



Minnesota. Board of Animal Health.
Minutes.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Meeting held Wednesday, April 12, 2006

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on April 12, 2006 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Steve Brake, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons.

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Dale Lauer, Kristine Petrini, Assistant Directors
Jessica Monson, Executive Assistant
Ted Held, Public Information Officer
Barbara Troyer, Business Manager
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
David Nguyen, Information Technology Specialist

Guests: Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge USDA:APHIS:VS
Jim Collins, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director
Kevin Elfering, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Thomas Hagerty, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Craig Harvey, Tyson Foods
JP Curtis, Parks Livestock
Tom Helfter, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Myron Brye, Wiechman Pig
Glee Goodner, Wiechman Pig
John Lynch, Wiechman Pig
Steve Riley, Wiechman Pig
Leo Hanson, Wiechman Pig
Nancy Robinson, Livestock Marketing Association
Paul Ruen, Fairmont Veterinary Clinic
David Preisler, Minnesota Pork Producers
Steve Pooch, Minnesota State Fair
Bob Lefebvre, Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Nikki Tyrrell, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Senator Steve Dille, Minnesota Senate
Joe Martin, Assistant Commissioner
Brad Rugg, Director, Fair & Animal Science Programs, Minnesota 4-H
Jeremy Geske, Minnesota Farm Bureau

Notice of Meeting in the State Register

Mahesh Kumar reported that the notice of this Meeting appeared in the March 27, 2006 issue of the State Register.

Approval of the Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting on January 11, 2006.

A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by John Whitten and passed with all voting aye to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2006 Board of Animal Health quarterly meeting.

Approval of agenda

Barb Troyer asked that the executive director be appointed before the election of officers. Holly Neaton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Steve Brake, with all voting aye.

Movement of Pigs

Paul Anderson addressed the Board and discussed current restrictions on movement of pigs from slaughter facilities to other points in Minnesota.

Board rules - Movement of Livestock from Slaughtering Establishments to Points in Minnesota

1720.1080 Permits to remove livestock under quarantine. No cattle, sheep, or swine shall be removed from slaughtering establishments or the yards immediately contiguous thereto and operated by such slaughtering establishment as holding, sorting, or weighing pens, to other points in Minnesota except that under extenuating circumstances and upon application by the owner of the livestock, the executive secretary of the board may issue permits to allow removal of livestock under quarantine.

Background – Dr. Anderson reported that according to Minnesota rules, pigs delivered to Minnesota's two major swine slaughter facilities (Swift in Worthington and Hormel in Austin) determined to be unfit for regular slaughter must move to other slaughter facilities or to sorting facilities in other states where such practices are allowed. These pigs are always required to move under a federal shipping permit (VS form 1-27) and are never allowed to move to other points in Minnesota.

The Board became aware that the flow of rejected pigs from the slaughter plant at Worthington changed when we received a request for clarification on shipping permits from Dr. Charles H. Wyatt, a veterinary inspector at the Swift plant. District Veterinarian, Dr. Kern Schwartz visited the plant December 12, 2005, and reminded plant officials that pigs cannot leave the slaughter facility and be sent to other points in Minnesota. Pigs may only leave the plant to slaughter facilities or approved points in other states and only under proper federal shipping permits.

For a short period of time in late 2005, rejected pigs from both Swift and Hormel had been sent to a Wiechman Pig Co. facility in Truman, Minnesota located in Martin county. It is a slaughter swine buying station. The Board told management from Wiechman Pig Co. that they could not receive rejected slaughter pigs at this Martin County facility. Movement of rejected pigs was stopped in December 2005.

The Wiechman Pig Company facility at Truman purchases culled sows and boars and other off-weight pigs from swine producers in southern Minnesota. The company has another similar facility in Harmony, Minnesota, and twelve additional facilities in Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska. The issue of removal of rejected pigs from the slaughter plants at Worthington and Austin represents only a small percentage of the companies overall business.

Since December, we have had a great deal of conversation with swine producers, Wiechman Pig Co, other state veterinarians, slaughter plant managers, and managers of other slaughter pig buying stations.

It has always been the Board's position that movement of cattle, sheep or swine from slaughtering establishments to other points in Minnesota is not allowed. The reason being such practices could put the state's livestock population at risk of disease infection.

Board staff and other state regulatory officials are very concerned about this issue. Our mission is always to protect animal and public health. If changes in current regulations are to be made, we have heard from the swine industry that the issue should be thoughtfully discussed before moving forward.

Prior to the Board meeting, legal advice was requested pertaining to changes in how pigs are allowed to move from slaughter establishments. The Board was advised that any change in regard to this issue would require a change in Minnesota rules 1720.1080.

Discussion – Representatives from Wiechman Pig Company explained to the Board that they would like to receive the rejected pigs from the Swift and Hormel slaughter facilities and transport them to their facility at Truman, Minnesota, for further sorting.

Dr. Paul Ruen, a veterinarian from the Fairmont Veterinary Clinic, expressed concern about the potential spread of diseases if pigs are moved out of slaughter facilities.

David Preisler, executive director for the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, reported that the Pork Producers are not opposed to movement of pigs from slaughter facilities if very strict guidelines are followed. He presented six restrictions: (1) complete trace-back of all animals, (2) use of a designated route to the buyer of the resale swine, (3) inspection and record keeping to ensure no swine return to farms, (4) any permit to move swine must be site specific and have an ending date and renewal process to ensure adequate review and ease of revocation if permit conditions are not followed or if disease pressure dictates that it is no longer in the best interest of the pork industry to move resale hogs to sites in Minnesota, (5) sanitation of trailers after the resale hogs have been delivered, and (6) other conditions deemed appropriated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

Dr. Tom Hagerty, Minnesota state veterinarian from 1985 to 2001, reviewed the Board's history on this subject and stressed how important restrictions on slaughter pig movement are to control of diseases. Specifically he talked about the pseudorabies eradication program and the importance of pig movement restrictions in the success of that program.

Paul Fitzsimmons and other Board members talked about the importance of this issue and the potential for spread of swine diseases if Board rules are changed. He said that if the rules are ever to be changed, it should only be following a great deal of careful discussion and consideration of the issues concerning protection of the health of Minnesota swine.

Actions - Holly Neaton made a motion that the Board should gather people from the swine industry together to discuss the issues related to movement of slaughter swine prior to considering the possibility of a rule change. Steve Brake seconded the motion. Dr. Anderson suggested that a slaughter swine advisory committee be formed to examine the issues related to this topic and report back to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting. All voted aye and the motioned carried.

Senator Steve Dille

Senator Dille provided a synopsis of legislative activities affecting the livestock and poultry industry. He mentioned that the Senate supplemental appropriations bill contains \$685,000 to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from cattle herds in Minnesota. He distributed a booklet he developed titled "Livestock: Good for the Economy and Good for the Environment".

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Update

Linda Glaser gave the Board members an update on the ongoing TB investigation. Five beef herds have been found infected with TB in Minnesota; the last herd was identified in early December 2005 and all five herds were depopulated by January 30, 2006. All known exposed animals had been removed from their herds, slaughtered, and tested. Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge, reported that a total of 3554 animals have been indemnified in this investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) costing 3.16 million dollars. The total number of cattle herds quarantined in the investigation to date were 98 with 10 quarantines still in effect (88 were released).

The DNR continues to provide permits to kill white-tailed deer on and around TB infected cattle premises. The DNR collects samples from these animals and submit them to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for TB testing. During the winter of 2005-2006, a total of 89 deer were killed on premises associated with the first 3 infected herds; one 5 year-old doe was positive for bovine TB. A total of two white-tailed deer have tested positive for TB in this investigation.

A current focus of the investigation is testing cattle herds in the 10 mile areas surrounding the infected cattle herd premises and the first infected deer. A total of 122 cattle herds have been identified to date, 40 have been tested. Dr. Glaser reviewed the drop in our state's TB-Free status to a Modified Accredited Advanced status. This status became official on January 30, 2006 with the USDA publication in the Federal Register. This change adds requirements for testing and identification of breeding cattle moving interstate from Minnesota. Several states had implemented import requirements for Minnesota cattle prior to January 2006. If no additional TB is found in Minnesota cattle, we are eligible for reinstatement of our TB-Free status January 30, 2008. Private practitioners are being offered additional training on bovine tuberculosis and the proper methods in testing and reporting results of the caudal fold test for TB in cattle and bison. This training includes presentations by BAH, USDA, and UM CVM staff and is required

by the Board of Animal Health to continue to test cattle and bison for TB after July 1, 2006. Six of seven planned training sessions have been held around the state.

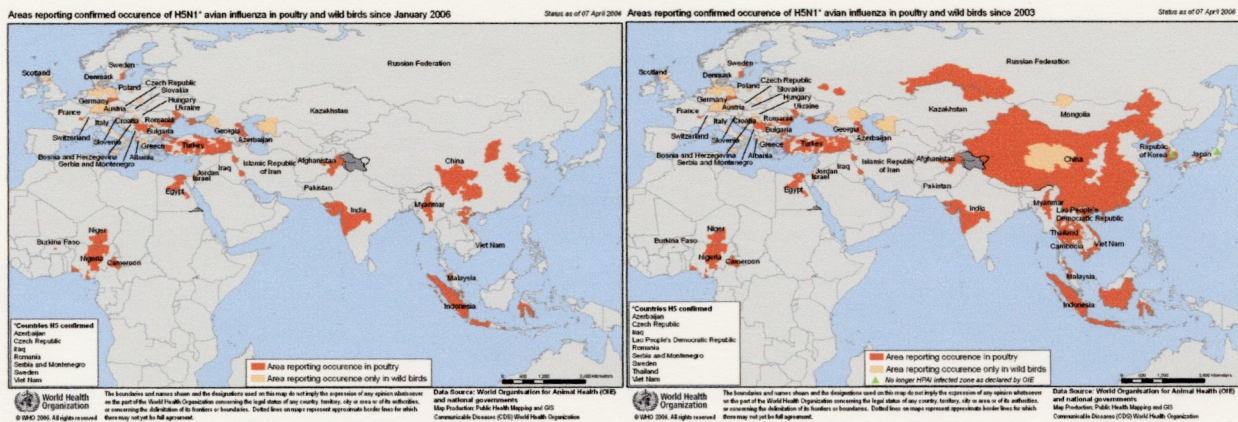
Sale and Exhibition Tuberculosis Testing Recommendations

Bill Hartmann discussed what recommendations should be made to certain sales and exhibitions in light of the bovine tuberculosis discovered in Northwestern Minnesota. He reported that Texas, another Modified Accredited Advanced state, requires testing for exhibitions when out of state cattle are exhibited. He pointed out that the risks of transmitting tuberculosis are low at this point since all of the known infected and exposed cattle have been depopulated. After discussion Steve Brake made the following motion:

To recommend to county fair boards in Roseau, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Pennington, and Northern Beltrami counties that they require a TB test on all cattle six months of age and older within 90 days of this years county fair. He added that an exemption is recommended for those cattle coming from herds that have completed a whole herd TB test within the past year. The motion was seconded by Paul FitzSimmons with all voting aye.

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

Dr. Lauer discussed and provided an update of the changing international (AI) situation. The H5N1 virus has spread to Africa, Europe and India since the last Board meeting. It has not been identified in the United States. See attached maps for details.



The Board is preparing for a possible H5N1 introduction with the assistance of five USDA Cooperative Agreements that will be used in both commercial and non-commercial poultry in Minnesota. Cooperative Agreement funds will be used to address surveillance, education (disease, biosecurity, and training), communications, and response. Three cooperative agreements will focus on current and pending NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) programs of the commercial turkey, broiler and layer industries as well as the upland gamebird industry. Two cooperative agreements will be used to implement programs in the non-commercial or live bird market system. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will work with the Board on Live Bird Market and small poultry processing plant surveillance. The Live Bird Markets are regulated and inspected quarterly by the MDA. Kevin Elfering from the MDA addressed the Board members and detailed the plans for enhancing surveillance at live bird markets and small poultry processing plants. Dr. Lauer also informed the Board that the

Minnesota LPAI response plan is being sent to NPIP for review and approval. A Train the Trainers Avian Influenza Workshop for MDA and Board employees will be conducted next month and a press conference was held the previous day that included Dr. Hartmann. At the press conference a new website was unveiled by the State to assist in avian influenza communications and planning – www.birdflu.state.mn.us.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update.

Paul Anderson reported that the small herd in which the positive case of CWD was discovered in March is in the indemnity process and all of the animals will be euthanized and tested. As far as cervidae farm registration goes, 715 farms are fully registered making only 12 noncompliant. He informed the Board that Agricultural Specialist, Carl Denking, has filed a criminal complaint against a small producer in Glencoe and the McCleod County Attorney will take on the case. Lastly, he spoke about a legislative initiative regarding the banning of shooting preserves and the Board's involvement in this matter.

Legislative Updates

Bill Hartmann provided the Board members with an update on legislative activities associated with the Board of Animal Health. The Governor's supplemental budget includes \$685,000 to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from cattle herds in Minnesota. The same amount is in the Senate's supplemental appropriation bill. The House supplemental appropriations bill is at \$637,000. Included in both bills is an amendment to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 35 that clarifies the authority of the Board of Animal Health to require the tuberculosis testing necessary to regain tuberculosis free status for the state. He reported that he has testified in two informational hearings on bovine tuberculosis and one on avian influenza. Of the \$10.5 million the Governor has recommended for three-years of pandemic influenza preparations, the Board is slated to receive \$100,000 to enhance avian influenza surveillance in poultry.

Appointment of the Executive Director

The Board members met in closed session with business manager, Barbara Troyer to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director for the coming state fiscal year. A motion was made by Steve Brake to rehire William L. Hartmann as the Executive Director seconded by Paul Fitzsimmons with all voting aye. A motion was made by John Whitten to approve an achievement award for the executive director seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye.

Election of Officers to the Board of Animal Health

The Executive Director took over direction of the meeting for the election of officers to the Board for the next year. He opened nominations for president. Paul Fitzsimmons nominated Mahesh Kumar, it was seconded by Steve Brake, with all voting aye. Nominations for vice-president were then opened. Paul Fitzsimmons nominated John Whitten, it was seconded by Steve Brake, with all voting aye.

Location and Date of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at the Board's office in St. Paul, Minnesota. A motion was made by Paul Fitzsimmons seconded by Holly Neaton and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. L. Hartmann".

William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Meeting held Wednesday, June 28, 2006.

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on June 28, 2006 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Steve Brake, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons.

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Dale Lauer, Kristine Petrini, Assistant Directors
Jessica Monson, Executive Assistant
Ted Held, Public Information Officer
Nigel Tinberg, Information Officer
Barbara Troyer, Business Manager
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
David Nguyen, Information Technology Specialist

Guests: Kevin Elfering, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Notice of Meeting in the State Register

Mahesh Kumar reported that the notice of this Meeting appeared in the June 12, 2006 issue of the State Register.

Approval of the Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting on April 12, 2006.

A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by Paul FitzSimmons and passed with all voting aye to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2006 Board of Animal Health quarterly meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Jess Monson asked that a communications update be added to the agenda. John Whitten made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Paul FitzSimmons, with all voting aye.

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

Dale Lauer provided an update on the five USDA cooperative agreements provided to the BAH in order to work with the Minnesota poultry industry on AI surveillance. Total funding is over \$400,000 to hire staff, obtain supplies and produce educational materials in order to help with surveillance and education efforts. One cooperative agreement (CA) involves surveillance of the commercial broiler/layer industry. Another CA involves commercial turkey surveillance using a combination of serology and PCR testing. A third CA involves the upland gamebird industry surveillance. With the fourth CA, surveillance testing is being conducted in small poultry processing plants currently under inspection by the MDA. Kevin Elfering, representing MDA,

indicated that Dave Halvorson at the University of Minnesota is already conducting some surveillance, and the intent is not to duplicate testing. The last CA is focused on live bird markets and non-commercial poultry. The focus of this CA is surveillance, education and communication. Malissa Fritz showed Board members bio-security brochures and inserts that relate to the different poultry industries in the state. Other communications activities include, Ramsey County ECHO project to reach out to the public in different languages, an AI communications poultry industry working group, risk communications training and a traveling AI display used at county fairs, the Minnesota State Fair and Farmfest.

Avian Pneumovirus Update

The percentage of avian pneumovirus positive flocks has declined for the first time in several years (37% - May 2006, 57% - May 2005, >60% - 2004). The reason for this decrease is unknown at this time, but may be attributed to the targeted use of vaccine associated with the APV Field Eradication Project.

The USDA Avian Pneumovirus Field Eradication Project is nearing completion. 384 turkey flocks were placed as part of the project from February 1, 2005 – January 31, 2006. Over 18.5 million doses of vaccine were used in the project. Flock data has been submitted to the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety for analysis. A final report which will cover the vaccine evaluation, summary of the field project activities and field project analysis is expected this fall.

Anthrax Update

Linda Glaser reported that anthrax mortality in Minnesota cattle was reported much earlier this year than in previous years. The first reported animal death occurred on June 10th in a Kittson County beef herd. The Board has received reports of animal deaths suspected to be caused by anthrax on nine premises in Kittson County. One owner reported deaths in horses. Samples from these dead animals were submitted either to the North Dakota State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Of these premises, six of the nine tested positive at the laboratories for anthrax. Dr. Randy Lindemann, District Veterinarian, is working with private practitioners and herd owners in the area to provide guidance on carcass disposal and preventing further anthrax mortality in livestock.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Update

Linda Glaser told the Board that there are currently eight quarantined herds in the TB investigation. Two quarantines are on infected premises that have completed cleaning and disinfection and are in a 30 day waiting period before they may repopulate with cattle. One infected premises is still working to complete cleaning and disinfection. The remaining five quarantined herds are in the process of TB testing. Additional trace work in the TB investigation will be underway in July. Animals sold to the fifth TB infected herd through sales barns or markets within the last seven years will be investigated and any intact herds found in this investigation will be tested for TB. Area testing of cattle within 10 miles of a TB-infected premises or the collection site of a TB-infected white-tailed deer is the recent focus of activity in the effort to regain our TB free status. A total of 111 cattle herds have been identified in the ten mile area; 88 herds have been tested once and must be tested again six months to a year from the first test, 13 herds are scheduled for their first test and ten herds remain to be scheduled.

Legislative Wrap Up

Bill Hartmann summarized the legislation that passed during the 2006 legislative session that impacted the Board of Animal Health's disease control programs. \$685,000 was appropriated to the Board of Animal Health to eliminate bovine tuberculosis from cattle herds in Minnesota. \$277,000 is for FY 2006 and \$480,000 is for FY 2007.

Minnesota Statutes, section 35.05 was amended adding a subdivision to read:

The board may test or require tests of any bovine or cervidae in the state when the board deems it necessary to achieve or maintain bovine tuberculosis accredited free state or zone status under the regulations and laws administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Minnesota Statutes, section 290.06, was amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Bovine testing credit.

(a) An owner of cattle in Minnesota may take a credit against the tax due under this chapter for an amount equal to one-half the expenses incurred during the taxable year to conduct tuberculosis testing on those cattle.

(b) If the amount of credit which the taxpayer is eligible to receive under this subdivision exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability under this chapter, the commissioner of revenue shall refund the excess to the taxpayer.

(c) The amount necessary to pay claims for the refund provided in this subdivision is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue.

The Department of Natural Resources received \$220,000 for surveillance for Bovine Tuberculosis in free ranging White-Tailed Deer. \$88,000 is for FY 2006 and \$132,000 is for FY 2007. Statutory changes provide \$54,000 for grants up to \$5,000 for each herd owner within the affected area to purchase deer proof fencing to protect feed supplies. Additional statutory changes instruct DNR to ban recreational feeding of deer within 5 miles of any bovine tuberculosis infected herds. \$300,000 was provided in the bonding bill for renovation of the MPTL.

Movement of Pigs

Paul Anderson reported on a meeting of the Advisory Committee on movement of slaughter swine that was held on June 5, 2006.

The purpose of the committee is to examine how pigs flow to slaughter plants and how they are removed from slaughter plants if they are not acceptable for slaughter. Furthermore, the committee is to consider optional methods for pigs to leave slaughter facilities and make recommendations to the Board of Animal Health.

Under normal circumstances, pigs may not be removed from slaughter facilities and moved to other points in Minnesota. Minnesota rules regarding this issue are as follows:

1720.1080 Permits to remove livestock under quarantine. No cattle, sheep, or swine shall be removed from slaughtering establishments or the yards immediately contiguous thereto and operated by such slaughtering establishment as holding, sorting, or weighing pens, to other

points in Minnesota except that under extenuating circumstances and upon application by the owner of the livestock, the executive secretary of the board may issue permits to allow removal of livestock under quarantine.

According to Craig White, of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and Mike Stine, Minnesota Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for USDA, pigs that leave slaughter facilities must be accompanied by a federal shipping permit VS Form 1-27. Destinations are not restricted except that all state laws and rules must be met. There are approximately 50 to 100 rejected pigs per day that must leave the Hormel plant in Austin and the Swift plant in Worthington. The pigs from Hormel currently go to a Wiechman Pig facility in Des Moines, Iowa. Pigs from the Swift plant currently go to a Wiechman Pig facility in Sioux City, Iowa. Representatives from Wiechman Pig Company renewed their request to have permission to move pigs from Hormel and Swift to their buying station in Truman, Minnesota. Such movement is not permitted under current Board of Animal Health rules.

Protocols on movement of slaughter pigs in other states were discussed. These states included Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Discrepancies exist between protocols reported by respective state veterinarians and reports from industry representatives on actual practices in each state. According to Dave Schmitt, Iowa State Veterinarian, pigs are allowed to leave slaughter facilities and move to buying and sorting stations in Iowa. He reassured the group that there are no plans to end this practice. Minnesota pigs will continue to be allowed to move from Minnesota slaughter facilities to sorting facilities in Iowa. There was much discussion on the pros and cons of moving pigs from slaughter facilities to other points in Minnesota. No consensus was achieved by the group other than a realization that there is a need to find some efficient way to move rejected pigs from Minnesota slaughter plants to another slaughter facility that will accept them. The committee agreed to appoint a smaller working group to develop potential solutions to the rejected slaughter pig issue. Members of the working group are Paul Anderson, Paul Fitzsimmons, Jerry Torrison, Craig Harvey, J P Curtis, Steve Riley and John Lynch.

The committee developed a list of ten options for further consideration. The list is as follows:

- (1) Do not allow rejected pigs to leave the plant. All rejected pigs would be killed and rendered.
- (2) Continue to move rejected pigs to approved sites in other states.
- (3) Allow rejected pigs to move to buying stations in Minnesota.
- (4) Allow rejected pigs to move to other slaughter facilities in Minnesota.
- (5) Build a new single purpose facility that could receive rejected pigs from slaughter plants.
- (6) Develop a special class of livestock market that could receive rejected slaughter pigs.
- (7) Build an on-site or adjacent sorting facility for rejected slaughter pigs.
- (8) Build a pre-sort facility where rejected pigs would be identified before they reach the plant.
- (9) Permit one Minnesota facility to receive rejected slaughter pigs with strict regulation and inspection.
- (10) Have each slaughter facility designate one Minnesota facility to receive rejected slaughter pigs with strict regulation and inspection.

Johne's Disease

Paul Anderson reported on a Johne's Disease Advisory Committee meeting that was held on June 5, 2006. There are currently 1,906 herds in the Minnesota Johne's Disease program and this number is almost two times as many as are enrolled in any other state. Of the enrolled herds, 1,663 are dairy herds and 241 are beef herds. Over the last year, 84,683 cows were tested for Johne's Disease on 2,157 premises. Of all the premises where cows were tested, 1,286 had at least one cow with a positive test. Cows were identified as fecal test positive on 462 premises. Mike Stine reported to the committee that USDA funding for the Minnesota Johne's Disease program for the period of September 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 will be \$207,200. With this level of funding, no major changes will have to be made to the program. Funding for testing and risk assessments will continue under current guidelines.

Scott Wells presented the research report to the committee. He presented several studies that support the hypothesis that changes in management practices can decrease the incidence of Johne's Disease in cattle herds. Study results indicated no significant differences in fecal contamination of environmental locations among dairy herds by use of JD vaccine. While JD vaccination may reduce clinical signs of disease, fecal shedding continues post-vaccination at similar concentrations as in nonvaccinated cattle. He reported that the milk ELISA test performs well, especially in detecting cows with strong positive blood ELISA tests results. The milk ELISA is slightly less sensitive than the blood ELISA with similar specificity. In studies at the University of Minnesota, the Biocor ELISA kit performed the best for use on milk of all the kits evaluated. The milk ELISA test could be run for about \$4.00 per cow. The milk ELISA is not yet an officially recognized by USDA, so its use would be limited to management status herds. Johne's Disease is on the Board's reportable diseases list, so all laboratory results including the milk ELISA must be reported to the Board.

Jim Collins talked about the milk ELISA test and the logistics of implementation. All agreed that the test should be used and will be run by technicians employed by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA). Tests will be conducted at DHIA laboratories in Zumbrota and Sauk Centre. Technician certification and quality control protocols will be under the supervision of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. All milk ELISA test results must be reported to the Board of Animal Health and to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. All milk ELISA tests will be conducted at producer expense until initial trials are completed. The possibility of using USDA funds for milk ELISA tests will be evaluated during the 2007 funding year. The committee suggested the following program changes:

- (1) Perform full risk assessments and herd plan renewals every year.
- (2) Do not pay for testing in negative status herds beyond the 30 head that is required for maintenance of status. This will eliminate much confusion and will allow putting more funds toward herds with high Johne's Disease prevalence.
- (3) Implement use of the milk ELISA and run tests at Minnesota DHIA laboratories.

Archiving Board Minutes

Jessica Monson notified the Board that Board minutes from 1903-1981 and several annual reports have been transferred to the archives department of the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). The MNHS will be archiving the information and posting it on their website for anyone wanting to access the minutes.

Chronic Wasting Disease(CWD)

Paul Anderson reported on a meeting of the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee that was held June 22, 2006. The committee reviewed current laws and rules for farmed cervidae in Minnesota. Particular attention was given to a review of definitions. Cervidae means animals that are members of the family Cervidae and includes, but is not limited to white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer, and muntjac. Farmed Cervidae means members of the Cervidae family that are: (1) raised for any purpose; and (2) registered in a manner approved by the Board of Animal Health. Farmed cervidae are livestock and are not wild animals for purposes of game farm, hunting, or wildlife laws. Everyone present agreed that farmed cervidae are livestock, that they must be properly registered with the Board of Animal Health and that they are not subject to laws or rules pertaining to wild animals. Everyone also agreed that farmed cervidae are subject to all laws and rules pertaining to livestock.

Kevin Elfering reviewed the requirements for slaughter of farmed cervidae when those animals are intended for human consumption. He reviewed procedures outlined in MS Chapters 31 and 31A and proper protocols when animals are to be euthanized on the farm. He reported to the committee that 53 notices of violation have been issued to noncompliant producers. Of these actions, 49 were resolved without further action. Four cases are pending. Civil and criminal penalties will be assessed and court actions will be taken if necessary to resolve these pending cases. He also reported on the CWD-infected Cervidae farm located near Madison in Lac Qui Parle County. The herd consists of 17 white-tailed deer and 2 elk. This producer began CWD surveillance in April 2001. All animals from the herd that died or were slaughtered and were older than 16 months of age were tested for CWD and were found negative. The CWD positive animal was detected in March 2006. Very few animals entered or left the herd over the years since the herd was formed. The producer reported that he shot two mule deer in Colorado in 2002 and brought back two mule deer carcasses. The animals were processed on the farm and the remains including the heads and spinal cords were discarded in the grove near the house. Whether this event could explain the introduction of CWD is unknown. During the investigation, another herd that received three white-tailed deer from this herd in 1999 was quarantined in Kandiyohi County. The CWD-infected herd is in a low density wild deer area. The herd was depopulated on June 27. The investigation will be completed after final laboratory results are determined.

Scrapie Update

Kris Petrini reported that compliance for official identification of sheep and goats is improving. Over 4000 letters were mailed to producers, veterinarians, markets, dealers, and exhibitors to explain how the new rules affect their respective businesses. This has prompted a large number of calls to our office from people who have questions about the new laws or wish to register their

flocks/herds for the first time and receive Scrapie tags. In addition, BAH and USDA employees are visiting markets and dealers to help explain the new rules.

Location and Date of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 12, 2006, in Thief River Falls. A motion was made by Paul Fitzsimmons, seconded by Holly Neaton, and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. L. Hartmann".

William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Meeting held Monday, September 11, 2006

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday September 11, 2006 at the Best Western Inn, Thief River Falls, MN. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Steve Brake, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons.

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Sara Williams, Senior Veterinarian
Randy Lindemann, Veterinarian
Jessica Monson, Executive Assistant
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Ted Held, Public Information Officer

Guests: Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge USDA:APHIS:VS
Jim Collins, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director
Michael Don Carlos, Department of Natural Resources
Erika Butler, Department of Natural Resources
Ted Radintz, MN Department of Agriculture
Senator Leroy Stumpf
John Berkel, Turkey Producer
Russ Christianson, Northern Pride, Inc.
Kelly Turgeon, Farm Service Agency
Mike Ellers, Farm Service Agency
Rosanne Rector, Horse Producer
Dr. Lyle Mattson, Veterinarian
Robert Tapa, Cattle Producer

Approval of the Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting on September 11, 2006.

A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by Holly Neaton and passed with all voting aye to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2006 Board of Animal Health quarterly meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended to the following order for the TB Update: Bill Hartmann (BAH), Linda Glaser (BAH), Erika Butler (DNR), Kris Petrini was absent and removed from the agenda, Mike Stine (USDA). Steve Brake motioned to approve agenda as amended. Paul FitzSimmons seconded.

Bovine Tuberculosis Update

Bill Hartmann gave an overview of the bovine TB investigation. Much progress has been made since five herds were discovered to be infected with bovine TB in 2005. All five of those herds have since been depopulated, four of the herds have their facilities cleaned and disinfected and their quarantines released, allowing the owners to get back into the cattle business.

Most of the trace-ins and trace-outs have been tested as well as most of the herds within 10 miles of the infected herds and no new infection has been found. The effect of this investigation has been statewide as over 3,000 herds have tested almost 80,000 head of cattle in 85 counties across Minnesota.

Thus far the state has contributed considerable resources by way of DNR, MDA and BAH. In the 2006 Legislative session \$685,000 in supplemental funds were appropriated to BAH to pay for testing and associated costs, a tax refund was provided for testing cattle, and assistance was provided with construction of deer-proof fences to protect stored forage.

USDA has contributed considerable resources by way of the Minnesota office, sent two emergency response teams to lead the investigation, and have spent over \$3 million on indemnity. USDA has also helped the state to write the Minnesota Bovine Tuberculosis Management Plan, a road map to regain our TB free status. USDA has agreed to contribute 2.2 million dollars to fund statewide testing of cattle and free ranging white-tailed deer.

The following tasks still need to be completed:

- Testing on repopulated herds
- Second herd test on all trace out herds
- Second herd test on all herds within the ten mile zone
- A one time targeted surveillance statewide of 1500 herds

TB Statewide Surveillance

Linda Glaser reported on a TB Management Plan that was signed by officials from USDA, The Board of Animal Health and Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This plan includes statewide surveillance of the cattle population to document that TB does not exist elsewhere in Minnesota cattle. A targeted sample of 1500 herds will be identified and tested in this survey. This testing should allow us to detect a 0.2 % prevalence in the targeted cattle population with a 95% Confidence Interval based on a cattle population in Minnesota of 21,300 herds (2002 NASS data).

The criteria for identifying this targeted population includes: 1) herds that imported cattle from other states west and south of MN – especially TX, AZ, NM, 2) herds that include rodeo or roping steers imported from any state, and 3) breeding cattle in fence line contact with grassland feeder operations that import feeders from states west and south of Minnesota. In addition, we will also target herds in a 9 county area of northwestern Minnesota, an area in proximity to, but outside of the 10 mile testing area. To identify

herds that met the import criteria, we searched archived import health certificates for importation of breeding cattle or roping/rodeo steers. To identify herds that met the northwestern Minnesota geographic criteria, we searched records in our animal health database. We will make contacts with rodeo or roping associations to identify additional herds that may contain rodeo/roping steers. We are also asking producers to volunteer to test their herd if they meet any of these criteria.

Our goal is to complete this testing by late fall of 2007 to stay on the timeline for regaining our TB-Free status two years from depopulation of the last infected herd. The USDA is providing funding to Minnesota to conduct statewide surveillance including 1.8 million dollars to reimburse accredited veterinarians testing cattle herds and paying the travel and overtime expenses for USDA testing teams to test Minnesota herds. The Board has hired an additional temporary Agricultural Specialist in northwestern Minnesota and will rotate existing field staff to northwestern Minnesota as well to accomplish the intensive TB testing required in that part of the state.

TB and Wildlife

Erika Butler presented for DNR on statewide TB surveillance in free-ranging white-tailed deer. TB in wild deer is not known to negatively impact wild deer populations. A low prevalence of infection is often due to spillover from infected reservoirs. A higher prevalence and establishment in the population can occur when deer densities are high with frequent close contact.

In 2005, DNR established a surveillance zone with a 15-mile radius around the four infected farms (the fifth had not yet been identified). Lymph nodes were collected and chest cavities inspected from 474 hunter harvested deer within the zone. Shooting permits were issued to landowners in Feb. 2006 resulting in the collection of 90 deer. Two deer were found infected:

- 5.5 year old buck from area surveillance; shot within 1 mile of the first infected herd
- 5 year old doe harvested during on-farm shooting

Low prevalence suggests spillover from infected cattle herds. The strain of TB from both cattle and deer was identified as similar to strains found in the Southern US and Mexico

Surveillance in 2006 will consist of testing of hunter harvested deer in three zones statewide:

- 1000 samples collected from 15 mile zone
- 3,000 samples to be collected from northern MN (outside of zone, based on deer density and proximity to positive farms)
- 1,000 samples to be collected from southern MN
- Testing of road kill deer within TB zone

Feeding will be banned over approximately 4,000 mi² surrounding the TB zone. \$54,000 in funds is available for cattle producers within the TB positive area for deer-proof fencing of stored forage. So far 6 farmers have signed up.

Senator Leroy Stumpf

Sen. Stumpf expressed concern that the TB testing of white tailed deer was insufficient. Compared to the number of cattle tested statewide, the number of deer is a significantly smaller sample. The senator suggested that DNR should intensify the testing of deer.

National Animal Identification Systems (NAIS)

Ted Radintz presented updates concerning the National Animal Identification System. In Minnesota there are 11,297 livestock premises registered with NAIS and 307,107 nationwide. NAIS Species Working Group updates were given, specifically on swine, cattle, sheep and equine. A detailed explanation of 840 RFID ear tags and the allocation process was given. The 840 tags will be available this fall. Ted also led a discussion exploring methods of updating premises contact information outside of NAIS.

Anthrax Update

Linda Glaser updated the Board on the seasonal occurrence of Anthrax. In Minnesota, prior to 2000, anthrax mortality in livestock was only documented in southern and southwestern counties of the state. Since 2000, anthrax mortality in livestock has been reported exclusively in northwestern Minnesota. This year was the second largest reported outbreak of anthrax in Minnesota history, second only to the 1919 outbreak. To date this year, anthrax mortality in livestock was confirmed in cattle, horses, and bison. Elk is an additional species suspected of dying of anthrax. Twenty-eight premises had anthrax confirmed mortality and 5 premises had livestock mortality suspected to be caused by anthrax. Suspected cases are identified when either a private practitioner or district veterinarian has collected a blood or exudate sample from a dead animal and the sample tests positive using the US Navy anthrax field test kit. The Board's involvement in anthrax cases occurs after laboratory confirmation and involves documenting all affected premises with anthrax, issuing a quarantine on affected livestock, providing guidance and oversight of carcass disposal, and notifying appropriate local authorities and adjacent livestock owners of the occurrence of anthrax in their area.

Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Report

Jim Collins, Director of the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, reported that the University received \$300,000 for maintenance and renovation of the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory in Willmar, MN. The renovation will expand laboratory testing capacity needed for avian influenza ('bird flu') diagnosis. Renovation is scheduled for completion by July 1, 2007. The University also funded the addition of a biosafety level 3 necropsy facility to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

The addition will enable faculty and staff to safely diagnose animal diseases that are transmissible to humans such as avian influenza virus and bovine tuberculosis. Board members were informed that a new disease called Porcine Circovirus Type 2 Associated Disease (PCVAD) formerly known as Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) is emerging in Minnesota swine herds. The disease causes weight loss and severe mortality (>20-40%) in finishing pigs.

The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station has mobilized Rapid Response Funds to help the College of Veterinary Medicine address this serious economic threat to the swine industry. The University of Minnesota administration is considering the College of Veterinary Medicine's request for \$3.5 million of recurring funding to expand animal disease surveillance to protect Minnesota's agriculture, wildlife and tourism industries and public health.

Avian Influenza/Avian Pneumovirus Update

Bill Hartmann gave the following report in the absence of Dale Lauer:

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

Avian influenza surveillance being conducted under the five USDA cooperative agreements provided to the Board is moving along well, gaining the support of all participants as well as the Minnesota poultry industry. With total funding nearly \$500,000 to hire staff, conduct the required testing, and obtain supplies/educational materials, the funds will support the surveillance and education efforts in Minnesota. Cooperative agreements involve surveillance of the commercial broiler/layer industry, commercial turkey industry, upland gamebird industry, small poultry processing plants currently under MDA inspection, live bird markets and other non-commercial poultry.

As a result of the increased level of surveillance in Minnesota nine positive flocks have been identified. Avian Influenza has been identified in eight commercial turkey flocks, all subtyped H3N2, and one flock in the live bird market H3H6N?. All positive flocks had no clinical signs and were identified based on serology. All PCR testing has been negative to date. Investigations conducted on all introductions by Board personnel indicated that the virus had not spread to other flocks as all additional testing was negative. The situation in the live bird market provided an incentive to depopulate, clean and disinfect the market/equipment and continue surveillance with the Board. All supply flocks for the live bird market are located in Iowa.

Other activities include continued communications efforts on a number of different fronts, planning for the State pandemic influenza exercise on September 27 and reviewing/incorporating the updated USDA HPAI plan (updated August 2006) into the Board's Highly Contagious Disease Plan. We also welcomed Dr. Sara Williams into her emergency management position with the Board.

Avian Pneumovirus (APV) Update

The USDA Avian Pneumovirus Field Eradication Project is complete. Data from 380 turkey flocks that were placed as part of the project from February 1, 2005 – January 31, 2006 will be analyzed by the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota. A final report which will cover the vaccine evaluation, summary of the field project activities and field project analysis is expected sometime this fall.

Additional reports to be given this fall include a project update at the MTGA Avian Pneumovirus Symposium (September 26, 2006), a report/funding status presentation to USDA during the USAHA meeting in Minneapolis (October 2006) and a final grower meeting for project participants when the final report is complete.

Location and Date of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2006, in St. Paul, MN. A motion was made by Paul Fitzsimmons, seconded by Steve Brake, and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 11:56am.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Meeting held Wednesday, December 13, 2006

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday December 13, 2006 at the Orville L. Freeman building, St. Paul, MN. The following people were present:

Board Members: Steve Brake, Holly Neaton, John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Ted Held, Information Officer
Mary Leland, Office Specialist
Courtney Sutton, Agriculture Specialist
Lindsay Aipperspach, Agriculture Specialist

Guests: Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge USDA:APHIS:VS
Sherry Shaw, USDA:APHIS:VS
Gene Hugoson, MN Department of Agriculture Commissioner
Ted Radintz, MN Department of Agriculture
Jim Collins, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director
Judy Lewman, OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society Chair
Nancy Minion, Minnesota Citizen Concerned about Animal Rights
James Clark, Attorney for Citizen Concerned about Animal Rights
Michelle Powell, Department of Natural Resources

Approval of the Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting on September 11, 2006.

A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by John Whitten and passed with all voting aye to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2006 Board of Animal Health quarterly meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Board member Holly Neaton made a motion to amend the agenda to alter the language used in the agenda from, "OPP Testing and Certification" to "OPP Testing and Control." The motion was approved, seconded by Steve Brake, all voting aye.

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

Avian influenza surveillance in Minnesota domestic poultry, being conducted under the five USDA cooperative agreements, is moving along well and has gained the support of all participants. Surveillance of the commercial broiler/layer industry (7,890 samples), commercial turkey industry (30,865 samples), upland gamebird industry (1,640 samples), small poultry processing plants, live bird markets and other non-commercial poultry (1,270 samples) have resulted in over 41,000 samples tested in a seven month period.

As a result of the surveillance, eleven flocks have been identified as influenza positive, all without clinical signs: nine commercial turkey flocks subtyped H3N2, one flock in the live bird market H3H6N? and one commercial turkey flock H1N1. Investigations conducted by Board personnel indicate that the virus had not spread to other flocks based on additional PCR and serologic testing that was negative.

Avian Pneumovirus (APV) Update

Based upon processing plant surveillance, the percentage of APV positive flocks continues a downward trend in 2006. With decreasing serology titers and fewer reports of clinical APV disease it appears that Minnesota is moving toward APV eradication. The percentage of APV positive flocks in November 2006 was at the lowest level (17%) since March 1999. The USDA Avian Pneumovirus Field Eradication Project is complete. Preliminary results from the vaccine evaluation trials and field project analysis suggest spray cabinet vaccine administration was comparable in providing protection against APV challenge after a single vaccination, that current diagnostic criteria for APV-associated disease must be revised, that production statistics do not support sustained use of APV vaccine in the absence of field virus pressure and that the aggressive coordinated vaccination of all flocks in the geographic vicinity of a clinical APV outbreak appear to be a useful control and eradication tool. Final analysis reports are underway and pending.

Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory Renovation Project Update

The renovation project at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) that was funded by the 2006 Minnesota Legislature is underway. The \$300,000 will help to improve the efficiency of the MPTL, improve its ability to meet test requirements and effectively serve our expanding client base. Staff is working with University officials, architects, and a project manager to complete the first building drafts. A March-April 2007 construction start date is anticipated.

Bovine Tuberculosis Update

Michelle Powell gave an update on the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) TB activities including the northwestern Minnesota deer feeding ban and preliminary TB test results of white-tailed deer collected in the 2006 hunting season. The feeding ban required by the 2006 Minnesota Legislature went into effect on November 30, 2006 and is aimed at reducing close contact among wild deer and elk near livestock feeding areas close to where TB has been documented. The ban includes a 4000 square mile area of northwestern Minnesota in Roseau, Beltrami, Marshall, and Pennington counties. The DNR met its goal for statewide surveillance for bovine TB for this fall's deer hunting season; 1000 deer were sampled in the southern half of the state and 3000 deer were

sampled in the northern half of the state surrounding the intensive surveillance zone. No results were available from this sampling on the day of the Board meeting. In addition, 954 hunter killed deer were sampled from the 15 mile radius circle areas around TB infected cattle herd premises or TB infected deer(the goal was to sample 1000 deer). Dr. Powell reported three of 12 carcasses confiscated by the DNR had tested positive for TB and an additional carcass was compatible on histopathology with PCR test pending. These deer were collected within 2.5 miles of the first infected herd.

Linda Glaser summarized the cattle TB activity to date. The sixth and seventh beef cattle herds identified as infected with bovine TB this fall were indemnified and depopulated. The last herd was depopulated on December 11, 2006. This date redefines the state's minimum two year timeline for reinstatement of our TB Free status to December 11, 2008. The TB investigation is ongoing and tracing animals in and out of the sixth and seventh herds has been initiated. Testing cattle herds in the ten mile radius circles around TB infected cattle premises and TB infected deer is ongoing. To date 132 herds in this area been tested for bovine TB; 34 herds have been tested a second time. In addition, statewide surveillance for bovine TB in the Minnesota cattle population was initiated this fall and to date, 293 herds have been tested. The field staff both for the BAH and USDA VS have been extremely busy responding to the regulatory requirements of this testing.

Linda Glaser also updated the Board on several additional activities related to bovine tuberculosis: 1) a postcard will be sent to all producers that tested cattle for TB in early January to inform them of the bovine tax credit, 2) a second temporary Agricultural Specialist has been hired in northern Minnesota to work on the TB program and we are interviewing applicants for a temporary veterinarian position in northwestern Minnesota, 3) the board has submitted a Cooperative Agreement Work Plan to USDA for \$528,682 for additional personnel and the equipment they will need to conduct activities for the TB program, 4) the USDA VS has agreed to provide indemnity for comparative cervical suspects that were identified through statewide surveillance, and 5) the TB Management Plan will be reviewed by both the USDA and BAH once preliminary results of the fall deer surveillance are completed.

Bill Hartmann reported on TB related activities for the upcoming legislative session. A new initiative that would accomplish the following three things was submitted to the Governor for approval. Provide funding for eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis in cattle. Repeal obsolete rules for control of Bovine Tuberculosis and adopt the language in the Code of Federal Regulations and the Bovine Tuberculosis Uniform Methods and Rules. Amend the statutes in chapter 35 that address paying indemnity for Bovine Tuberculosis.

Mike Stine reported on the USDA contributions to the TB eradication effort in Minnesota. The USDA has spent \$3.6 million on TB indemnity in Minnesota since 2005 which includes the indemnity of the sixth and seventh herds and CCT Suspects or Reactors identified through TB testing to this point. USDA has also contributed 13 USDA employee TB testing teams consisting of one veterinarian and two technicians.

The teams were stationed in northwestern Minnesota from early September through mid-December of this year to TB test cattle herds.

Mike Stine also discussed the impact of a drop in TB state status from a Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) status to a Modified Accredited (MA) status and outlined the requirements to apply for split state status. Minnesota is a MAA state and could drop to MA status if more than one additional TB infected cattle herd is identified in this fiscal year (10/01/06-9/31/07). At the MA status level, there are additional restrictions on moving animals interstate and requirements in the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance including yearly testing of dairy cattle in the state. To apply for split state TB status would be a rigorous undertaking including the collection of epidemiological data to adequately define TB affected area. Once a geographic area is defined, the state would need to enact legislation for cattle movement restrictions between the split areas of the state and then demonstrate effective control of cattle movement between these areas with the new laws. In addition, a plan for eradication of bovine TB in the affected area would need to be reviewed and approved by USDA for consideration of split state status.

Voluntary OPP Test and Control Pilot Program for SFCP Flocks

Judy Lewman presented an update on the Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) Pilot Program. This producer-run program is being offered only to flocks enrolled in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program because the infrastructure is already in place. The program started with seven flocks and five have already been tested. One infected animal was found.

Most documentation is electronic. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) has developed submission forms and sends monthly testing updates. The flock inventory comes from the Board. Testing results are reported by VDL. The program is currently seeking 20 new flocks. If too many flocks apply, priority will be given to flocks that exhibit symptoms.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Jim Collins, Director of the University of Minnesota, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory presented the following legislative request for the Universities proposed budget.

Funding Proposal: \$3.5M

- Six New Faculty Positions (Diagnostic Medicine, Pathology, Informatics, Epidemiology)--\$1M
- Eight Graduate Students--\$0.3M
- Increased Surveillance Through Reduced Testing Fees--\$0.9M
- Additional Biohazard Containment--\$0.2M
- Computing/Informatics--\$0.3M
- Equipment (VDL Plant Fund)--\$0.4M
- Johne's Disease Program and Poultry Lab Operating Expenses—\$0.4M

Rationale:

To best protect the citizens and companies of Minnesota, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory needs to complete its transition from an agricultural testing service to an early warning disease surveillance system that will provide 'real time' diagnostic testing, animal and zoonotic disease monitoring, surge capacity during disease outbreaks, and translational research focused on developing new diagnostic methods to protect Minnesota's production animal and wildlife animal populations from emerging infectious diseases.

- Minnesota's food animal and wildlife (tourism) industries are at risk from naturally-occurring emerging infectious diseases and the possibility of terrorist induced disease. The direct and indirect economic impact of food animal agriculture in Minnesota is \$62 bil with 495,324 individuals employed in agricultural jobs. Emerging diseases such as tuberculosis, chronic wasting disease, mad cow disease, avian influenza and many others have the potential to devastate Minnesota's agricultural economy and international competitiveness. Since many of these diseases can be passed from animals to humans; they also pose a significant public health threat.
- Ecosystem health is critical to both animal and human populations and surveillance is necessary to identify emerging threats to these populations. Recently, the Department of Natural Resources utilized the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's services in its efforts to determine the prevalence of tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease in deer and avian influenza virus in wild birds. Investment in surveillance will greatly enhance the protection of animal agriculture, wildlife, and humans from such diseases.
- State funding for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has not kept up with the needs of agriculture, placing the animal agricultural system itself at risk through higher private sector costs for disease surveillance. Other states with strong animal production agriculture and wildlife industries have committed significant funds to enhance disease surveillance at veterinary diagnostic laboratories:
 - *Minnesota - \$1.7 M/year*
 - *California - \$10 M/year*
 - *North Carolina - \$6 M/year*
 - *Cornell - \$4.75 M/year with a requested \$2.5 M increase*
 - *Illinois - \$4.3 M/year*
 - *Purdue - \$3.45 M/year with a requested \$.4 M increase*
 - *Iowa State - \$3.4 M/year with a promised \$1 M increase*
 - *Kansas - \$3.4 M/year*
 - *Wisconsin - \$3.0 M/year*
 - *Michigan State - \$2.0 M/year*

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is part of the University research engine to improve human health through advances in animal-based therapies and development of disease models. Through strategic investments, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will emerge as the University of Minnesota and State resource for animal health monitoring which will result in enhanced quality, cost savings, and efficiencies. Investigators at the University of Minnesota and State

departments will benefit from the presence of a single source for animal health monitoring.

- The transplantation of islet cells from pigs to human diabetic patients holds great promise in the treatment of this increasing prevalent disease. Testing performed at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will ensure that pigs are absolutely free of infectious diseases that could be transmitted to humans.
- The development of new therapies for human cancer patients requires prior testing in animal models. Microscopic examination of tissue samples is required to determine safety and efficacy of potential new therapies. Testing performed at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will enhance the translational pipeline for life-saving human drugs.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is one of the few places nationally that is positioned to train veterinarians and graduate students in epidemiology, diagnostic medicine and comparative pathology. These disciplines are critically needed to protect Minnesota's and the nation's food animal and wildlife populations from emerging infectious diseases and to reduce the spread of diseases from animals to humans.

- In the next 5 years, a nation-wide shortage of veterinary pathologists, biomedical scientists and epidemiologists will place the development of critically needed new surveillance strategies, animal health diagnostics and therapeutics at risk. To protect Minnesota and the nation, the college will increase its training capacity in these critical areas and provide the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory with the adequate manpower and scientific knowledge to address the issues of the day.
- As one of only three universities in the nation with the combined assets of a Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, a College of Veterinary Medicine, an Academic Health Center and a College of Agriculture, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is uniquely positioned to train the health professionals and scientists to protect animal agriculture, wildlife and the human population.

Scrapie Program

Kris Petrini updated the board on the scrapie program. The scrapie program started in 2001. Since that time, state animal health officials have detected 52 scrapie infected flocks with more than 160 positive sheep. There are 3,997 sheep and goat premises registered currently. The scrapie program recently underwent its Consistent State Status Review in November 2006. An evaluation was not available at the time of this meeting, but reviewers had positive things to say about the state's program.

Farmed Cervidae

Paul Anderson gave an update on the Board's farmed cervidae program. In 2003, the Minnesota Legislature required cervidae producers to register with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. The law reads, "A person may not possess farmed cervidae in

Minnesota unless registered with the board of animal health and meets all the requirements under MS Chapter 35.155.” The Board has been working with producers on compliance issues and assisting them in meeting the state’s requirements over the past years. Currently, there are 700 producers raising cervidae that are in compliance with the law. An additional 50 producers are not in compliance with the requirements. With the cooperation of county attorneys, the Board of Animal Health will continue to enforce the requirements.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

Ted Radintz reported on the NAIS goals and accomplishments. Currently, Minnesota has 11,403 livestock and poultry premises registered with NAIS. The state has registered approximately 26 percent of the 44,000 estimated livestock and poultry premises in Minnesota. The strategy for premises registration this year will focus primarily on specific species groups, which include swine, poultry, and dairy. In 2007, the goal is to register more than 50 percent of the state’s livestock and poultry premises with NAIS.

Nationally, USDA has clarified their message about NAIS and the purpose of the program, specifying that its main goals is to protect animal health. At this time, the USDA plans to keep the program voluntary.

Dog / Cat Breeders Act

Nancy Minion and James Clark spoke to the Board to seek advice and cooperation for a bill to regulate dog and cat breeders with three or more breeding animals that sell to the public. In 1994, Ms. Minion and Mr. Clark were successful in passing consumer protection law regarding animals, but the animal care portion of the law did not pass.

The bill would mandate the Board to license and inspect breeding facilities with the authority to delegate this duty to local authorities. Currently, there is no law in Minnesota that addresses breeding facilities. Animal control agencies and humane societies are inspected by the Board. USDA licenses 120 breeders and dealers of animals such as pigs, tigers, lions, ferrets, dogs, and cats that sell to commercial operations.

Location and Date of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, in St. Paul, MN at the Orville Freeman Building. A motion was made to adjourn by Holly Neaton, seconded by John Whitten, and passed with all voting aye. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Meeting held Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at the Orville L. Freeman Building, St. Paul, MN 55155. The following people were present:

Board Members: Mahesh Kumar, Paul FitzSimmons, John Whitten, Holly Neaton

Consultants: Jim Collins, Director, Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Sara Williams, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology
Ted Held, Information Officer
Mary Leland, Administrative Assistant
Barb Troyer, Business Manager

Guests: Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Jim Vickerman, Minnesota State Senator
Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA:APHIS: VS
Sherry Shaw, Area Epidemiologist, USDA:APHIS:VS
Mike DonCarlos, Department of Natural Resources
Kevin Elfering, Department of Agriculture

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting held on Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

A motion was made by John Whitten, seconded by Holly Neaton and passed with all voting aye to approve the board minutes from the Wednesday, December 13, 2006 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended adding Equine Herpes Virus Type 1 as a discussion item. All Members voted aye to approve the amended agenda.

Comments from Senator Jim Vickerman

Senator Vickerman expressed his concern for cattle producers and deer hunters located in the northwestern corner of Minnesota. He also made brief comments on his support for Johne's disease and his commitment to the dairy industry. He offered his assistance to the Board as the

state works to eradicate diseases. He reiterated this point by offering assistance especially when it pertains to necessary program funding.

Comments from Commissioner Gene Hugoson

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson discussed the need for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan that would have sharp shooters removing deer at risk of TB in northwestern Minnesota. Hugoson also voiced concern for the short-term and long-term pain that individuals in this area would be experiencing. With that in mind, he reiterated the need to work together. Hugoson recently attended the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture meeting where individuals discussed the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and its effectiveness on a national level. Hugoson said Minnesota voiced the need to continue moving ahead with the program and update the GIS tracking. Finally, Commissioner Hugoson spoke about Minnesota's drought relief money available for certain livestock producers, the process, and payments.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Report

Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) Director Jim Collins reported on the University of Minnesota's request for funding submitted to Governor. He also gave an update on the construction that is currently being completed at the MVDL. It should be completed by July 1, 2007. The Minnesota Poultry Laboratory renovation has been delayed, but should be completed by late summer. Finally, Collins spoke on a recent Board and MVDL accomplishment – one computer system being used at both locations.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Linda Glaser provided the Board with an update on the TB investigation. So far, all seven TB infected premises have completed the required cleaning and disinfection and have had their quarantines lifted. Five of the seven premises have cattle again. All cattle herds identified within the 10-mile radius circles have undergone TB testing once and a second round of testing is underway. As of mid-February, 174 out of 184 herds identified in the TB disease investigation had also been tested. In the statewide surveillance, veterinarians have tested more than 670 herds, all of which have been negative. The TB division will be sending a reminder letter to beef producers that imported cattle but have yet to test in statewide surveillance effort. A letter to dairy herd owners that have been selected to test for statewide surveillance will go out at the same time. Since the last meeting, the Board has added a new district veterinarian in northwestern Minnesota, Jason Cater resulting in some changes to the northwestern Minnesota District Veterinarian territories.

Mike Stine reported that the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution because the FY 2007 budget has not been passed by Congress. Therefore, they are only authorized to obligate one fourth of the amount appropriated for programs for FY 2006 until the budget is finalized. Indemnity funding for Comparative Cervical Test (CCT) suspects and reactors must be requested after the tests have been completed. To date, USDA has spent \$3.4 million on indemnity; \$272,000 has been spent on indemnity of animals outside of infected herds. USDA has agreed to provide indemnity for all CCT suspects or reactors identified in our investigation and in surveillance testing efforts. The USDA has also assisted in reimbursing private veterinarians to test cattle as part of the statewide surveillance and federal personnel that traveled to Minnesota to assist with the initial TB testing demands.

Mike DonCarlos gave an overview of TB in free ranging White-Tailed Deer. So far, the statewide surveillance for TB in deer has identified five presumptive positive animals located in northwestern Minnesota. The DNR estimates that there are 15,000 deer located in the three 10-mile radius circles identified at the end of 2005. A revised estimate in the core area is not available at this time. The DNR has developed a plan to reduce the opportunity for deer-to-deer or deer-to-livestock transmission of bovine TB by removing potentially positive deer through a significant reduction of deer densities in critical areas. This plan includes a sharp shooting event, landowner shooting permits, and a recreational feeding ban. The plan also includes expanded bag limits, special hunts, fenced agricultural forage, and additional on-farm-risk management, which is all still in the developmental stage.

Legislative Update

Bill Hartmann provided an update on legislative issues. The Board has two initiatives this session. The first initiative is to add the Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health as a non-voting consultant. The other initiative is increased funding for Bovine Tuberculosis. This initiative would increase the Board's budget by \$448,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$363,000 in fiscal year 2009. A Dog and Cat Breeder Act was also introduced in both the Senate and House that would have the Board of Animal Health providing both inspection of these facilities and enforcement.

Dog / Cat Breeder Bill Update

Kris Petrini updated the Board on changes to Senate File 121, known as the "The Dog and Cat Breeder Act". Representatives of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and the Board of Animal Health met with the bill's author, Nancy Minion, on February 20, 2007 to discuss changes in the language of the bill. The new version would require a breeder license for anyone with six (formerly three) breeding dogs or cats. Also the new version would direct the Board to write rules for standards of animal care, however, much of the detail as to what the content of those standards would be is still present in the bill. At that meeting staff explained to Ms. Minion that the Board has little experience with dog and cat breeders and that at the present time resources are stretched due to bovine TB. Staff did express concern for the humane care of all animals and emphasized that if the legislature and citizens of Minnesota directs the Board to implement a program for dog and cat breeders, staff would do the best it can with the resources provided. The Board's preference would be to have the legislature explain the goals of the program, provide rulemaking authority and funding, and allow work to be completed with all affected parties to draft the rules necessary to implement an effective program.

National Animal Identification Update (NAIS)

Paul Anderson spoke about the National Premises Identification project in Minnesota. There are currently more than 11,500 Minnesota premises that have received national premises identification numbers. Requests for national registration continue to come to the Board, but the rate has slowed since USDA announced that the program will remain forever voluntary. The NAIS Advisory Committee met on February 8, 2007, in St. Cloud. The committee discussed the national program and the ramifications for Minnesota following the USDA announcement. After a great deal of discussion, the committee recommended that we continue to support national registration, but focus our efforts and resources on updating premises information in the Minnesota Board of

Animal Health database. Board staff is currently updating our premises information by using recent Pollution Control Agency (PCA) data on more than 40,000 feedlot permits.

Avian Influenza

Sara Williams gave an update on activities related to Avian Influenza. In February, Minnesota hosted the Multi-State Partnership Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) Tabletop Exercise. In addition to practice exercises, the staff has also worked to review and update the LPAI plan. So far, seven cases of Avian Influenza have been found in Minnesota, all have been LPAI. Nationwide USDA has sampled more than 75,000 wild birds in 2006 and no Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) has been found.

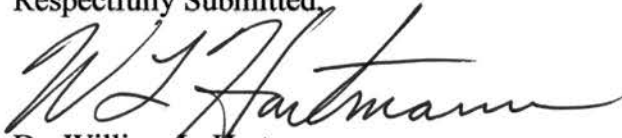
Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1)

Paul Anderson informed the Board that a case of Equine Herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1) encephalomyelopathy, the neurologic form of EHV-1 was confirmed in Wright County, Minnesota. This is the first time neurologic EHV-1 has been diagnosed in the state. The infected horse became ill suddenly on February 14, was unable to stand and was euthanized. Serum and nasal swabs from the horse were submitted to the University of Kentucky where the neurologic form of EHV-1 was confirmed. EHV-1 affects horses worldwide. It usually causes a respiratory infection in horses called rhinopneumonitis. It can also cause abortion in pregnant mares. The neurologic form of the disease can occur suddenly without previous symptoms or can follow rhinopneumonitis or abortion. The disease does not affect humans. The virus is spread when infected animals cough or sneeze. It can also be transmitted in contaminated water and feed or on the hands and clothing of people who work with an infected horse. Horses that have been exposed to the disease should be isolated for a period of at least 21 days. Although vaccines for EHV-1 are available, none appear to provide protection against the neurologic form of the disease.

Location of the Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, in St. Paul, Minnesota at the Orville L. Freeman Building. A motion was made to adjourn by Paul FitzSimmons, seconded by Mahesh Kumar, and passed with all voting aye. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting held Wednesday, April 11, 2007.

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at the Orville L. Freeman Building, 625 Robert St. N, St. Paul, MN 55155. The following people were present:

Board Members: Mahesh Kumar, John Whitten, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communication Director
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology
Ted Held, Information Officer
Mary Leland, Administrative Assistant
Brad Peterson, State District Veterinarian

Guests: Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA: APHIS:VS
Sherry Shaw, Area Epidemiologist, USDA: APHIS: VS
Dan Tjornehoj, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Tom Hagerty, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Mike DonCarlos, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Heidi Kassenborg, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Scott Wells, University of Minnesota
Jim Collins, Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Stacy Schwabenlander, Intern

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

A motion was made by Paul Fitz Simmons, seconded by John Whitten with all voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 21, 2007 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by John Whitten, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to approve the amended agenda adding Paul Anderson as a presenter on Johne's Disease

Comments from Commissioner Gene Hugoson

Minnesota Agricultural Commissioner Gene Hugoson informed the Board that Kevin Elfering, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Dairy and Food Division Director, was retiring from the agency. Dr. Heidi Kassenborg will be the intern director. Hugoson spoke of the strong partnership between the MDA and the Minnesota Board of

Animal Health. Hugoson stated that Quinn Cheney, MDA State Program Admin Manager, is currently assisting both the Board and MDA with legislative affairs.

Jim Collins Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Jim Collins, Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) Director, gave the board an update on activities at the University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota was awarded \$22 million for avian influenza from the Centers for Disease Control. Jeff Klausner, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, recently resigned. The college will be establishing an advisory board to search for a replacement. In addition, the college is currently looking to hire an Associate Dean. Collins encouraged the Board to contact the school if they were interested in serving on a search committee.

Legislative and Budget Updates

Bill Hartmann updated the board on the Dog and Cat Breeder Act. A bill was introduced in both the House and Senate. Neither bill has received a hearing. A House bill that would add the Commissioner of Agriculture as a non-voting consultant to the board passed after being amended to add the Commissioners of Natural Resources and Health. He reported that the supplemental appropriation for Bovine Tuberculosis has been spent for this biennium. Board staff have submitted a request to the USDA for additional TB funding.

Avian Influenza

Dale Lauer reported that avian influenza surveillance in Minnesota domestic poultry conducted with the assistance of USDA funding is moving along well. As a result of the increased surveillance fourteen positive flocks have been identified in 2006 and seven flocks in 2007 to date. Investigations conducted by Board personnel indicate that the virus had not spread to other flocks based on additional testing. Two separate avian influenza events were discussed with the Board, the HPAI H5N1 event in the United Kingdom and the LPAI H5N2 in West Virginia.

Other significant events reported since the last Board meeting include the approval by USDA of The Minnesota H5/H7 LPAI Initial State Response and Containment Plan. Options for controlling spread of the disease as part of the H5/H7 LPAI Response Plan include controlled marketing, vaccination or mass depopulation. 100% of eligible costs from participating flocks in the relevant voluntary control program (NPIP, LBMS) and 25 percent of eligible costs for non-participating flocks are available for indemnity as part of the program. Poultry producer eligibility is determined by participation in a diagnostic surveillance and an approved State Initial Response and Containment Plan.

Avian Pneumovirus

Dale Lauer informed the Board that based upon processing plant surveillance the percentage of APV positive flocks started a downward trend in 2006, which continues into 2007. With decreasing serology titers and fewer reports of clinical APV disease it appears that Minnesota is moving toward APV elimination. The percentage of APV positive flocks in February 2007 was at the lowest level (7%) since March 1999. The

USDA Avian Pneumovirus Field Eradication Project is complete with a final report submitted to USDA. During the project information was gathered regarding vaccine administration. As a result of the project current diagnostic criteria for APV-associated disease must be revised. Production statistics gathered during the project do not support sustained use of APV vaccine in the absence of field virus pressure. The aggressive coordinated vaccination of all flocks in the geographic vicinity of a clinical APV outbreak does appear to be a useful control and eradication tool.

Poultry Lab Update

Dale Lauer reported that the Database Application that was developed for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is being installed for use at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL). A poultry premises code system has been developed to facilitate notification of disease situations to poultry producers in Minnesota. The renovation project is underway and will help improve the efficiency of the MPTL, improve the ability of the MPTL to meet test requirements and effectively serve an expanding client base. The timeline established is April 2007 (bids, contracts awarded), May – August 2007 (off-site relocation, construction) and September 1, 2007 (project completion).

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mike Don Carlos from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) updated the board on activities related to the detection of TB in white-tailed deer. Mike relayed that USDA Wildlife Service's (WS) sharpshooters continue to collect deer from the TB Core Area and submit lymph node samples for TB testing. The sharpshooters collected over 450 deer to date; four deer had gross lesions suspicious for TB. Mike reported the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories is working through the lymph node samples submitted from deer collected during the 2006 hunting season; approximately 50 percent of the samples have completed cultures. Final results will be available when cultures are completed. The DNR conducted aerial surveys of deer populations in the TB Core Area during this past winter. The estimated deer population in the Core Area is 950 (\pm 150 deer). The DNR will be taking additional steps to reduce the deer population in this area and the TB Management Area by offering landowner shooting permits, liberalizing the fall hunting season, offering special hunts, expanding bag limits, and continuing the deer-proof fencing program and recreational deer feeding ban.

Dr. Linda Glaser gave an update on the cattle TB program activities including an overview of cattle management plans for the DNR defined TB Core and Management Areas. Cattle producers in both areas will be required to annually test all cattle on their property 12 months of age and older. In addition, TB Core Area producers will need a current TB test (a test within 60 days) for all cattle moved off their property. Core Area producers will also have a wildlife risk assessment completed by USDA, Wildlife Services and Board personnel. Producers will need to implement the recommendations from the risk assessment, if funding is available. A TB herd test update was given and included the number of herds tested in three categories; investigation herds, area testing (herds in the 10-mile radius circles around infected herds), and statewide surveillance. Glaser informed the Board that additional personnel were hired to work on TB activities.

They include: a temporary Agricultural Specialist to assist with testing in northern Minnesota and a Senior Veterinarian in the office.

There was also a brief discussion of our state TB status. USDA is proposing changes to the TB section of the federal government's Code of Federal Regulations. One of the changes would include the definition of a wildlife reservoir for bovine TB and require a state to wait five years before regaining TB-Free Status if they have a wildlife reservoir. If Minnesota were defined as having a wildlife reservoir for TB, this would delay our return to TB-Free Status.

Dr. Mike Stine updated the Board on the status of the Federal Fiscal Year 2007 budget and the anticipated budget changes for USDA. USDA just recently received their funding allocation for the year. Stine did not know the funding amounts for specific programs.

Johne's Disease Program Review

Scott Wells from the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine gave an evaluation of the Minnesota Johne's Disease Control Program in dairy cattle herds. After analyzing Minnesota Johne's Disease Control Program data, Wells found that dairy herds in the Johne's Disease Management Program reduced their on-farm risk assessment scores during the first two years in the program. In addition, management herds have reduced their ELISA seroprevalence during the first three years. In summary, data shows a reduction in the JD transmission risk and a reduction in seroprevalence of Johne's disease in program herds.

Paul Anderson reported on the current status of the Johne's Disease Program. There is currently no cooperative agreement funding from USDA to support fee basis risk assessments and sample collection by private practitioners. Risk assessments are being performed by Board staff, but there is no way that we can keep up with producer demand for this service. Program coordinators from USDA have indicated that cooperative agreement funds will be coming in the next few weeks and will be distributed as soon as federal budgets have been settled. Until then, we will continue to do the best we can to maintain enthusiasm for the program.

The Johne's Disease milk ELISA test is now being offered at the Minnesota Dairy Herd Improvement Association laboratories in Zumbrota and Sauk Centre. The cost of the test is \$5.00 and is available at producer expense. The test is convenient because it is run on samples collected by DHIA inspectors and does not require a veterinarian to submit samples. So far, approximately 1,200 samples have been run. In light of diminishing federal funding for the program, this test seems promising.

Election of Officers to the Board of Animal Health

Executive Director Dr. Bill Hartmann took over direction of the meeting for the election of next year's Minnesota Board of Animal Health officers (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). He opened nominations for president. Holly Neaton nominated John Whitten, seconded by Mahesh Kumar with all voting aye. Nominations for vice-president were then opened.

Mahesh Kumar nominated Holly Neaton, seconded by Paul Fitzsimmons with all voting aye.

Appointment of the Executive Director

The Board members met in closed session with business manager, Barbara Troyer, to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director for the upcoming state fiscal year. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to rehire Dr. William L. Hartmann as the Executive Director, seconded by John Whitten with all voting aye. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to approve an achievement award for the executive director, seconded by John Whitten with all voting aye.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, in Willmar, Minnesota. A motion was made by John Whitten, seconded by Holly Neaton, with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

**Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting held
Wednesday, September 12, 2007.**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at the MinnWest Technology Campus, Willmar, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Holly Neaton, Steve Brake

Consultants to the Board:

Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Jim Collins, Director, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic
Laboratory
Trevor Ames, Interim Dean, University of Minnesota College of
Veterinary Medicine

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director

Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Arnie Jostock, District Veterinarian
Ted Held, Communications Officer
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology
Stacy Pollock, MPTL
Sandy Hinrichs, Account Clerk

Guests:

Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA:APHIS:VS
Sherry Shaw, Area Epidemiologist, USDA:APHIS:VS
Tom Hagerty, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Heidi Kassenborg, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Ron Lippert, Willmar Poultry Company
Gary Thurnau, Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Ralph Michelson, Broiler and Egg Association of Minnesota
Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health
Rick Huisinga, Willmar Poultry Co., LSI, MinnWest Technology
Ted Huisinga, Willmar Poultry Co., LSI, Former Board Member
Marie Zantin, Jennie-O Turkey Store
Brian McComb, Jennie-O Turkey Store
Don Beck

**Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting held on
Wednesday, April 11, 2007.**

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, April 11, 2007 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Mahesh Kumar, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Welcome to MinnWest Technology Campus from Rick Huisinga

Rick Huisinga from Willmar Poultry Company/Life Science Innovations welcomed the Board to the MinnWest Technology Campus. He explained that the campus, formerly known as the Willmar Regional Treatment Center, served as a substance abuse treatment center for the State of Minnesota since it was founded in 1913 and has been a historical monument in the community for many years.

In 2005, Life-Science Innovations and Nova-Tech Engineering partnered to form the MinnWest Technology Campus and purchased the 37 building, 110 acre facility. The concept in creating MinnWest is to combine technology companies from several industries (i.e. biotech, engineering, computer sciences, and chemistry) in a campus-like environment, providing for cross-company collaboration.

Comments from Trevor Ames

Trevor Ames, Interim Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) gave the Board an update on the CVM. A committee has been selected to search for a permanent dean for the CVM. Dr. Ames thanked the Board for their support for the University's legislative requests during the 2007 session.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins, director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory thanked the Board of Animal Health for supporting the University of Minnesota's 2007 legislative request which resulted in an increase of \$900,000 in the VDL base operating budget for FY2008. The new funds will enable the VDL to compensate the University of Minnesota for a \$484,000 deficit in FY 2007 and to avoid any laboratory fee increases for FY2008.

A progress report was provided about the new Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) addition to the necropsy laboratory. The project will be completed and commissioned by November 1, 2007. The new BSL-3 Necropsy facility will provide a safe working environment for VDL employees in the event of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus in the US. It will also be used for containing other high risk zoonotic pathogens such as bovine tuberculosis, chlamydiosis, tularemia, anthrax, West Nile virus and rabies.

Comments from Commissioner Gene Hugoson

Minnesota Agricultural Commissioner Gene Hugoson informed the Board that a special session concluded in the early morning of Wednesday, September 12 with the governor signing a bill to send emergency relief to flood-stricken areas of southwest Minnesota, including some money for agriculture. Jim Boerboom, formerly an Assistant Commissioner at MDA was hired to fill the vacant Deputy Commissioner position. Robin Kinney has been hired to fill Mr. Boerboom's position.

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

Dale Lauer reported that international surveillance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) demonstrates there are countries where the H5N1 situation has been resolved and other countries where it continues to be both an avian and potential human problem. Five flocks (four commercial turkey, one waterfowl) were identified with antibodies to H5 or H7 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) in 2007: H5N2 in West Virginia, H7N9 in Minnesota, H5N1 in South Dakota, H5N1 in Virginia, and H7N9 in Nebraska. State response plans and associated costs were discussed and compared.

Dr. Lauer described in detail the Minnesota event, where a commercial turkey flock in Brown County was identified with LPAI antibodies on April 26, 2007. Results were confirmed at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory on May 2, 2007 and sub-typed as H7N9. As a result, the Board restricted any poultry movement to or from the premises effective May 3, 2007, requested critical level biosecurity on the infected premises, and implemented the Minnesota H5/H7 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan. Per the Minnesota Plan, surveillance was conducted on the five-week toms at the infected premises as well as in a three-mile radius around the infected premises to determine if there was spread of the virus. A Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician was dispatched to conduct the epidemiological investigation and collect samples. All samples were negative with no clinical signs or unusual mortality.

In accordance with the Minnesota Plan, the Emergency Management Committee, made up of state, federal, university, industry representatives, met to update members, discuss findings, and coordinate communications. External communications were coordinated between USDA, State Agencies and the poultry industry. With all surveillance testing negative, the exposed flock was marketed on August 2, 2007. In this event, the Board was adequately prepared and the response was successfully coordinated. The H7N9 virus was eradicated and contained, with no spread or adverse effects to the poultry industry. There was no report to World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), but Russia and Japan were notified per their specific trade agreements

Dr. Lauer informed the Board that in 30 years of testing for avian influenza in Minnesota, 1,144 positive influenza flocks have been identified, almost exclusively in commercial turkey flocks. Surveillance has identified 49 H5 or H7 flocks (4 percent), with the previous positive H5/H7 flock in 1994. There have been four major outbreaks in the state (defined as greater than 100 flocks):

- 1988 – 258 flocks
- 1995 – 179 flocks
- 1978 – 141 flocks
- 1991 – 100 flocks

Serologic active surveillance has identified more than 50 percent of the H5/H7 flocks. The current active pre-market AI surveillance program ensures that all turkey flocks are tested as required by the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and are virus-free. The program also provides a disease alert and management tool for the industry and

provides an on-going surveillance program to protect breeder flocks. The consensus from the turkey industry is to continue pre-market surveillance for antigen and antibodies implementation of the Minnesota Area Poultry Premises Code system (MAPP) and to support the concept of compartmentalization (turkey, layer, broiler, backyard poultry industries) which is crucial to continued surveillance. As demonstrated in Minnesota and Nebraska there are cost effective measures that can eliminate LPAI H5/H7 introductions.

Avian Pneumovirus (APV) Update

Dale Lauer informed the Board that based upon processing plant surveillance the downward trend in the percentage of APV positive flocks which started in 2006 has continued into 2007. The percentages of APV positive flocks in March and July 2007 were at the lowest levels (4%) since 1999 and with decreasing serology titers and fewer reports of clinical APV disease, it appears that Minnesota is moving toward eradication. Investigations are conducted on APV positive non-vaccinated flocks. An additional proposal has been submitted to USDA that would include funding for a vaccine stockpile, APV case investigations and short term research areas.

Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory Open House

Attendees were invited to the MPTL Open House later in the day to view the completed renovation project. The renovation project, which was funded by the 2006 Minnesota Legislature, will improve the efficiency of the MPTL, improve the ability of the MPTL to meet testing requirements, and more effectively serve an expanding client base.

Bovine Tuberculosis

An update of the TB program was provided by Linda Glaser. The update included TB testing progress in cattle and a synopsis of information presented by DNR staff at the BAH/VS work conference. Program TB testing will increase this fall as producers bring their cattle in from pasture. BAH and USDA teams consisting of one district veterinarian and an assistant will rotate to northwestern Minnesota from the third week of September through mid-December to assist with TB testing in that area.

The Board aims to meet the goal of completing TB testing for statewide surveillance of 1500 herds in 2007. The first round of producers selected included many that were out of the cattle business or had animal groups such as feedlots or pastured calves that did not meet our testing criteria. To date testing is completed on 1069 herds. To meet the goal of 1500 herds, letters went out in August to 453 producers telling them that they have been randomly selected for testing and 1973 additional producers asking them to volunteer to test their herd.

Requirements for both the TB Management and Core Area herds in northwestern Minnesota were made effective in early June. An annual herd test is required for all cattle herds in these areas. In addition, the TB Core Area herds must have a current TB test on all animals moved off their premises, obtain a movement permit from the Board prior to moving cattle off their property, comply with recommendations of a wildlife risk assessment performed on each premises, and have a visual ID in addition to official ID for each animal.

The DNR received final results on all the deer collected from the winter sharp shooting effort. Of the 488 deer collected, 6 were positive for bovine TB. These animals were located approximately 5 miles south of the first 3 infected cattle herds. The DNR has been actively working in the TB Core Area this summer to provide technical assistance and supplies to producers for fencing stored feed. With funding from the legislature, 8 producers in the TB Core Area will have completed fence construction by the winter. An additional 7 producers will construct fences next summer.

The DNR has defined a 'Bovine TB permit' hunting area around the TB Management and Core Areas. The goal for this area is to reduce the deer density by offering expanded hunting options. Planning for TB testing deer in the DNR TB Surveillance zone during the fall hunting season is underway.

Dr. Glaser explained the recommendation to require TB tests on cattle imported from Mexico and cattle imported for rodeo or timed events was brought before the Board. A motion was made by Holly Neaton and seconded by Steve Brake, with all present voting aye to accept the policy. The policy will be implemented immediately.

Bill Hartmann briefly discussed the timeline for our TB-Free status. We are on schedule to complete all the requirements for reinstatement of our status in December, 2008.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations

Bill Hartmann reported on a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigation that occurred in Minnesota in June. While most FAD investigations are on farms, this one was unique in that it was at a major swine packing plant.

The Board was notified of a shipment of pigs showing suspicious symptoms. Two Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) were dispatched to investigate. A case coordinator was assigned to enter the investigation in the Emergency Management Reporting System and act as the key contact with the FADDs. Upon initial examination of a pen of 185 pigs from Canada the FADDs reported the following:

- Some pigs had elevated temperatures,
- Some pigs had ulcerated and necrotic areas on the snouts, coronary bands and other areas of the legs, and
- 80 percent of the pigs were lame.

There was enough concern that this was a foreign animal disease that USDA decided to send the tissues overnight to the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory on Plum Island as a Priority 1 submission, meaning the samples would be run immediately upon receipt. The decision was made to send the pigs through the normal harvesting process and collect tissues on the line. A negative diagnosis was made within 32 hours of the Board being notified.

Because the samples were sent Priority 1, this investigation received a lot of attention. There was concern that the first set of samples submitted would not be adequate and pending diagnosis, USDA made the decision to put a hold order on some product leaving

the plant. The Board staff has been involved in two debriefings since the investigation - one with USDA and personnel from the packing plant and one with Minnesota Department of Agriculture staff. Board staff devoted a day at our state and federal work conference to discuss FAD investigations with emphasis on processing plants.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Great Britain

Dr. Paul Anderson reviewed events surrounding the 2007 outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Great Britain. The initial case of FMD was confirmed on a farm in Surrey County on July 26. There were 60 head of finishing cattle at this operation and all of the cattle were clinically ill at the time of sample collection. A second farm, also in Surrey County was identified with FMD on July 31. This farm was a cow/calf operation with approximately 112 head of cattle. Cows on this farm were also showing classical symptoms of FMD.

FMD virus was isolated, typed as O1BFS, and eventually traced back to a laboratory located near the farms. The laboratory had begun using this specific virus type to manufacture FMD vaccine on July 16. It was eventually concluded that the virus had exited the laboratory through the sewer system, contaminated a nearby field, and was tracked to the farms by contaminated construction vehicles or people. At the time of this report, officials in Great Britain believe that the outbreak was contained with no further spread.

Reportable Diseases and Chemical Toxicity

Joni Scheftel and Heidi Kassenborg requested changes to the Board policy on reporting animal diseases and chemical toxicity. Our state is known nationally for having an excellent system for veterinarians to report animal diseases to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) and for health care providers to report human diseases to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

However, there are pathogens that are not on the BAH reportable diseases list that are of public health importance, and situations occasionally arise where there is a concern for human health. Another serious deficiency in veterinary reporting in Minnesota is that there is no requirement for veterinarians to report chemical toxicities in livestock that might result in contamination of the food supply.

On August 10, Dr. John Howe, president of the Minnesota Veterinary Medicine Association (MVMA), hosted a meeting to address the problem. The meeting was attended by Dan Tjornahoj, Executive Director of the MVMA, Bill Hartmann, Jim Collins, Heidi Kassenborg, Jeff Bender, and Joni Scheftel. As a practical solution, the consensus of the group was to request three things of the Board:

1. Add a general line to the list of reportable diseases such as "and other vector-borne or zoonotic diseases of public health significance;"
2. Add Q Fever to the reportable diseases list; and
3. Add language to the list of reportable diseases requiring veterinarians to report chemical toxicities in livestock.

Mahesh Kumar expressed reservations about including broilers in Salmonella enteritidis reporting. A motion was made by Holly Neaton and seconded by Steve Brake, with all voting aye to accept the suggested changes.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health will be at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at the Pomeroy Center on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by John Whitten, with all voting aye to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

**Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting held
Wednesday, December 12, 2007.**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at the Pomeroy Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Holly Neaton, Steve Brake, Paul FitzSimmons

Consultants to the Board:

Joe Martin, on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson
Jim Collins, Director, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic
Laboratory
Trevor Ames, Interim Dean, University of Minnesota College of
Veterinary Medicine

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Ted Held, Communications Officer

Guests: Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA:APHIS:VS
Sherry Shaw, Area Epidemiologist, USDA:APHIS:VS
Stephan Singleton, USDA and U of M
Michelle Carstensen, Department of Natural Resources
Jayne Rankin, Department of Finance
Rich Danilla, Department of Health

**Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting held on
Wednesday, September 12, 2007.**

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Paul FitzSimmons, with all voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, September 12, 2007 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all voting aye to approve the agenda as amended.

Welcome to the Pomeroy Center, University of Minnesota

See attached report from Trevor Ames

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins presented an update on the VDL. The dedication ceremony of the new Biosafety Level 3 addition to the VDL necropsy facility will be held on January 10, 2008, 9:30 a.m. in room 280 of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory building.

An accreditation site visit by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians is set for August 8, 2008. The accreditation process, which occurs every five years, will include the VDL and the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory. To achieve accreditation, the VDL will need to satisfy more rigorous ISO17025 quality assurance standards. A quality assurance steering committee including section heads, a technical writer and a quality assurance consultant has been formed to prepare for the accreditation site visit.

In collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the VDL is providing testing of samples collected from employees at a pork processing plant in southern Minnesota who have experienced a neurological syndrome of unknown cause. Samples will be tested for animal pathogens that might play a role in the neuropathy syndrome.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Assistant Commissioner Joe Martin gave the Agriculture Department update. The Department has been working closely with the BAH and Health Department on the outbreak of an unknown neuropathy at the Quality Pork Processors plant in Austin, MN.

The Department is looking at the feed labeling claims of several companies that are labeling toxin binding agents that are not approved by FDA.

Commissioner Martin is chairing the animal husbandry taskforce which is currently looking at the issue of teeth floating, animal chiropractic, massage, and other complimentary animal health activities.

At the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association annual meeting, Commissioner Gene Hugoson announced the formation of a Beef Task Force which could be a venue for the explorations of a source-age verification program in Minnesota.

USDA Update

USDA is currently operating under a continuing resolution. The current cooperative agreements with Minnesota expire December 31, 2007. Currently no cooperative agreement funding is available after this date with the exception of tentative funding for National Animal Identification System and Johne's disease. If there is no funding for Minnesota's Johne's, disease program it will be operating on state funding alone which is \$200,000 per year.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Dr. Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provided a review of the past year's activities at the DNR related to monitoring and controlling bovine tuberculosis (TB) in free-ranging deer.

In 2006, the DNR conducted statewide surveillance for TB during the fall deer hunting season. Five thousand deer were sampled for bovine TB statewide; 942 in the Intensive Surveillance Zone around infected farms in northwestern Minnesota and 4038 throughout the rest of the state. Five infected deer were identified; all within five miles of a previously infected cattle premises.

In response to this finding, the DNR identified a Core Area of concern with respect to TB infected deer and a buffer area around the Core called the TB Management Zone. The DNR developed a management plan with the goal of reducing the deer population in order to eliminate TB infected deer and reduce the potential for TB-transmission among deer. The management plan included implementation of a feed ban in a 4000 square mile area around the Core Area, conducting a deer removal operation in the Core Area and defining a TB permit area with liberalized hunting regulations for future hunting seasons.

In early 2007, the DNR contracted with USDA-Wildlife Services to conduct deer removal in the Core Area. Over a two month period in late winter, 488 deer were removed; six of these deer were identified as positive for bovine TB. During the 2007 fall deer hunting season, surveillance was conducted in the Intensive Surveillance Zone around infected farms; 1085 deer were sampled. The preliminary results identified three TB infected deer. In comparison to the previous two years of hunting season surveillance in this area, Dr. Carstensen's preliminary assessment is that prevalence of TB infected deer remains low and the geographic distribution has not changed. Final results of the 2007 deer surveillance are pending.

Future plans for deer management include a two week special hunting season for the TB permit area that starts at the end of 2007. In early 2008, after a deer population survey of the Core and Management areas, a deer removal effort will be undertaken again in the Core Area.

Dr. Linda Glaser provided an update on bovine TB in cattle. An eighth bovine tuberculosis (TB) infected beef cattle herd was identified in October 2007. This herd purchased animals from a previously infected herd and was being tested a second time when a yearling heifer was found infected. This herd is located in northwestern Beltrami County approximately three miles west of a previously infected herd. The herd has been appraised and the appraisal report is being reviewed by USDA. As a result, all cattle, bison, and captive cervid herds within a 10-mile radius circle of this herd must be tested for bovine TB. Many of the cattle herds in this area have been tested previously as they are also within ten miles of other previously infected herds.

Testing for statewide surveillance is nearing completion with the goal of TB testing 1500 herds. This testing was initiated at the request of USDA to demonstrate that TB does not exist elsewhere in the Minnesota cattle population. To date, 1367 herd tests have been completed in this surveillance effort. Additional herds were tested to meet other program requirements including 198 herds that were associated with cattle movement in or out of an infected herd and 125 herds that were in the 10-mile radius circles (area herds) around infected cattle farms. A total of 1690 individual herds have been tested at least one time in Minnesota.

US Border Opens to Canadian Cattle

As of November 19, 2007, the United States allows all Canadian cattle born after March 1, 1999 into the US with the appropriate documentation and identification. Several Canadian border states implemented additional requirements to import Canadian cattle into their states including:

- 1) bovine tuberculosis or brucellosis tests,
- 2) more specific identification, or
- 3) permits.

A concern expressed by some state officials is that a BSE infected animal could be imported into their state and once found infected, could not be definitively identified as a Canadian origin animal. Minnesota has not placed any additional importation requirements for Canadian cattle entering the state as the risk of importing a BSE infected animal is extremely low. The USDA already has requirements in place for Canadian cattle to meet US program disease standards.

With this rule, all Canadian feeders currently in Minnesota feedlots will be able to move to slaughter or any destination in the US without additional restrictions or documentation. These animals were all verified as less than 30 months of age when they were imported from Canada under the previous regulation.

NAIS

Ted Radintz presented on the NAIS Business Plan, a strategic document created by USDA to prioritize animal species and livestock sectors with the greatest need for improved disease traceability. He also shared the latest NAIS premises registration numbers nationally and in Minnesota. In Minnesota, we have improved our state databases and our ability to locate livestock sites and improve traceability through producer outreach.

Biologics

Dr. Kris Petrini gave an overview of the Board's role in regulating the sale and distribution of biologics in the state. A discussion was held on whether added regulations were needed in the state to restrict challenge studies to USDA-approved facilities. In the end it was decided to continue to handle each situation on a case by case basis, carefully scrutinizing each request for any potential risk to the livestock and poultry industry before granting Board approval.

Rabies

Dr. Petrini gave an update on rabies, including an overview of rabies in the United States and Minnesota. She also updated the Board on the latest case of human rabies in Minnesota which occurred in October 2007 and discussed the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines that are used to determine when human exposure to bats warrants rabies post exposure prophylaxis.

Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Neuropathy

Rich Danilla, an epidemiologist with the Minnesota Health Department (MDH), reported on an active investigation of a cluster of cases of inflammatory neuropathy among workers at Quality Pork Processors (QPP) in Austin, MN. Approximately a dozen workers developed illness over a 12-month period. The Minnesota Department of Health is looking at exposures in the plant, particularly among those exposed to the brain of the pig as it is harvested from the skull. The actual cause of the illness is not known, but these illnesses are thought to be autoimmune disorders. The swine themselves are not affected and neither the food supply nor swine producers are at risk.

Malissa Fritz, Communications Director with the Board, reported on how communication issues were handled during the investigation at QPP. The Board, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MDH, and the Governor's office worked together to prepare talking points, news releases, a QPP employee briefing, and a media event. In all, the information was reported accurately and those involved were informed of the situation prior to its release to the media. Thanks to the cooperation by numerous partners, communication with all stakeholders, including the public, was a success.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health will be at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at the Orville L Freeman Building in St. Paul. A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by John Whitten, with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

**Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting held
Wednesday, February 13, 2008.**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at the Orville L. Freeman Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons

Consultants to the Board:

Joe Martin, on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson
Jim Collins, on behalf of CVM Dean Trevor Ames
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Ray Scheierl, IT Manager
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Ted Held, Communications Officer
Carissa Allen, Cervidae Division
Bethanie Docken, Cervidae Division

Guests: Mike Stine, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA:APHIS:VS
Sherry Shaw, Area Epidemiologist, USDA:APHIS:VS
Jayne Rankin, Department of Finance
Nikki Neeser, Department of Agriculture
Cathy Danser Olson, Department of Agriculture
Todd McAloon, Sunny Fresh Foods
Dr. Rob Porter, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Jim Byrne, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

**Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting held on
Wednesday, December 17, 2007.**

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, December 17, 2007 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda as amended to include the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Joe Martin reported that the disaster assistance payments for flood victims should be arriving in mailboxes this week. Payments totaling \$3.7 million were sent to 2900 producers in Minnesota. MDA is currently working with the Board on a dairy surveillance plan to address the regulations in the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) after the expected downgrade in Minnesota's Bovine Tuberculosis status.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Jim Collins presented on behalf of Interim Dean Trevor Ames. See attached report.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Jim Collins introduced Dr. Rob Porter, the new poultry pathologist at the VDL.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Movement Protocol

Dale Lauer presented to the Board a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Movement Protocol document that has been discussed by industry and regulatory officials in the Midwest for several years. The document outlines the movement protocols for eggs, egg products and day-old chicks within, out of, and into disease control areas in a HPAI event. The document has received the endorsement of the USAHA, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and the National Poultry Improvement Plan's General Conference Committee.

Lauer reported that in a HPAI event, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Incident Commanders can quarantine any site, area, county and/or state after the Index Case has been determined. The National Response Plan includes a 96 hour "no movement" moratorium for non-infected farms in a Control Area which creates a major concern for the egg industry, as it has developed their production on a "just-in-time" basis. The egg industry is committed to containing disease and preventing spread in order to protect public health and the nation's layer industry. They would also like to provide for rational movements of eggs and egg products to prevent unwarranted industry disruption.

A HPAI response could take many different forms depending upon the event: a local/limited response, a regional response that would cross state lines, or a national response. Lauer emphasized that there would be no movement of susceptible species or their products (e.g., shell eggs, hatching eggs, day old chicks, broken egg shells, unpasteurized liquid egg product, pasteurized egg products) from infected premises except for disposal and movement off-site under permit by an approved State/Federal Plan

Lauer indicated the protocol for determination of non-infected flocks in a Control Area include flocks with the following components: no clinical signs, no unexpected increase in mortality, active monitoring of behavior, water and feed consumption, egg quality, egg production, increased biosecurity measures, and the testing of five dead birds (bias sampling) each day from each barn/flock by the RRT-PCR test. Samples would be collected by a regulatory official. If an infected flock is found the flock on the premises

is immediately quarantined. After discussion, Mahesh Kumar moved the following, with Holly Neaton seconding and all present voting aye to:

1. Support the 2007 United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) resolution 54 that the USDA/APHIS/VS incorporate **business continuity** as part of the National Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Response Plan. Movement protocols within, out of, and into a Control Area as exemplified by the United Egg Producers/United Egg Association Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Movement Control Model Plan dated May 14, 2007 are to be used as a guideline document for industry and regulatory officials.
2. Recommend that Dr. Hartmann sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Minnesota and Iowa that outlines the authority and responsibilities of the respective regulatory agencies in a HPAI event as they pertain to the movement of egg product and day-old chicks.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Linda Glaser provided a summary of TB testing activities. Statewide TB Surveillance was completed at the end of 2007. This testing was undertaken at the request of USDA to document that TB was not in other areas of the state. Over 1550 herds were tested throughout Minnesota. All herds tested negative for bovine TB.

Two additional TB infected herds were identified since the last Board meeting. These herds were declared affected on 1/22/08 and 2/4/08. Both herds are located in the same area as previously identified herds. A total of three TB infected herds have been identified since October 2007. This is the maximum number of newly infected herds allowed in a twelve month period in Minnesota to maintain a Modified Accredited Advanced status. Any additional infected herds identified between now and next October will result in a downgrade of Minnesota's TB status to Modified Accredited (MA).

Dr. Glaser gave an update on TB surveillance in deer and deer herd reduction activities by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in northwestern Minnesota. Although testing of samples submitted from the fall hunting season is not yet completed, four TB infected deer have been identified to date. All four TB positive deer were collected within the TB Core Area in northwestern Minnesota. The DNR held a special hunt in the TB permit area after the regular hunting season from 12/29/07-1/13/08. Aerial surveys were conducted by DNR biologists in January to assess the deer population in the TB Core Area. Based on these surveys, the deer population is estimated at 800 ± 133 deer in the TB Core Area. This week, USDA Wildlife Services sharpshooters begin their herd reduction effort in the TB Core Area.

Bill Hartmann reviewed the recurrence of TB in Minnesota and discussed the planning underway at the Board to prepare for a possible drop in our TB status. He relayed the contacts made with cattle producers through organizations like the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Milk Producers Association, State Cattlemen's Association, and the TB Task Force to discuss the potential drop in status and the option of split state status for

Minnesota. He also discussed the additional TB testing requirements for moving animals interstate if Minnesota should drop to a MA state. Dr. Hartmann is working with USDA on the process for applying for split state status and Dr. Stine outlined this process at the meeting. The components for recognition of a split state status include a risk assessment of TB in Minnesota, an application to USDA for recognition of a region, and implementing and demonstrating the effectiveness of cattle movement restrictions between zones within a state. A tentative boundary for consideration of the separate region was also provided.

Dr. Nikki Neeser reviewed the requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance in states with a Modified Accredited status. At this status level, the Food and Drug Administration require a tuberculosis testing protocol for livestock that assures tuberculosis protection and surveillance of the dairy industry within the state. The Department of Agriculture is preparing a proposal to address this requirement.

Dr. Hartmann also discussed the policy established in 2005 which does not allow cattle from Michigan's MA area to be imported into Minnesota. Dr. Hartmann recommended a review of this policy. The Board agreed that staff should prepare a draft alternative policy for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Paul Fitzsimmons moved that if a fourth herd is found, the Board should pursue a Split State Status. Holly Neaton seconded the motion with all present voting aye.

Johne's Disease

Stacey Schwabenlander presented an update on Minnesota's Johne's disease (JD) program. After federal funding was exhausted for the Johne's disease Program in 2007, a decision was made to discontinue state subsidized testing and risk assessments by private practitioners. Last year concluded with 1,961 total herds enrolled including 567 herds in the negative status program.

In 2007, 1,425 risk assessments were performed, 74,510 laboratory tests for Johne's disease were conducted, and \$468,141 was paid out for risk assessments, sample collection, and laboratory fees. The Board has still not received official notice of federal funding for 2008 resulting in the JD Program continuing at producers' expense. Projected funding, however, looks to be cut significantly resulting in a need for a new plan for 2008 which will be presented to the Johne's Disease Advisory Committee on March 25, 2008. Proposed changes include district veterinarians performing at least 1/3 of the risk assessments in their districts for 2008, the acceptance of the milk ELISA for the negative status herd program, and the possibility of setting up continuing education seminars for Johne's certified veterinarians.

Cervidae Rules

The Board was asked to approve an "Authorizing Resolution" to give Board staff the authority to promulgate new and amended rules for farmed cervidae. The proposed rules were presented in three chapters as follows:

Proposed rules - Farmed Cervidae
Proposed rules - Control of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Farmed Cervidae
Amended rules - Importation of Cervidae (parts 1700.4900 to 1700.5300)

Current laws for farmed cervidae (MS Chapter 35.155) were established in 2003. These laws have served the Board well, but several issues have been identified which need to be clarified in order to effectively administer programs for farmed cervidae in the future.

There are definitions that need to be developed to eliminate the possibility of confusion in administering farmed cervidae programs. Requirements for the CWD herd certification program need to be determined to make sure the Minnesota program is in line with national requirements. A section on intrastate movement requirements needs to be developed to ensure that animals only move from herds that have done adequate CWD surveillance. A plan needs to be developed for how to safely move farmed cervidae within the state if CWD is detected in Minnesota wild cervidae. And finally, the section on requirements for importation of cervidae needs to be updated.

The Board of Animal Health has the statutory authority (MS Chapter 35.155 Subd. 13) to adopt rules as necessary to implement laws governing farmed cervidae and to otherwise provide for the control of cervidae diseases.

Draft rules were developed with broad input from the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Committee. The committee met to review and amend draft language on November 8, 2007, and on January 10, 2008. Current drafts of the rules were also presented to the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association on January 12, 2008. The elk producers present at the meeting indicated unanimous support for promulgation of these rules.

It was moved by Holly Neaton and seconded by Paul FitzSimmons to authorize the promulgation of new and amended rules for farmed cervidae. All members present voted in favor and the motion passed. The Authorizing Resolution was signed by John Whitten and attested by Holly Neaton.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health will be at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at the Orville L Freeman Building in St. Paul. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

**Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting held
Wednesday, April 23, 2008.**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at the Orville L. Freeman Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members: John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons

Consultants to the Board:

Gene Hugoson, Agriculture Commissioner
Trevor Ames, Interim Dean, U of M - CVM
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Staff Members: William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Brad Peterson, District Veterinarian
Ray Scheierl, IT Manager
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Ted Held, Communications Officer
Bethany Hahn, Communications Officer

Guests: Joe Martin, Assistant Agriculture Commissioner
Sherry Shaw, Area Epidemiologist, USDA:APHIS:VS
Mike Don Carlos, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health
Quinn Cheney, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Ted Radintz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

**Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting held on
Wednesday, February 13, 2007.**

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Paul FitzSimmons, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 13, 2007 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

- Quinn Cheney, Legislative Update to the top of the agenda
- The meeting will be interrupted for the Michigan conference call

Update on Bovine TB Legislation

Quinn Cheney provided an update on legislation related to bovine TB. The House of Representatives passed HF 4075 (sponsored by Rep. Olin) which contained funding for TB programs, and authorities for the Management Zone Herd Buyout program, testing, and expanded eradication authorities. The senate version, sponsored by Sen. Skoe will likely be considered today and passed tomorrow. It should reach the governor's desk within two or three weeks.

The omnibus supplemental budget, containing all agency budgets is in conference committee. The bill contains a placeholder for BAH budget figures just in case anything were to happen to the other bill.

Tax provisions must be in a separate bill. The senate version has already passed. In the House, the property tax subcommittee will be marking it up tonight. The bill contains a property tax rebate for livestock owners in the TB Management Zone who take the buyout. The testing credit will stay in the bill.

DNR authorities to enter private lands and destroy wildlife for purposes of disease control are currently in the environment committee.

Department of Agriculture Update

Commissioner Gene Hugoson gave an update on activities at the Department of Agriculture. The Agriculture Department will receive less money this year due to budget cuts across the board. There has been good bipartisan support for TB legislation this year, one of the few areas that was supported by the executive branch and both sides of the aisle in the legislature.

The Department is receiving good cooperation from the Malt-O-Meal plant with the ongoing Salmonella disease investigation.

Traces of lead were found in venison in North Dakota food shelves. Our laboratory found lead in the meat in Minnesota food shelves, sometimes in significant quantities and MDA issued a recall. Hunters saw the recall as an over-reaction despite the fact that MDA is not taking a position on lead shot.

Corn planting is behind schedule. Commodity pricing is making business difficult for livestock producers. No more than 20% of the cost increase is believed to be due to the commodity itself while 80% is related to fuel costs, which was impetus for alternative fuel in the first place.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Interim Dean Trevor Ames gave an update on the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. See attached report.

The CVM has received a record number of high quality applications for the food animal program. The Johne's Disease Integrated Program was renewed with no marked changes in funding or participation. The search for the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is ongoing. There is a loan forgiveness program in legislature, sponsored by Representative Otremba and Senator Dille. It will probably get a more serious look next session. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., representatives of the CVM visited the entire congressional delegation from Minnesota and discussed legislation to create a loan forgiveness program.

The University of Minnesota made the following requests:

- 1) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory expansion, including treatment for effluent that comes off lab floor.
- 2) A National Dairy Education Center in St. Peter, MN in partnership with Davis Family Farms. The center would position the CVM as a national leader in dairy education.

Three endowed chairs were added to the faculty: oncology, urology/nephrology, and global food systems.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins gave an update on the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The accreditation site visit will take place in August and the VDL will pass, fail, or receive provisional accreditation. Every detail of the facility is being inspected in anticipation of the accreditation site visit and the VDL is expected to pass the accreditation site visit.

The tissue digester is coming off-line in order to look at a steam heating connection and to find an alternative source of heat.

A new strain of influenza in pigs, H2N3, was identified by the University. The discovery will lead to a precedent setting intellectual property debate between the University and the Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. Frank Cerra is examining the funding model for the VDL in the next year with the goal of establishing a model that would not compromise the animal disease testing needs of the State of Minnesota and the agricultural industry.

Salmonellosis in Baby Poultry

Dale Lauer described a situation with baby poultry where people, especially children develop Salmonellosis. The primary mode of infection is hand-to-mouth, whether by eating or touching their mouth with hands that have become contaminated by petting animals or touching other contaminated objects. There are usually no clinical signs of salmonellosis in poultry and other food animals, but people become sick, especially infants, elderly or other immune compromised people.

The Board's role in preventing salmonellosis is through the regulation of poultry dealers who sell or distribute live poultry that are not owned by the seller or distributor since hatching. There are about 200 dealers permitted by the Board who require annual inspections and are usually supplied by out-state mail order hatcheries. Poultry dealers

supply customer lists to the Board which facilitate quick identification of customers if necessary in a disease incident.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been tracking *Salmonella* cases since 1991. *Salmonella infantis* was identified in 21 culture-confirmed human cases during a Michigan outbreak in 1999. Cases were associated with direct contact of baby poultry or poultry residing in a household. In 2006 three states had *Salmonella* outbreaks: Michigan where 21 people were identified with the same strain of *Salmonella*, Oregon with four cases of *Salmonella ohio* and Nebraska where ten cases of *Salmonella montevideo* were identified in people. In most of these cases birds were shipped from a single hatchery.

In 2000 four human cases with the same *Salmonella montevideo* subtype were submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) over a 3-week period. In 2007 nine people varying in age from 1 to 71 years developed diarrhea and vomiting from the same strain of *Salmonella montevideo*. All nine people purchased chicks the week before the onset of illness. In 2008 two cases of *Salmonella montevideo* were reported related to direct or indirect contact with baby poultry. In the Minnesota cases, chicks originated from the same hatchery with poultry environmental samples from case households matching the *Salmonella montevideo* subtype.

The CDC has recommended that feed stores display warnings and provide educational materials to people purchasing poultry in an attempt to reduce Salmonellosis among children. The MDH and Board have collaborated in an education program and developed a point-of-sale handout for this purpose entitled "Protecting your family from *Salmonella*" including the following recommendations:

- Do not let children less than five years of age handle poultry.
- Wash your hands after handling poultry or their droppings.
- Do not eat or drink around poultry or their living areas.
- Do not let poultry live inside your home.
- Do not wash the birds' food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

The Board's plan to address this situation includes a Board inspector workshop, the distribution of educational flyers and collaborating with MDH investigations.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Michigan Bovine TB Update

Michigan State Veterinarian Steve Halstead discussed TB in Michigan by conference call. Michigan has had bovine TB in cattle for at least ten years. The disease was found in deer in 1975 and 1994, and then in cattle in 1998. He discussed that it is likely that the TB spilled into deer during the first TB eradication effort in cattle. In northeast Michigan, deer can find cover in dense woods and it is common for farmers to pasture cattle in the woods, as they were advised to do so by extension educators. These conditions likely exacerbated the problem in deer and passed bovine TB back into cattle. Additionally, it was legal to feed deer and hunt over bait, creating further disease enhancing conditions.

Most of the bovine TB has been found in Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452 with 44 TB-positive cattle herds since 1998. This year they discovered a TB infected deer in Shiawassee County that is a significant distance from DMU 452. All other samples in the same outlying area were negative. Three-hundred hunter-harvested deer will be tested this fall in the 10-mile area in Shiawassee County in addition to 100 samples in neighboring counties. Two infected deer have been found in outlying counties previously in 1999. It is unknown how the infected deer came to be so far from the source of infection but it could be due to the movement of abandoned fawns.

Dr. Halstead took time to answer questions.

Question: Are Michigan cattle from the Modified Accredited zone safe?

Answer: Cattle originating from the MA zone are safe due to inventory and testing requirements. There is a web-based electronic permitting system and the state monitors carefully that there is no permit issued without satisfying the testing requirements. The Agriculture Department contracts with Michigan police in the MA zone to monitor livestock movement. The Mackinaw Bridge is staffed to monitor livestock movement to the Upper Peninsula.

Question: What are the fencing requirements in the MA zone?

Answer: These requirements fall under wildlife risk mitigation plans. Formerly infected herds have a written plan to eliminate the risk of contact between cattle and deer. The plan could include fencing, disallowing the pasturing of cattle where it is impossible to control contact with deer, and/or a change to management practices for feeding and watering.

The issue the Board has been discussing is whether to change the policy of not allowing ruminants from the MA zone in Michigan into Minnesota. Jake Whitten advised that staff seek industry input on this issue and report back at the next Board meeting.

Minnesota TB Update

Joe Martin reported on his appointment by the Governor to manage the inter-agency response to bovine TB. There are currently more than 12 institutions or agencies responding to TB in Minnesota, including the University of Minnesota, USDA, Board of Animal Health, the departments of Public Safety, Agriculture, Natural Resources, the State Legislature, and local authorities. His charge by the Governor is to ensure that all these entities are working together towards a common goal.

Bill Hartmann reported on legislative activities related to Bovine Tuberculosis. Governor Pawlenty visited the area of Minnesota affected by Bovine Tuberculosis. After the visit he met with leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate to discuss an aggressive response to the disease.

Currently there are bills in both the House and Senate that would provide authorities needed by the Board of Animal Health to establish a modified accredited zone, continue to do surveillance for the disease and eliminate any infected cattle herds that are found. The chief author of the bill in the House is Representative Dave Olin and in the Senate Senator Rod Skoe. The bill also provides an option for cattle producers in the management zone for a voluntary buyout or implementing strategies to mitigate the cattle deer interaction that includes exclusionary fencing. The following appropriations are made available to the Board of Animal Health in the bills.

\$472,000 for fiscal year 2008

\$2,172,000 for fiscal year 2009 (to be added to the base budget)

These funds are for herd testing to detect infected herds and establishing and maintaining the Modified Accredited zone.

\$3,350,000 from the general fund and \$1,500,000 from a temporary assessment are for the voluntary buyout and mandatory fencing. This funding is available until spent.

Linda Glaser provided a brief update of the TB investigation for the Board including the status of our herd investigations. Four TB Affected herds were identified between October 2007 and February 2008. This exceeded the number of newly identified TB infected herds allowed in a twelve month period for a state or zone with the number of cattle herds in Minnesota and the state's TB status was changed to Modified Accredited on April 9, 2008. These four affected herds were all located within the same geographic area of northwestern Minnesota as previously identified TB affected herds. All four herds were indemnified and depopulated by the end of March 2008. No additional TB infected animals were identified at slaughter in any of these herds. Information was collected from these producers on cattle movement in and out of their herds. Investigations of these cattle movements and herd testing associated with these movements are underway. Cleaning and disinfection of all four farms is in progress; one premises has restocked two pasture sites with cattle after completing the cleaning and disinfection requirements for those sites.

The Board was notified by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Board of Animal Industry that a TB positive animal slaughtered at a Nebraska slaughter plant in February 2008 was traced back to a TB Affected herd in Minnesota. The TB infected animal had been sent to slaughter from a Nebraska feedlot. This feedlot had received a lot of Minnesota feeders in the summer of 2007 which contained animals from our eighth TB Affected herd (Declared Affected in October 2007). The BAH had notified the NE Board of Animal Industry in December 2007 of a movement out of the infected herd to this Nebraska feedlot via a southern Minnesota feeder buyer. The culture from this infected animal has since been strain typed and matches the strain found in other Minnesota animals.

Minnesota is pursuing USDA recognition of split state status as directed by the Board at the February 2008 meeting. Linda Glaser is writing the official application for split state

status which is an eleven statement document used by USDA for international and national zone recognition. These statements require documentation of various aspects of the livestock disease issue including veterinary infrastructure, prevalence of disease in the region and adjacent areas, disease surveillance and response, Minnesota's disease control program, animal movement control, and livestock demographics & marketing practices in the area. The application is one component of the process to gain split state status recognition by USDA. A risk assessment must also be completed which identifies the risks associated with *M. bovis* being introduced to other parts of the United States or Minnesota, given the proposed regionalization. A risk assessment team from the USDA Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health in Fort Collins, is conducting this assessment. The risk assessment will be completed at the end of June. Minnesota must also demonstrate that we can effectively implement movement controls of livestock across a boundary within our state. The USDA will review all of these components in making their decision on recognizing a split state status in Minnesota.

Livestock Movement Controls

Paul Anderson discussed livestock movement controls that have been implemented for the Management zone. These movement controls will be expanded to include the proposed Modified Accredited Zone on July 15, 2008. The purpose of the livestock movement controls is to establish the zoning necessary for split state status and to assure that no infected livestock leave the proposed Modified Accredited Zone. The livestock movement controls apply to any movement of cattle, goats, bison and farmed cervidae. The requirements include a herd test within 1 year, an individual animal test within 60 days, individual identification of the animals moving and completion of an animal movement certificate.

Livestock Auction Markets, Livestock Exhibitions and Herd Testing Activities

Kris Petrini updated the Board on new policies affecting Minnesota markets, the status of required tuberculosis herd testing in Northwest Minnesota, and 2008 cattle exhibition requirements.

Board compliance officers have been visiting all markets regularly and are enforcing existing Board rules related to animal identification. Breeding cattle must be identified prior to being offered for sale, and slaughter cattle must be back tagged upon receipt at markets. Slaughter buyers are now required to sign a Slaughter Affidavit when purchasing cull cows and bulls which indicates the slaughter location and which will help assure cattle are not diverted from slaughter channels. In addition, markets must assure that any cattle originating from the 63 herds in the Management Zone are accompanied by a validated Animal Movement Certificate and have been properly tested and identified. These requirements will be expanded to include all cattle from the entire proposed modified-accredited zone in June, approximately 320 herds. Two new compliance officers will be hired to assist markets in Northwest Minnesota meet these new challenges.

Eighty herds in the proposed modified-accredited zone need to be tested this spring for tuberculosis and are in the process of testing now or getting scheduled for testing. All of

the herds are within 10 miles of a recently identified tuberculosis-infected herd. An additional 220 herds will need to be tested before the end of 2008. Procedures for getting this done are currently being developed and will entail rotating all of our district veterinarians up north for a 2 week tour of duty.

Cattle originating from the proposed modified-accredited zone will be required to meet the same movement requirements for exhibition as they are for other movement from their premises. This includes having a current whole herd test within the past 12 months, an individual animal test within 60 days of exhibition, and being accompanied by a validated Animal Movement Certificate. In addition, the Minnesota State Fair is requiring a 60-day test on all Minnesota cattle, as well as a whole herd test on all open class dairy animals from Minnesota.

Communications and outreach

Malissa Fritz provided an update on the state's bovine TB outreach efforts. The Joint Information Center (JIC) was established as a result of the Incident Command Structure (ICS) being put in place in April 2008. Fritz serves as the state's Lead Public Information Officer (PIO) and Minnesota Department of Agriculture Communications Director Mike Schommer will serve as the Deputy Lead PIO. Under this structure, the state has utilized a number of communications tools including: a State of Minnesota Bovine TB website, a hotline, industry conference calls, weekly newsletters, producer meetings and public service announcements.

Bovine TB and Wildlife

Mike Don Carlos provided an update and overview on fall 2007 and winter 2008 deer sampling efforts in northwestern MN. Prior to fall 2007, 18 confirmed bovine TB-positive deer have been identified through surveillance since 2005; all of these deer were located in the core area. With expanded hunting opportunities in fall 2007, DNR sampled 1,166 deer with 5 deer found infected, all within the TB core area. During winter 2008 DNR has been aggressively removing deer from the core area with sharpshooters and aerial gunning. To date, 398 deer were removed by ground sharpshooters, 391 by aerial gunning, and 86 by private landowners; 6 deer with clinical signs of bovine TB have been found. DNR will likely continue the deer removal effort into mid-May. Also, DNR has passed a rule to allow landowners/tenants to shoot an unlimited number of deer without permits from March 31 through August 31, 2008. This landowner shooting permit zone extends from the Canadian border to the southern boundary of deer permit area 101. Final testing results from the winter deer removal project will be expected this summer.

Election of Officers to the Board of Animal Health

Executive Director Dr. Bill Hartmann took over direction of the meeting for the election of next year's Minnesota Board of Animal Health officers serving from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. He opened nominations for president. Paul Fitzsimmons nominated John Whitten, seconded by Mahesh Kumar with all present voting aye. Nominations for vice-president were then opened. Paul Fitzsimmons nominated Holly Neaton, seconded by Mahesh Kumar with all voting aye.

Appointment of the Executive Director

The Board members met in closed session with business manager, Barbara Troyer to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director for the coming state fiscal year. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to rehire William L. Hartmann as the Executive Director seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to approve an achievement award for the executive director seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 17, 2008. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar seconded by Holly Neaton and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

From the Office of Communications

April 2008

News from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine**1,153 applications received for fall admission**

The College's admissions committee has received 1,153 applications for the 90 seats in the freshman class. Approximately 250 students came to the College for interviews in January and February. Offers for admission were sent out in April. Fifteen student candidates were invited to apply for the VetFAST program.

Biosafety Level 3 necropsy facility opens

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's new BSL-3 necropsy facility was dedicated on January 10. The \$2.44 million project will help the state immediately respond to outbreaks of diseases that could potentially spread from animals to people.

Veterinary Medical Center launches new outpatient medical imaging service

The Veterinary Medical Center has launched Advanced Veterinary Imaging Direct (AVID), a new outpatient medical imaging service. The service will provide veterinarians with the most advanced veterinary imaging technology in the nation, with consultation and interpretation provided by the VMC's team of experienced radiologists. Practitioners can call 612-624-9583 for more information. A request form is online at www.vmc.umn.edu/avid/request/request.cfm

Research updates**Genetic cancer link between humans and dogs**

Research conducted by Dr. Jaime Modiano has found that humans and dogs may share the same genetic basis for certain types of cancer. The research suggests that because of the way the genomes have evolved, getting cancer may be inevitable for some humans and dogs.

USDA renews funding for Johne's disease project

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services renewed \$4.8 million in funding for the Johne's Disease Coordinated Agriculture Project. This program contributed to the development of an online Johne's disease veterinary certification program and more than 1,000 registrants have participated in more than 4,500 continuing education hours. The continuation of the program will focus on developing new diagnostic tests, vaccines and strategies to help producers manage, control, and prevent the disease.

Dean search

On February 19, Dr. Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences, named Trevor Ames, Howard Gelberg, and Robert Washabau as the final candidates for dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Each candidate returned for a one- to two-day visit focusing on administrative issues, e.g. financial details, facilities, research administration, human resources, philanthropy, and public affairs. Dr. Cerra will forward his

recommendation to U of M President Robert Bruininks. From the president's office, the nomination will go to the Board of Regents for the official appointment.

Loan forgiveness legislation

Interim Dean Ames has been meeting with a variety of legislators to discuss introduction of a proposed legislation that provides incentives for veterinary students in the form of loan forgiveness funding.

Faculty news

Chair appointments

Dr. Jody Lulich, a longtime professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department, has been appointed as the Osborne/Hill's Chair in Nephrology/Urology. Dr. Jaime Modiano has been named the Al and June Perlman Endowed Oncology Chair.

Dr. Stephanie Valberg receives Distinguished Women Scholar Award

Dr. Stephanie Valberg, a professor in the Veterinary and Population Medicine Department and the director of the University of Minnesota Equine Center, received the University's 2008 Distinguished Women Scholar Award in sciences and engineering.

Dr. TaMarra Woodling joins General Practice Service

Dr. TaMarra Woodling joined the General Practice Service in February. A 2005 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, TaMarra completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at Garden State Veterinary Specialists in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. She was previously employed at the Blaine Area Pet Hospital.

New book published

Just published: *It's a Dog's Life... but It's Your Carpet*, a compilation of practical, offbeat, and often hilarious questions about dogs, answered by College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member Dr. Justine Lee. Dr. Lee was a guest on NBC's Today show on April 6.

Special events

Points of Pride Research Days

This March 25-26 event included a poster competition for graduate students, summer scholars, post-doctorals, and residents and their research work. Two seminars were presented: Solving the Problem of PRRS: Knowledge is Power, by Dr. Michael Murtaugh, 2008 Pfizer Research Excellence Award recipient, and Improving Our Understanding of Metastasis Biology and Therapy Through a Comparative Approach, by Dr. Chand Khanna, 2008 Distinguished Research Alumnus.

White Coat Ceremony

The College's annual White Coat Ceremony will be held on April 13 at the St. Paul Student Center. Featured speakers will be Dr. Theresa Hershey, president of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, and Andrew Federer, representing the class of 2009.

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, September 17, 2008

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at the University of Minnesota Equine Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons, Steve Brake

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Guests:

Joe Martin, Assistant Agriculture Commissioner
Mike Stine, United States Department of Agriculture
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Erica Butler, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Steve Lee, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Eric Garnighian, Food Safety and Inspection Services

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Carl Denkinger, Agriculture Specialist
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist
Kurt Rud, IT Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

A motion was made by Holly Neaton and seconded by Paul FitzSimmons, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, April 23, 2008 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul FitzSimmons and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins gave a report on the lab's site visit to maintain accreditation. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) must be accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). A site visit committee which included four scientists from three universities came to the VDL on August 3, 2008. The committee drafted a 10-page report on corrective actions needed to maintain accreditation. The item of greatest concern in the report was that state funding for the VDL is low considering the size and volume of testing that the lab performs for Minnesota. This concern may cause the VDL to drop to provisional accreditation.

The observations listed in the site visit committee's report will be submitted to the Accreditation Committee during the annual meeting of AAVLD and the U.S. Animal Health Association in October. The outcome for the VDL will be either full accreditation, provisional accreditation, or fail accreditation.

The question was asked what the impact on Minnesota will be if the VDL's full accreditation is dropped. Dr. Collins stated that if that were to happen, all official testing would have to go out of state. Another question asked was if there is a way the board can help. Dr. Collins stated that the board could help and he will request assistance at the time needed.

United States Department of Agriculture Update

Mike Stine provided an update on the United States Department of Agriculture's activities in Minnesota. USDA is putting forth an effort to shift every-day activities to the state level, and reinventing USDA as a response agency. This is evident through the recent occurrence of bovine TB in California. USDA staff members based out of Minnesota will be traveling to California in three-week rotations to assist with California's TB testing. California's TB outbreak is large in scope, as many of the traces going out of the three large infected herds trace out to even larger dairies out of the state. Two of the three infected dairy herds have a strain of TB similar to the one present in Mexico and the U.S. Southwest. Concerns were raised regarding the staffing shortage in Minnesota and the need to maintain a level of staffing, which includes USDA personnel, to eradicate TB in Minnesota.

USDA is working with the Board of Animal Health and the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR) to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Minnesota's Split State Status. The MOU will be an agreement between the four agencies mandating certain amounts of testing in cattle, deer, as well as focused testing. USDA legal team has asked for a few legal clarifications from the state, which is ultimately slowing the process. USDA should have the MOU completed by October 10, 2008. At that point it will be signed by the Board and MDA and effective immediately.

Processing Plant Discussion

Dr. Bill Hartmann opened a discussion about an incident that occurred at a swine processing plant in Minnesota. A producer called the Board and was upset because the plant had shut down and he had a truckload of pigs waiting to unload and it was 90

degrees that day. The truck driver was given no warning that the line was shut down and he was not told how long it would be shut down.

Eric Garnighian from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) explained why the line was shut down. A pig was not stunned properly. A bolt gun was then used but was also ineffective in euthanizing the animal. As a result, the pig was still conscious when it was bled out. This is considered an egregious violation, so FSIS shut the line down. This was the third incident of inhumane treatment for the plant.

The question was asked if it is the establishment's responsibility to redirect loads when the plant is shut down. FSIS stated that it is the plant's responsibility to have a plan in place to handle situations like this. Concerns were raised regarding who should be responsible. Since FSIS does not regulate what happens outside a plant in the lot, it was suggested that industry should take the issue to the federal legislature to change the regulations.

Carcass Disposal: Barn Fire

Carl Denkinger, Board of Animal Health Agriculture Specialist, and Steve Lee, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA), discussed the best practices for carcass disposal. This summer there were three barn fires, all within 6 weeks of each other. The barns involved all contained pigs.

In such situations, there are a lot of animals that need to be disposed of quickly. The Board is responsible for making sure that the animals are disposed of according to regulations, while PCA makes sure the disposal does not cause any pollution. Such death loss can be caused not only by fire, but by floods, tornados, or mechanical failure. One solution does not fit all situations. There are several options to consider when disposing of a large number of carcasses; burial, landfill, composting, or burning. Each option comes with its pros and cons.

To bury animal carcasses, a pit must be excavated which can fit the carcasses but is still removed five feet from the water table. If too many carcasses are buried in one spot, it may be considered a landfill. Land considered a landfill will be noted on the property deed and cannot be farmed for 20 years. Burning can often be expensive and has its own pollution concerns. After the fire at one of the facilities, an air curtain incinerator was used to burn a few carcasses, but was not very effective in that situation. Wood for the incinerator is also very expensive. Producers can contract with landfills to send carcasses there, but for many landfills such a large amount of carcasses would present a handling risk. Carcasses being brought to a landfill must be transported in a leak proof, covered truck. The Board and PCA decided to make an increased effort to discuss the implications of each disposal situation and come to a conclusion quickly. Paul FitzSimmons suggested that disputes between PCA and the Board should not be debated in the presence of the producer.

In the event of an emergency disease occurrence, such as Foot and Mouth disease, the Governor can suspend any rules on pollution control and infected carcasses may be

buried in places not previously considered, or could be burned with no regard to pollution regulations. The Board, MDA and PCA have spent a lot of time cooperatively preparing for such a potential instance.

The Board and PCA are working together to create a better system for clean, clear disposal guidelines. Dr. Hartmann said the Board will work with PCA to put together a guide for producers about carcass disposal. Steve Lee is working to educate producer groups so they know what to expect from each disposal situation. Joe Martin suggested that On-Farm Emergency Planning workshops should be organized to ensure that producers have individual plans in case of an emergency.

Minnesota Bovine TB Update

Joe Martin, Minnesota TB Coordinator, talked about the one dollar per head assessment for cattle from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. The existing beef check off system will be used to collect the assessment money. Mr. Martin said that the state is making great progress with the TB investigation, and that Minnesota is likely to be granted Split State Status before the fall calving season.

Dr. Bill Hartmann, Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health, gave an update on the Board's activities and the state's response to bovine TB. The Board's staff has accomplished a lot in the last six months and twelve additional staff members have been hired to help respond to the bovine TB situation in Minnesota.

The Board has three objectives to eradicate TB in Minnesota;

- Detect and eliminate infected cattle herds
- Gain Split State Status from USDA
- Eliminate TB transmission in the TB Management Zone.

To achieve these objectives the Board, MDA, and DNR have been working together to reduce the cattle populations in the Management Zone, separate the remaining cattle from deer, reduce the deer population, and reduce the risk of deer to deer transmission.

All of the 11 herds that tested positive for TB have had their herds depopulated and their premises cleaned and disinfected. Some of those herds have since repopulated. Forty-five producers of the 68 producers in the Management Zone are taking part in the cattle buyout. Already 1,000 head of cattle have been removed from the zone. In all, about 3,000 cattle will be removed from the area by January 31, 2009. The Board is providing cost-share assistance to 28 premises in the Management Zone to install deer-exclusion fencing. Nine of these fences are done and 12 are being built. The fences must be ten feet tall, per DNR standards. There is no funding to pay for any fencing outside of the Management Zone.

Minnesota applied to USDA for Split State Status in June, 2008. If granted, this will result in the state being divided into two TB zones; Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) and Modified Accredited (MA). To obtain Split State Status, the state had to follow several steps. First, USDA conducted a TB risk assessment in Minnesota. Then the Board implemented movement controls on animals in the proposed MA Zone and

submitted an application for Split State Status. A USDA Review Team came to Minnesota in July to review the application and tour the proposed MA Zone. Next, USDA, the Board, DNR and MDA will sign an MOU, which will be published as an interim rule. The Board is expecting a draft MOU from USDA on September 29. As part of Split State Status, the Board is expecting to increase surveillance around the MA Zone.

Even though USDA may recognize Minnesota's Split State Status, individual states are not obligated to. Dr. Hartmann sent out a survey to all the State Veterinarians to find out what states may accept Minnesota's Split State Status. Twenty seven states responded and 20 said they would accept the status. Iowa, South Dakota, and Kansas will accept the state's Split State Status, but North Dakota and Wisconsin may not. The states that are not planning on accepting Minnesota's Split State Status are concerned that there is not enough surveillance and movement restrictions around Minnesota's proposed MA Zone. Dr. Hartmann noted that disease eradication efforts are much more stringent in Minnesota's MA Zone than in most states. Minnesota is tracking all animals from the MA Zone going through slaughter through backtagging, while no other state does such thorough monitoring.

Dr. Beth Thompson reported on the movement controls in place in the proposed MA Zone. A majority of the producers in the proposed MA Zone are doing a good job of communication with the Board when they will be moving their animals; either getting an Animal Movement Certificate from the main office or from Board field staff. A MOU will be signed with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to give the State Patrol the authority to stop any vehicle that appears to be hauling livestock and check for proper documentation. There have been no instances the Board is aware of when animals were moved from the proposed MA Zone without proper documentation.

Dr. Kris Petrini gave an update on sale barn activity. Winger and Bagley are participating very well with the new requirements. The board has hired two new employees to work at Winger and Bagley every sale day to check AMC's. Dr. Petrini also stated that producers in the proposed MA zone must have a whole herd test before the end of this year.

Dr. Paul Anderson added that some new producers have been found in the proposed MA zone. When new producers are discovered, we provide them with the needed materials and education on what is required of them.

Joe Martin closed the discussion on TB by stating that the University of Minnesota Extension Service, especially the Beef Team, has been very valuable in helping to get information regarding TB out to producers.

Department of Natural Resources TB Eradication Efforts

Michelle Carstensen provided an update on the DNR's efforts to date. Since 2005, 8,198 deer have been tested for TB state-wide, and 24 have tested positive.

All testing from the 2008 winter hunt is complete. Aerial and ground sharpshooting methods were utilized in the Management Zone. The winter efforts resulted in 546 deer removed by ground sharpshooting, 391 by aerial shooting, and 125 by land owners. All deer harvested were tested for TB. The goal was to salvage deer for venison, and deer that were not salvageable went to a landfill. In total, 685 deer were distributed for venison. The deer removal project for winter 2008 totaled \$600,000. Although aerial and ground sharpshooting efforts were expensive, they were effective and the money was well spent.

The goal for fall 2008 surveillance is to sample 1,000 deer within the TB surveillance zone. Given the proposed Modified Accredited zone, additional samples will be collected on the western and southern boundaries. Deer densities will be kept low through liberalized hunting, and additional surveillance will be conducted wherever USDA requires in order to achieve Split State Status.

Poultry Health Update

Dr. Dale Lauer provided an update on the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory's activities. The MPTL is continuing to work with DNR to test wild birds for the virulent form of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) and contain it in the wild population. The disease is most common in double crested cormorants and has been identified in 8 counties across the state; Meeker, Faribault, Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Cass and Lac Qui Parle. The DNR has been disposing of infected bird carcasses, educating hunters about the disease and closing public areas where END has been found. END is endemic in Minnesota's wild cormorant population. The Board's goal is to ensure that the disease does not spread to domestic poultry and is educating producers on the importance of biosecurity.

On October 1, there will be a National Animal Health Laboratory Network tabletop exercise at the University of Minnesota, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. A week later, the MPTL will host a H5H7 LPAI exercise with the Emergency Management Committee. These exercises are opportunities for state personnel to practice Minnesota's Avian Influenza Response Plan.

Import Requirements for Michigan Livestock


Dr. Linda Glaser provided the Board with an update on Minnesota's ban on cattle from Michigan's TB Modified Accredited Zone. In February, 2005, the Board voted to not allow any cattle from Michigan's MA Zone to be imported into Minnesota. In February 2008, Dr. Hartmann recommended that the Board reconsider the stance, as Minnesota will be asking states to allow cattle from Minnesota's MA Zone to be imported.

John Whitten opened voting to revoke the prohibition of imported ruminants from Michigan's MA Zone. A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by Paul FitzSimmons with all present voting aye.

Date and place of next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 am, Wednesday, December 17, 2008. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar, seconded by Paul FitzSimmons and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, December 17, 2008

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at the Orville L. Freeman Building, St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Mahesh Kumar, Holly Neaton, Paul FitzSimmons, Steve Brake

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Gene Hugoson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Mike Stine, United States Department of Agriculture
Theresa Hershey, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Cathy Hovancsak, United States Department of Agriculture
Dave Preisler, Minnesota Pork Board

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Carl Denkinger, Agriculture Specialist
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist
Grant Fenner, IT Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, September 17, 2008 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Commissioner Gene Hugoson provided information on the state's budget forecast. There is an estimated \$4.8 billion dollar shortfall for the next biennium and this will impact all state agencies. Because of the focus on the budget there will be less policy bills considered this session.

Commissioner Hugoson also talked about North Dakota's position on Minnesota's Split State Status for bovine tuberculosis (TB). The North Dakota Board of Animal Health was meeting the same day, December 17, to talk about the possibility of lifting restrictions on Minnesota cattle imports by recognizing our Split State Status.

Commissioner Hugoson spoke with North Dakota's Agriculture Commissioner, Roger Johnson, about the issue. Commissioner Johnson stated that the ND board would not be likely to change their position on Minnesota's TB status. Their main concern is that they believe the Modified Accredited area in northwest Minnesota is too small to properly contain the disease.

University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Trevor Ames gave a report on the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. The college had a good year overall, with a 10 percent increase in research funding, which is consistent with other larger universities. The University now ranks 15th in its research nationwide. The college received a large grant to study Avian Influenza. This year's class came from a large application pool which ranked 4th largest in the country. Numbers for the VetFAST program continue to be strong, and the College is considering allowing students from the University of Minnesota-Morris to enroll in the program as well.

The University is currently under a hiring pause that will soon turn into a hiring freeze due to overall budget constraints. However, two endowed chairmanships are available at the College. The Pomeroy Chair in Avian Health and the Lemman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity are both open.

Michigan State University (MSU) approached the University of Minnesota to apply for a joint bovine TB grant. MSU has received the grant for the last five years, but would like to include the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine to increase the amount of the grant and to do additional research on wildlife reservoirs and a possible TB vaccination. Senators from Michigan and Minnesota have agreed to sign letters of support for the grant. The grant request will be named in the Federal house request for 2009. Until the grant is approved, MSU will split its current TB funding with the College.

A dairy facility will be built in St. Peter, MN in March, 2009. The facility will hopefully be funded as a national dairy education center under the Minnesota Farm Bill. There will be dorms on site for two faculty members and 24 students. The College hopes it will be used by students nationwide. The facility promotes animal welfare, is eco-friendly and is associated with a milk processing plant.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Jim Collins gave a summary of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's (VDL) accreditation site visit. Both the VDL and the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) in Willmar were granted full accreditation for one year. Lack of sufficient

funding to support the operations of the VDL was a major concern of the accreditation team, causing them to grant accreditation for one year only versus the usual five. Dr. Collins stressed that without an accredited lab in Minnesota, all official tests would have to be sent out of state. This would raise testing costs for all involved, and would lengthen the wait to receive test results. There was a question about how the board could assist in getting additional funding. Dr. Collins indicated that Senator Dille would be going to the legislature to request additional funding. At that time, letters will be sent to VDL stakeholders, including the Board, asking for support.

United States Department of Agriculture Update

Dr. Mike Stine provided an update on the USDA's activities. The USDA is also under a hiring freeze, which may affect individual states' disease programs. Several USDA employees may be leaving or retiring. Those positions may not be filled unless preapproved by USDA. With a flat-line budget, USDA is anticipating that fee basis testing funds may be exhausted by September 30, 2009. USDA staff has been doing testing rotations in California since January 2008, and the final testing rotation was completed in December.

Dr. Stine explained that the USDA is working towards restructuring into a response agency by the year 2015. Also, Homeland Security will be putting more emphasis on plant and animal disease protection. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson is part of a task force that meets with Homeland Security and APHIS to make suggestions for national and international animal importation. USDA will be expanding national and international certification and increasing international trade potentials.

State and Agency Budget Update

Barb Troyer provided information on Minnesota's budget and how it relates to the board. There is an estimated \$4.8 billion shortfall for the next biennium and this may impact the Board. The Board has been asked to restrict hiring and carefully consider any out of state travel. In addition, the board has been asked to prepare for a 10 percent budget reduction. The Board is working to ensure that TB eradication efforts may continue as planned.

MVMA Update; Mandatory Rabies Vaccination

Dr. Teresa Hershey, President of the Minnesota Veterinary Medicine Association (MVMA) addressed the Board to gauge the members' thoughts on a mandatory rabies vaccination directive. The MVMA may author a statewide rabies vaccination mandate for all dogs and cats in Minnesota. Before taking on this campaign, the MVMA would like the Board's support for the mandate.

Dr. Cathy Hovancsak, with the United States Department of Agriculture, answered additional questions regarding the proposed rabies vaccination mandate. Dr. Hovancsak noted that in Wisconsin, pet owners need to have their animals vaccinated for rabies before they can pay their property taxes. She also mentioned that a high percentage of human rabies exposure is from unvaccinated dogs and cats. Since 1972, three people in Minnesota have contracted rabies from a rabid animal.

Companion Animal Breeding Bill

Dr. Teresa Hershey explained that at least three bills will be presented to the Minnesota State Legislature in the 2009 session to regulate companion animal breeding in the state. Dr. Hershey relayed that the MVMA would support a breeding bill that is fully funded. The MVMA does not believe any new animal welfare laws need to be enacted, only that current rules should be maintained.

Dr. Kris Petrini developed a fiscal note detailing what the program could cost the State of Minnesota. Dr. Petrini estimated that the program would cost approximately \$440,000 a year, including the cost of inspectors. To recoup this cost, a breeder would have to purchase a kennel license. The program would most likely not be fully operational in its first year of collecting license fees. Dr. Petrini estimated that there are around 500 kennels in Minnesota and it would take four years for all kennels in the state to be registered with the Board.

Carcass Disposal Issues

Mr. Dave Preisler, President of the Minnesota Pork Board, spoke about the six barn fires that occurred in Minnesota during the summer of 2008. Three of the fires had animal casualties which resulted in carcass disposal issues. Rendering plants do not want carcasses because there is debris mixed in with the animals resulting in less usable product. Landfills often will not take them due to environmental and safety issues. There are not many off-site options for disposal of dead animals.

Mr. Preisler discussed the challenges of on-site carcass disposal. Composting is an option but can be difficult with large numbers of carcasses due to the space needed. Burial is an option but it can be difficult with mass casualties due to restrictions.

A meeting between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Animal Health, Minnesota Pork Board, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, Minnesota Milk Producers, Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, and contractors was held to determine the best course of action to deal with mass carcass disposal. It was decided that, for facilities with less than 1,000 animal units, the local feedlot officer will work with the Board to make decisions on carcass disposal on-site. For facilities with over 1,000 animals units, the regional feedlot officer will work with the Board to make disposal decisions.

Enhanced Feed Ban Rule

Mr. Curt Zimmerman from the MDA provided information on the Enhanced Feed Ban Rule and how it will affect livestock producers. As of March 1, 2009, no cattle over 30 months of age will be eligible for on-farm rendering pick-up unless certain specified risk materials (SRM's) are removed. This may have an effect on producers and renderers and could result in unintended side effects.

In order to assist in finding alternative methods of carcass disposal, a study group has been organized including members of MDA, the Board, renderers, and producers. The group will meet for the first time before the end of the year.

Board of Animal Health and Minnesota Bovine Tuberculosis Update

Dr. Bill Hartmann, Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health, gave a report regarding bovine tuberculosis (TB) in Minnesota. The state was granted Split State Status on October 9, 2008. The Board received many thanks from producers and industry members for expediting the process. Gaining Split State Status is a large step in bettering Minnesota's ability to export cattle. A majority of the state is now Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA), meaning most feeder cattle leaving Minnesota do not have to be TB tested. A small area in northwestern Minnesota remains Modified Accredited (MA). The Board implemented more strict restrictions in the MA Zone to control the potential spread of TB. There is a small area inside of the MA Zone, known as the Management Zone, where TB has been found in free-ranging white-tailed deer. The Board implemented fencing and buyout programs in the Management Zone to control and prevent the potential spread of TB in the area. The Management Zone is a 600 square mile area, which had 68 cattle herds. Of those herds, 46 signed buyout contracts. All animals in buyout herds must be removed from the zone by January 31, 2009. Board personnel are present at all buyout herd loadouts. All buyout cattle are tracked through slaughter. The remaining herds and additional premises are putting up deer-exclusion fencing. All 27 premises constructing fencing will have their fences complete by the end of January.

There is another control zone inside of the Management Zone called the Core Area, which is about 164 square miles. All 24 TB-infected deer have been taken inside of the Core Area. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will continue testing deer in the Core Area for TB for at least two years after the disease is not found. The DNR used a combination of ground and aerial sharpshooters to collect deer to test.

The Board, MDA and DNR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USDA in order to achieve Split State Status. The MOU states that the Board must complete surveillance testing of up to 1,500 cattle herds in the MAA Zone in 2009. More than 250 producers volunteered to have their herds tested. An additional 250 herds around the MA Zone and previous trace-out herds are being required by the Board to be tested. In all, the Board expects to test about 1,100 herds in 2009. About 200 more herds must still be selected for mandatory surveillance testing and the Board is still accepting volunteer herds. Letters were sent to all producers who will be testing in 2009- either voluntarily or by Board mandate, to explain the testing requirements. Most herds that test as part of the 2009 surveillance testing will have all testing costs paid for.

In addition to the surveillance testing, each herd in the MA Zone must be tested annually. Dr. Susan McClanahan is spearheading the effort to ensure all herds are tested. There are approximately 325 herds in the MA Zone; a majority are cattle herds, some goats, bison and cervidae. More than 97 percent of herds are tested or are scheduled to test before 2008 ends. Two-thirds of the MA Zone testing is done by state or federal vets, and the rest is done by private veterinarians.

The field staff in northwestern Minnesota has been doing a fantastic job and the TB program as a whole is going very well. Dr. Beth Thompson is working with the State Patrol on animal movement controls around the MA Zone. Troopers are obligated to stop any livestock truck they see; so far 15 livestock vehicle inspection reports have been turned into Dr. Thompson and all have been in compliance. Dr. Kris Petrini is working

closely with the sale barns throughout the state to educate them about movement regulations. Only one producer has had their cattle sent back to the farm due to an improper animal movement certificate.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are being used on cattle in the MA Zone. The RFID tags are official USDA identification and producers also use them for production tags. Officials with the DNR collected lymph nodes from hunter-killed deer during the hunting season this fall. The DNR expanded their sampling area to include an area outside of the MA Zone. In total, they collected samples from about 1,250 deer, none of which looked suspicious for TB. In December, USDA held a TB listening session in Minneapolis to ask for suggestions for a restructuring of the national TB program. Such sessions were held throughout the country. Both North Dakota and Indiana have recently found TB-positive animals. North Dakota had a TB positive slaughter traceback from a Minnesota packing plant. The animal was traced to a southwestern North Dakota herd. The TB bacteria found in the animal is a different strain than the strain found in Minnesota. The herd is being tested and between 20-24 cattle responded to the CFT test. All responders will be slaughtered and more information will follow.

Staff Update

With the increased activities related to TB, the Board has increased its staff from 28 people to about 50. Also, Dr. Kern Schwartz will be retiring from the Board this month. Dr. Mike Curley will be his replacement and the two have been working together during the transition.

Minnesota Premises Update Project

Dr. Paul Anderson spoke about a new Board initiative to conduct a census of livestock premises in Minnesota beginning January, 2009. The goal of the program is to update information and get an accurate count of the number of premises in the state. The information the Board has on premises in the MA Zone is now accurate. However, the Board must keep its data updated on a regular basis. The data collected will be protected and will be private. The Board has statutes to protect premises information.

Date and place of next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 am, Wednesday, February 11, 2009. A motion was made by Holly Neaton, seconded by Mahesh Kumar and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, February 11, 2009

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, February 11 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Steve Brake, Cattle Producer
Mahesh Kumar, Poultry Veterinarian

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Steve Dille, Minnesota State Senate
Dave Olin, Minnesota House of Representatives
Mike Stine, USDA:APHIS:Veterinary Services
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Erica Butler, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Paul Wolfe, USDA:Wildlife Services

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Ray Scheierl, Management Information Systems Supervisor
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Steve Brake, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, December 17, 2008 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Steve Brake, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Commissioner Gene Hugoson reported on the state's economic forecast and the governor's plan to balance the budget, which will involve budget cuts. Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer sent a letter to the North Dakota Board of Animal Health expressing his concern over the decision to not recognize Minnesota's Split State Status for bovine tuberculosis (TB).

Report from the Minnesota State Senate

Senator Steve Dille provided an update on current state legislative activities. There is a resolution on the Senate floor to specify what agency has jurisdiction to regulate feedlots. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory is in need of additional funding. Senator Dille is working with Representative Juhnke on legislation that would provide \$1.25 million in state funds for the laboratory. Senator Dille has authored a dog and cat breeder bill which was discussed during a meeting of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Committee.

Report from the Minnesota House of Representatives

Representative Dave Olin talked about the current bovine tuberculosis (TB) situation in northwest Minnesota. A majority of the TB cases have occurred in Rep. Olin's district and he carried the TB legislation in 2008. The Board of Animal Health has an indemnity fund that was established to reimburse producers who lost income as a result of finding a TB suspect animal in their cattle herd. Rep. Olin has introduced a bill that would allow the Board to use these funds to reimburse producers who were involved in the buyout and whose cattle lost value because of a quarantine placed on the herd during the buyout.

Dog and Cat Breeder Bills

Several bills have been introduced to regulate dog and cat breeders in Minnesota. The Board of Animal Health is mentioned in all of the bills and several would require the Board to inspect these facilities. The bills differ in their definitions of a breeding facility, specifically in the number of dogs a premises would need to fit the definition. Senator Dille mentioned that this has gotten a lot of public interest and many constituents have been contacting their state senator and representative with concerns about the bills. Senator Dille said his bill was written with the intention of keeping operating and licensing costs low. He does not want to put an additional burden on small breeders. One concern for consumers is the health of animals purchased from unregulated breeders. Minnesota's Pet Lemon Law protects both pet dealers and consumers in the event the animal becomes ill.

College of Veterinary Medicine Report

Dr. Trevor Ames reported that much time is being spent on the University's budget. The college is finding ways to save money. He reported that the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) may benefit from a recent gift to the Diabetes Institute. He also mentioned two bills that have been introduced this session that would provide additional funding for the VDL.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins, Director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), gave an update on the lab. The VDL is in the process of renewing its affiliation with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Standards for being a member of NAHLN are becoming more rigorous. By being a member, the VDL is agreeing to send personnel to test for foreign animal diseases and accept foreign animal disease test samples. NAHLN members are able to get state of the art equipment and efficiency training. The VDL, as part of NAHLN, has great technical capacity which benefits Minnesota's disease response capabilities.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Dr. Paul Anderson reported on the current Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) infected herd in southwestern Minnesota. A brain stem sample from an elk cow was sent to the VDL as part of the state's mandatory CWD testing program. The animal originated from a 1,200 acre farm in Pine Island, MN. The farm is owned by Tower Investments and managed by John and Karl Hoehne. The positive elk was sent to slaughter with 179 other elk that all tested negative for CWD. There are 524 elk left on the farm. Currently, the Board is working with USDA to appraise the herd. If USDA has adequate funding the herd will be depopulated and tested for CWD. The entire herd is currently quarantined and no elk can be imported or exported from the premises.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) became involved with the case because meat and rendered material from the positive elk were sold for human and animal consumption. There is no evidence that CWD can infect humans, but the FDA took the precaution to recall all elk meat from that herd.

The positive elk was between seven and eight years old and was on the same farm its entire life. The Board is investigating how the animal may have become infected with CWD. The herd was started in the 1990's with animals from Colorado, where CWD is present. There is a possibility that there has been a low level of CWD in the herd since that time. CWD can remain in the environment and contaminate soil. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) did a fly over to look for potential wild deer interaction. Many deer were seen around the farm, but CWD testing results for wild deer in that area have all been negative. The DNR will continue to test deer taken around the farm and road kill in the area.

Contagious Equine Metritis

Dr. Paul Anderson gave an update on Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). CEM is a venereal disease of horses that can cause abortion and metritis. Because of its rarity in the U.S., it is considered a foreign animal disease. The first case of CEM was traced back to a stallion at an artificial insemination (AI) center in Kentucky. Additional stallions were found infected, most likely exposed through contaminated AI equipment. More than 40 states now have found mares that may have been exposed to CEM. In Minnesota, 18 mares have been exposed to CEM from AI, as well as an additional nine trace mares. CEM is not likely to spread via AI, but it is possible. A majority of the exposed mares are pregnant, but will be tested once they give birth. Mares will undergo a series of cultures

which will be sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA. The test involves three sets of cultures and five sets of topical treatment for positive mares. It is expected to take the rest of the calendar year to test all of the exposed mares in the state. The USDA and Board are working collaboratively to identify all traces in the state.

Legislative Update

Dr. Bill Hartmann updated the board on legislative activity. The session started on January 6, 2009 and the governor announced his recommendations for the budget on January 27. The board is involved in developing the budget along with the Governor's office and the Minnesota Management and Budget Department. The governor's recommendation for the Board of Animal Health includes a decrease in funding for the Johne's disease and Avian Pneumovirus programs as well as an increase for Bovine Tuberculosis.

Poultry Health Update

Dr. Dale Lauer provided an update on the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory's (MPTL) activities. In October, 2008, representatives from the MPTL attended a table top exercise held at the VDL to demonstrate a response to a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak. A similar exercise was held at the MPTL to improve Minnesota's HPAI plan and increase biosecurity awareness. These exercises will bring about changes in AI testing protocol. AI surveillance will continue in different poultry industries on all types of farms to ensure the industry's well-being in the event of a disease incident. In 2008, 15 flocks tested positive for AI.

There was a report of Infectious Bursal Disease in a small organic layer operation in California in January 2009. Infectious Bursal Disease is a viral disease affecting broiler and layer chickens that targets the immune system and is very contagious. Vaccinations have been successful in controlling the disease, which was identified in the 1960's. Since then the virus has changed. There was significant mortality (30 percent) in the infected birds; however, the disease was limited to two flocks on one premises. Infectious Bursal Disease is a potential FAD as it has not been found in the U.S. It has been found in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Bovine Tuberculosis Update

Dr. Bill Hartmann spoke about the TB eradication program. On January 31, 2009 producers participating in the state's bovine tuberculosis (TB) buyout program loaded the last of their animals. Forty-six producers took part in the buyout. These producers agreed to remove their cattle from the Management Zone and not to restock their farm until the area is TB-Free. In all, about 6,200 head of cattle were removed from the area. The buyout will cost approximately \$3 million. The annual payments to producers who took part in the buyout will amount to about \$577,000. In addition to the buyout, the state sponsored a fencing program in the Management Zone. The Board required 27 producers to install fencing around stored feed and winter feeding areas. All of the fences are now complete with more than 71,000 linear feet installed.

Bovine Tuberculosis Testing

Dr. Petrini updated the Board on TB testing in MN. Ninety-nine percent of the 384 MA-zone herds were tested by Dec 31, 2008 as required by our Split-State agreement with USDA. Plans have been made to test the remaining 2 herds in January. Most (60%) of these herd tests were by Board or USDA staff, with the remaining tested by private practitioners who were reimbursed with state funds.

To maintain our Split-State status, Minnesota must also test the equivalent of 1500 herds in the MAA zone during calendar year 2009. This targeted surveillance focuses on herds which may be at higher risk for TB, with some herds counting more heavily towards our goal of 1500 than others. The board has selected 271 herds, most in the perimeter of the MA zone, which will be required to test by December 31, 2009 as part of this effort. In addition, 344 herds in the MAA zone have volunteered to have their herds tested and will be counted towards this goal. Private practice veterinarians participating in this testing activity will be reimbursed by the USDA.

Department of Natural Resources Report

Dr. Michelle Carstensen summarized the fall TB surveillance efforts and results. There are still only 24 positive cases of bovine TB in wild white-tailed deer. Over 1,200 hunter-harvested deer were sampled across the state. There were nine suspect lymph nodes tested. The initial test results were negative but cultures sent to the NVSL are pending.

The next steps for TB surveillance and eradication include another round of deer reduction efforts in the Management Zone. Ground sharpshooting efforts will begin on February 23 and an aerial operation, expected to last 15 days, will begin on March 16. Private landowners may obtain shooting permits from the DNR to remove additional deer on their lands.

USDA Wildlife Services Division

Paul Wolfe reported that there have been two claims of feral pig road kill in Big Stone County. A landowner within the area reportedly shot a feral pig a month ago, and rooting, corn crop and garden damage have also been reported. The USDA is trying to figure out how to rid the area of the pigs. Some traps have been set and the DNR is helping to develop a plan.

Date and place of next Board Meeting

The board will hold its next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 15, 2009. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar, seconded by Paul FitzSimmons and passed with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, April 15, 2009

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 15 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Steve Brake, Cattle Producer
Mahesh Kumar, Poultry Veterinarian
Paul FitzSimmons, Swine Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sherry Shaw, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Marie Gramer, College of Veterinary Medicine
Joni Scheftel, Department of Health
Mike DonCarlos, Department of Natural Resources
Steve Olson, Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Tory Whitten, Student
Amberleigh Barker, Student

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Ray Scheierl, Management Information Systems Supervisor
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February, 11 2009 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Holly Neaton and seconded by Steve Brake, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Commissioner Gene Hugoson reported on the state's economic forecast and the budget bills currently being reviewed by senate and house committees this week. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has also been working with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to ensure that the emerald ash borer does not cross the Mississippi River and affect Minnesota's ecosystem.

College of Veterinary Medicine Report

Dr. Trevor Ames provided the Board an update on the college's recent activities. The college recently hosted its White Coat Ceremony, where students are moved into their clinical training. Graduation will take place on May 2 and, Dr. Ron DeHaven, Executive Director of the American Veterinary Medical Association, will be the keynote speaker. Also, Research Day was held on March 29, 2009. It allowed members of the university community and the public to see what research projects veterinary students worked on during the school year, and the college's Distinguished Research Alumnus Award was also presented.

University representatives are active at the legislature trying to increase support for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and support for the proposed veterinary school loan forgiveness bill. Dr. Ames also noted that the college was successful in getting an extension on the research funding for bovine tuberculosis (TB), a grant that is shared between the University and Michigan State University.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins, Director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), gave an update on the lab. The VDL is working closely with the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) to expand poultry serology tests at the Willmar facility. Currently, both the VDL and the MPTL conduct the tests, and streamlining testing at the MPTL will increase both labs' efficiency.

During the VDL's National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) accreditation, the VDL's toxicology area was found to be poorly equipped and underfunded. The MDA and VDL have had discussions on this issue. The VDL may decide to retire its toxicology department, which would not affect its NAHLN accreditation.

The VDL staff is also working closely with the University's Shultz Diabetes Institute and transplanting islet cells, which produce insulin, from swine pancreases into humans. Dr. Collins said this has produced a great synergy between the two facilities and will help both learn more about human and swine health.

United States Department of Agriculture Update

Dr. Mike Stine reported that the appraisal process is beginning on the elk herd in Olmsted County where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was found. The appraisal report will determine the USDA's offer of indemnity to the herd owners.

Dr. Stine also noted that the USDA is mandated to submit 450 samples for Classical Swine Fever surveillance in Minnesota. Samples will be collected in Austin and possibly Worthington.

Legislative Update

Dr. Bill Hartmann announced that Governor Pawlenty reappointed Dr. John Whitten to another term on the Board of Animal Health. Dr. Whitten is an owner and partner in the Alexandria Veterinary Clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota and is currently serving as the Board's president. The Board of Animal Health greatly appreciates Dr. Whitten's continued leadership and commitment to preserving animal health in Minnesota.

Dr. Hartmann also reported that the House and Senate Agriculture Finance committees now have omnibus agriculture appropriations bills. Both versions provided slightly higher levels of funding for the Board of Animal Health than the Governor's recommendation. The house bill has since been amended to be in line with the Governor's recommendation.

After extensive debate, negotiations, and many hearings the proposed dog and cat breeder bills did not pass prior to committee deadlines.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Dr. Paul Anderson updated the Board on the CWD-infected elk herd in Olmsted County. The case was identified on January 26, 2009. A seven-year-old elk cow from the herd was slaughtered at a plant in Dawson, MN and was subsequently found to be infected with CWD. The herd is under quarantine which means that no animals are allowed to leave or enter the premises.

The herd will soon be appraised by a person hired by the USDA Veterinary Services. If an indemnity and depopulation agreement can be reached with the owners, all the animals in the herd will be euthanized and tested for CWD.

There are special circumstances surrounding this case that make it unique. The site has been purchased by a commercial developer and is slated for construction of a multimillion dollar Biotechnology Center in the near future. Development of the site will require that the fences around the construction site be removed. In order to minimize the risk of exposing wild white-tailed deer in the area to CWD contaminated soil, we

proposed to the owner that four inches of top soil be removed from the construction site and piled on another part of the farm before construction begins and the fences are removed. Deer exclusion fences surrounding the pile of topsoil would then be maintained for at least five years. The owners agreed to implement the plan and officials from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) voiced support. Officials from the USDA were not opposed to the plan, but would not fully support the idea because it is something that has not been done in the past and there is no precedent to support the concept.

The Board has developed two preliminary plans for disposal of carcasses if an agreement with the owner can be reached on indemnity. One plan would be to contract with USDA Wildlife Services to euthanize the elk on site. Samples would be collected for CWD testing by our staff and the carcasses would be composted on the site. Finished compost would then be incinerated and disposed of on the farm site or hauled to an approved landfill. The second plan would be to transport the elk to the University of Minnesota Diagnostic Laboratory where they would be euthanized and tested for CWD. In the latter case, the carcasses would be disposed of at the laboratory by alkaline digestion.

Contagious Equine Metritis

Dr. Beth Thompson gave the Board an update on Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) in Minnesota. CEM is a contagious venereal disease of horses. It is transmitted by natural breeding, by artificial insemination (AI), or by contact with objects that are contaminated such as instruments used for breeding. Because it is rare in the U.S., it is being treated as a foreign animal disease (FAD). If CEM is not controlled, the horse industry could suffer severe financial losses.

Across the U.S., there are currently 17 positive stallions and 5 positive mares. None of the positive horses are located in Minnesota. There are a total 755 exposed horses, including 125 stallions and 630 mares. At the February Board meeting, Dr. Anderson reported that there were 18 exposed mares in Minnesota in addition to 9 trace mares.

The Board has completed those traces, and currently, there are 27 exposed mares in Minnesota. Testing and treating has been ongoing. Six quarantines have been released, with 21 quarantines remaining. Fifteen are currently testing. The number of traces has decreased to one stallion.

Swine Influenza Surveillance

Dr. Marie Gramer explained the USDA and Center for Disease Control's (CDC) pilot Swine Influenza Virus (SIV) surveillance program. SIV is a common, zoonotic disease that can be passed from animals to people and from people to animals. It is found every month of the year in Minnesota; however, the disease peaks in the spring and fall.

USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services (VS) will lead the sample collection and initial characterization of the program. Some benefits of this voluntary program include possible improved vaccines and increased epidemiologic knowledge of SIV viruses.

Mass Depopulation Demonstration

Dr. Dale Lauer reported to the Board that a poultry foamer demonstration/exercise was conducted at a turkey premises in Stearns County on Tuesday, March 24, 2009. This was the first opportunity to test the Kifco Foamer unit on a Minnesota poultry farm, mass depopulating 300 turkeys.

Representatives from the Board, MDA, USDA, University of Minnesota, Kandiyohi County Emergency Management and West Central Environmental Consultants gathered for the exercise. Specific objectives included testing the set-up and operation of the foamer, assessing mass depopulation of turkeys in Minnesota, evaluating the composting process, appraising agency cooperation and documenting the exercise for use as a training tool.

Within seven minutes of the foam being generated, all 300 turkeys were successfully and peacefully mass depopulated. The next day the carcasses were composted as the process continued to be monitored and documented for training purposes. There were a number of lessons learned from the demonstration/exercise, but overall it was considered a success by the attendees.

Dr. Lauer also reported to the Board that a broiler breeder flock in Kentucky was identified with H7N9 low pathogenic avian influenza. After a modest egg production drop was observed mid-March, the 49-week broiler breeder flock of 20,000 was depopulated per the Kentucky Initial State Response and Containment Plan. There was no increased mortality in the flock.

Twelfth TB Infected Herd Summary

Dr. Linda Glaser provided a summary of the twelfth TB infected herd identified in Minnesota. The beef herd of approximately 110 adult animals was located in the Core Area of the Management Zone and was in the buyout program offered to producers in this zone.

The producer started sending adult animals to slaughter in October 2008 as part of the required herd depopulation in the buyout agreement. Three cows were found infected with TB at slaughter in October. The remainder of the herd was depopulated in January 2009 and nine additional animals (yearlings) were found infected with TB. This is the largest number of TB infected animals that have been found in any of the previously infected Minnesota herds. The producer will clean and disinfect his premises when the weather warms.

Department of Natural Resources Report

Mike DonCarlos of the Minnesota DNR reported on the department's latest efforts to eradicate TB from free-ranging deer in Minnesota. There have been 4,164 deer sampled and tested for TB from northwestern Minnesota from 2005-2008. Through that sampling, 24 TB-positive deer were found. During the DNR's sharpshooting efforts in the winter of 2008-09, one additional positive deer was found. This brings the total to 25 TB-positive deer in all.

All deer found TB-positive were alive in 2005, which suggests that the disease is not transmitting from deer to deer at a level which would indicate the deer becoming a reservoir for the disease.

The DNR did a recent survey of the deer population in the Core Area, within Minnesota's TB Management Zone. It was estimated that there are approximately 577 to 751 deer remaining in the Core Area. The DNR is expecting to continue ground sharpshooting tactics next winter, but will not use aerial sharpshooting. There are no plans to cease deer surveillance in the near future.

Carcass Disposal Discussion

Dr. Kris Petrini discussed a recent request from marketing agents to approve the use of in-vessel mortality composters in Minnesota. This form of carcass disposal falls outside of currently approved methods of dead animal disposal in Minnesota. Two different companies have contacted the board with a request for approval of their products. The products being marketed to the industry (EcoDrum distributed by SEMA Equipment and the Dutch Composter distributed by Gillis Agricultural Systems, Inc) vary in their design and operation, but both have the potential to be eligible for a cost-sharing program offered by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. This cost-sharing program is part of their Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Since the deadline for producers to take advantage of this cost-sharing offer is quickly approaching, the Board members gave Dr. Hartmann and his staff the authority to approve either of these two composting methods if it can be determined that they provide a safe and effective alternative to traditional bin composting.

Election of Officers to the Board of Animal Health

Executive Director Dr. Bill Hartmann took over direction of the meeting for the election of next year's Minnesota Board of Animal Health officers (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). He opened nominations for president. Holly Neaton nominated John Whitten, seconded by Paul Fitzsimmons with all voting aye. Nominations for vice-president were then opened. Holly Neaton nominated Paul Fitzsimmons, seconded by Mahesh Kumar with all voting aye.

Appointment of the Executive Director

The Board members met in closed session with business manager, Barbara Troyer to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director for the coming state fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. A motion was made by Jake Whitten to rehire William L. Hartmann as the Executive Director, seconded by Mahesh Kumar with all voting aye. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to approve an achievement award for the executive director, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2009 in Alexandria, Minnesota. A motion was made by Steve Brake, seconded by John Whitten with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, September 2, 2009

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, in Alexandria, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Steve Brake, Cattle Producer
Mahesh Kumar, Poultry Veterinarian

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Joe Martin, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Sherry Shaw, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Martin Smeltzer, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Arnold Jostock, District Veterinarian
Randy Lindemann, District Veterinarian
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, April 15, 2009 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Holly Neaton and seconded by Steve Brake, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Assistant Commissioner Joe Martin reported on the projected conditions of the state's agriculture industry. MDA created Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network; a system of services to assist producers who are in difficult financial times. The network will provide mediation for producers dealing with lending organizations, among other services.

MDA is also fronting an ongoing effort to minimize the use of the term "swine flu" in media reports about H1N1. If the term is used in a local media outlet, MDA will follow up with the outlet to reiterate the negative impact the misnomer has on the swine industry and that H1N1 is unrelated to swine. Still, consumer confidence is high and pork sales have not decreased greatly. Educational campaigns are being created to inform people about the virus. Board member Dr. Holly Neaton, who co-coordinates the Miracle of Birth Center at the State Fair, said she has not received any H1N1 related questions and that it seems that people are not avoiding the swine barns.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins, Director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), gave an update on the lab. The lab recently received full accreditation from the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) after closing its toxicology division. The University is partnering with Michigan State University (MSU) to bring more capabilities into its laboratory system, which will be significantly more cost effective for both institutions. The VDL was granted a funding increase but is finalizing the amount with the University.

Dr. Collins also posed a question to the Board members, asking if H1N1 should be on the Board's list of reportable diseases. The VDL is doing only limited H1N1 surveillance as most producers do not ask for their samples to be tested for the virus. The lab only runs the requested tests and those results are confidential between the producer and their veterinarian. If an animal tested positive for H1N1 the producer would not have to notify any animal or public health agency. Dr. Hartmann suggested that the lab not change its testing procedures at this juncture as the topic will continue to be discussed.

Transferring Dedicated Funds from Avian Pneumovirus Program

Dr. Hartmann asked the Board members if the funds allocated for Avian Pneumovirus (APV) could instead be used to fund investigations and testing for other avian respiratory disease.

The Board's budget comes from a general fund which can be used at the discretion of the Board, however some money is specifically allocated, as in the case of the APV funds. The State Legislature appropriated \$40,000 to the Board each year of this biennium to be used for the eradication of APV after lobbying by the poultry industry.

Minnesota's APV eradication program has been extremely successful, as Dr. Dale Lauer illustrated. In January 2000, APV cases peaked, with 70 percent of turkey flocks in the state testing positive for the disease. After an extensive vaccination campaign, cases

decreased dramatically. Currently, the APV infection rate is almost zero and the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) has not been able to isolate the virus from any turkey flocks that have tested positive.

As APV is not a large threat to the poultry industry at this time, Dr. Hartmann suggested that the funds allocated for APV be re-designated for overall avian respiratory diseases. Dr. Whitten agreed that the funds should be appropriated for a more overarching program. He also recommended that a list of avian respiratory diseases, including APV, be given to the legislature to show what specific diseases the funds will be put towards.

Novel H1N1 Influenza

Dr. Hartmann reported on the current H1N1 situation in Minnesota. According to Dr. Joni Scheffel with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), there have been 252 hospitalized people who tested positive for H1N1. Three people have died as a result of the virus in the state. H1N1 differs from the seasonal flu in the main demographic it infects. More than 62 percent of the H1N1 cases in Minnesota were found in people under 18 years old, where as seasonal flu is most aggressive in people over 65 years old. An H1N1 vaccine should be available in October 2009. It will be distributed to high risk groups such as pregnant women, young people and healthcare workers.

H1N1 has not yet been found in any swine herds in Minnesota, but little surveillance is being done for the virus. If H1N1 is found in swine, it could threaten the industry nationwide. A swine herd in Canada tested positive for the virus and the producer was not able to market them and subsequently had a great financial loss.

Dr. Hartmann has attended several H1N1 planning meetings at both the state and national level. Progress has been made in these meetings and a tentative H1N1 response plan has been outlined. If H1N1 is isolated from swine in the U.S., the herd veterinarian will monitor the herd unit symptoms subside and the animals can be control marketed. There will be no quarantine placed on the herd.

Dr. Whitten wondered how H1N1 would be diagnosed if no tests are being done for it. MDH has not tested any swine in an H1N1 investigation, but would if a person who worked in a swine barn would become ill. The discussion about whether or not to make H1N1 a reportable disease resumed. No decision was made, but Dr. Hartmann will discuss this further with industry stakeholders, laboratory officials and other states to determine what course of action should be taken.

Carcass Approval Follow-Up: Approval of Alternative Composting Strategies

Dr. Kris Petrini updated the Board on the decision to approve two alternative composting solutions, Eco Drum and Dutch Composter. Board staff met with University of Minnesota composting experts to analyze the two new composting methods. The group concluded that these were more sophisticated composting methods and would be able to be implemented in Minnesota conditionally. Producers must apply for a permit to install one of the composting machines; as of September 2009, 25 permits had been issued. As a condition of the permits, the producer must allow the Board to inspect the machine once

it is operational, give University of Minnesota staff samples of the finished product for pathogen testing and agree to be inspected regularly. So far, none of the machines have been completely installed.

H7N9 LPAI in Turkeys

Dr. Dale Lauer gave the Board an update on the H7N9 low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) situation in Minnesota. The virus was first reported on May 15, 2009 in a commercial turkey flock. In all, 65 flocks with more than 700,000 tom turkeys have been identified as being exposed to H7N9. Active virus was only isolated from one flock. These flocks have been located on seven premises in four counties; Redwood, Brown, Martin and Meeker.

As soon as the first flock was identified, the Board put the Minnesota LPAI Plan into action and an Emergency Management Committee was formed. During the initial response, the positive premises were quarantined and, in most cases, the birds were control marketed. Surveillance testing was conducted in three mile radii of the premises and the barns were clean and disinfected. Additional surveillance will be done once the premises has repopulated. One flock of about 11,500 poults was depopulated in June through foaming. By control marketing a majority of the birds, the indemnity costs will be about \$2 million. If the birds had not been marketed, indemnity costs could have soared to \$15-20 million.

A press release was sent out by the Board on August 5 regarding the flock that tested positive for active H7N9 virus. The release urged producers to increase their biosecurity and was distributed to a limited number of media outlets.

The World Organization for Animal Health was notified about the active virus on August 7. Subsequently, Russia, Japan and Mexico have placed import restrictions on poultry from Minnesota.

Currently, the flock plans are all at different stages of development. Once completed, they will be reviewed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the producers will receive some cost reimbursement. The main goal now is to continue controlled marketing for some flocks and prevent continued virus circulation. Area poultry meetings will also be held for poultry producers across the state.

Dr. Martin Smeltzer with the USDA is conducting an epidemiological investigation to determine what caused the influx in this virus. He spoke with the producers who owned the positive flocks to discuss their management practices. One tentative theory Dr. Smeltzer presented linked dead bird disposal practices to decreased biosecurity and consequently virus spread.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Dr. Mike Stine, USDA Area Veterinarian In-Charge explained the current Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) situation. A CWD-infected elk herd in Olmsted County was identified in January, 2009. The USDA has worked with the herd owner to appraise and

indemnify the herd. After much negotiation, a deal has been reached and the herd is ready for depopulation.

Dr. Sherry Shaw, USDA, has been researching potential depopulation plans and their cost effectiveness. A plan has been created to humanely euthanize the animals and test them all for CWD. Any animals that test positive will be disposed of at the University of Minnesota VDL and negative animals will be rendered and disposed of in a landfill.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Dr. Stine continued to speak about the USDA-Veterinary Services' proposed TB Action Plan. After a series of internal and external listening sessions, USDA compiled a strategy to improve its bovine tuberculosis (TB) program. Most notably, states will no longer have individual TB classification; instead a science-based, zoning approach will be used to address disease risk. Also, USDA plans to increase options for TB-infected herds by allowing producers to test and remove TB positive animals instead of depopulating their entire herd.

Dr. Hartmann was also involved in the listening sessions and attended a meeting in Denver, Colorado where the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) discussed ideas to improve the national TB program and submitted their suggestions to USDA. Among other suggestions, USAHA recommended an increased effort to develop a more accurate TB test. Also, USAHA recommended that USDA strive to identify and trace all Mexican cattle in the U.S. and prevent them from comingling with U.S. dairy cattle.

Dr. Kris Petrini reviewed the timeline Minnesota has gone through in its efforts to eradicate TB. The first TB-positive herd was found at slaughter surveillance in 2005. After further investigation, five additional herds were found and the state's TB status was downgraded to Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA). Between 2006 and 2007, six more positive herds were identified, which led to another state downgrade to Modified Accredited (MA). Statewide TB surveillance began after the downgrade to MA. In October, 2008, USDA approved Minnesota's Split State Status, which allowed a majority of the state to return to MAA status while a small area where the disease had been found remained MA. A cattle herd buyout program was instituted and 46 cattle producers signed buyout contracts, agreeing to slaughter or remove more than 6,200 head of cattle from the affected area. One herd in the buyout was found TB-positive at slaughter but it did not impact the state's TB status.

In total, 12 TB-infected beef cattle herds have been discovered since 2005 in Roseau and Beltrami Counties. All infected herds have been appraised and depopulated. In the same time period, 25 TB-positive deer have also been found. All positive deer were alive in 2005, which provides strong evidence that there is no deer to deer disease transmission currently occurring.

The spread of the disease seems to be declining and the prevalence of the disease is decreasing. Additional surveillance this year will determine if the disease is close to being eradicating.

To maintain Split State Status, the state must follow the TB Management Plan which was created this year. The Board must track all cattle going into, within and out of the MA Zone. All herds in the MA Zone need a whole herd TB test and a test 60 days prior to movement. All premises in the MA Zone will undergo a wildlife risk assessment. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is continuing its wildlife surveillance and deer reduction efforts.

According to Dr. Petrini, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags have been used to identify 20,000 head of cattle. Animal Movement Certificates show that almost 21,000 cattle moved out of the MA Zone between April, 2008 and September 2009. More than half of those cattle were sold at the sales barns in Winger or Bagley, Minnesota. The Board is able to track about 70 percent of the animals to slaughter.

The State Patrol and Roseau County Sherriff's Department are stopping vehicles carrying animals to ensure they have the proper movement documents. Seventy four trucks have been stopped and zero fines have been issued for illegal movement practices.

The Board is also conducting statewide TB surveillance and plans on testing about 500 herds in the MAA Zone. Almost 300 herds have been tested so far and there are at least 150 more to be tested around the MA Zone perimeter. As of now, the USDA is reimbursing veterinarians to test herds as part of the statewide surveillance. However, federal funding expires October 1, 2009, so the future of this practice is unknown and the Board may have to adjust its target number of herds to test. The Board is expecting a USDA team to visit the state in November to conduct a review of the progress of Minnesota's TB eradication efforts.

Joe Martin added that the path for TB eradication is straightforward. Deer reduction efforts will continue for at least five years after the last positive cattle herd is found. He also said that during the USDA review Minnesota will request a status upgrade; moving the MAA Zone up to TB-Free and the MA Zone to MAA. Even though the zones may improve their TB status, the Board plans to maintain current movement controls.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 2, 2009 in St. Paul, MN. A motion was made by Holly Neaton, seconded by Steve Brake with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, December 2, 2009

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul Fitzsimmons, Producer
Mahesh Kumar, Poultry Veterinarian

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Joe Martin, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Dave Preisler, Minnesota Pork Board
Montse Torremorell, University of Minnesota
Quinn Cheney, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Kerstin Larson, Minnesota Management and Budget

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Office Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, September 2, 2009 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul Fitzsimmons and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins, Director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), gave an update on the lab. This year, the VDL has worked with all of the laboratories in the state system to integrate and maximize the efficiency of day-to-day operations.

The VDL is crucial to the Board's disease surveillance and response efforts. However, the VDL receives less state funding than all of its peer labs, only 2.3 percent of the VDL's budget is from the state. The VDL's user fees are also among the highest in the nation. Comparably, other labs in the county receive 50 percent of their budget from the state government.

Dr. Trevor Ames, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), continued by demonstrating how the University's 7 percent budget unallotment affected the VDL. 'Blue Ribbon Panels' have been created at the University to determine what programs and operations are 'core'. If the VDL is not among the core projects, it may not receive financial backing.

The University provides \$350,000 to the VDL annually to support the lab's national accreditation standards. However, the VDL is operating at a deficit and will need approximately \$2-3 million to be on par with their peer institutions. Drs. Ames and Collins proposed that the Board members consider giving the VDL a greater state backing by helping the lab acquire the additional funding needed for its continued operation. The University has agreed to partner with other agencies to fund the VDL and provide lab oversight.

The Board members agreed that the VDL should receive adequate state funding to meet its financial needs. Dr. Whitten directed Dr. Hartmann to work with the University to develop a financing plan for the lab. The results of the plan are to be reported on during the quarterly Board meetings.

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Update

Dr. Ames also announced that the CVM was the lead institution that was presented with a \$185 million grant, in cooperation with Tufts University. CVM will get \$55 million of that grant, making it the second largest grant the University has ever received. The grant will allow students to study emerging zoonotic diseases. The college also received a \$3 million cash gift for an endowed chair for companion animal orthopedic surgery by a thankful client.

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Eradication

Dr. Montse Torremorell, the newly appointed Leman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity at CVM, addressed the ongoing Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) eradication efforts. PRRS is a highly infectious disease that causes swine to have influenza like symptoms and fertility problems, including a high number of abortions. Due to economic circumstances, there is an unprecedented need to eradicate the virus. PRRS costs pork producers approximately \$560.32 million annually. It is difficult to control the infection and there are no vaccinations to protect animals from the virus. In 2005, the Minnesota PRRS Eradication Task Force was created. The group meets quarterly to discuss advances of PRRS control and virus elimination. Dr. Torremorell said the Board would be a key component to PRRS eradication in the future.

A pilot PRRS research program has been initiated in Stevens County, Minnesota. Minnesota was chosen as an ideal location due to its progressive producers and veterinarians and because the VDL is one of the best veterinary labs in the country, according to Dr. Torremorell.

In 2004, a majority of the swine herds in Stevens County were PRRS positive. Now, after five years of concerted virus control and eradication, there is only one positive herd in the county; that herd is a test herd for the University of Minnesota. The research program has now expanded to include the seven counties surrounding Stevens County. In the near future, the program is slated to include all swine herds in northern Minnesota.

Later this month, the Minnesota Pork Producers Association and the Minnesota Pork Board will discuss an initiative to support continued PRRS eradication efforts.

Dave Preisler, the Executive Director of the Minnesota Pork Board, asked for the Board's help in providing contact information for pork producers in the state and sharing its expertise on organizing eradication programs. He continued by saying that if an eradication program was created, it would initially be voluntary but may become mandatory in the future. At that time the Board would likely be the program's regulator. Drs. Whitten and Hartmann agreed that the Board can share producer information with the eradication program because it is for an animal health purpose. Dr. Whitten then suggested that a Board representative be present at future meetings of the Minnesota PRRS Eradication Task Force.

Department of Agriculture Update

Joe Martin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Assistant Commissioner, opened the floor to discussion about the state's announcement of H1N1 being found in swine in Minnesota. Dave Preisler said that he thought the announcement went as well could be expected and gave credit to the Board, MDA and Department of Health for their seamless response. He said the announcement was handled very professionally and the public's reaction wasn't negative, as there was no market reaction or drop in pork prices.

The MDA is also watching the use of antibiotics closely. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently found high levels of antibiotic residues from dairy cows in Minnesota. The FDA may expand its antibiotic surveillance in milk and meat products. There is a proposed bill before congress that may limit the use of antibiotics in animals.

Another related emerging issue is antibiotic runoff from farms contaminating water sources.

In addition, a new program, the Minnesota Farm Assistance Network, was just launched by MDA. The program provides financial and management advice and assistance to producers who are struggling in these difficult economic times..

Dog and Cat Breeder Bill

Dr. Kris Petrini updated the Board on a breeder bill, HF 253, authored by Rep. Tom Tillberry. In early November, Drs. Petrini and Hartmann met with the state's Speaker of the House, Rep. Margaret Anderson-Kelliher to discuss the breeder bill. The Board has had input on the bill but has remained neutral to its passing. If it is passed and signed into law by the Governor, the Board will develop a breeder program as directed by the bill and will oversee it to the best of the agency's abilities. Quinn Cheney, Policy Director for the Board and MDA, outlined how funding for the program may be collected, given that the state has a budget deficit. Dr. Hartmann explained that the Board's concern is that the bill will be passed without sufficient funding for the program..

DNR Update

Dr. Michelle Carstensen with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) summarized the DNR's free-ranging white-tailed deer surveillance for bovine tuberculosis (TB). Since 2005, DNR has sampled more than 6,200 deer in the state, 26 of which were TB-positive. All of the positives have been found within a 164 square-mile area where there is low disease prevalence. All of the positives were also 'alive in 2005', which provides evidence that there is not active transmission of the disease in the deer population. The DNR's goal this year, set by the Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), was to sample 1,800 deer in and around the MA Zone. So far, the DNR has collected 1,468 samples and is planning to do ground sharpshooting to reach its goal. This season, only one animal has been TB-suspect. Results on this animal are pending. The USDA review team, which visited Minnesota in November, was complimentary of the DNR's TB surveillance efforts.

DNR is taking samples to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the area where the farmed elk herd was depopulated because of CWD. A total of 2,333 deer and elk have been sampled for CWD.

USDA Review Team

Dr. Hartmann reported on the USDA review team that visited Minnesota to evaluate the state's TB program. The seven-member team, which included Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt, spent a week at the BAH and USDA offices in St. Paul going over the program requirements, reviewing movement documents, test charts and other information, as well as interviewing Board and DNR staff. At the end of the week, the team held an exit interview to discuss their findings. The interview was very positive overall. One team member commented that Minnesota's response should be an example for other states.

The team made three recommendations for the Board to improve the TB program. They recommended that Board staff complete reconciliations within 30 days of a whole herd test and reconcile 95 percent of the animals. Dr. Beth Thompson has already made significant improvements to the reconciliation process and will be able to fulfill that recommendation. The second recommendation was that the Board correlate backtags to official ID at slaughter. This recommendation is still being discussed as the Board feels sufficient documentation is being done to trace all animals that go to slaughter. The final recommendation was to continue correcting errors in veterinarians test charts when they test herds for TB. Board staff already review test charts once they come into the office and will continue to do so.

Dr. Hartmann thanked the Board, MDA, USDA and DNR staff for their exceptionally hard work in making the TB program a success. After such a positive review, Minnesota will be applying to USDA for an upgrade in its state status for TB in both zones. However, even with an upgrade in status for the MA Zone to MAA, the Board will reserve the right to maintain the area's movement and testing requirements as a precaution.

Cattle Imports

Dr. Petrini initiated a discussion about steps the Board may want to take to ensure Minnesota does not have any other introductions of TB. The Board has already made a few changes to the state's cattle import requirements. Many states require that any cattle being imported have a permit number. Dr. Petrini asked the Board members if they believed Minnesota should also require a permit for the importation of cattle. Board members discussed the positive and negative consequences of creating a cattle import permit system.

Avian Influenza

A summary of the low pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) H7N9 activity in Minnesota was given by Dr. Dale Lauer. The virus was identified and reported to USDA in May, 2009. In total, there were more than 1 million tom turkeys involved in 89 flocks on eight premises. Dr. Lauer explained that even though there was a large disease investigation involving millions of birds, only eight of the 10,000 poultry premises in Minnesota showed signs of the virus. Of the previously infected flocks, 87 were control marketed and only two were depopulated. Even though the Board successfully contained the disease, Mexico, Russia and Hong Kong all put various restrictions on poultry being exported from Minnesota. Minnesota's LPAI free-status with the World Animal Health Organization will be regained in March, 2010.

Dr. Martin Smeltzer, a USDA epidemiologist, is assisting the Board with the LPAI epidemiology investigation. Dr. Smeltzer's preliminary conclusions state that the first H7N9 introduction took place in the spring, the second in mid-summer. The virus was potentially spread from loadout trailers and potential virus spillover from areas. The disposal of dead birds may also have played a part in the spread. Dr. Smeltzer will continue to investigate rendering processes, processing plant pattern and wild bird surveillance.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Dr. Paul Anderson thanked Board and USDA staffs for their hard work with the elk herd in southern Minnesota that was found infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). A team of 28 people were on the farm to depopulate the herd quickly and humanely. The depopulation took just under two weeks. Three additional animals were identified as CWD-positive. The first positive animal from that herd was found in May. This was the largest captive elk herd in the country that has ever been depopulated in a disease investigation. Thanks to USDA staff for obtaining indemnity money for the herd owners. While animals in the herd could have infected free-ranging deer in the area, officials are still more concerned about positive free-ranging deer from Wisconsin crossing the border into Minnesota.

Piroplasmiasis In Horses

Dr. Paul Anderson continued to address the Board regarding the national piroplasmiasis investigation. This summer, a horse from the King Ranch in Texas tested positive for piroplasmiasis. Piroplasmiasis is a parasitic disease of horses carried by ticks that infects red blood cells. Piroplasmiasis is not treatable and there is no vaccine. Infected horses can remain reservoirs for the disease. All of the horses at the ranch were tested for the disease and 300 out of 400 were positive.

Horses from this ranch were sold to many different parts of the country including Minnesota.. Minnesota received two horses from the ranch; one tested negative for the disease and another near Spring Valley tested positive. There is no money available for indemnity from USDA. The positive horse will have to be isolated. No decision has been made as to what to do with the positive horse in Minnesota.

Dr. Whitten asked if Minnesota is restricting horse imports from Texas. Dr. Hartmann replied by saying that piroplasmiasis is found sporadically in Texas and doing a blanket restriction may be too severe and will not decrease the risk of introducing the disease to zero. Joe Martin suggested that the Board educate producers about the risk of buying horses from Texas.

Ovine Progressive Pneumonia Program

Dr. Petrini asked the Board to consider extending the approval for a pilot program researching ovine progressive pneumonia led by Judy Lewman.. The Board's role in the program is minimal. Producers contact the Board with an interest in the program and staff send them a packet of information about it. Dr. Kumar made a motion to continue supporting the program and Dr. Neaton seconded his motion with all voting aye.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 10, 2010 in St. Paul, MN. A motion was made by Paul Fitzsimmons, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, February 10, 2010

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul Fitzsimmons, Producer
Mahesh Kumar, Poultry Veterinarian

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Quinn Cheney, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Joe Martin, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Office Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Alex Harkness, Communications Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, December 2, 2009 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Department of Agriculture Update

Joe Martin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Assistant Commissioner, gave an update on the state's plan to apply for an upgrade in Minnesota's bovine tuberculosis

(TB) status. The Board of Animal Health will be submitting the state's upgrade application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the next few weeks. It is our hope that the upgrade will be effective beginning on October 1, 2010.

The MDA has been having internal conversations about antibiotic use in animals. It is believed that the U.S Food and Drug Administration and USDA will begin regulating antibiotic use more closely in the near future. MDA inspects feed, fluid milk and meat produced in Minnesota. The agency is continuing to see tissue violations, mostly in dairy cows at slaughter. Any increased federal regulations will be primarily focused on the therapeutic use of antibiotics in cattle. The antibiotic resistance conversation continues to grow and demands a national solution, not just a state solution.

Additionally, there has been much discussion about animal care standards in Minnesota as of late. There are a handful of animal cruelty laws in the state, but those are upheld by local law enforcement officials, who are often hesitant to investigate cruelty complaints due to some ambiguity in the law and lack of resources to care for confiscated animals. Mr. Martin advised the Board to continue to act as a resource for law enforcement. The MDA will be working with law enforcement departments to improve the complaint process for animal cruelty allegations to ensure they are followed up on.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Jim Collins, Director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), announced that an effluent system had been constructed in the VDL's Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 area. The lab has one of the few BSL 3 areas in the entire country. It was constructed to address highly contagious pathogens such as influenza and TB and once complete in late 2010, it will be a great teaching and research facility. Maintaining a BSL 3 area is very labor intensive. At this time, the lab is kept at a BSL 2 and Dr. Collins is hoping to hire a new employee to manage BSL 3 lab operations but the VDL lacks the funding for a new hire. Per Dr. Whitten's request, Dr. Hartmann will be meeting with state and university representatives to discuss the VDL's budget.

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Update

Dr. Trevor Ames, Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), addressed the current state of the college and looming budget cuts. CVM is doing what it can to be financially self-sufficient. Budget cuts have been affecting veterinary schools across the country. In the next biennium, CVM will be asking all departments to undergo a thorough planning session to determine what programs are essential. Also, the school is planning for very significant cuts over the next biennium. Drs. Ames, Hartmann and Collins will be meeting with state Representative Al Juhnke to tour the VDL and discuss a sustainable funding model for the lab.

More than 20 veterinarians applied for the state funded veterinary loan forgiveness program, which pays off school loans for food animal veterinarians.

DNR Update

Dr. Michelle Carstensen with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) summarized the DNR's free-ranging white-tailed deer surveillance for TB. The DNR

tested 1,468 deer during fall testing but the agency will continue to test into 2010 to meet the goal set in the state's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the USDA.

One positive 3.5 year old buck was found 2.2 miles west of the TB Core area. This is the 27th TB-positive deer found in Minnesota. The DNR will be increasing surveillance in the western edge of the Core area during this year's sharpshooting, which will begin on February 22. The DNR is currently working on securing landowner permission to shoot in some areas with more dense deer populations.

The DNR would like to propose a reduction in sampling numbers in the next MOU in order to focus their efforts on sampling in the Core. The agency pays more than \$600,000 to sample deer for TB and may request financial assistance from USDA to offset the cost.

Animal Identification and Traceability

Gene Hugoson, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, informed the board about the USDA's new animal traceability program. The USDA has turned the responsibility of animal tracing and identification to individual states and eliminated the National Animal Identification System. This fall, USDA will create a formal plan and submit it for public comment. It is much more efficient and effective for states to trace animal movement and many already have tracking databases in place. USDA Area Veterinarian In-Charge, Dr. Mike Stine, said that the plan will allow for maximum flexibility and will be able to meet each state's individual needs.

Board of Animal Health Assistant Director, Dr. Paul Anderson, spoke to Minnesota's current traceability program. The state has had a traceability program in place for some time, but it is not computerized. The Board is considering revamping its import requirements and requiring verbal permits for importation. Livestock dealers and private buyers and sellers are being encouraged to keep better records as well.

Legislative Update

The Board's Legislative Liaison, Quinn Cheney, updated the board about the state budget and potential legislation that may affect the Board. Governor Pawlenty will be giving his State of the State address and a preview of his proposed budget for the state. All state agencies have been asked to prepare for a three percent decrease in operating costs and a six percent cut in grant funding. The only grant the Board administers stems from the TB legislation passed in 2008, which allocated money for herd buyout payments. Legally, the Board cannot reduce the predetermined payments. If the grant funding is decreased, the difference would have to come from the Board's general fund.

In the legislature, the Dog and Cat Breeder Bill will continue to be an issue this session. The bill had previously been tabled in the Agriculture Policy Committee last year but a vote can bring it off the table. Board members Drs. John Whitten and Holly Neaton are up for appointment confirmation in the senate.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health, Dr. Bill Hartmann, spoke to the board about Minnesota's plans to apply to the USDA for an upgrade of the state's TB statuses.

A review team visited the state and evaluated the Minnesota's TB eradication program. The team made 35 recommendations which the Board has responded to. Many of the recommendations were to continue with certain partnerships and policies.

The Modified Accredited (MA) Zone will be eligible for an upgrade in February 2010 while the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone will not be eligible until October 2010. The upgrade application is completed and it will be submitted to the USDA shortly, with the hope that it will be effective October 1, 2010. The Board and MDA are also having initial conversations with stakeholders to determine what to do with the MA Zone without discontinuing pressure to mitigate the risk of TB reemerging. The Board anticipates upholding a majority of the regulations in place in the MA Zone.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment

Dr. Hartmann continued to speak about the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has created a new program, VMLRP, which will offset the cost of educational loans for veterinarians who practice in areas where there is a veterinarian shortage. Priority will be given to veterinarians who practice food animal medicine. State Veterinarians in all states have been asked to seek input in identifying areas in the state which have a shortage. Dr. Hartmann may select up to seven areas of need and submit those to NIFA in the next month.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2010 in St. Paul, MN. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director*

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, April 14, 2010

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul Fitzsimmons, Producer
Mahesh Kumar, Poultry Veterinarian
Steve Brake, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Joe Martin, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Quinn Cheney, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Steve Dille, Minnesota Senator
Ted Radintz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Office Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director
Jody Holm, Cattle Division
Betsy Lempelius, Companion Animal Division
Jan Schmidt, Cattle Division

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

A motion was made by Paul FitzSimmons and seconded by Mahesh Kumar, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 10, 2010 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Mahesh Kumar, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Update

Joe Martin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Assistant Commissioner, gave the Board an update regarding the on-going discussion of antibiotic use in animal agriculture. The department has held internal discussions with stakeholder groups to address concerns and develop educational materials used to teach producers the proper use of antibiotics. The MDA is also working to develop a formal process to address antibiotic violations.

There is an impending federal order that would lift the bovine tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements for breeding cattle originating from a Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) state or zone moving across state lines. Even with the federal order in place, individual states may choose to continue import restrictions and testing requirements on Minnesota cattle. It was suggested that Minnesota consider imposing the same restrictions on cattle coming from states that require more strict movement requirements for Minnesota cattle.

Recognition and Thanks

Dr. Bill Hartmann presented Senator Steve Dille with a plaque in recognition of his many years in the legislature and his continued support of animal agriculture in Minnesota.

Legislative Update

Quinn Cheney reported that the supplemental budget for the Board of Animal Health (BAH) and the MDA was recently signed into law. The reductions in this bill to the current biennial budget for the BAH are 2.2 percent. Additionally, a new agriculture policy bill is working its way through the legislative process, which includes amended language regarding TB. The TB language has been proposed to be changed in order to reflect the impending federal order that will create TB zones based on scientific analysis of risk instead of state statuses. This will give the BAH authority to continue TB eradication activities in the current Modified Accredited (MA) Zone when a status upgrade takes place.

The pet breeder bill did not receive a hearing in the House Agriculture Committee and was voted down in the Senate Agriculture Committee. There has been talk that the language would be attached to another bill, but as of now no further action has been taken.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Trevor Ames, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), shared that Representative Betty McCollum visited the college to take part in a roundtable discussion on important veterinary issues, including antibiotics in feed and global food security. Representative McCollum said she found the discussions educational and will work to support the college.

Dr. Ames reported that a meeting took place to discuss funding for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). Dr. Jim Collins, Director of the VDL, facilitated tours of the lab and found support to use stimulus funds to keep fees reduced until June, 2011. The college is also working to get the student loan forgiveness program in place and, in conjunction with a federal program, up to eight students in Minnesota could receive funding. On a federal level, the CVM was successful in securing TB research funding.

There is currently a veterinarian shortage in the United States; specifically in the area of food supply veterinarians. To address this shortage, an idea to create a new veterinary school was introduced by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The school would be called the National Food Animal Veterinary Institute (NFAVI), and would train students in the diagnosis and management of disease in common species of livestock. A working committee is being formed and a proposal will be developed to identify and secure funding and industry partners for support of the project.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Jim Collins updated the Board on issues impacting the VDL. The VDL is part of the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). As a NAHLN laboratory, the VDL conducts additional surveillance testing. Discussions have taken place with industry regarding communication with producers on the surveillance testing. Animal Bytes, the BAH's electronic newsletter, will be used to inform industry and veterinarians that routine USDA surveillance testing is on-going.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has implemented a new rule that will go into effect on July 1, 2010 that requires extra testing of eggs. The VDL has been in discussion with the poultry industry about how to meet the increased testing surge. Minnesota, along with a few other states, is capable of doing the testing, but the cost and space required would make it challenging.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Dr. Bill Hartmann discussed the latest bovine TB developments with the Board. Minnesota has not found TB infection in cattle in over a year. Testing has been done both in northwest Minnesota and statewide.

USDA will be revising the national TB program to take a new approach to managing the disease. The agency is currently working on writing new rules, which will then be submitted for review and a public comment period. In the meantime, the USDA will soon issue a Federal Order which will no longer require Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) states or zones to TB test breeding cattle before moving them interstate. South Dakota and Nebraska likely will recognize the order and no longer require testing of Minnesota cattle. North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa may still require testing on animals from Minnesota. The current testing and movement requirements in Minnesota's MA Zone would remain in place. Additionally, under the Federal Order, the USDA will no longer have to automatically downgrade state status when TB is found.

Minnesota's application for TB status upgrades has been submitted to the USDA. In October, both of the state's TB zones will be eligible for status upgrades.

Dr. Michelle Carstensen provided information on TB eradication in free-ranging deer. This year was the DNR's fourth consecutive year of sharpshooting efforts in the MA Zone. Sharpshooting will continue through the end of April, but so far there have been no TB suspects identified in the area.

Animal Disease Traceability

Dr. Paul Anderson and Ted Radintz spoke to the Board about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The US Secretary of Agriculture recently announced that the NAIS program has ended. A new direction for animal disease traceability was announced.

A meeting was held by USDA in March to facilitate discussion and generate ideas for the new direction. One thing that was agreed on by all states was the need for mandatory identification of livestock moving interstate. Also discussed was the possibility of issuing official ID directly to producers instead of veterinarians, as well as giving states the primary responsibility of tracing animals during a disease investigation. A committee was formed to provide guidance as the states, tribal nations and USDA move forward.

Minnesota is already making tremendous strides in the ability to trace animals. During the TB investigations, the BAH was able to trace animals without disruption to the producer. Currently, BAH and USDA field staff are working to update data by visiting every livestock premises one township at a time. In addition, the BAH will begin entering animal ID numbers into the database for adult breeding cattle being imported into Minnesota.

Rule Changes

Dr. Bill Hartmann spoke about plans to restructure BAH Rules. The board has four chapters of rules. The new proposed structure would consist of seven sections. As the new rules are developed, the Board members will be informed of the proposed changes and will be asked for input.

Poultry Update

Dr. Dale Lauer recapped the Low Path Avian Influenza H7N9 incident that occurred in Minnesota in 2009. All premises have been released from quarantine marking the successful conclusion of this incident. He also recapped the successful eradication of Avian Pneumovirus from Minnesota turkeys. As a result, routine surveillance testing will cease as of July 1, 2010.

Recognition and Thanks

Dr. Hartmann and Dr. John Whitten, President of the Board, thanked Dr. Mahesh Kumar for serving on the Board for three terms. He was recognized for his outstanding dedication to the Board and the poultry industry.

Election of Officers to the Board of Animal Health

Executive Director Dr. Bill Hartmann took over direction of the meeting for the election of next year's Minnesota Board of Animal Health officers (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). He opened nominations for president. Holly Neaton nominated John Whitten, seconded by Mahesh Kumar with all voting aye. Nominations for vice-president were then opened. Paul Fitzsimmons nominated Holly Neaton, seconded by Steve Brake with all voting aye.

Appointment of the Executive Director

The board members met in closed session with business manager, Barbara Troyer to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director for the coming state fiscal year July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to rehire William L. Hartmann as the Executive Director, seconded by John Whitten with all voting aye. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar to approve an achievement award for the executive director, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 8, 2010 in Watertown, Minnesota. A motion was made by Mahesh Kumar, seconded by Steve Brake with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director*

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Wednesday, September 8, 2010

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at B's On The River in Watertown, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer
Paul FitzSimmons, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Joni Scheffel, Minnesota Department of Health
Carrie Klumb, Minnesota Department of Health
Nikki Nesser, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Christina Foutz, Senior veterinary student, University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine

Staff:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Mary Leland, Office Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 8 2010.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, April 14, 2010 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Trevor Ames, Dean of the College Veterinary Medicine (CVM), updated the Board on an eventful spring and summer at the CVM. The annual Lehman Conference begins September 18. The freshmen class of 100 students recently started at the college and consists of 55 students from Minnesota and 45 from out of state.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), Dr. Jim Collins, updated the Board on the VDL's activities. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is in the process of initiating a swine influenza surveillance program. Laboratories in Minnesota and Iowa would handle the majority of the samples, and are evaluating possible ramifications of such a program.

Dr. Hartmann recently met with livestock and poultry stakeholders and lobbyists to discuss the future of VDL funding. The Board instructed Dr. Hartmann to draft a letter of support for the VDL that the Board members could sign and send to Governor Pawlenty and the Commissioners of Health, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

United States Department of Agriculture

Dr. Mike Stine gave an update on staffing and budget obligations for the USDA in the coming year. He also announced that Minnesota is expected to be granted TB status upgrades for both of the state's zones on October 1.

Rabies Vaccination Requirement

Dr. Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), asked the Board to consider implementing a rabies vaccination requirement for dogs in Minnesota. Handling rabid animal cases in Minnesota takes a significant amount of State time and resources. Requiring a rabies vaccine for dogs over four months of age would greatly reduce the number of animal bite complaints and human post-exposure prophylaxis needed.

Dr. Holly Neaton made a motion and Paul Hanowski seconded the motion to amend Board rules to require rabies vaccination of dogs over four months of age. Further the motion stated that Board staff will promulgate the rule and the MDH will oversee the public education campaign.

Rule Changes

Dr. Bill Hartmann updated the Board on the proposed rule change that staff have been working on. Board rule revisions will update and reorganize the rules to make them easier to understand. As part of this process, certain portions of the old rules will be moved into policy to allow the Board to be more responsive in the management of disease control programs.

Board policies will be used to address immediate issues until or if statutes or rules are needed. Outdated sections and language in the rules, such as the sections concerning brucellosis and pseudorabies, will be eliminated because these diseases have been eradicated. Existing rules, such as Chronic Wasting Disease will be modified to address current challenges. The Board will also enhance traceability of animals by increasing identification and record keeping requirements.

Board staff members presented an outline of the proposed rule changes to the Board members.

A preliminary rule change proposal will be sent to the governor's office and be posted in the state register for comment. A final draft will then be published for comment.

Authorizing Resolution

A motion was made by Paul FitzSimmons, seconded by Paul Hanowski with all voting aye authorizing the Executive Director to sign and to give notice of the Board's intent to repeal Minnesota rules, parts 1700.0000 – 1720.0000 and adopt Minnesota rules, parts 1721.0000 – 1721.0740.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 1, 2010 in St. Paul, Minnesota. A motion was made by Paul Hanowski, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Thursday, October 21, 2010

A conference call of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 21, 2010 from the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present on the call:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul FitzSimmons, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer
Paul Hanowski, Producer

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Mary Leland, Office Specialist

Meeting called to order

Dr. Whitten called the meeting to order and turned it over to Dr. Hartmann.

***Mycoplasma Synoviae* identified in Minnesota turkey breeder flocks**

Dr. Hartmann shared with the Board that *Mycoplasma Synoviae* (MS) was detected in Minnesota turkey breeding flocks in Kandiyohi County. Serologic testing at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory combined with PCR testing at the University of Georgia confirmed MS in turkey breeder flocks on six breeder locations.

Board rules allow two options for eliminating MS from Minnesota turkey breeder flocks and hatcheries; depopulation of all infected animals or implementing a salvage program, which requires Board approval.

Dr. Dale Lauer provided information about the disease. MS is an egg transmitted disease that can be treated with antibiotics; however, antibiotics alone will not eradicate the disease. There are no human health concerns with MS but it can be a financial burden for turkey growers as MS can result in leg problems and condemnations at processing. The affected company is seeking approval from the Board to implement a salvage plan. The salvage plan would entail increased surveillance to identify infected flocks, treatment and quarantine of positive flocks, hatchery management to minimize spread and depopulation of premises under Board supervision. In

addition, notification of the delivery of poult from MS positive flocks must be given to growers receiving poult from MS positive flocks.

Authorizing Resolution

A motion was made by Paul Hanowski, seconded by Steve Brake to tentatively approve the MS Salvage Program with intent of monitoring and advising as seen fit by the Board. Dr. Whitten took role call for a vote, with all present Board members voting aye authorizing tentative approval with further discussion at the next Board meeting, December 1, 2010 in St. Paul.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Dr. Whitten to adjourn; role call was taken with all present Board members voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

**Minnesota Board of Animal Health
CERTIFICATE OF THE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION**

**Proposed Repeal of Rules Governing:
Importation of livestock and poultry (Chapter 1700),
Diseases of domestic animals (Chapter 1705),
Diseases of poultry (Chapter 1710),
Livestock exhibitions and markets (Chapter 1715),
Animal carcasses (Chapter 1719), and
Miscellaneous (Chapter 1720)**

**Proposed Rules (Chapter 1721) Governing:
Definitions and general provisions
Livestock concentration points
Species
Anthrax
Rabies prevention
Feeding garbage to livestock
Biologics
Carcass disposal**

I, John Whitten, certify that I am a member and the Chair of the Board of Animal Health, a board authorized under the laws of the State of Minnesota; that the following is a true, complete, and correct copy of a resolution that the Board of Animal Health adopted at a properly convened meeting on September 8, 2010; that a quorum was present; and that a majority of those present voted for the resolution, which has not been rescinded or modified. The Board resolved the following:

As to the repeal of Rules, Chapters 1700.0000 – 1720.0000:

1. The Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health is authorized and directed to sign and to give the Notice of the Board's Intent to Repeal Rules using Alternate Notices of whether a hearing will be held, identified as Minnesota rules, parts 1700.0000 – 1720.0000. The Executive Director must give this notice to all persons who have registered their names with the Board for that purpose. The Executive Director must also publish the Notice in the State Register. Furthermore, the Executive Director is authorized and directed to do anything else needed to complete this Notice.
2. If there are fewer than 25 outstanding hearing requests, the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health is authorized and directed to sign the Order Repealing Rules and to do anything else needed to adopt these rules without a hearing.
3. If there are 25 or more outstanding hearing requests, the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health is authorized and directed to act as the Board's representative at the hearing and do anything else needed to repeal these rules with a hearing. This

includes authority to sign the Order Repealing Rules if there are no modifications to the rules other than modifications approved by the Board.

As to the adoption of Rules, Chapters 1721.0000 – 1721.0740:

1. The Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health is authorized and directed to sign and to give the Notice of the Board's Intent to Adopt Rules using Alternate Notices of whether a hearing will be held, identified as Minnesota rules, parts 1721.0000 – 1721.0740. The Executive Director must give this notice to all persons who have registered their names with the Board for that purpose. The Executive Director must also publish the Notice in the State Register. Furthermore, the Executive Director is authorized and directed to do anything else needed to complete this Notice.
2. If there are fewer than 25 outstanding hearing requests, the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health is authorized and directed to sign the Order Adopting Rules and to do anything else needed to adopt these rules without a hearing.
3. If there are 25 or more outstanding hearing requests, the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health is authorized and directed to act as the Board's representative at the hearing and do anything else needed to repeal these rules with a hearing. This includes authority to sign the Order Adopting Rules if there are no modifications to the rules other than modifications approved by the Board.

John Whitten, Chair

John Whitten, Chair
Board of Animal Health

Holly Neaton DVM

Attesting Board Member

Holly Neaton DVM

Printed Name of Attesting Board Member

**Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at the Orville Freeman Building, St. Paul Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Paul FitzSimmons, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Boerboom, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Guests:

Joe Frank, U.S Department of Agriculture
Rick Huisinga, Producer
Chris Huisinga, Producer
Alisha Cowell, Executive Budget Officer

Staff:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Mary Leland, Office Specialist
Den Sin, IT Specialist
Barb Troyer, Budget Manager
Ted Held, IT Specialist

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 8 2010.

A motion was made by Paul Hanowski and seconded by Paul FitzSimmons, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, September 8, 2010 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul FitzSimmons and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication

Dr. Whitten thanked staff from the Board of Animal Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for their hard work in bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication.

Board of Animal Health Update

Dr. Bill Hartmann updated the Board on the new leadership for both agriculture committees at the Minnesota Legislature. The new chairs are Representative Rod Hamilton and Senator Doug Magnus. Both of these individuals have a background in agriculture and are familiar with the Board.

The Board of Animal Health continues to assist the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) in its effort to obtain sustainable funding for the future. Board members sent a letter to key individuals asking for their support during this legislative session.

At the last board meeting in September 2010, members directed staff to draft a new rule that would require mandatory rabies vaccination of dogs. There are four parts to the proposed rule:

1. A biologics rule requires that rabies vaccine can be sold only to veterinarians.
2. Only licensed veterinarians or people under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian can administer rabies vaccinations.
3. Dogs over four months of age kept as pets must have a rabies vaccine and proof of the vaccine. Exemptions include dogs that are kept in a state licensed humane society or a city impound facility.
4. Local animal control and law enforcement are responsible for enforcing the rule.

At the last board meeting board members directed staff to include a prohibition on the importation of feral swine carcasses into Minnesota in the proposed amendments to the rules. Exceptions would be cut and wrapped meat, hides, teeth, and finished taxidermy mounts.

College of Veterinary Medicine Update

Dr. Trevor Ames informed the Board of changes occurring at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). The CVM will be getting a new president in June 2011, along with a new vice president for the Academic Health Center. The Veterinary Medical Center launched an animal trauma center. The center is located on the University's St. Paul campus and offers emergency care around the clock, including access to more than 60 veterinary specialists in 15 disciplines. Legislatively, the CVM is working to secure sustainable funding for the veterinary loan forgiveness program included in the governor's budget this year.

Department of Agriculture Update

Jim Boerboom, deputy commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), spoke about the change in leadership at the MDA. The department has sent a transition report to the governor's office focusing on three main issues: sale of raw milk, invasive pests, and groundwater/environmental protection. The MDA is also preparing for budget cuts.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Jim Collins reported that the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) is preparing to help test poultry for *Mycoplasma synoviae* (MS) infection. The lab has developed a fact sheet for

veterinarians to distribute on how to use the PCR test and pooling strategies to reduce the cost of testing. Dr. Collins also spoke about investigating an emerging syndrome in swine, periweaning failure to thrive syndrome. The VDL will continue to allocate resources to investigate emerging diseases that threaten Minnesota's animal agriculture.

Poultry Program Update

Dr. Dale Lauer provided an update on three different reportable poultry diseases with current surveillance and testing activities in Minnesota. Statewide surveillance for avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) ended June 2010, but soon after was identified as part of diagnostic workups for clinically ill turkey breeder flocks in Becker and Ottertail counties. After confirmation from NVSL and intensive short-term surveillance through November 2010, there have been no additional turkey flocks identified with aMPV in Minnesota.

Dr. Lauer along with representatives from Willmar Poultry Company/Ag Forte provided the Board with a description of the positive Mycoplasma Synoviae (MS) turkey breeder flocks on their farms in Kandiyohi County. This disease has not been seen in Minnesota turkey breeders for over 25 years. Suspect MS serology from these flocks in August 2010 flagged these flocks for additional testing. With a lack of clinical signs and after many rounds of testing, there was finally confirmation at the University of Georgia in October, 2010 and turkey breeder flocks on eight premises were quarantined. Since the MS program participation is mandatory for turkey hatcheries and breeder flocks, the company was required to depopulate the flocks or apply to the Board to enroll in MS Salvage Program. Program requirements are an application to the Board, designing a program that impedes the shed of the disease to other poultry and a program that meets the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) requirements. Dr. Lauer presented the detailed MS Salvage Program which received tentative Board approval on October 21, 2010. Paul Hanowski made a motion to approve the MS Salvage Program as presented, Paul Fitzsimmons seconded and all members present voting aye. A progress report/update at the next Board meeting was requested by Mr. Hanowski.

Finally, Dr. Lauer provided an update on the Board's involvement in the 2010 Salmonella enteritidis (SE) egg recall of table eggs produced in Iowa. The hatchery supplying chicks to the affected Iowa farm is located in Minnesota and is certified by the Board and the NPIP as an SE Clean hatchery. In October, 2010, NPIP and Board representatives conducted an investigation of the hatchery and breeder farms by reviewing chick shipment and test records, and collecting and submitting samples for SE testing to two different laboratories. All samples were negative for SE.

PRRSv Eradication Task Force

Dr. Beth Thompson updated the Board on activities of the PRRSv Eradication Task Force. Progress continues to be made in the elimination of PRRSv in Minnesota. Currently, work is being done on finding the premises north of Highway 212 that have pigs, and assigning a PRRSv status to those premises. Other states have started similar regional projects, including Michigan, Illinois and Iowa. Board staff supplied information on the location of premises that have had pigs to the Minnesota PRRSv Eradication Task Force.

Tuberculosis Update

Dr. Kris Petrini reported that Minnesota's TB status was upgraded in October 2010. Most of the requirements in the new Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) Zone will remain the same. However, feeder cattle leaving the MAA Zone no longer need an individual 60-day test. In the Management Zone, all previous requirements remain in place. Cattle producers in the zone have done a great job adhering to movement and testing requirements. In two years Minnesota can apply to upgrade the entire state to TB-Free. In the meantime whole herd testing will continue in the MAA Zone. Board staff members continue to work at enhancing traceability through the use of radio frequency identification.

Emergency Planning

Dr. Linda Glaser is working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to conduct county Foreign Animal Disease response workshops. The workshops will help educate county officials on livestock and poultry production in their areas, identify options for carcass disposal, and locate temporary livestock holding facilities in each county. The workshops have been well-received so far, and more are scheduled for the coming months.

In November, several Board and USDA staff members participated in a highly pathogenic avian influenza exercise. The event brought Minnesota and Wisconsin animal health officials together, as the simulated index premises was located on the border of the two states.

Board Member Website

Malissa Fritz reported that the board member website is being reconfigured to be more easily accessible to members. In addition, meeting minutes, agendas, and other resources will be made available on-line.

Approval of Minutes from Conference Call

A motion was made by Holly Neaton to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2010 Board meeting that was held via conference call, seconded by Paul Hanowski. All present voted aye to approve the minutes.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Friday, February 4, 2011 in St. Paul, Minnesota. A motion was made by Holly Neaton, seconded by Paul Hanowski with all voting aye to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Friday, February 4, 2011

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 4, 2011 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul FitzSimmons, Producer
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Tom Landwehr, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ed Boggess, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health
Tory Whitten, Student
Kari Klumb, Minnesota Department of Health
Stacy Holzbauer, Minnesota Department of Health
Lou Cornicelli, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mike Don Carlos, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Sherry Shaw, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Alicia Cowell, Minnesota Management and Budget
Thom Peterson, Minnesota Farm Bureau
Jeremy Geske, Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers
Christina Foutz, Extern, Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Office Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, December 1, 2010 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul FitzSimmons and seconded by Paul Hanowski, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Board Member Appreciation

Dr. Bill Hartmann honored Paul FitzSimmons for his eight years of serving on the Board of Animal Health. FitzSimmons was appointed to the Board in October 2003. During his time as a board member, Minnesota detected and responded to diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease, bovine tuberculosis, low pathogenic avian influenza, anthrax, and contagious equine metritis. Fellow board members and meeting attendees thanked FitzSimmons for his dedication to protecting animal health in Minnesota.

New Agriculture Commissioner

The Board of Animal Health welcomed Mr. Dave Frederickson to his new position as Minnesota's agriculture commissioner. Governor Dayton appointed Frederickson to his post in January 2011. Frederickson operated a hog farm in west central Minnesota for 20 years prior to his appointment as commissioner. He also served as president of Minnesota Farmers Union for 11 years and president of the National Farmers Union for four years. In addition, Frederickson spent time as an agriculture outreach director for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner

Appointment

Mr. Tom Landwehr was appointed as commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in January 2011. In the past, Landwehr served as a city council member and as an instructor at the University of Minnesota's School of Natural Resources. In his 17-year career with the DNR, he held positions as a scientist and as a wildlife manager prior to his appointment as commissioner.

DNR Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Response

Commissioner Landwehr and Big Game Program Coordinator Lou Cornicelli provided information on the DNR's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance program in wild white-tailed deer. The DNR has been conducting surveillance in wild deer since 2002, when the first captive cervid herd was found positive with CWD. The surveillance is risk based. Deer exhibiting symptoms, new infections found in adjacent states, and close proximity to infected deer or elk farms are factors considered when determining surveillance areas.

From 2002 to 2008 nearly 3,500 hunter-harvested wild deer were tested for CWD; all tested negative. Following the discovery of an infected farmed elk herd in 2009, wild

deer surveillance increased in southeast Minnesota. Since 2009, 3,200 samples have been tested, and in January 2011 one wild deer tested positive.

In response, the DNR conducted an aerial survey of the 10-mile radius surrounding the positive deer to determine deer density in the endemic area. Approximately 6,500 deer were found. The land contained in the area is entirely private land. The DNR is working with landowners to obtain permission to obtain more samples, and is contracting with U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services Division to launch a ground sharpshooting effort. Landowner shooting permits have also been granted. Recreational deer feeding, which increases deer-to-deer interaction, has been banned in Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted, and Wabasha Counties. This will decrease the potential spread of disease among wild deer.

Surveillance will continue through winter 2011. All deer harvested and tested negative will be donated to interested parties. Any test-positives will be sent to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's methane digester.

Board of Animal Health Chronic Wasting Disease Response

Dr. Paul Anderson talked about the Board's response to CWD being found in a wild deer in Minnesota. There has been a plan in place for several years. The response plan was constructed with input from the state's farmed cervidae industry and the Minnesota DNR. When the positive wild deer was discovered, the Board implemented the plan.

Immediately, a 10-mile radius was drawn around the positive deer to define the endemic area. The 12 farmed cervid herds in this area were immediately quarantined by the Board. The herds must then implement a Board-approved method to prevent all nose-to-nose contact and commingling with wild deer. Once that requirement is met, animals from that facility may then move within Minnesota. It is not currently known what interstate movement requirements will be.

An elk herd near Pine Island was found to be positive for CWD in 2009. The herd owners made an agreement with the Board, DNR, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the USDA to depopulate the herd, maintain the perimeter fence, and harvest and test any wild deer that may enter the area. Portions of the premises being developed would be secured by removing two inches of topsoil and keeping it behind a fence for five years.

Veterinary Services Update

Drs. Mike Stine and Sherry Shaw provided information on USDA-Veterinary Services current activities and programs. The USDA initiated the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in 1983 to collect, analyze, and disseminate data on animal health, management, and productivity across the U.S. The NAHMS team conducts national studies on the health and management of U.S. livestock populations. A national study generally focuses on one animal commodity or production type. The study consists of one or more questionnaires and might include collection of biological samples, such as blood or feces, related to the study objectives. Each study is designed to include the states that represent at least 70 percent of the targeted animal population and

at least 70 percent of operations with the targeted animal in the U.S. Studies usually include fewer than 25 states, enabling more efficient use of resources.

This year's NAHMS study is on sheep, and Minnesota was selected to participate. Some areas of study include the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and resistance to dewormers, abortion storms, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, and producer awareness of zoonotic disease. USDA and Board staff members will work together to gather information for the study. This will be done through completing producer questionnaires and collection of biologics on participating flocks.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) Director Dr. Jim Collins provided an overview of the laboratory's role in protecting animal health in Minnesota. The VDL is the only laboratory in Minnesota that is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. This means that testing done at the VDL is considered official, and is acceptable for interstate and intrastate commerce. In a foreign animal disease response, the VDL would drop everything else to expedite testing samples as part of the investigation. However, a lack of state and sustainable funding could be a cause for losing accreditation in the future. The laboratory is working to secure a sustainable funding source, which will ensure its ability to continue as the official laboratory of the Board.

The laboratory offers a variety of tests and services. All testing in Minnesota for prion-related diseases, such as scrapie, chronic wasting disease, and mad cow disease, is done at the VDL. Recent changes to the laboratory include a molecular diagnostic addition, installation of an alkaline digester, and a special addition to deal strictly with influenza.

Poultry Disease Update

Dr. Dale Lauer updated the Board on progress of the *mycoplasma synoviae* (MS) salvage program in Minnesota turkey flocks. The primary goal of the salvage program is to impede the shed of the disease to other poultry. The MS salvage program meets National Poultry Improvement Plan requirements, which means it is approved for interstate commerce. Board members approved the plan in October 2010. Since then, six out of eight total quarantined premises have been depopulated. The remaining two premises are scheduled for depopulation in March. The source of the MS infection has been identified.

Dr. Lauer also shared that there are currently numerous low pathogenic avian influenza cases in Minnesota flocks. The flock owners and the Board continue to monitor and conduct surveillance testing to ensure these cases do not develop into a more serious strain of avian influenza.

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Eradication

Dr. Beth Thompson updated the Board on activities of the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRSv) Eradication Task Force. Progress continues to be made in the elimination of PRRSv in Minnesota. Currently, work is being done on finding the premises north of Highway 212 that have pigs, and assigning a PRRSv status to those

premises. Board staff supplied information on the location of premises that have had pigs to the Minnesota PRRSv Eradication Task Force.

Other states have started similar regional projects, including Michigan, Illinois and Iowa. Indiana also recently put out a news release that talked about their animal health board's support of PRRSv eradication efforts.

Foot-and- Mouth Disease

Dr. Linda Glaser spoke about the current Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in South Korea. In November 2010 FMD was discovered in a swine herd. Since then, three million animals have been destroyed to control the spread of the disease. All markets in the country are closed, and \$1.6 billion has been spent on eradication. Vaccination is also being used to try and contain the disease. The South Korean government has decided to vaccinate all livestock in the country. An approximate 11 million doses will be needed.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in St. Paul, MN. A motion was made by Paul Hanowski, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Board Meeting Friday, February 4, 2011

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 4, 2011 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Paul FitzSimmons, Producer
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Tom Landwehr, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ed Boggess, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Joni Scheffel, Minnesota Department of Health
Tory Whitten, Student
Kari Klumb, Minnesota Department of Health
Stacy Holzbauer, Minnesota Department of Health
Lou Cornicelli, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mike Don Carlos, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Sherry Shaw, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Alicia Cowell, Minnesota Management and Budget
Thom Peterson, Minnesota Farm Bureau
Jeremy Geske, Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers
Christina Foutz, Extern, Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Kris Petrini, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Office Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, December 1, 2010 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul FitzSimmons and seconded by Paul Hanowski, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Board Member Appreciation

Dr. Bill Hartmann honored Paul FitzSimmons for his eight years of serving on the Board of Animal Health. FitzSimmons was appointed to the Board in October 2003. During his time as a board member, Minnesota detected and responded to diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease, bovine tuberculosis, low pathogenic avian influenza, anthrax, and contagious equine metritis. Fellow board members and meeting attendees thanked FitzSimmons for his dedication to protecting animal health in Minnesota.

New Agriculture Commissioner

The Board of Animal Health welcomed Mr. Dave Frederickson to his new position as Minnesota's agriculture commissioner. Governor Dayton appointed Frederickson to his post in January 2011. Frederickson operated a hog farm in west central Minnesota for 20 years prior to his appointment as commissioner. He also served as president of Minnesota Farmers Union for 11 years and president of the National Farmers Union for four years. In addition, Frederickson spent time as an agriculture outreach director for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Appointment

Mr. Tom Landwehr was appointed as commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in January 2011. In the past, Landwehr served as a city council member and as an instructor at the University of Minnesota's School of Natural Resources. In his 17-year career with the DNR, he held positions as a scientist and as a wildlife manager prior to his appointment as commissioner.

DNR Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Response

Commissioner Landwehr and Big Game Program Coordinator Lou Cornicelli provided information on the DNR's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance program in wild white-tailed deer. The DNR has been conducting surveillance in wild deer since 2002, when the first captive cervid herd was found positive with CWD. The surveillance is risk based. Deer exhibiting symptoms, new infections found in adjacent states, and close proximity to infected deer or elk farms are factors considered when determining surveillance areas.

From 2002 to 2008 nearly 3,500 hunter-harvested wild deer were tested for CWD; all tested negative. Following the discovery of an infected farmed elk herd in 2009, wild

deer surveillance increased in southeast Minnesota. Since 2009, 3,200 samples have been tested, and in January 2011 one wild deer tested positive.

In response, the DNR conducted an aerial survey of the 10-mile radius surrounding the positive deer to determine deer density in the endemic area. Approximately 6,500 deer were found. The land contained in the area is entirely private land. The DNR is working with landowners to obtain permission to obtain more samples, and is contracting with U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services Division to launch a ground sharpshooting effort. Landowner shooting permits have also been granted. Recreational deer feeding, which increases deer-to-deer interaction, has been banned in Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted, and Wabasha Counties. This will decrease the potential spread of disease among wild deer.

Surveillance will continue through winter 2011. All deer harvested and tested negative will be donated to interested parties. Any test-positives will be sent to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's alkaline digester.

Board of Animal Health Chronic Wasting Disease Response

Dr. Paul Anderson talked about the Board's response to CWD being found in a wild deer in Minnesota. There has been a plan in place for several years. The response plan was developed with input from the state's farmed cervidae industry and the Minnesota DNR. When the positive wild deer was discovered, the Board implemented the plan.

Immediately, a 10-mile radius was drawn around the positive deer to define the endemic area. The 12 farmed cervid herds in this area were immediately quarantined by the Board. The herds must then implement a Board-approved method to prevent all nose-to-nose contact and commingling with wild deer. Once that requirement is met, animals from that facility may then move within Minnesota. If those requirements are not met, the farm will not be able to move animals. It is not currently known what interstate movement requirements will be.

An elk herd near Pine Island was found to be positive for CWD in 2009. The herd owners made an agreement with the Board, DNR, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the USDA to depopulate the herd, maintain the perimeter fence, and harvest and test any wild deer that may enter the area. Some of the land that used to be part of the elk herd pen was sold to developers and is planned for highways and office buildings. Portions of the premises being developed would be secured by removing two inches of topsoil and keeping it behind a fence for five years.

Veterinary Services Update

Drs. Mike Stine and Sherry Shaw provided information on USDA-Veterinary Services current activities and programs. The USDA initiated the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in 1983 to collect, analyze, and disseminate data on animal health, management, and productivity across the U.S. The NAHMS team conducts national studies on the health and management of U.S. livestock populations. A national study generally focuses on one animal commodity or production type. The study consists of one or more questionnaires and might include collection of biological samples, such as blood or feces, related to the study objectives. Each study is designed to

include the states that represent at least 70 percent of the targeted animal population and at least 70 percent of operations with the targeted animal in the U.S. Studies usually include fewer than 25 states, enabling more efficient use of resources.

This year's NAHMS study is on sheep, and Minnesota was selected to participate. Some areas of study include the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and resistance to dewormers, abortion storms, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, and producer awareness of zoonotic disease. USDA and Board employees will work together to gather information for the study. This will be done through completing producer questionnaires and collection of biologic samples on participating farms.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) Director Dr. Jim Collins provided an overview of the laboratory's role in protecting animal health in Minnesota. The VDL is the only laboratory in Minnesota that is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. This means that testing done at the VDL is considered official, and is acceptable for interstate and international commerce. In a foreign animal disease response, the VDL would drop everything else to expedite testing samples as part of the investigation. A site visit from the laboratory's accrediting agency noted that a lack of sustainable funding is a concern. The VDL could lose its accreditation in the future if a solution is not found. The laboratory is working to secure a sustainable funding source, which will ensure its ability to continue as the official laboratory of the Board.

The laboratory offers a variety of tests and services. All testing in Minnesota for prion-related diseases, such as scrapie, chronic wasting disease, and mad cow disease, is done at the VDL. Recent changes to the laboratory include the addition of a molecular diagnostics area, installation of an alkaline digester, and BSL 3 laboratory space.

Poultry Disease Update

Dr. Dale Lauer updated the Board on progress of the *mycoplasma synoviae* (MS) salvage program in Minnesota turkey flocks. The primary goal of the salvage program is to stop the spread of the disease to other poultry. The MS salvage program meets National Poultry Improvement Plan requirements, which means it is approved for interstate commerce. Board members approved the plan in October 2010. Since then, six out of eight total quarantined premises have been depopulated. The remaining two premises are scheduled for depopulation in March. The source of the MS infection has been identified.

Dr. Lauer also shared that there are currently numerous low pathogenic avian influenza cases in Minnesota flocks. The flock owners and Board staff continue to monitor and conduct surveillance testing.

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Eradication

Dr. Beth Thompson updated the Board on activities of the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRSv) Eradication Task Force. Progress continues to be made in the elimination of PRRSv in regions of Minnesota. Work is being done to find the premises north of Highway 212 that have pigs, and assigning a PRRSv status to those

premises. Board staff supplied information on the location of premises that have had pigs to the Minnesota PRRSv Eradication Task Force.

Other states have started similar regional projects, including Michigan, Illinois and Iowa. Indiana's Board of Animal Health recently held a meeting with stakeholders to discuss PRRS eradication and how they might assist.

Foot-and- Mouth Disease

Dr. Linda Glaser reported on the current Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in South Korea. In November 2010 FMD was discovered in a swine herd. Since then, three million animals have been destroyed to control the spread of the disease. All markets in the country are closed, and \$1.6 billion has been spent on eradication. Vaccination is also being used to try and contain the disease. The South Korean government has decided to vaccinate all livestock in the country. Approximately 11 million doses will be needed.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in St. Paul, MN. A motion was made by Paul Hanowski, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 6, 2011

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Dean Compart, Producer
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Trevor Ames, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Dave Priesler, Minnesota Pork Producers
Bob LeFebvre, Minnesota Milk Producers
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Sherry Shaw, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Alicia Cowell, Minnesota Management and Budget
Gary Wertish, Minnesota Farmers Union

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Susan McClanahan, Senior Veterinarian
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Barb Troyer, Office Manager
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Friday, February 4, 2011.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Friday, February 4, 2011 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul Hanowski and seconded by Dean Compart, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Board Member Announcements

Dr. John Whitten welcomed Dean Compart to the Board. Mr. Compart is a swine producer from Nicollet and was appointed to the Board of Animal Health on March 14, 2011. Dean and his family own Compart's Boar Store, Inc., a family owned and operated swine breeding stock business in Nicollet. The company has more than 1,200 sows producing crossbred gilts and specializing in the production of pure-line Duroc, Yorkshire, and Landrace boars and gilts. The company recently implemented a branded pork program. The Compart Family Farms Premium Duroc Pork Label provides pork to national and international white tablecloth restaurants and up-scale grocery stores.

Dr. Whitten congratulated Steve Brake on his reappointment to the Board. Mr. Brake is a cattle and swine producer from Nobles County and has served on the Board for over eight years.

Bovine Tuberculosis Status Upgrade

Drs. Bill Hartmann and Mike Stine talked about Minnesota's application for statewide Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Free status. It has been over two years since an infected cattle herd has been detected in Minnesota. The State is now eligible to apply to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for statewide TB-Free status.

The Board of Animal Health is in the process of preparing a letter indicating Minnesota's desire to achieve statewide TB-Free status. The Board is also gathering supporting documentation which explains Minnesota's response to USDA concerns regarding disease eradication activities. The application is set for submission by the end of April 2011. The USDA will review the application and it is anticipated that statewide TB-Free status will be granted in late summer or early fall of this year.

The State's proposal to the USDA for TB-Free status includes plans to continue most of the current eradication activities. Upon approval, cattle herds that lie within the Management Zone would continue most current testing and movement requirements. Feeder cattle would no longer need an individual 60-day test prior to movement.

Cattle herds in the current Modified Accredited Advanced Zone (outside of the Management Zone) would be required to have one additional whole herd test in the next year. All other requirements would be lifted.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will continue surveillance in the wild deer population in the area. The Board will continue the proposed cattle requirements in the Management Zone until DNR discontinues surveillance in the area..

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Jim Collins reported that the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) funding issue remains unresolved. The University of Minnesota has asked laboratory staff members to develop a contingency plan which has been done. The VDL continues to look for new solutions for this issue. At this time it is premature to discuss the proposed changes to the laboratory system until it is known what action the legislature will take. Announcing severe or damaging cuts that would compromise Minnesota's animal health laboratory system and its ability to meet its core mission to the state's citizens does not serve any purpose until these actions are absolutely necessary.

The VDL is developing a new influenza test for canine influenza. To coordinate communications and maximize efficiency, the laboratory will provide information to VDL clients through the Board's newsletter, Animal Bytes. The coordinated activity will require Animal Bytes distribution to include VDL clients.

Poultry Disease Update

Dr. Dale Lauer provided the Board with an update on the Mycoplasma synoviae (MS) situation in Minnesota turkey flocks. In September 2010 eight turkey breeder premises in Kandiyohi County were found to be infected with MS. In October 2010 a salvage program was approved by the affected producers, Board members, and other poultry industry representatives.

All eight premises have now been depopulated. Once all the premises have been cleaned and disinfected, they can be repopulated. Those birds will be tested for MS and if they are all negative, this MS event will be considered over.

Developing a salvage plan with industry support early on was crucial to successful eradication. In addition, having a VDL in-state was helpful as laboratory staff members developed fact sheets and got the word out to other veterinarians and producers. Over 60,000 samples have been tested for MS in Minnesota in the last six months.

Traceability in Minnesota

Dr. Stacey Schwabenlander spoke about enhancing animal traceability in Minnesota. An advisory committee is being developed which includes many groups and agencies that have a stake in the livestock industry. The committee will meet in the near future to discuss the Board's current plans regarding traceability. This includes an official identification requirement on all breeding cattle coming into Minnesota. A breeding cattle import permit will also soon be required prior to entry into the state. This will allow the Board of Animal Health to verify the premises of destination.

Producers wishing to purchase nationally recognized official '840' tags must first obtain a location identifier (LID) from the Board. This is part of the USDA's plan to let the states hold the producer contact and livestock premises information.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Commissioner Dave Frederickson talked about the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) budget and other current initiatives. The MDA is likely facing a five percent budget cut along with the Board.

The MDA is working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and the Board to determine agency control when it comes to dealing with livestock mortality. It is likely that the Board will direct future mass carcass disposal activities. Dave Priesler from the Minnesota Pork Producers has helped testify in the legislature that this would be the best decision.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services

Dr. Mike Stine reported that the federal government may shutdown. Board staff members would cover federal personnel's field districts if this occurred. International export would also be shut down.

University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Trevor Ames updated the Board on news from the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). The CVM will undergo a curriculum revision as suggested by various veterinary groups. The college has also been planning on how to deal with varied proposed budget reductions.

Chronic Wasting Disease Response

Dr. Paul Anderson summarized the Board's recent activities relating to the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) response to a wild white-tailed deer found to have CWD in Pine Island area. The Board has been working closely with the DNR to determine the next steps in both farmed and wild deer CWD surveillance. This includes developing requirements for allowing intrastate movement of farmed Cervidae from the herds within 10 miles of this CWD case. The Board will also increase compliance activities to ensure that producers are meeting requirements for keeping farmed cervidae in that area.

Dr. Michelle Carstensen summarized the DNR's recent response activities and disease surveillance. In a 10-mile radius around where the infected wild deer was found, approximately 1,200 deer have been sampled for CWD this past winter. The samples came from landowner shooting permits, sharpshooting by USDA Wildlife Services, and road kills. The testing is complete and all have tested negative. Deer taken by Wildlife Services were donated to the public for human consumption after the animals tested negative. The DNR conducted a deer population survey in that same area and estimated the population to be 6,200 animals, averaging 20 deer/mi²; however, in the 9 sections surrounding the CWD-positive deer, there were upwards of 80 deer/mi². A feeding ban in a four-county area was also put into place.

Wild deer surveillance will continue in the fall hunting season. A CWD Management Zone and new deer permit area will be established, encompassing the winter deer surveillance area. The new area will allow an increased bag limit and extended seasons.

Any deer taken in the area must be tested for CWD and carcass movement restrictions will be in place. The overall public response to DNR's actions has been very positive.

Election of Officers to the Board of Animal Health

Executive Director Dr. Bill Hartmann took over direction of the meeting for the election of next year's Minnesota Board of Animal Health officers (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). He opened nominations for president. Dean Compart nominated John Whitten, seconded by Steve Brake with all voting aye. Nominations for vice-president were then opened. Holly Neaton nominated Steve Brake, seconded by Dean Compart with all voting aye.

Appointment of the Executive Director

The Board members met in closed session with business manager, Barbara Troyer to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director for the coming state fiscal year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. A motion was made by Steve Brake to rehire William L. Hartmann as the Executive Director, seconded by Dean Compart with all voting aye. A motion was made by John Whitten to approve an achievement award for the executive director, seconded by Holly Neaton with all voting aye.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2011 in Little Falls or Long Prairie, Minnesota. A motion was made by Paul Hanowski, seconded by Dean Compart with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

**Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, 2011**

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at Bruno's Hub Supper Club in Burtrum, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Dean Compart, Producer
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer

Consultants to the Board:

Jim Collins, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Trevor Ames, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pat Lunemann, Minnesota Milk Producers
Jill Nezworski, Poultry Veterinarian
Sherry Shaw, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Steve Dille, Veterinarian
Mary Dille
Mike Compart

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Dale Lauer, Assistant Director
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Chad Carlson, Agriculture Specialist
Terry Sistad, Agriculture Specialist
Stacey Schwabenlander, Senior Veterinarian
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Dean Compart, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, April 6, 2011 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Paul Hanowski and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

Board of Animal Health

Dr. Bill Hartmann updated the Board on several items. There has been some progress on securing funding for the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). Thanks to the Board members for their active role in helping make it happen. There has also been advancement in the process of requiring mandatory rabies vaccination for dogs. It is now being moved forward as a legislative initiative rather than in Board rules. The mandatory rabies vaccination initiative will be carried forward by the Board of Animal Health and the Minnesota Department of Health.

A new budget cycle began on July 1. The Board's budget is secure. However, proposed cuts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) could impact the Board. Cooperative agreement funding from APHIS accounts for a significant part of the Board's budget.

There were two significant changes involving the Board that took place during the last legislative session. A bill was passed that puts all state information technology resources under the direction of the Office of Enterprise Technology. Another bill was passed that makes the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health responsible for the regulation and oversight of the disposal of livestock mortalities. The Pollution Control Agency (PCA) has provided the Board with recommendations on burial of carcasses. Board members should review the recommendations and provide guidance on any concerns they may have with those recommendations.

Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication

Dr. Beth Thompson provided a summary of Minnesota's bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication efforts. Minnesota had been TB-Free for 30 years prior to the discovery of an infected herd in July 2005. In the last six years, there have been many steps in eradicating the disease from the state. The Board has conducted surveillance testing in cattle and bison herds statewide, and the Department of Natural Resources has tested thousands of wild deer. A buyout program in the Management Zone allowed for removing livestock from the previously-infected area. Risk assessments on farms in the Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) Zone and Management Zones have helped farmers identify ways they can better protect their animals from potential disease transmission.

Minnesota is on target to be granted statewide bovine tuberculosis (TB)-Free status in late October or early November 2011. Once TB-Free status is achieved, most requirements in the MAA Zone will be dropped. Only one additional whole herd test will be required. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will continue to test wild deer for TB in the Management Zone until no infection is found for a number of years. The

Board will also continue requirements for cattle in the Management Zone for that same reason.

Former Minnesota Senator Steve Dille thanked the Board for eradicating TB and regaining Minnesota's TB-Free status so quickly.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Jim Collins reported good news for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). The new president of the University of Minnesota (U of M) understands how important agriculture and the VDL are to the state and is committed to helping the VDL. The U of M has given the laboratory an increase in funding of \$800,000 over each of the next two years. The VDL thanks the Board members for the role they played in obtaining secure funding.

There has recently been an increase in submissions to the laboratory in poultry with snapped tendons. The VDL has identified five isolates of Reovirus and is submitting a grant proposal for the Rapid Ag Response fund to address the issue quickly. Part of the funds would be used to get the information out to the poultry industry.

University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Trevor Ames updated the Board on news from the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). The university did not receive as severe a funding cut as originally thought. The U of M now receives a little less than 20 percent from the State for its budget.

The CVM started a veterinary camp this summer. The purpose is to educate the public through fairs and schools on the veterinary profession. The hope is to do even more next year by going into inner city schools. The CVM has also received funding to build a dairy center in order to train dairy-focused veterinary students.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services

Dr. Mike Stine provided an update on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget situation. Through fiscal year 2012, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) budget may be reduced by \$120 million. Thirteen and one-half percent will be through position cuts. The remainder will be a combination of a hiring freeze, reorganizing, reduction of cooperative agreements and possibly combining some agencies. The USDA in Minnesota will also begin to utilize the National Veterinary Services Laboratory more than the Minnesota VDL than they have in the past.

Dr. Sherry Shaw summarized the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) sheep study. The USDA NAHMS team conducts national studies on the health and health management of U.S. livestock populations. A national study generally focuses on one animal commodity or production type. This year the study was on sheep. Minnesota was given the names of 70 sheep producers in the state. USDA and Board employees split into teams to contact each producer. Depending on producer response, the teams then followed up with a survey and/or biologic sample collection on the farms. Out of 70 producers, 44 completed the survey and 39 participated in the collection of biologic samples. Participating flock owners will be sent survey and test results. President Obama reaffirmed the principles of government-to-government consultation with Native American Tribes when he signed Executive Order 13075 on November 5, 2009. USDA

APHIS recently developed a Directive and roadmap to assist APHIS officials in implementing these principles. There are currently 11 federally recognized tribes in Minnesota. The Minnesota State Outreach Council (SOC), composed of USDA agencies, is working with Tribal leaders to develop a Minnesota Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (MNTCAC) to facilitate information sharing between USDA agencies in Minnesota and the Tribes. Drs. Stine and Shaw attended a meeting at the Fon du Lac Tribal College in September to explore opportunities for working more closely with the Tribes, including formation of this Council.

Packing Plant Procedures

Mr. Steve Brake expressed concern over a recent incident at a Minnesota packing plant. A gentleman was unloading pigs at slaughter facility and there was a downed animal on the trailer. In order to prevent other pigs from trampling over it, he used the gate to move the animal off to the side. A USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) employee witnessed the situation and shut down the plant for four hours. All the pigs in route to the plant and all the pigs already at the plant had to go somewhere else during that time. Some pigs had to stay on the truck. By shutting the plant down for that amount of time, all the other animals are put at risk. Animals that are forced to stay in a trailer in extreme weather are highly stressed and may even die. It is also a bio-security risk to have trailers full of livestock leave the plant once they have already pulled into the facility. He asked that staff explore what we can do to prevent this in the future.

Drs. Hartmann and Anderson recommended that industry should start the discussion on a national level. In addition, the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) annual meeting is coming up and there are committees on animal welfare and swine health. Resolutions could be written and brought to the committee chairman to be added to the agenda. Board staff members will put together the resolution and get comments from Board members and other stakeholder groups before the USAHA meeting.

Contagious Equine Metritis

Dr. Paul Anderson reported that the Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) response in Minnesota is ongoing. An Arabian stallion that is stabled in Minnesota in the summer was found positive with CEM in Arizona. The Board worked to determine which stallions may have been exposed to the disease and found six in Minnesota. The stallions are being tested for CEM and the horse owners have been tremendously helpful and cooperative.

Chronic Wasting Disease Response

Dr. Paul Anderson summarized the Board's recent activities relating to the wild white-tailed deer found positive with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) near Pine Island. The Board has been working closely with the DNR to determine the next steps in both farmed and wild deer CWD surveillance. This includes developing requirements for allowing intrastate movement of farmed cervidae from the herds within 10 miles of where the wild positive deer was found. During the fall hunting season, deer harvested out of the area must be tested for CWD. Carcasses must be left in the zone until the test is complete. If additional wild deer test positive for CWD, more restrictions will be placed on farmed cervids in the area.

Poultry Disease Update

Dr. Dale Lauer provided information on recent occurrences of poultry disease in Minnesota. There have been three introductions of strains of H5/H7 low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in the past six years. Most recently, two commercial turkey premises in Wright County were identified in 2011. The State implemented the LPAI response plan. Two flocks were depopulated and the rest were control marketed.

Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG) was found in egg-type chicken breeder flocks in Meeker County this year. MG is an egg-transmitted disease that causes decreased egg production and air sacculitis for meat-type poultry flocks. The flock owners made the decision to depopulate the premises.

Information Technology Consolidation

Mr. Ray Scheierl explained that as part of the State Government Finance Bill, all state government agencies will consolidate information technology resources to the Office of Enterprise Technology (OET). Beginning October 1, 2011, all Board IT staff and resources will become part of OET. In the future, OET will bill the Board for IT services through a service level agreement.

Board of Animal Health Agriculture Specialists

Mr. Chad Carlson and Mr. Terry Sistad gave an overview of the work done by Board of Animal Health agriculture specialists. Board agriculture specialists have home offices and work in the field throughout the state. One of their main duties is to routinely inspect sale barns to ensure compliance with Board regulations. Other tasks include helping district veterinarians with TB testing and inspecting kennels and farmed cervidae facilities. Agriculture specialists are also knowledgeable in the proper disposal of livestock carcasses. Livestock farmers often turn to Board staff members for assistance when deciding how to handle livestock mortality.

Board Member Website

Bethany Hahn provided Board members with information on how they could obtain the agenda and directions to future Board meetings by logging in to the Board Member section on the Board of Animal Health website.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., December 7, 2011 in St Paul, Minnesota. A motion was made by Dean Compart, seconded by Paul Hanowski with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

Minutes of the Board of Animal Health Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, December 7, 2011

A quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Orville L. Freeman Building in St. Paul, Minnesota. The following people were present:

Board Members:

John Whitten, Veterinarian
Holly Neaton, Veterinarian
Dean Compart, Producer
Paul Hanowski, Producer
Steve Brake, Producer

Guests:

Mike Stine, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Paul Ugstad, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Kim Middendorf, Office of Attorney General
Dave Iverson, Office of Attorney General
Loren McCollough, Producer
Alicia Cowell, Minnesota Management and Budget

Staff Members:

William Hartmann, Executive Director
Paul Anderson, Assistant Director
Linda Glaser, Senior Veterinarian
Beth Thompson, Senior Veterinarian
Malissa Fritz, Communications Director
Bethany Hahn, Communications Specialist
Ray Scheierl, Information Technology Director
Carissa Allen, Agriculture Specialist
Bethanie Park, Agriculture Specialist
Erica Gunderson, State Programs Administration
Barb Troyer, Business Manager
Carl Denkinger, Agriculture Consultant

Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011.

A motion was made by Steve Brake and seconded by Paul Hanowski, with all present voting aye to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, September 14, 2011 meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Dean Compart and seconded by Holly Neaton, with all present voting aye to approve the agenda.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Paul Ugstad provided an update on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) new approach to dealing with bovine tuberculosis (TB). The USDA is moving away from the state status system. If TB infection is found, a state can retain TB-Free status as long as appropriate action is being taken to eliminate the disease. The USDA may still impose interstate movement restrictions on states that are found with infection.

There has been an increase in the number of cattle being exported to other countries via freight ships. There are nearly 100,000 head of cattle on target for export to various countries, including Turkey and Russia. Minnesota has provided about 10 percent of the cattle exported.

Contested Case Hearing

The Board considered a contested case matter. The case was initiated by a farmed cervidae producer pursuant to Minn. Stat. §35.153 subd. 9 after the Board placed quarantine on the producer's herd. The quarantine stopped the movement of farmed cervidae on to and off of the producer's premises. The producer's attorney contested the Board's basis for issuing the quarantine. The matter was initially presented to and argued before an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). The Board argued the producer had not complied with statutory requirements, including providing a yearly inventory and mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease testing. Because the Board was unable to assess the likelihood of disease on the premises without the producer's cooperation, the Board argued the quarantine was necessary to protect the health of the domestic animals of the state. The producer argued there was no possibility of disease on his premises, and that the Board's requirements for farmed cervidae producers were too onerous. The OAH judge had recommended that the Board uphold the quarantine.

At the Board meeting, the producer appeared and argued on his own behalf. The Board was represented by attorney Kimberly Middendorf of the Minnesota Attorney General's office. Attorney Dave Iverson, also of the Minnesota Attorney General's office assisted the Board in procedural issues and questions. After consideration of the record and oral arguments presented at the meeting, the Board upheld the quarantine. The parties and the administrative law judge were notified of the Board's decision through service by U.S. mail.

Date and Place of Next Board Meeting

The Board will hold their next quarterly meeting at 9:30 a.m., February 8, 2012 in St. Paul, Minnesota. A motion was made by Dean Compart, seconded by Steve Brake with all voting aye to adjourn at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. William L. Hartmann
Executive Director

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

In the Matter of Loren McCullough.

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS
OF LAW, AND ORDER**

OAH Docket No. 3-0500-21508-2

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing on cross motions for summary disposition before Administrative Law Judge Kathleen D. Sheehy of the Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, without oral argument.

Kimberly Middendorf, Assistant Attorney General, 900 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 900, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2127, appeared on behalf of Board of Animal Health staff ("BAH"). Michelle E. Moren, Law Offices of Patrick D. Moren, P.O. Box 350, 309 Third Street NW, Roseau, Minnesota 56751 appeared on behalf of the Appellant Loren McCullough.

The Order and Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge was served on BAH and Appellant on October 4, 2011.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Whether the BAH 2010 Official Quarantine order should be affirmed based upon Appellants' failure to comply with statutes and rules requiring mandatory CWD surveillance and animal identification and registration or whether BAH exceeded its authority by issuing the order.

REVIEW

By letter dated October 31, 2011, Appellant and BAH were advised of their opportunity to file written exceptions with the Board of Animal Health ("the Board") by November 18, 2011, and make oral argument before the Board on December 7, 2011. Exceptions were timely filed

by BAH and Appellant, and oral argument was made at the Board's public meeting held on December 7, 2011. At oral argument, Assistant Attorney General Kimberly Middendorf appeared on behalf of BAH; Loren McCullough appeared on his own behalf. David P. Iverson, Assistant Attorney General, 900 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 appeared as legal counsel to the Board. The contested case record closed with the conclusion of oral argument on December 7, 2011.

After reviewing the record, including the Order and Recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge, and having afforded the parties the opportunity to file exceptions and to present argument, the Board hereby makes the following:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. BAH's Motion for Summary Disposition is Granted;
2. Appellant's Motion for Summary Disposition is Denied
3. The BAH 2010 Official Quarantine directed to the Appellant Loren McCullough is AFFIRMED;
4. The Order and Recommendation on Cross Motions for Summary Disposition of the Administrative Law Judge and accompanying Memorandum are adopted in their entirety; and
5. The attached Memorandum is incorporated and made a part of this Order herein.

Dated: December 7, 2011

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH



Dr. John Whitten
Chair

MEMORANDUM

The Board has reviewed the record made by BAH and Appellant Loren McCullough before the Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), has considered the exceptions filed and oral argument made by the parties, and has found that the 2010 Official Quarantine issued to Appellant Loren McCullough should be affirmed. As noted by the ALJ in her Order and Recommendation, we find that: 1) the parties have raised no dispute as to material facts; 2) the BAH has the authority to issue the quarantine pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 35.93 (2010); and 3) the 2010 Official Quarantine order was in the public interest and Appellant's violations of the applicable statutory and rule requirements applicable to his operation have resulted in conditions that may have an unreasonable adverse effect on domestic animals and wildlife. Regarding the last finding, as noted by the ALJ at page 14 of her Order and Recommendation, Appellant has admitted that he has failed to comply with the chronic wasting disease ("CWD") surveillance requirements since 2004. It is apparent from the record that continued failure on the part of Appellant to comply with the surveillance requirements of Minn. Stat. § 35.155, subd. 11 (2010), as well as the identification and registration requirements of Minn. Stat. § 35.155, subs. 6 and 10 (2010), create an unacceptable risk to the public of the spread of CWD to both the wild cervidae population and to other cervidae operations.

Regarding his Exceptions, Appellant asserts that the ALJ's Order and Recommendation is incorrect because the ALJ is under the "mistaken belief that Chronic Wasting Disease was found on his property." (Exception ("Excp.") at ¶ 1.) The findings of the ALJ, adopted here by the Board, is not based upon a belief that CWD is found on Appellant's property; rather, it is based upon the belief that, due to Appellant's failure to establish a CWD surveillance program that includes identification and registration of the individual animals in his herd, it is not possible to verify and conclude that his herd is CWD-free.

Appellant's assertion that the Moscho cow spent little time at the Moscho ranch is contrary to his own affidavit, within which he states that he is unaware where the cow and calf had been boarded prior to his purchase. (Excp. No. 1; McCullough Affidavit ("Aff.") at ¶ 11.) Notwithstanding this inconsistency, the record reflects that Appellant's herd was associated with a cow and calf sold by Moscho, whose herd was later found to be infected with CWD, and due to Appellant's failure to undertake a CWD surveillance program that includes identification and registration of the individual animals BAH cannot be assured that Appellant's animals are CWD-free.

Appellant also asserts that the ALJ is mistaken in her finding that the cow was severely decomposed at the time of its inspection by BAH and that the animal was healthy at the time it died from a reaction to a Rompon injection. (Excp. No. 2.) The ALJ's finding that the animal was severely decomposed was based upon the affidavit of BAH staff, an assertion that Appellant did not dispute before the ALJ. Regarding /the cause of death, we adopt the comment of BAH staff that "[t]he possibility that the cow's death may have been caused by other factors or circumstances does not rule out the possibility that it could have had CWD without any clinical symptoms of the disease." (Boldingh Aff. at ¶ 3.) That is, the fact that the cow appeared healthy at the time of its death is indeterminate as to whether it was infected with CWD.

Appellant makes various assertions in his Exceptions that the 2010 Official Quarantine is, among other things, "scare tactics" employed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource ("DNR") or is a part of larger plot undertaken by DNR and BAH to "shut down game farms." (Excp. Nos. 3, 4, 7.) Appellant did not provide any evidence by way of affidavits or exhibits to support these assertions, either before the ALJ or the Board, and therefore the allegations are rejected.

Appellant asserts that there is no evidence that his herd is contaminated with CWD. (Excp. Nos. 3, 6.) As noted above, the basis of the 2010 Official Quarantine order is not that his herd has CWD; rather, it is the fact that without complying with the CWD monitoring and identification requirements, there is no way to demonstrate that his herd is not infected.

Appellant believes that "the expectations on him, as an individual game farmer, are impossible to comply with." (Excp. No. 8.) As the ALJ found, the undisputed evidence reflects he could make the necessary modifications to his operation at a reasonable cost, but chooses not to because it "would severely degrade my ranch which is based upon a large, open, natural setting for the animals and their environment, to not keep wild animals confined like a pet dog confined to a kennel." (ALJ's Recommendation and Order at 14, quoting McCullough Aff. at ¶ 32.) As the ALJ correctly noted, "[u]nder the law, however, cervidae possessed by any person are considered livestock, not wild animals." (ALJ's Recommendation and Order at 14, citing Minn. Stat. § 35.115, subd. 5 (2010).)

Last, Appellant asserts that the BAH failed to respond to his Request for Interrogatories. (Excp. Nos. 5, 9.) The Board notes only that, as found by the ALJ, Appellant did not make any motion to compel discovery before the ALJ and, therefore, the discovery issue is considered waived. (ALJ's Recommendation and Order at 15.)

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH