



Animal Health Alert-10-03-18

Emerging/Foreign Animal Disease Awareness

Tennessee licensed/accredited veterinarians, livestock owners and livestock markets are the first line of defense in the detection of emerging and foreign animal diseases. In this day of global travel, the livestock sector should be aware of the following current disease threats:

1. **Avian influenza** – In 2017, Tennessee had outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) and high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). As colder weather approaches, we are entering the high risk time of year for avian influenza. Backyard chickens exposed to waterfowl are at risk for avian influenza infection. Avian influenza infection manifests in chickens as a flu-like disease. Signs can include respiratory difficulty, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, lack of energy, poor appetite, decreased egg production, soft-shelled or misshapen eggs, swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, or hocks, purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, or legs, diarrhea, lack of coordination, death, and even sudden death without any observable clinical signs.
2. Virulent New Castle's Disease (vND) - There is an ongoing outbreak of vND in backyard flocks in California. vND symptoms are almost identical to the signs listed above.
3. African Swine Fever (ASF) – ASF is currently spreading across Asia and parts of Europe. ASF causes a lethal hemorrhagic disease in domestic pigs.
4. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) - is an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease that affects cloven hoofed animals. Blisters are often found inside the mouth and on the feet resulting in lameness. An outbreak of FMD would have serious negative effects on US Agriculture.
4. Any undiagnosed disease or condition in animals causing high morbidity or mortality
5. If you encounter animals with the diseases or conditions listed above, please contact your regional veterinary medical officer or USDA veterinary officer immediately. The below Tennessee state map provides you direct contact information. You may also contact the USDA Veterinary Services (615-781-5982) or the Tennessee State Veterinarian, Dr. Charlie Hatcher (615-837-5120).