHM diagnosed in recent months: Florida, Nevada, California, Tennessee, Illinois, Utah, Quebec, New Jersey, and Montana. These outbreaks have included horses of different breeds and representing vastly different disciplines and activities.

EHV-1 reached national attention in April of 2011 when it was diagnosed at the end of the 2011 National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Western National Championship in Ogden, Utah. With the diagnosis occurring at the end of the show, all the horses dispersed to their original states. NCHA show ended up resulting in quarantines and hold orders involving 90 positive horses, 242 exposed facilities in 10 states. In Nebraska, we had horses at three facilities that were exposed to EHV-1 at the NCHA show in Ogden, Utah. However, we did not have any horses get sick in Nebraska, and the quarantines were released once 28 days had passed with no cases being identified in the horses at the three facilities.

EHV-1 is common and, by two years of age, many horses have been infected with EHV-1. Generally, the initial exposure occurs in foals from contact with their dams. The virus can then become latent in the horse's body, setting up a carrier state that is lifelong. Horses that are carriers of EHV-1 do not show any external signs of disease when the virus is in a latent form. The virus can be reactivated during times of stress, such as strenuous exercise, long-distance transport, or at weaning. The transmission of EHV-1 occurs after exposure to an adult horse or foal with an active EHV-1 infection. This exposure generally occurs via respiratory shedding of the virus from an infected horse that may appear healthy.

EHV-1 can cause neurological disease, respiratory disease, abortion, and neonatal death. EHM is most often due to mutant or neuropathogenic strains of EHV-1, so called because of a particular mutation in the genome. Neurological signs appear as a result of damage to blood vessels in the brain and spinal cord associated with EHV-1 infection. Interference with the blood supply leads to tissue damage, and a subsequent loss in normal function of areas in the brain and spinal cord.

Signs of EHM include:

- Fever preceding neurologic signs;
- Decreased coordination;
- Urine dribbling;
- Loss of tail tone;
- Hind limb weakness;

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- Leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance;
- Lethargy; and
- Inability to rise.

Biosecurity is very important to the prevention and control EHV-1, as well as other diseases. NDA would like to encourage you to help get information to the horse owners to minimize the risk of an EHV-1 outbreak. Below are some biosecurity measures that we want equine owners to keep in mind, as they travel to events and commingle with other horses. USDA Veterinary Services (VS) has a very good brochure that discusses many of these items that can be downloaded and reproduced at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2011/bro_keep_horses_healthy.pdf.

1. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. This virus is shed from infected horses via the respiratory tract or through direct or indirect contact with an infected aborted fetus and fetal membranes. Horses may appear to be perfectly healthy, yet spread the virus via the secretions from their nostrils. It is important to realize that EHV-1 can also be spread indirectly through contact with physical objects contaminated with infectious virus. Examples of such objects include:
    - Tack;
    - Wipe rags or other grooming equipment; and
    - Feed and water buckets.
    - People's hands or clothing. Since people can transfer this virus from horse to horse via their hands and clothing, people should wash their hands after handling one horse and before handling another. They should also change their clothes and footwear after working with a sick horse.
2. Stop horse movement, if your animals may be infected with EHV-1
    a. This is the most important first step horse owners can take. Horses should neither enter nor leave premises where EHM has been diagnosed until cleared by the veterinarian.
    b. Do not allow horses exposed to EHV-1 to have contact with unexposed horses on the premises.
3. Isolate sick horses. Horses that have aborted or shown signs of fever, respiratory disease, or neurologic disease should be separated from healthy horses.
    a. Ideally, the sick horse(s) should be moved into a separate building or paddock on the premises.
4. Optimally, a person who takes care of a sick horse should not work with healthy horses. When this is not practical, healthy horses should be handled first and sick horses last. Wearing gloves and using disinfectant to sanitize footwear can also help minimize the risk of people spreading the virus between animals.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Diagnoses in the U.S.

On May 16, diagnoses of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PEDV) were reported to several state veterinarians from the National Veterinary Services Laborator (NVSL). As of this writing, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Colorado have confirmed cases of PEDV.

PEDV is a viral disease associated with outbreaks of diarrhea and vomiting in swine. It is very similar to TGE, but was not seen before in the U.S. Like TGE, PEDV is a coronavirus, can cause significant mortality to neonatal swine, and significant economic loss to all swine. PEDV is not a zoonotic disease, does not affect people, and is not a food safety concern.

PEDV exists in many parts of the world. PEDV is not a listed disease of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); is not considered a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) in the United States, and is not on the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) Reportable Disease List; There are currently no interstate trade restrictions pertaining to PEDV in U.S. swine. One major concern is, how did PEDV enter the U.S.?

USDA-APHIS-VS is working with veterinary diagnostic laboratories, veterinarians, swine producers, and State animal health officials and related swine industries to manage PEDV. Because PEDV is new to the U.S., and very similar to TGE and other diseases which may cause diarrhea and vomiting in swine, it should be included in the list of differential diagnoses.

USDA-APHIS-VS is working closely with stakeholders to monitor the situation around porcine epidemic diarrhea PEDV in the U.S. USDA-APHIS-VS received reports that animal feed may be a possible factor in transmitting this disease, so they partnered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), NDA, and the Colorado/Department of Agriculture to investigate this possibility. At this time, here is what we know - we tested samples of feed and feed ingredients associated with one case of PEDV at NVSL, with no positive results for PEDV antigen by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). However, the investigation with FDA is ongoing.

USDA-APHIS-VS is also collaborating closely with American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV), National Pork Board (NPB), and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) on a broad epidemiological investigation and survey, to help identify any risk factors in the transmission of this disease.

Commercial Dog and Cat Program Veterinary Care Plan

Licensed commercial dog and cat breeders are required to ensure that the animals involved in the breeding program receive adequate veterinary care. The breeder's written veterinary care plan has the following components:

- Record system of individual health records for each dog.
- Establishment of a program of disease control and prevention, pest and parasite control, before and after procedure care and nutrition. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recommended methods of euthanasia performed by a veterinarian must be indicated on the veterinary care plan.
- The veterinarian must conduct regularly scheduled on-site visits of the facility.
- Each breeding dog must have a wellness exam noted on their individual health record, which includes basic physical and dental examinations at least once every three years.
- The veterinary care plan must be reviewed and updated by the veterinarian annually during a facility inspection.

Copies of a Veterinary Care Plan may be downloaded from the NDA web page http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/animal/cdc03.pdf

References: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§54-627.01 and 54-640(9).

LB 427 caused several noteworthy changes in veterinary care and animal husbandry for Commercial Dog Breeders effective October 2012.

a. Each breeding dog will receive a wellness exam, including basic physical and dental exams, by a licensed veterinarian at least once every three years.
b. Dog coat matting shall not exceed ten percent of their body, and nails shall be trimmed short enough for comfort.
c. All surgical births or other procedures shall be performed by a licensed veterinarian using anesthesia, except for puppy dew claw removal and tail docking under sterile conditions may be performed by the commercial breeder within the first 7 days of the dog's life.
d. When necessary, euthanasia will be performed by a licensed veterinarian using methods approved by the AVMA.
e. Each breeding dog shall be identified by implantation of a microchip, or alternatively tattoo or tag if microchip is ineffective.

Low Pathology Avian Influenza (LPAI) – H7N9 – China

In mid-February of this year, Avian Influenza (AI) was detected and diagnosed as the cause of death of an 87-year-old male in Shanghai, China. The subtype was determined to be H7N9 and had not been contracted by human beings previously. This disclosure immediately caught our attention here in Nebraska, because LPAI H7N9 was the subtype found in Nebraska backyard flocks in 2011. That outbreak cost our commercial poultry industry millions of dollars in lost trade. Fortunately, extensive laboratory analysis of the China virus revealed that this was a novel genetic reassortment of wild birds from east Asia and chickens from east China, and not the same lineage as our Nebraska LPAI virus. Researchers also said that no genes were traceable to pigs.

This H7N9 LPAI virus does not cause clinical signs in infected birds, but does cause pathology and death in humans. Lack of illness in the avian hosts has greatly complicated the process of tracking infection reservoirs and eliminating sources. Hundreds of thousands of tests have been run on various avian species with only a few positive results. So far, it has not been shown that the virus can be transmitted laterally between humans, but has only been verified as being passed from birds to humans. The main source of infections seems to be the live bird markets, where customers choose their live bird and it is killed and cleaned on the spot. Small mechanical chicken pluckers that use hot water and spin the birds at high speeds, apparently aerosolize the virus particles and have been a major factor in transferring the virus from the birds to humans.

In the four months since the virus was first identified until now, it has mutated several times and health authorities worry that a change of one or two amino acids would allow the virus to be easily transferred between individual humans, and result in another flu epidemic, such as previous ones that have killed thousands of people worldwide.

To date, there have been 131 confirmed cases and 36 deaths in China. The number of new cases seems to be rapidly slowing down, possibly showing that the containment efforts of the Chinese government are succeeding.

The 2011 outbreak of LPAI H7N9 in Nebraska was identified as the type of virus carried by migratory waterfowl, especially Green-winged Teal. Wild birds are known to migrate north and east from China, across Russia, and the Bering Strait to Alaska and south through Canada into the United States. And, of course, as with the SARS epidemic of 2002, and other flu outbreaks, humans themselves are a main source of disease transfer. Therefore, good biosecurity measures should always be promoted and practiced.

The New Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Rule

(CVIs, ATSs, 840s, NUES, RFIDs, AINs, Etc.)

There is a new Federal rule concerning livestock moving across state lines. This rule is commonly referred to as the ADT Rule. ADT refers to Animal Disease Traceability and the ADT Rule is now a part of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The ADT Rule has application to each of the acronyms in this article's title, even the etc. The rule did become effective on March 11, 2013.

While the effective date has passed, the enforcement of all aspects of the ADT Rule has not started. You are encouraged to use the delay in enforcement to familiarize yourself and comply with its content. It is recommended you start with definitions of some of the terms and acronyms. This article will focus on the Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), commonly referred to as a health certificate, and how you must complete and handle them.

In the past when you submitted an ICVI, it was reviewed for signature, filed, and forwarded to the destination state. Now, in a process which has already started in the State Veterinarian's office, virtually every field or box on the ICVI is entered into a database to assist in retrieving animal movement information when it is needed. This means each item on the ICVI you have signed and submitted is reviewed for correctness, legibility' and timeliness. When performance standards are implemented each State Veterinarian will be held responsible for the quality of ICVIs written in the state. Therefore, processes are being developed and implemented to increase the percentage of ICVIs written in Nebraska that meet the standards for correctness, legibility, and timeliness.

There are ways to improve the legibility of ICVIs. One of the options available is to utilize computer generated ICVIs. You have a choice of systems to produce ICVIs using a computer. There are several private companies offering this service which also provide the support you may need. USDA's electronic ICVI system is also an excellent option. Either of these choices has the added benefit of automatically forwarding the ICVI to the receiving state and also stores the data automatically for later retrieval.

An expanding option for Nebraska veterinarians is the computer generated ICVI program developed by NDA's Senior IT Analyst, Greg Henn. This system has been in use at some livestock markets for nearly a year. There have been several revisions and improvements made and a "final" version is about to be put on CD. This program should be available to all Nebraska accredited veterinarians for use on their own computers in the near future. To be able to use this program and have the system automatically print your signature on all copies of an ICVI, you will need to supply your signature, address, and national accreditation number (NAN) on a blank white sheet of paper for us to scan into the system. This program is working well and does have the right price, no charge. However, you must consider the support issue to choose which system to use. The level and availability of support can be anticipated to be better with a private service provider.

One very important and motivating reason for you to consider moving to computer generated ICVIs quickly is the change in ICVI requirements. The new ADT Rule requires all ICVIs to include the business address of the consignor AND the address these animals are loaded from – if different. On the consignee side, the business address of the buyer or consignee AND the address where these animals are actually destined are required. As evidenced by the 100,000 plus ICVIs received in our office each year, the legibility of the handwriting goes down as the amount of writing required goes up. The use of computer generated ICVIs will improve the legibility, completeness, and also the timeliness of the documents.

Timeliness of ICVI submittal to the State Veterinarian will be a significant aspect of your handling of ICVIs. You are now required to have an ICVI in the State Veterinarians office within 7 calendar days of the issue date. This is something that will be emphasized and re-emphasized to you. The ICVI you submit must then be forwarded to the receiving state within 7 calendar days of our receiving it. Use of computer generated ICVI systems will make this much easier to accomplish.

One of the positive changes in ICVI requirements is a change when individual identification is required to be recorded. Now, when individual identification is required to be recorded, it may be a print out of the identification numbers generated by computer or other means and attached to the ICVI. In the past, identification numbers were required to be written or printed on the face of the ICVI. There are other requirements listed in the ADT Rule which an ICVI must meet. Most have not changed significantly from what they were before the ADT Rule became effective. However, as mentioned previously they will be reviewed more intently and strictly.

To view, print, or read the ADT Rule for yourself you can use this link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/2012/12/pdf/traceability_final_rule.pdf

While this newsletter article gives you a start on the information you need on the ADT Rule, reading the rule itself is advisable to you. It may help reduce the number of ICVIs sent back to you by our office or the receiving State.

Recent Changes to Nebraska Livestock Import Regulations

Import side:

An update to animal import regulations went into effect on February 24. The primary focus of the update was to incorporate most of the details that we contained in numerous import orders into the permanent regulations of NDA. Additional changes that affect imports related to animal identification came on line March 11 with the publishing of the final rule for Animal Disease Traceability which is covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Changes that you will want to make your clientele aware of include:

- New rules requiring tuberculosis (TB) testing for dairy goats entering Nebraska. This makes the dairy goat rules consistent with the dairy cattle.
- The TB test eligible age is now two months when testing is required for cattle and goats. Young stock under two months of age will be quarantined until old enough to test and report a negative result.
- All horses including those from South Dakota now require a test for EIA (Coggins) within 365 days prior to entry.
- All Camelids including but not limited to camels, llamas, and alpacas over six months of age must be tested and found negative for brucellosis and TB within 60 days of entry.
- All bovids, except cattle and bison, over six months of age must be tested and found negative for brucellosis and TB within 60 days of entry.

An order for the importation of sexually intact cattle from Manitoba Canada was issued on May 6. If clientele are importing cattle from Canada this may provide additional options for their operations:

http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/animal/manitoba_import_order.pdf

The complete set of regulations related to animal importation into Nebraska is located on the NDA web site at: http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/animal/imports.html

Aflatoxin an Added Challenge this Year

Aflatoxin has been an added concern from the corn crop harvested in 2012. Due to some very high initial samples, NDA requested and received a waiver from FDA to blend corn down to levels that could be safely utilized by specific classes of livestock. As Nebraska moved farther into harvest, it became apparent that while there are Aflatoxin concerns in the corn crop, there were no reported incidences where levels exceeded the 300 ppb threshold requiring extra consideration under the waiver.

Aflatoxin in the feed for dairies was the chief concern as it will pass into the milk supply. The dairy and feed industries have worked well together to ensure that levels stayed within safe ranges and considerable testing was conducted this year for both feed and milk to ensure the safety of the milk supply.

There are supplies of corn in Nebraska that still slightly exceed the concern threshold for young animals and dairies. Finishing cattle and swine and mature poultry have higher tolerances and, if additional guidance is needed, there is a link to FDA's guidance on the NDA web site.

Nebraska VMLRP Submissions

NDA received notification that our submissions for the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) were again all accepted by the review board. VMLRP is a program to find veterinary shortage areas in the U.S., especially for areas that have shortages in food animal/large animal veterinarians. The program is implemented by USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Although Nebraska is eligible for up to seven shortage areas, we only submitted six shortage positions.

Our efforts to find shortage areas have led us to believe that veterinary shortage problems are not as serious as a few years ago. Of the six, four were select geographic shortage areas, and two were for the UNL-VDC Laboratory. We will continue to request assistance from the National Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA) and livestock industries for finding shortage areas in our state. Now that our nominations were accepted, specific veterinary candidates need to work on the application process. As successful as we have been in receiving awards for shortage area nominations, the success rate of several applicants has been disappointing. In conversations with the review board, we have learned that some applicants needed to dedicate more time and energy to the application process. Especially, when USDA-VS-NIFA is awarding $25,000/year x four years to winning candidates. The application deadline was May 31, 2013.

There is still time to register to attend the 2013 LEDRS Conference, August 14 and 15, at the Hastings Hotel, 2205 Osborne Drive East, Hastings Nebraska 68901. For reservations and to register please contact:

Mikki Nienhueser
Animal Emergency Coordinator
Phone: (402) 471-6806
Or
Marla Checketts
(402) 471-6827

Minimizing Disease Threats Through Crossborder Livestock Movement Control

A universal concern to livestock producers, no matter the size or type of operation, is the threat of disease introduction into their herd or flock. On a producer level, diseases can have catastrophic effects on animal health, production, and fertility, with some diseases resulting in substantial animal death losses. On a larger scale, diseases can also shut down regional and statewide commerce, as well as affect international trade. As a result, Nebraska producers and regulatory officials alike are dedicated to preventing diseases from occurring and protecting Nebraska's livestock industry.

One of the most common ways of preventing disease spread is by stopping the movement of affected animals. This is often done by the State Veterinarian issuing a quarantine on an infected premises and, if necessary, conducting appropriate surveillance and movement controls around the premises to prevent the disease from spreading. However, this measure tends to be a more "reactive" stance as the disease has already been found in a herd. How can Nebraska be more "proactive" to protect Nebraska from a disease entering our state?

NDA, along with several other states in the Midwest, has been working toward answering this question through a project sponsored by the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture. The goal of this project is for each state to work with its surrounding border states to prevent suspect livestock from entering the state in the event of a highly contagious and high consequence disease outbreak in a non-border state. Because each state, including Nebraska, has limited personnel and resources to monitor borders effectively, border states have been working together to develop formal agreements to share personnel and resources along their shared border. This "sharing" concept allows for the most efficient use of resources, as well as the best monitoring capacity of state and federal highways, should an event occur.

NDA and its partner agencies have been working diligently on this project and have made substantial progress over the last several months. To date, we have met with counterparts in Kansas, Iowa, Colorado, and Wyoming and have been successful in moving forward with planning efforts in all states. NDA has also signed official agreements with Colorado and Kansas to share resources along our mutual borders. In addition to working with our border states, NDA and its partner agencies have also conducted workshops along the Nebraska/Kansas border to bring local entities into the planning process at predetermined checkpoint monitoring sites.

Although substantial progress has already been made, NDA is committed to continuing this planning process to include all states and affected Nebraska counties along our borders. We feel that this is an important step in protecting Nebraska's livestock industry and are dedicated to taking all steps necessary to prevent disease introduction into our state. For more information on this project, please contact Mikki Nienhueser at mikki.nienhueser@nebraska.gov or (402) 471-6806.

FREE TRAINING RESOURCE

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Multi-state Partnership for Security in Agriculture are pleased to announce Just-In-Time training modules for animal incidents. These short, 15-minute modules introduce several different topics related to animal health emergencies and are available for use at: http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Emergency-Response/just-in-time-training.php

Questions? Contact Mikki at
mikki.nienhueser@nebraska.gov

This newsletter is available in other formats for persons with disabilities upon request. For an alternate format or for additional information on topics in this publication, please call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2341.

TDD users can contact the Department by first calling the Nebraska Relay System. Telephone (800) 833-7352 and asking the operator to call (402) 471-2341.

Greg Ibach, Director
Dennis A. Hughes, DVM, State Veterinarian

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