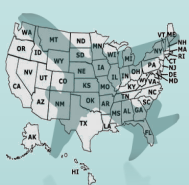


**NVAP Corner**

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- ◆ You can now access past issues of D1 newsletters on our website! [Newsletters](#)
- ◆ [Accreditation Renewal Info](#)
- ◆ [Orientation Program Schedule](#)
- ◆ [Check your accreditation status and renewal date](#)
- ◆ [International Pet Travel - Everything You Need to Know.](#)
- ◆ [International Live Animal Export Regulations \(IREGs\)](#)
- ◆ [Travel with your pet state to state \(Interstate\)](#)

**Tips Corner**

- ◆ Accreditation renewals can ONLY be processed within the 6 months prior to your Accreditation Renewal Date (ARD). Please DON'T submit earlier than 6 months prior to ARD.

**Interstate Travel Information**

When your clients are travelling with their pet(s), state to state within the United States (Interstate) ensure that requirements are met by checking with the State Veterinarian of the *final destination state*. Each state has their own requirements including if a specific health certificate needs

to be completed along with other requirements. The APHIS 7001 is an official USDA APHIS form but may not be accepted by the final destination state for Interstate pet travel. USDA APHIS Veterinary Services does not have jurisdiction over state to state travel and always obtaining the *final destination's* requirements by contacting the State Veterinarian is advised.

[Click here for links to State websites & State Veterinarian contacts.](#)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Effective March 9, 2018, the option to utilize APHIS approved supplemental training modules to earn no-cost RACE-approved continuing education credit for veterinarians and veterinary technicians is no longer available. It is up to the individual states to decide if they will accept the AAST Modules as CE.**

**An International Export of Live Animals**

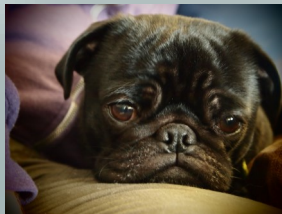
**Pop Quiz!** Caitlin E. Comparetta, DVM Assistant Director, NIES Service Center 1

As the summer pet travel season begins, test your knowledge of international health certificate issuance!

Jack, an adult Pug, is traveling to Italy in August. His current rabies vaccination was administered on March 1, 2018. Knowing the EU requires microchip ID, Jack's USDA Accredited Veterinarian, Dr. Smith, implanted a microchip on May 15, 2018.

On June 1, 2018, Dr. Smith reviewed an EU health certificate to make sure she'd be ready to issue one in August.

Need a refresher of the EU's import regulations for dogs? [Click here to go to the USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website](#) to find the import regulations for countries who officially notified USDA APHIS of their import regulations for pets.



1. Jack is in compliance with the EU's import regulations, and Dr. Smith is ready to issue his health certificate.

A. True

B. False

2. Jack's medical record correctly lists Merial's Imrab 3, but his vaccination certificate lists Zoetis' Defensor 3. Since Dr. Smith is going to correctly list Merial's Imrab 3 on the health certificate, from an export standpoint, no further actions are necessary.

A. True

B. False

3. The batch number of Jack's rabies vaccine is missing from his medical record. Since she completed the other rabies vaccination sections, Dr. Smith decides to leave this section of the health certificate blank. This is a problem because USDA APHIS cannot endorse Jack's health certificate if any section is left blank.

A. True

B. False

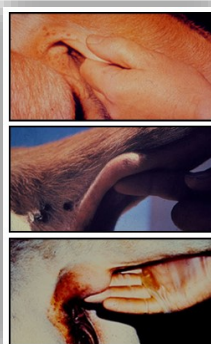
*See page 2 for answers*

**Caudal Fold Testing in Cattle**

Ross Free, DVM, MPH, Dipl ACVPM, Epi NC & WV

Often USDA category II accredited veterinarians are asked to perform caudal fold testing (CFT) for cattle in preparation for interstate movement, international movement, exhibition, sale or herd accreditation. Because this test is not 100% specific, responders to the CFT are expected from time to time, even in cattle that do not have tuberculosis. CFT injections must be inspected visually and by palpation of the injection area 72 hours (plus or minus 6 hours) from the time of the injection. A responder to the CFT is an animal with any change at the injection site, including thickening of the skin at the injection site or swelling.

One area where we frequently see problems with CFT testing is when producers plan a CFT test immediately prior to the animal's scheduled movement, sale, etc. When an animal responds to a CFT (and they occasionally should), the accredited veterinarian who performed the CFT test should immediately (same day) notify the state department of agriculture or



the state USDA APHIS Veterinary Services office. A second test called a Comparative Cervical Test (CCT) must be administered to ensure the animal is not infected with bovine tuberculosis. This test is administered free-of-charge by a state or federal veterinarian. This injection must be made within 10 days of the CFT injection, otherwise the CCT injection cannot be made until 60 days after the CFT injection. The CCT is read by the state or federal veterinarian 72 hours (plus or minus 6 hours) from the time of injection.

The responder animal and herd mates are not permitted to leave the farm until bovine tuberculosis has been ruled out in the herd, and therefore movements of animals that are planned too soon after the CFT may need to be changed or cancelled to allow for the CCT to be performed and read. Therefore, producers should allow enough time between a CFT and the planned sale or movement to allow for follow-up CCT testing if it should be required. Allowing this time between the CFT and the planned sale or movement can prevent frustration on the part of the producer that would result from the delay or cancellation of a movement or sale.

[For more information on performing CFTs, click here](#)

## A Roadside Pig and a Twelve-Step Program (Part 3)

Dr. Julie Gauthier, Editor-in-Chief of FAD Eye

Five steps of the 12 step process of a foreign animal disease investigation took place in the previous two episodes.

The Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) received the assignment from the State Veterinarian to investigate a young pot-bellied pig with a fever and blisters on its snout and feet. So far, the FADD has interviewed the pig's owner; dressed in disposable coveralls, boots, cap, and exam gloves to examine the pig; and is about to take samples in the isolation ward at the private practitioner's clinic.

### Step 6. Collect diagnostic samples.

The FADD's primary responsibility is ruling out exotic vesicular diseases that affect swine: foot and mouth disease, swine vesicular disease, vesicular exanthema of swine, and vesicular stomatitis.

The differential diagnosis list for endemic disease possibilities is longer, and includes greasy pig disease, swine pox, erysipelas, senecavirus A, and porcine

dermatitis and nephropathy syndrome, among others.

Before examining the pig, the FADD called staff at the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) at Plum Island, NY to discuss the sampling plan, which entails: collecting blood in red, purple, and green top tubes; collecting crusts, scabs, and flaps of tissue from the skin lesions; taking a punch biopsy of a skin lesion; and swabbing the oral and nasal cavities, placing the swabs in tubes containing tris-buffered tryptose broth. The FADD, the private practitioner, and the State Veterinarian agree to take duplicate samples of each type, in order to submit one set of the samples to FADDL to rule out vesicular diseases, and submit one set to the state veterinary diagnostic laboratory, which can perform diagnostic tests for endemic diseases once exotic vesicular diseases are ruled out.

Next time, the FADD will pack the samples according to shipping regulations and take biosecurity precautions when leaving the clinic.



## Introduction to ADT: The Role of the AV

Paul M. Pitcher, VMO

Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) is a very important aspect of

APHIS, Veterinary Services' primary mission to safeguard animal health. VS is highly dependent upon the vigilance of the community of Accredited Veterinarians (AVs) for successful execution of this mission. The goal of ADT is to document all animal movements from origin to ultimate destination while minimizing the potential for spread of dangerous animal diseases. When ADT compliance is full and complete, an animal's location is "bookended", allowing any disease incident to be traced back to the animal's origin, or traced out to its destination, or to the locations of other animals potentially exposed during a movement. Thus, the principle role of AVs in the ADT program is ensuring full compliance of animal owners with interstate or international animal movement rules. Typically, the first step in properly documenting a movement is contacting the destination State or country for



information on its importation requirements. Most States publish entry requirements for all domestic animal species online. For answers to specific questions, officials in the destination State may be reached by phone. [Click here](#) for the link to a complete list of State animal health officials' contact information.

VS negotiates the terms of international animal movements with the rest of the world. The requirements for movements resulting from those negotiations are found here on the ["iRegs"](#) website.

States may require that permit numbers be issued for each animal movement into the State. Some States (Florida, for example) have automated systems online for issuing permit numbers in real time, day or night.

In future installments of this series, we will describe aspects of ADT which require involvement of AVs and are critical to ADT and thus, protection of the nation's herds and flocks against dangerous domestic and foreign animal diseases: animal identification, health determination and attestation, and fitness to travel.

## Answer KEY International Export of Live Animals Pop Quiz



1. **B. False** No, Jack is **not** in compliance with the EU's regulations, as the EU requires the microchip be implanted **prior** to rabies vaccination. Furthermore, Dr. Smith should not issue a health certificate for Jack until he is fully compliant with all EU import regulations.

2. **B. False.** Dr. Smith **must** revise the rabies vaccine certificate. Discrepancies between a health certificate and supporting documentation, such as vaccine

certificates and laboratory reports, account for a substantial number of the problems USDA APHIS Endorsement Offices identify with health certificates. Always double check the health certificate against the medical record, whether that's for verification of an ID number, vaccination, treatment or laboratory testing.

3. **A. True.** A health certificate cannot be endorsed until **all** required information has been entered by the USDA Accredited Veterinarian.

*Remember, it is your responsibility as a USDA Accredited Veterinarian to issue an accurate and complete health certificate. Failure to do so may jeopardize your accreditation status!*

## Notice on Re-Use of Needles

There have been recent discussions about the importance of biosecurity and reusing needles. Veterinary Services cannot over-emphasize the importance of single-use needles in the diagnosis and treatment of livestock. Needles contaminated with blood or tissue can act as fomites, carrying infectious agents and rapidly transmitting disease through a herd or between herds of animals. Using needles on only one animal and then safely discarding used needles protects the health and well-being of livestock and the customers we serve.

Some diseases that may be transmitted with dirty needles include:

- Bovine leukosis;
- Bovine virus diarrhea;
- Bluetongue;
- Anaplasmosis;
- Caprine arthritis and encephalitis;
- Cryptosporidiosis;
- Strangles;
- Ringworm;
- Clostridial disease (blackleg);
- Caseous Lymphadenitis; and
- Several foreign animal diseases, such as Nipah virus.

Additional info on preventing disease spread is available in the NVAP Module 4, [Preventing Disease Introduction and Spread.](#)



**Your feedback is very important to us. Please reply to the email you received the newsletter in and let us know your suggestions.**



**NVAP Corner**

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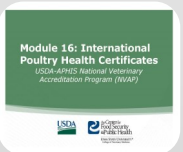
[Orientation Program Schedule](#)

[Check your accreditation status and renewal date](#)

**Tips Corner**

◆ When creating an eAuthentication account for Veterinary Services Streamline Processing (VSPS) in order to submit an online renewal application, you only need to request level one access. Your access level (1 or 2) and your accreditation category (I or II) are not related in any way.

◆ VSPS Library: Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) application offers many different tools for accredited veterinarians including but not limited to online renewal, Coggins tests and interstate CVIs. Click [here](#) for a library of info for VSPS.



This is a brand new module. This module focuses on the international export of live poultry and hatching eggs. It helps veterinarians identify the State, Tribal, Federal, and international agencies involved in the regulation of poultry health, transport, and trade. The different roles of accredited

veterinarians with respect to the regulations pertaining to the poultry industry are presented. Finally, veterinarians can learn where to access current poultry health and export regulations to perform all tasks required to properly prepare, complete, and issue an international health certificate for the export of hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and poultry other than day-old chicks.

We can hardly believe that this edition marks our 3rd year of the District 1 Accredited Veterinarian Newsletter! On behalf of the District 1 Newsletter Committee we would like to thank you for your continued support and interest in these quarterly newsletters! We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoy creating them for you!



**Exotic Tick Species Identified in Hunterdon County, New Jersey**

Dr. Nicole Lewis, NJ Dept. of Ag  
On November 9, 2017 the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa confirmed the finding of an exotic East Asian tick (Haemaphysalis longicornis), also known as the longhorned tick or bush tick, on a sheep in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Initial Identification was done by the Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers University and the Hunterdon County Health Department. This tick is not known to occur in the U.S., though it has been intercepted on horses at ports of entry.

The sheep was the only animal on the property where the tick was found. Blood samples from the sheep tested negative for various livestock specific diseases, including Piroplasmiasis, Anaplasmosis, Q fever, Heartwater, and various blood parasites at the NVSL. Similarly, testing done on the ticks by Rutgers were also negative. The pasture and sheep were treated for ticks and surveillance of the surrounding area has not found any

additional ticks. This includes trapping of small rodents, etc. Efforts to find and eradicate the parasite are suspended during the winter but will continue in the coming months.

State, local and Federal Animal Health and wildlife officials are continuing to work jointly to monitor the situation. Response efforts include surveillance of the property, sheep and wildlife. Tick treatments will be used on the animal and environment to prevent spread as necessary. The primary goal is to eradicate the tick before it becomes established and spreads to new areas.



Image: Haemaphysalis longicornis, from L to R is an adult female, an engorged nymph and larvae. Both males and females were found on the host. Photo courtesy of Jim Occi, Rutgers University.

**Country-Specific Updates: International**

**Export of Live Animals** Caitlin E. Comparetta, DVM, Assistant Director, NIES Service Center 1

In an effort to keep you all abreast of changes in the world of animal export, the following is a select list of updates to the import regulations for countries that your patients commonly travel to:

-**Malta** now allows dogs' *Echinococcus multilocularis* treatment to be administered after USDA APHIS endorsement of the health certificate. This brings Malta in line with the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales), Finland, Ireland, and Norway who already allow this treatment to be administered post-endorsement (in addition to before endorsement).

-As of February 1, 2018, Canada requires breeding cattle to be identified with an NAIS-compliant "840" Radio Frequency (RF) tag, and a tattoo. The option of the Official USDA "metal" tag will no longer be accepted for exports of breeding cattle to Canada. [See the USDA APHIS International Regulations webpage for Canada for more info.](#)

-**South Africa** now requires dogs be tested for *Trypanosoma evansi* (surra). [Please see the USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website page for South Africa for more information on this new requirement.](#)

-While **Australia** has not updated their import regulations for cats and dogs, we recognize their import regulations are complicated. USDA APHIS created annotated health certificates to help with interpreting the regulations and properly issuing an Australian health certificate. The annotated health certificates are available on the [USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website page for Australia.](#)

-**Accredited Veterinarian Input Requested:** Is there an animal export topic you'd like to see in the next issue of the NVAP Newsletter? Email your suggestion to [vspsny@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vspsny@aphis.usda.gov) with a subject heading of "NVAP Newsletter Article Suggestion".



## **A roadside pig and a twelve-step program (Part 2)**

Dr. Julie Gauthier, Editor-in-Chief of FAD Eye

The previous episode took us through the first three steps of a foreign animal disease investigation (Volume 3, Issue 3). The FADD received the assignment from the State Veterinarian to investigate a young pot-bellied pig with a fever and blisters on its snout and feet. Now, after an initial phone call with the mixed animal practitioner to set up a visit, the FADD is at the clinic, ready to interview the client and examine the pig.

### Step 4: The interview

Before the FADD enters the isolation room to examine the pig, the two veterinarians talk to the pig's owner, who has arrived at the clinic. The pig's owner doesn't have any additional information about the roadside seller. He is very concerned about the rest of his menagerie at home: a horse, a cow, 2 other pot-bellied pigs, 4 dogs, 16 backyard chickens, and a duck, which all appear well today and have not left the property in the past month. The FADD asks about possible chemical or heat exposures that might cause the piglet's blistered skin, but the

owner can think of none.

### Step 5. The exam

Normally, before examining affected animals, the FADD walks through a farm, getting a general mental picture of the facility, unaffected animals, feed, water source, and ventilation. In this case, the FADD is presented with a single piglet caged in an otherwise empty isolation room.

The piglet is recumbent and trembling and appears mildly dehydrated. Body condition is good and rectal temperature is 103F. The snout and coronary bands of all four feet are covered with coalescing lesions that range from red and moist to brown and crusty. The skin of the interdigital clefts also has red, moist lesions. The FADD also notices a few 1 cm diameter circular lesions with dark, almost black scabs on the flanks of the pig, but no other lesions or abnormalities.

At this point, the FADD is mentally organizing a differential diagnosis list that includes endemic as well as exotic diseases. What's on your differential diagnosis list?

We'll continue next time with sample collection, the exit interview, and biosecurity precautions.

## **Fin Fish: Foreign and Emerging Diseases Training**

Lauren Harris, DVM, VMO New England

Many veterinarians don't realize that USDA APHIS VS has involvement with or regulatory oversight of farmed aquatic species, which includes fin fish and shellfish. In addition to domestic disease surveillance, and ensuring safety and health through import/export monitoring and inspections, USDA field veterinarians like me investigate potential foreign animal disease incursions in farmed aquatic species. Working with aquatic species can initially seem a bit daunting, especially because aquaculture and fish medicine are not explored in detail during veterinary school. So what does one do when assigned a task such as learning how to diagnose transboundary diseases in farmed fish? First and foremost, learning what is normal is paramount. It is also beneficial to learn some industry practices to have a better understanding of what kinds of mortality and morbidity rates should raise alarm bells and how management practices can affect health. Finally, learning signs of foreign animal disease comes last. A training session that touches upon all of these areas is ideal, and luckily there was one such training this past August at our National Veterinary Services Laboratory

(NVSL) in Ames, IA. In the "Fin Fish and Emerging Disease" training course, fin fish experts from around the country shared their knowledge in a lecture and lab format, along with a visit to a large ornamental koi farm. The training included sessions on biosecurity, sample collection, working through a mock disease outbreak scenario, as well as observation and dissection of diseased fish. NVSL's enhanced biosecurity features in their customized aquatic suite enabled us to study diseases such as Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus, Koi Herpes Virus, Spring Viremia of Carp, and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia. In many ways, it paralleled the foreign animal disease school I attended on Plum Island, but this was strictly the finfish version of that terrestrial species program. Hands on training like this is invaluable, and I appreciate the effort Janet Warg and our Aquaculture Staff contributed to this first of its kind training. I look forward to Veterinary Services' continued involvement with aquaculture because it is certainly a growing and valuable sector of agriculture. For more information [click here](#).



Image: Healthy koi observed during an exercise at Kloubec Koi Farm

## **Sustainability in Livestock Production Systems: Part 3**

Paul M. Pitcher, DVM, MS VMO, USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services

Sustainability has many different meanings. For the purposes of this article, it is defined as: avoidance of adverse health events in livestock. In previous installments of this series, we have focused on external and internal challenges to sustainability. Interventions such as acclimatization, segregation of age groups, and avoidance of contact with wildlife have been discussed. This article is to raise awareness of another intervention that, when rigorously applied, results in avoidance of adverse health events through containment of infectious agents.

A recent innovation in containing infectious disease agents is called the Line of Separation. This line is the boundary between "clean" and "dirty". Usually, the clean side is where the livestock reside. On farms, this line must be clearly marked. It is not sufficient to rely on virtual or implied boundaries. For example, entry doors and loading chutes should have explicit visual cues which give people a clear boundary to avoid crossing, such as a painted line or a locked door accompanied by signage that includes information on the requirements for crossing the Line of Separation. Requirements can range from cleaning and disinfecting footwear, to a change in clothing and footwear with hand-washing, to showering in. There should be requirements to clean and disinfect any equipment or supplies that must be brought into the

livestock facilities prior to taking them across the Line.

There may be multiple levels of Separation, from low at the farm gate, to high at the entry door to the more susceptible livestock, such as newly weaned piglets. Contaminated livestock trailers should be prohibited from crossing the Line at the farm gate. Personnel with a history of recent contact with livestock (such as haulers) should be prohibited from crossing the Lines at the loading chute and facility entry doors. Employees responsible for care of older, immune livestock, such as finishing hogs, should be prohibited from entering rooms with the most-susceptible livestock.

Veterinarians and technicians visiting farms have a responsibility to be informed of entry requirements and to respect Lines of Separation. To protect their clients' investments, additional Lines of Separation can be created if needed. Visitors should be prepared by having all needed equipment and supplies organized to avoid multiple crossings of Lines. When the farm visit is complete, consider that the clean and dirty sides of the Line have been inverted. This requires advance preparation for disposal and bagging of used equipment at the Line, and cleaning and disinfection so that vehicles are not contaminated.

For more information, [www.pork.org/food-safety/biosecurity-management-best-practices](http://www.pork.org/food-safety/biosecurity-management-best-practices)

## **National Import-Export Services (NIES) – Service Center 1/JFK– Contact Information**

### **New York – Service Center Headquarters**

Serving:

In-Person Appointments and Mail-In: CT, ME, MA, NC, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT, WV

Mail-In: DC, DE, MD, VA

USDA-APHIS-VS

500 New Karner Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Albany, NY 12205

Email: [vspsny@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vspsny@aphis.usda.gov)

Telephone: 518-218-7540

Fax: 518-218-7545

### **Pennsylvania**

Serving: In-Person Appointments and Mail-In: PA

USDA-APHIS-VS

2300 Vartan Way, Suite 250

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Email: [vspspa@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vspspa@aphis.usda.gov)

Telephone: 717-540-2770

Fax: 717-782-3809

### **Virginia**

Serving: In-Person Appointments Only (Mail-ins go to Albany, NY): DC, DE, MD, VA

USDA-APHIS-VS

Federal Building

400 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 726

Richmond, VA 23219

Email: [vspsva@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vspsva@aphis.usda.gov)

Telephone: 804-343-2567

Fax: 804-343-2599

## **National Import – Export Services (NIES) – Jamaica, NY Port Office – Contact Information:**

**The JFK Veterinary Services office is only able to provide endorsement services by appointment, for individuals departing within 5 days. Appointment must be pre-scheduled by phone, and are available Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 12:30pm.**

**The JFK Office is unable to accommodate unscheduled appointments, or accept certificates by mail.**

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

JFK Int'l Airport, JFK Logistics Center

230-59 Rockaway Blvd. / Suite 100 / Room 101

Jamaica, NY 11413

Email: [VSPSJFK@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VSPSJFK@aphis.usda.gov)

Telephone: 718-553-3570



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**Tips Corner**

◆ Use the [current VS Form 1-36A](#) (DEC 2013) Older versions are still being accepted; however, the block numbers are different and may at some point cause delay.

◆ Please keep in mind that we may only give your NAN to you or leave it as a message on a phone line that is clearly identified as your personal line.

**A Year in Review and an Accredited Veterinarian's "New Year's Resolutions"**

*Caitlin E. Comparetta, DVM  
Assistant Director, NIES Service Center 1*

As 2017 draws to a close, we want to share with you that our offices in District 1/Service Center 1 endorsed a grand total of 29,338 live animal export health certificates for accredited veterinarians in Fiscal Year 2017. This number reflects live animals and germplasm departing the US from Maine to North Carolina, and it also represents a tremendous amount of work by our Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs). Given that during our busy summer and winter seasons, we receive upwards of 200 live animal health certificates a day, the average live animal health certificate takes about 15 minutes to review (but can take several hours if there are serious problems/errors), and we have only 7 VMOs among all of our offices (and this is only a portion of their responsibilities), it highlights how imperative it is for you, the accredited veterinarian, to adhere to the Code of Federal Regulations' Standards for accredited veterinarians of "not issu[ing]...any certificate, form, record or report, until, and unless, it has been accurately and fully completed" and "keep[ing] himself or herself currently informed on Federal and State regulations...governing the movement of animals".



To help you meet the Standards, please make the following your New Year's Resolutions:

- \* **Check the USDA APHIS [Pet Travel Website](#) or [International Regulations for Live Animals](#) every time you issue a health certificate!** *You can only issue (and we can only endorse) the current version of a health certificate.*
- \* **Complete all required sections of the health certificate!** *You cannot issue (and we cannot endorse) a health certificate with missing information. If you're unclear on what information needs to be entered, ask us!*
- \* **Do not issue a health certificate that does not meet the destination country's import regulations!** *If you issue a non-compliant health certificate – you guessed it – we cannot endorse it.*

By failing to conform to the Standards for accredited veterinarians, you are jeopardizing not just your accreditation status, but also your professional reputation, relationship with your clients, and the well-being of your patients. Don't let that happen to you in 2018!

**Ongoing Surveillance for BSE**

*James Lee, DVM, New England Epidemiologist*

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) garnered new attention this summer as an Alabama cow tested positive for atypical (L-type) BSE. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> reported case of BSE in the U.S., and all but one of those cases have been confirmed atypical BSE. Atypical BSE appears to occur sporadically in cattle worldwide, and is not thought to be linked to the human condition, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The discovery, diagnosis, and disposal of this cow was a reminder that the U.S. has a robust system of safeguards involving multiple agencies designed to protect consumers and our animal populations from BSE.

USDA APHIS continues to conduct targeted BSE surveillance on high risk cattle. Animals over 12 months of age that are exhibiting neurologic deficits are especially important subjects for BSE surveillance. Many other disorders, notably rabies, can trigger neurologic signs in cattle so it's vitally important for veterinarians to follow state specific

guidelines for reporting rabies suspects and neurologic cattle. Working in conjunction with accredited veterinarians, public health labs, and producers, APHIS personnel can often assist in the collection and submission of BSE samples from neurologic adult cattle. Non-ambulatory disabled cattle over 30 months of age are also important targets for BSE surveillance. Accredited veterinarians provide valuable assistance in identifying, collecting and submitting BSE surveillance samples from non-ambulatory cattle. Special care is needed in the collection and submission of specimens for BSE testing and for the proper disposal of carcasses from tested animals. Compensation is available to both the veterinarian and the producer for properly submitted BSE samples.

Accredited veterinarians with proper training play a critical role in the ongoing surveillance efforts for BSE and many other diseases. If you'd like to learn more about BSE sample collection and submission, contact your local [Veterinary Services District Office](#).

**VSPS Tip - eCoggins**

*By Douglas Croft, VSPS Training Network*

Before submitting eCoggins forms, please preview the VS Form 10-11 before submitting it to the lab to make sure all information is correct. Changes cannot be made to official Coggins forms (results entered by the lab and marked complete) in VSPS. If an official form needs to be voided, the VS SPRS AD (Assistant Director) in your area must be contacted for written approval for the lab to void the official form, which will be kept on file by the lab.

After the eCoggins form is voided, a new submission with the updated information may be made to the lab. If the AD approves, the same blood

sample may be used.

AVs can view the status of the submission in VSPS by going to Labs > Find Test Results. If the eCoggins is not in a submitted status, changes may still be made. Once submitted, the eCoggins may be deleted by the AV until the eCoggins has a status of "Received" by the lab, after which it may only be voided by the lab.

However, once the lab has entered the results for the sample and marked it complete, the eCoggins has been made official and the AD must be contacted for further guidance.



## North Carolina to host the World Equestrian Games in 2018!

Lewis Dodds, DVM, Veterinary Medical Officer, NC

The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) World Equestrian Games (WEG) will be returning to the United States in 2018. The WEG will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) in Mill Spring, North Carolina, September 10 - 23, 2018.

Beginning in 1990, the WEG have been held every four years in the middle of the Olympic cycle. They include the FEI disciplines of: Jumping, Dressage, Para-Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, and Reining. The FEI Bureau awarded the games to TIEC on November 3, 2016, following the withdrawal of Bromont (CAN), the original awardee. This marks only the second time the Games have been held off the European continent, the first being in 2010 when they were held in Lexington, Kentucky.

Tryon consists of seven barns with 1200 stalls, 12 arenas, a cross-country course, driving stadium, derby field, nine restaurants, tack store, general store, specialty retail shops, and on-site lodging in both cabins and hotels. The facility is nestled on 1600 acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Polk County.

This event will bring together approximately 800 of the top equine athletes from around the world. USDA APHIS VS will be responsible for overseeing the importation of these horses for the WEG and their subsequent exportation upon completion. The National Import Export Services (NIES) staff will be coordinating the effort, in cooperation with Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services (SPRS) personnel, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine.

US origin horses participating in the WEG will need to be examined by an accredited veterinarian, determined to be free of communicable/contagious diseases and have a current Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) issued prior to entry.

Planning and preparation efforts have already begun, and there is a huge amount of work remaining in the next 12 months. However, everyone involved is excited to be a part of this international event and look forward to a successful outcome for the FEI World Equestrian Games 2018!

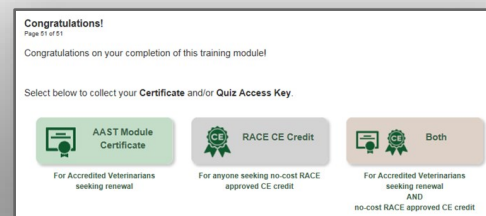
For more information be sure to visit the websites of FEI <http://www.fei.org/tryon-2018> and TIEC <https://tryon.coth.com/>

## APHIS Approved Training Modules (AAST) RACE Approved

At the end of all the APHIS Approved Training Modules (AAST), there is the option to receive AAST credit, RACE CE Credit, or Both. If you select the AAST Module Certificate box (first box), you will receive an AAST certificate only. If you choose the 2nd option, RACE CE Credit, you will have to take a quiz and pass with a score of 70% or greater and if you do, you will receive a certificate for RACE CE Credit only. By selecting the second option, completion of the training will not get tracked in our AAST Tracking System for renewal in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP). If you want to get an AAST Module Certificate and a RACE CE Credit, choose Both which is the third option.

RACE CE Credit can be used for your state license renewal but you still must check with your licensing board on their acceptance standards of RACE approved CE for license renewal. AAST credit can be used for your renewal in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP). Three units of AAST for Category I and six units for Category II renewal are required.

Remember NVAP Renewal is a two-step process, you must complete AAST and submit an application for renewal.



## Sustainability in Livestock Production Systems, Part 2

Paul M. Pitcher, DVM, MS, VMO USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services

Sustainability has many different meanings. For the purposes of this article, it is defined as: avoidance of adverse health events in livestock. This article is to raise awareness of interventions that, when properly applied, result in avoidance of adverse health events. Many individual production systems (farms) have neglected to apply these simple interventions and, as a consequence, have not been sustainable. In this installment, we will focus on internal health threats that are frequently neglected by livestock producers.

Sustainability of farms is influenced by management practices internal to the farm which include segregation of age groups and barriers to prevent exposures between different age groups. Segregation of age groups allows exposure history to be controlled so that it is common to every animal in a group. Lack of age-segregation results in a range of random exposures and consequent uncontrollable transmission of disease agents between fulminant animals and susceptible animals through direct or indirect contact. All-in/all-out production systems have evolved to accomplish this segregation, with attendant large benefits to livestock health independent of chemical or antimicrobial intervention. With all-in/all-out production systems, managers may be tempted to retain laggards at marketing time, attempting to salvage higher returns from them. This practice threatens sustainability by undermining the benefits of segregation of age groups, unless laggards are removed from the premises.

Flow of animals and foot traffic between age-segregated animal groups must be strictly unidirectional. Then, effective barriers are possible to

prevent transmission of pathogens between groups. In general, foot traffic should flow from the youngest, most susceptible groups (such as neonates) to less susceptible groups (such as adults). Effective barriers are physical, not virtual, and rely on visual cues. Doors with one-way locks to prevent retrograde traffic are appropriate. Disinfection procedures when crossing barriers such as footbaths and hand-washing are cheap and effective as long as they are maintained through daily maintenance of solution potency. Bear in mind that non-humans (cats, dogs, rodents) are fully capable of transmitting livestock pathogens and only respect effective physical barriers.

When health challenges arise in an age-segregated animal group, there is opportunity to control exposure of individuals in the group. In rare cases, actions to broaden exposure of all individuals in the group can be made to shorten the duration of the challenge by stimulating a simultaneous immune response in all. In swine, this approach is important in managing Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea. In other cases, clinically affected individuals can be identified and promptly removed from the group to decrease the overall challenge to the rest. In swine, this is appropriate with Enteric Salmonellosis and Porcine Circovirus Disease. With many enteric disease challenges, contact with excreta should be avoided to contain the incident and avoid spread to other groups. Caretakers should avoid stepping between individual pens and instead use apparatus to crowd the pen to allow access to all individuals for administration of treatments.

Finally, caretakers should constantly be attendant to the three principal needs of livestock: nutrients, water, and air. Age segregation allows better matching of the supply of these essentials for them.



**NVAP Corner**

Contact your [NVAP Coordinator](#)

**Upcoming NVAP presence at conferences in District 1:**

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Fall CE Conference  
 Module 29  
 October 18, 2017  
 Marlborough, MA

North Carolina Veterinary Conference  
 Module 9  
 November 3, 2017  
 Raleigh, NC

See upcoming NVAP presence at conferences [Nationwide here](#)

You can now access past issues of **DI newsletters on our website!**  
[Newsletters](#)

[VS 1-36A Form](#)

[Accreditation Renewal Info](#)

**Tips Corner**

◆ **Look UP Tool Expanded:** Do you know if you have let your accreditation expire? The Check my Accreditation Status tool has been improved. You can now check to see what category you are and your renewal date as long as you know your National Accreditation Number (NAN) and last name in our system. Click [here](#) to access the tool.

◆ Please keep in mind that we may only give your NAN to you or leave it as a message on a line that is clearly identified as your personal line. The above actions will expedite your request or inquiry.

◆ You may complete your APHIS Approved Supplemental Training (AAST) Modules at any time during your three-year renewal cycle. For example, if your renewal is not due for another two (2) years, you may go ahead and complete the modules now; however, you may not submit your renewal application any earlier than six (6) months before your Accreditation Renewal Date (ARD).

**Celebrating the One Year Anniversary of the USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website!**



It's hard to believe that it's been a year already, but the [USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website \(PTW\)](#) for privately-owned companion animals reached its 1-year anniversary on July 18, 2017! We appreciate the positive feedback from you and your clients, and hope that the website has helped make the international movement of your companion animal patients easier. We understand that there are some areas that need improvement and are working to address them. You can expect to see the updates to the PTW in the near future.

Following the debut of the PTW, we observed a decrease in the number of companion animal health certificates that are not in compliance with the destination country's import regulations. To help avoid errors when issuing health certificates, remember that import regulations can and do change without advance notification to USDA

APHIS. Every time you issue an export health certificate (companion animal or not) you should verify the import regulations. (Similarly, we recommend you NOT bookmark the link directly to the health certificate or our guidance documents. Such links may take you to outdated information.) If the destination country has notified USDA APHIS of their import regulations for a species of animal, it will be posted to the PTW (for privately-owned companion animals) or Live Animal International Regulations (a.k.a., IRegs – for all other animals). Conversely, you or your client will need to contact the destination country for their import regulations if that information is not available on the PTW or IRegs.

When submitting their health certificate for endorsement, some of your clients have included a document created by your staff with instructions on obtaining endorsement. We appreciate the intent, but ask that you please not create such documents on our behalf; all such documents we've received have contained either erroneous or incomplete information. Note that we have a guidance document for you and your clients to explain the endorsement process. (Large animal practitioners, we have one for horses, equine semen, and breeding cattle to Canada – email us at [vspnsny@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:vspnsny@aphis.usda.gov) if you'd like a copy!)

**A roadside pig and a twelve-step program (Part 1)** Dr. Julie Gauthier, editor-in-chief of FAD Eye

Based on true story, this vignette takes us through the 12 steps that a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) and accredited veterinarian use to conduct a foreign animal disease investigation.

1. Receive the assignment from the State Veterinarian and VS Assistant District Director (AD).

A new client presents a pot-bellied pig to a mixed-animal practitioner. The young pig is very sore, and very sick; he is depressed, febrile, and has extensive coalescing raw blister-like lesions on his snout and all four feet. The client purchased the pig yesterday from a man who was parked on the side of the road selling a litter of pigs out of the back of his pick-up truck. No other information about the seller is known.

The practitioner is very concerned that this is a vesicular disease, and contacts the State Veterinarian's office, sending photos of the lesions. The State Veterinarian, in consultation with the VS AD, assigns an FADD who works in the practitioner's area.

2. Initial phone call between FADD and veterinary practitioner.

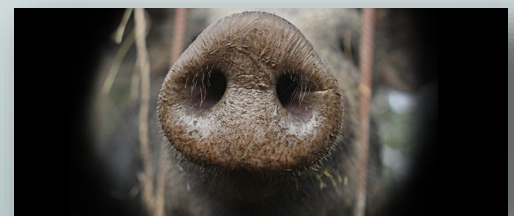
Within the hour of the practitioner's call to the State Vet, the FADD phones the practitioner to plan the investigation, collecting the sparse

history, the clinical signs, and directions to the practice.

3. Biosecurity measures upon arrival.

On arrival, the FADD introduces herself at reception and asks to speak to the reporting practitioner. Together, they decide where the FADD should park her vehicle and enter the clinic to examine the pig. They also discuss a plan to isolate the pig within the clinic and disinfect the areas, such as the waiting room and exam room, where the pig had been. They plan temporary measures to quarantine and care for the other hoofed livestock (a goat and a cow) housed outdoors at the clinic, as well as a traffic plan for other clients and patients arriving at the clinic so business can continue while the investigation is ongoing.

At the chosen parking spot at the back of the clinic, the FADD dons clean coveralls, boots, and disposable exam gloves, and assembles a tote with supplies from her truck that she will need to examine and collect samples from the pig.



*To be continued...*



### Scrapie Submissions Needed

Submitted by Dr. Diane Sutton, Sheep and Goat Health Commodity Team Leader

The good news for American sheep and goat producers is that the industry has scrapie on the run. The bad news is that the current status makes carriers of this fatal disease more difficult to find.

“The incidence rate is now very low and finding the few remaining cases becomes more difficult using traditional surveillance methods,” said Wyoming State Veterinarian Jim Logan, DVM. “The best and most appropriate method now is within flock surveillance. It is in the best interest of the industry that we sample as many adult dead sheep and goats that we can and get them tested.”

The only diagnostic tests currently available to determine if a sheep or goat has scrapie require brain or lymphoid tissue. Live animals can be tested using rectal lymphoid tissue biopsy.

The best way for veterinarians and producers to assist in eradicating scrapie from American borders is to participate in APHIS’ sample submission program. The program is provided at no cost to veterinarians and producers, and asks for samples from sheep or goats 18 months of age or older.

The process for submitting samples is fairly simple and outlined in below. Shipping boxes with packing supplies and shipping are provided at no cost by APHIS. Tissues can also be submitted in formalin. For more information on submitting samples click [here](#).

### Whole Head Packaging Procedures

#### Preparing the Head

1. After removing horns (if present), put the head in a plastic bag. Leave the ears with all identifications devices (official and unofficial) attached to the head. Securely close the bag.



2. Place the bag containing the head in a second bag and identify this bag with the specimen number that corresponds with the number on the RSSS Whole Head Submission Worksheet. Securely close the bag.  
3. Chill head prior to further packaging by immersing in ice (not dry ice)

for at least 1 hour or cooling in a refrigerator for at least 3 hours.

4. Cool or refrigerate the head until and during shipping in special cooler provided by APHIS VS. Do not freeze the head, unless this is the only way to preserve the specimen.

#### Packing the Cooler

1. Place two frozen chill packs in the bottom of the cooler.  
2. Open and insert the large plastic bag to form a liner in the cooler.



3. Place absorbent material inside the liner and place the double-bagged head(s) inside the liner. Securely close the liner bag.



4. Place two frozen chill packs on top of the heads and close the lid of the cooler.

5. Place the completed RSSS Whole Head Submission Worksheet in a zipper type plastic bag, seal the bag and place it between the lid of the cooler and the lid of the exterior carton. Seal the exterior carton.

#### Shipping the Cooler

Ship overnight to:  
Veterinary Services  
Remington Facility  
18795 S 580 W  
Remington, IN 47977  
(or as directed by your [VS contact](#))

Notify Remington Locker via phone or email when a shipment is scheduled for delivery:

Phone: (317) 347-3100  
Fax: (219) 261-2357  
Remington.Locker@aphis.usda.gov

#### IF SHIPPING IS DELAYED, REPLACE CHILL PACKS IN COOLER

Produced in cooperation with the [American Sheep Industry Association](#)

### “Your Role in Disease

#### Surveillance: Importance of Test Charts”

Valerie Koenig, DVM, VMO and Gail Skamarack, Program Assistant – New England

As an accredited veterinarian you play a vital role in detecting regulated diseases and contributing to our surveillance of animal populations. One of the ways that VS demonstrates national disease freedom is through testing of a statistically significant proportion of populations for diseases such as Bovine Brucellosis, Swine Brucellosis, and Bovine Tuberculosis. It is through reporting on test charts that we are able to capture the data necessary to complete annual reports for submission to our national staff. Additionally, not only is it important to classify disease freedom nationwide, but also individually by state. It is therefore of distinct importance that these records are accurately and legibly completed so that each state’s test chart data can be entered correctly in our database.

Listed below are some common errors encountered on test charts:

- Using non-official animal identification
- Incomplete name or National Accreditation Number (NAN) (“Agree Code” box)
- Not selecting a test reason
- Not completing the summary of test results
- Illegible information

Solutions to remedy these common errors:

- Include Official ID type (NUES/brite tag, 840 tag, registration tattoo, etc.) and number of each animal tested (*see picture highlighting official ID components on one type of 840 tag*)

#### Official ID Components



- Print and sign your name in the designated boxes along with NAN
- Select the appropriate test reason
- Correctly add the total of each result type from all pages
- Clearly print all info

As busy practicing veterinarians, we understand that efficiency is of utmost importance. Although you may have a technician that helps to complete the test chart, the signing veterinarian ultimately needs to review and complete once testing is finalized as this is a legal document.

We appreciate the work you do and rely on you as accredited veterinarians to act as agents of Veterinary Services in performing this disease testing. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call your [regional VS office](#).

Check out NVAP [Module 2](#) for full training on test charts and forms completion.

Your feedback is very important to us. Please reply to the email you received the newsletter in and let us know your suggestions.

North Carolina to host the World Equestrian Games in 2018!

More to come with an article from Lewis Dodds, DVM, VMO