

# USDA APHIS VS District 4 / Service Centers Gainesville and Sacramento

## Spring Newsletter 2019

### *Quotes of the Quarter*



"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"...  
"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling  
on the sunshine..."

~ Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is.  
And when you've got it, you want—oh, you don't  
quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly  
makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

~ Mark Twain

## Veterinary Export Trade Services (VETS)

### Pre-Screen Service for Live Animal Health Certificates

Filling out health certificates can be confusing and overwhelming. It is easy to miss the small details. We will review your completed and signed health certificate, **as time allows**, prior to endorsement. This service is provided as a courtesy at no charge. As such, completed certificates presented for endorsement and other urgent matters concerning international trade take priority. Please make arrangements in advance to allow for ample time for completion and review of the certificate prior to endorsement.

Contact your local export office for more information on this service.

### New Requirements for Pets to China

Effective May 1, 2019, China will allow entry of U.S. pets (dogs and cats) to enter China through any port without a quarantine **ONLY IF** the pet has been vaccinated twice for rabies, is microchipped, and has a valid rabies titer (except for pets from Hawaii and Guam). The certificate must be issued by an accredited veterinarian within 14 days of arrival in China and endorsed by USDA-APHIS. An updated health certificate has been posted to the Pet Travel Website.

Any pet that cannot meet those requirements **MUST** enter China through one of the designated ports listed on the Pet Travel Website, and will be required to complete a 30-day post-arrival quarantine. **\*\*THE PET MUST ENTER THROUGH A DESIGNATED PORT, OR IT WILL BE EUTHANIZED OR RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.\*\*** Please advise your clients of these new requirements so they can make the appropriate travel plans.

[Export Websites](#)

[Pet Travel Website](#)

[Live Animals \(other than pets\)](#)

## Accuracy of Test Results for Health Certificates Helps Smooth Animal Exports

The importance of accurate and complete information can't be emphasized enough. Test results are one of the most common places where mistakes may occur. Errors can cause delays in issuing health certificates or prevent animals from crossing the border. Accuracy is important.

**Animal ID** – Recording correct animal identification is essential to writing health certificates. If an animal has more than one form of official ID, record all official ID on test forms and health certificates.



Animals that require official ID for interstate or international movement include:

- All sexually intact beef cattle 18 months of age or older, dairy cattle of any age, cattle used for rodeo, show or exhibition and bison.
- Horses and mules, sheep and goats, swine, captive cervids.

Electronic ID (Not all the same) – only 840 RFID tags are allowed as official ID.

- Movement using other e tags such as 900 series tags may even result in fines or loss of accreditation.

Always record all official ID on test charts, vaccination records, certification documents, CVIs, etc. Missing or mistaken IDs have stopped international shipments at border crossings. Sometimes loss of a tag can be overcome by the second tag being recorded on testing and the certificate.

**Improper test performed** – For example, the SN test for Vesicular Stomatitis Virus is often required by other countries but is only performed in the US when specifically requested for export. Cattle for export to Canada may no longer be tested for brucellosis using the STT/SPT tests; only FPA, BAPA or cELISA are accepted.

**Date of Testing** – Test dates should be the date the animal was sampled, not the submission date submitted or the report date from the lab. TB testing is an exception. The date of TB testing should be the date the test was read by the accredited veterinarian.

**Test results “expire”** – State or international regulations define how long test results are valid. Exporting breeding cattle to Canada requires TB testing within 60 days of export while Brucellosis test results are only valid for 30 days. Both tests must be within the stated time periods in order for the animals to travel.

### Fill out all forms (including test charts) completely and accurately

– Many countries require that the form be typed and will reject a handwritten health certificate. If you are allowed to submit a handwritten health certificate make sure to write legibly. Submitting an incomplete form may result in it being returned to you, leading to delays in the movement of animals.

If you are unsure of how to complete a part of a form, call the Service Center office rather than sending in incomplete or inaccurate information. Inaccurate information is a form of making a false statement, which can be considered an illegal act.

The certificate is authorized by law 21 U.S.C. 113. While you are not required to register, no health certificate can be validated unless the data requested is provided. FORM APPROVED - OMB NO. 0579-0000 and 0151

6. EXPORT UNIT OF CATTLE (1) 7. EXPORT UNIT OF SWINE (1) 8. EXPORT UNIT OF HORSES (1) 9. EXPORT UNIT OF OTHER ANIMALS (1)

10. EXPORT UNIT OF OTHER ANIMALS (1)

**UNITED STATES ORIGIN HEALTH CERTIFICATE**  
(This document does not replace Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals, VS Form 17-21)

4. DATE ISSUED 5. U.S. PORT OF EMBARKATION (City and State) 6. STATE CODE 7. CONSIGNOR'S STREET ADDRESS (Mailing Address) 8. CONSIGNOR'S CITY (or Town) 9. PAGE NO.

11. TRANSPORTATION CLASS 12. CONSIGNOR'S STATE 13. STATE CODE 14. ZIP CODE

15. CONSIGNEE'S NAME AND STREET ADDRESS (Mailing Address) 16. DESTINATION COUNTRY 17. ENTRY CODE

18. SPECIES (1) one - use VS Form 17-2 for Fealty

19. SEMEN (1) # year 20. NO. DOSES OF SEMEN 21. TRANSPORTATION CLASS

22. NEGATIVE BRUCELLOSIS READING 23. BRUCELLOSIS BLOOD SAMPLE COLLECTED 24. NEGATIVE RESULTS OF OTHER TESTS

25. OTHER (Specify) 26. OTHER (Specify) 27. OTHER (Specify)

28. MORE LIVES ARE NEEDED BELOW - use VS Form 17-2 ADA.

29. OWNER'S NAME (Last name, first initial, or business name) 30. OWNER'S STREET ADDRESS 31. OWNER'S CITY/STATE (State code on reverse) & ZIP CODE

32. NEGATIVE BRUCELLOSIS FREE AREA

33. CERTIFICATION BY ISSUING VETERINARIAN

34. DATE ENDORSED 35. NAME OF ISSUING VETERINARIAN (Last name, first initial, middle initial - please print) 36. STATUS 37. TOTAL NO. OF ANIMALS

38. NAME OF ENDORSING FEDERAL VETERINARIAN (PLEASE PRINT) 39. SIGNATURE OF ISSUING VETERINARIAN

40. SIGNATURE OF ENDORSING FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

41. SIGNATURE OF ISSUING FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

## Summary

Help avoid problems when transporting animals between states or internationally by taking time to determine what the identification and test requirements are prior to movement.

For more information on proper Official ID and disease testing requirements, talk with the destination State Veterinarian (for interstate shipments) or the USDA APHIS VS Service Center office (for international export).

## VEHCS Tutorial Presentation for Accredited Veterinarians

A tutorial presentation on the use of our Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS) is available for USDA Accredited Veterinarians (AVs). The Presentation walks AVs through VEHCS: what it is; registering for an eAuth account; and reviewing two common VEHCS certificates. Frequently asked questions about VEHCS are addressed within the presentation. The presentation is entitled "AV VEHCS Presentation (national)" and can be made available to AVs upon request.

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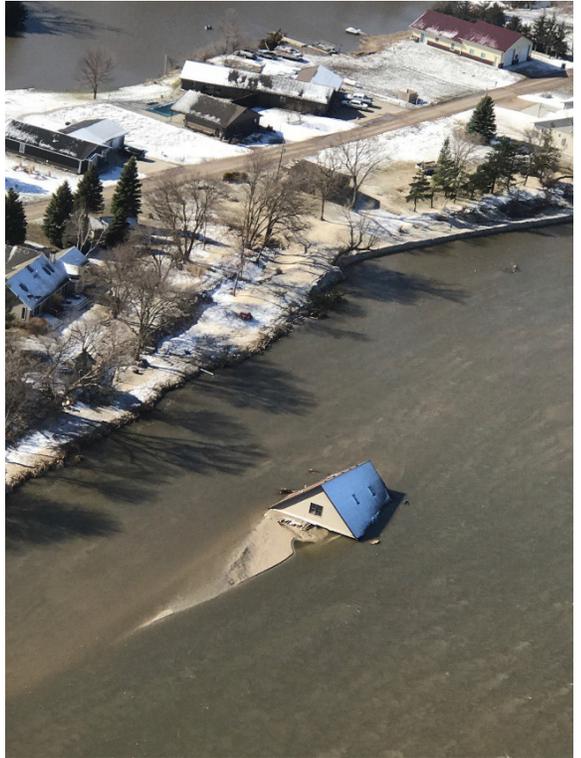
## Field Operations (FiOps)

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### Bomb Cyclone Caused Major Flooding in the Midwest

A "bomb cyclone" that swept through the Midwest in mid-March caused more than \$1.3 billion of flood damage in Nebraska. Heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt caused catastrophic flooding across the Missouri River Basin, and three-fourths of Nebraska's 93 counties were declared an emergency. Damages included \$449 million in damage to roads, levees and other infrastructure; \$440 million in crop losses; and \$400 million in cattle losses.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture submitted a request to the USDA for assistance with locating animal carcasses and with the management and disposal of these carcasses. Following approval from FEMA, an ESF-11 response was initiated on March 25, 2019. The objectives of the ESF-11 response were for USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to conduct aerial surveillance to locate animal carcasses and for USDA APHIS Veterinary Services to manage the disposal of animal carcasses. Responders included the Nebraska Departments of Agriculture, ESF-11 Coordinators, local and out of state Wildlife Services and Veterinary Services employees, and USDA APHIS Animal Care and IES employees.



Aerial surveillance of 65 counties was completed on April 7, 2019. Over 25,000 miles were flown by Wildlife Services employees. In addition to locating animal carcasses, they identified stranded cattle, damaged infrastructure, and other hazards such as displaced oil drums and propane tanks. Carcass management and disposal was completed on April 22, 2019. Disposal of carcasses was completed on 109 sites by National Veterinary Stockpile contactors or in coordination with other USDA agencies. *Article and photos courtesy of Dr. Gary Stevens in Nebraska.*

## New State Veterinarian of Missouri

Dr. Steve Strubberg was named the State Veterinarian of Missouri in April 2019.

Strubberg grew up in Union, Missouri, with the intentions of becoming a physician. Driven by his love for science, the outdoors and animals, he soon discovered his passion lie in a different field. In 1989, Strubberg received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Missouri. Following graduation, he assumed ownership and operated Hermann Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Hermann, Missouri, for nearly 30 years.

As Missouri's State Veterinarian, his vision is to continue to advance animal agriculture within the state and provide health and care for each individual animal.

Strubberg currently resides on a beef cattle operation in Gasconade County and has a stepdaughter and two grandchildren.



## Accredited Veterinarians Role in Accountable Regulatory Items

Accredited veterinarians are issued certain items for the purpose of performing regulatory accreditation duties, but did you know you are accountable for safe keeping and preventing misuse or abuse of these items? Accountable items issued for regulatory work are recorded under your 6 digit National Accreditation Number (NAN) and must be used in an appropriate manner. The Code of Federal Regulations states under 9CFR 161.4(j):

*An accredited veterinarian shall be responsible for the security and proper use of all official certificates, forms, records, and reports; tags, bands, or other identification devices; and approved digital signature capabilities used in his or her work as an accredited veterinarian and shall take reasonable care to prevent the misuse thereof. An accredited veterinarian shall immediately report to the Veterinarian-in-Charge the loss, theft, or deliberate or accidental misuse of any such certificate, form, record, or report; tag, band, or other identification device; or approved digital signature capability.*

Official Identification Devices (OID) used to officially identify livestock include Silver Brite tags (cattle and swine), Official Calhhood Vaccinate (OCV) tags, Official "840" RFID tags, Scrapie tags, and Livestock Market Back tags. These OID tags are a fundamental foundation of regulatory disease control programs and the Animal Disease Traceability program. Accredited Veterinarians must maintain records of OID application including owner's name, animal, OID number or series, and date applied. Lost or stolen tags undermine the integrity of regulatory programs in general, especially the traceability program.

Recently, it has been discovered that OID tags are being offered for sale on internet marketing sites. USDA APHIS Investigative and Enforcement Services has been working to determine how these tags got into the wrong hands. It would appear that some shipments of tags may have been damaged, resulting in a loss of tags from the primary shipping box. This investigation is on-going.

As a reminder, if you order items accountable to you as an Accredited Veterinarian, these items are linked to your NAN before they leave the manufacturer or warehouse and you should verify the contents once they arrive to ensure you received the entirety of the order. Should you fail to receive all or part of a shipment of accountable items, you must notify the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) of your State, as well as the distributor. If you become aware of such items for sale through one of these internet sites, please notify your AVIC so that an investigation can be started.

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING **EVENTS**




Every Month in 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Various locations, including: Puerto Rico, Texas, Georgia, Florida



June 6-9, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Idaho Veterinary Conference in Twin Falls, ID



June 21-23, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Montana VMA Summer Meeting at Fairmont Hot Spring Resort in Anaconda, MT



June 21-24, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Pacific Veterinary Conference in Long Beach, CA



June 23-25, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Wyoming VMA Summer Meeting in Dubois, WY



June 26-30, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Emerald Coast Veterinary Conference in Destin, FL



June 28, 2019  
**USDA Core Orientation**, 8 AM – 5 PM  
 Texas Animal Health Commission  
 Large Conference Room, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, TX 78758



July 11-14, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 MS VMA Summer Conference at Perdido Beach Resort - Orange Beach, AL  
**NVAP modules will be presented on Sunday, 6:45 AM – 12:30 PM**



August 2-6, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 AVMA Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.



August 11-14, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 South Dakota VMA Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD



August 23-26, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 FETCH (CVC Central) in Kansas City, MO  
**NVAP modules will be presented on Monday, August 26**



September 12-15, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Colorado VMA Convention in Keystone, CO



September 26-29, 2019 - [Website](#)  
 Southwest Veterinary Symposium in San Antonio, TX



September 27-29, 2019 - [Website](#)

Pacific Northwest Veterinary Conference in Tacoma, WA



October 4-6, 2019 - [Website](#)

Alaska VMA Annual Symposium in Anchorage, AK



October 4-6, 2019 - [Website](#)

108<sup>th</sup> KVMA Annual Meeting & 46<sup>th</sup> Mid-America Veterinary Conference in Louisville, KY



October 18-20, 2019 - [Website](#)

Georgia VMA Fall Convention in Alpharetta, GA



October 23-26, 2019 - [Website](#)

Wild West Veterinary Conference (WWVC) in Reno, NV



November 7-10, 2019 - [Website](#)

Hawai'i VMA 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Honolulu, HI



November 14-17, 2019 - [Website](#)

SCAV Annual Conference & Academy at Wild Dunes Resort in Isle of Palms, SC



December 12-15, 2019 - [Website](#)

FETCH (CVC West) in San Diego, CA



January 23-25, 2020 - [Website](#)

Oklahoma Veterinary Conference in Norman, OK



January 23-26, 2020 - [Website](#)

Missouri VMA 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Columbia, MO



February 7-9, 2020 - [Website](#)

Arkansas VMA 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Meeting

Contact Information				
State	Hours of Operation	Address	Phone / Fax	Email
Arkansas	M-F 8am – 4:30pm	1200 Cherry Brook Drive Ste. 300 Little Rock, AR 72211	FiOps: Phone: 510.224.9515 / Fax: 501.225.5823 VETS: Phone: 405.751.1701 / Fax: 405.751.2344	
Kansas	M-F 8am – 4:30pm  Endorsements: M-F by appointment only	1131 SW Winding Road, Suite A Topeka, Kansas 66615	FiOps: Phone: 785.228.6565 VETS: Phone: 785.228.6565 / Fax : 785.228.6570	VETS : <a href="mailto:servicecenter5@usda.gov">servicecenter5@usda.gov</a>
Louisiana, Mississippi	M-F 8am – 4:30pm  Endorsements: M-F 8am – 3:30pm	345 Keyway Drive Flowood, MS 39232	FiOps: Phone: 601.936.8591 / Fax: 601.965.5535 VETS: Phone: 601.936.8580 / Fax: 601.965.5535	FiOps: <a href="mailto:vsmsla@usda.gov">vsmsla@usda.gov</a>  VETS: <a href="mailto:expcertms@usda.gov">expcertms@usda.gov</a>
Missouri	M-F 8am – 4:30pm  Endorsements: M-F 8am – 2:30pm	1715 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109	FiOps: Phone: 573.658.9850 / Fax: 573.636.4384 VETS: Phone: 573.636.3116 / Fax: 573.636.3399	VETS: <a href="mailto:vspsmo@usda.gov">vspsmo@usda.gov</a>
Nebraska	M-F 8am – 4:30pm  No endorsements, only review services	5940 South 58th Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68516	FiOps: Phone :VETS: Phone: 785.228.6565 / Fax : 785.228.6570	VETS: <a href="mailto:servicecenter5@usda.gov">servicecenter5@usda.gov</a>
Oklahoma	M-F 7am – 5pm  Endorsements: M-F 8am – 3:30pm	12304 Market Drive Suite A Oklahoma City, OK 73114	FiOps: Phone: 405.751.1797 / Fax: 405.751.2344 VETS: Phone: 405.751.1701 / Fax: 405.751.2344	VETS: <a href="mailto:servicecenter4@usda.gov">servicecenter4@usda.gov</a>
Texas	M-F 7:30am - 4pm  Endorsements: M-F 7:30 am – 1:30pm	Thornberry Building FiOps: Room 220 VETS: Room 262 903 San Jacinto Boulevard Austin, TX 78701	FiOps: Phone: 512.383.2400 / Fax: 512.916.5197 VETS: Phone: 512.383.2411	VETS: <a href="mailto:expcerttx@usda.gov">expcerttx@usda.gov</a>
NVAP Coordinators				
State	Contact	Address	Phone / Fax	Email
Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma	Ms. Jean Rush	1715 Southridge Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109	Phone: 573.658.9840 Fax: 573.636.4384	<a href="mailto:Jean.M.Rush@usda.gov">Jean.M.Rush@usda.gov</a>
Kansas	Mr. Kelly McDonald	1131 SW Winding Road, STE A Topeka, KS 66615	Phone: 785.228.6579 Fax: 785.228.6570	<a href="mailto:Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov">Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov</a>
Louisiana, Mississippi	Ms. Karen Holton	345 Keyway Drive Flowood, MS 39232	Phone: 601.936.8582 Fax: 601.965.5535	<a href="mailto:Karen.Holton@usda.gov">Karen.Holton@usda.gov</a>
Nebraska	Ms. Sheri Gillham	5940 S 58th St Lincoln, NE 68516	Phone: 402.434.2302 Fax: 402.434.2330	<a href="mailto:Sheri.L.Gillham@usda.gov">Sheri.L.Gillham@usda.gov</a>
Texas	Ms. Nadra Khan  Mr. Tommy Fox NVAP Deputy	Thornberry Building Room 220 903 San Jacinto Boulevard Austin, TX 78701	Phone: 512.383.2404 Fax: 512.916.5197  Phone: 512.383-2408 Fax: 512.916.5197	<a href="mailto:Nadra.T.Khan@usda.gov">Nadra.T.Khan@usda.gov</a>  <a href="mailto:Tommy.D.Fox@usda.gov">Tommy.D.Fox@usda.gov</a>
State Animal Health Officials		<a href="http://www.usaha.org/federal-and-state-animal-health">http://www.usaha.org/federal-and-state-animal-health</a> – Click on link under State Animal Health Officials		