

# 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 \(other than pets\)](#)



## 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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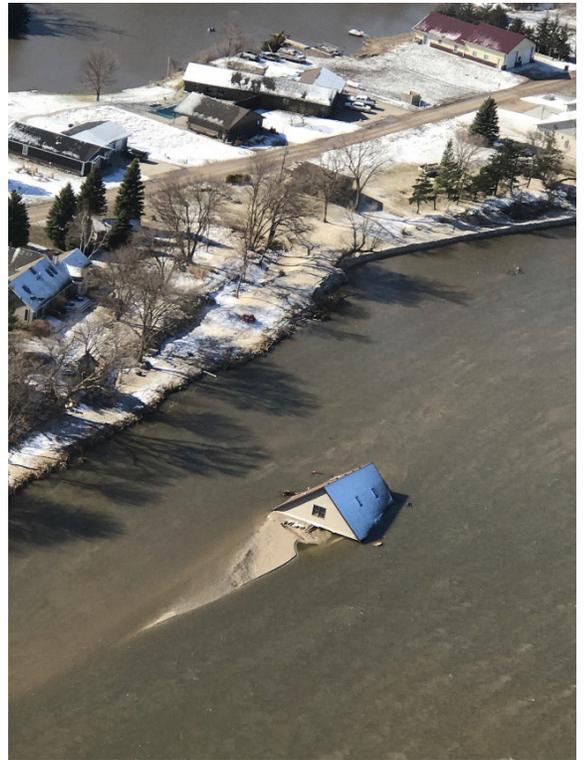
### Bomb Cyclone Caused Major Flooding in the Midwest

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.



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		