



**Animal Industry Division Newsletter**  
March 2014

*2014 came in a hurry and it has been a while since we shared information with you. With increased snow packs we are hopeful for a fruitful spring and are looking forward to warmer weather. Another successful National Western Stock Show is behind us and we want to thank our partners at NWSS for working hard to ensure the health of all animals coming and going from the stock show grounds.*

*Spring means more animals on the move. We recently had our first known horse bit by a rabid skunk this year. Discussing rabies vaccination with all of your clients – small animal and livestock – remains an important conversation for safeguarding both human and animal health.*

*Please remember, if you suspect a reportable disease in an animal or see any situation that exhibits unusual morbidity or mortality which does not fit a normally expected clinical picture, please contact the [State Veterinarian's Office](#) immediately at 303-239-4161. If after-hours, call the same number to obtain the phone number of the staff veterinarian on call. [Click here for a list of reportable diseases in Colorado](#) or visit our website at [www.colorado.gov/ag/animals](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals).*

*Thank you for your help and let us know how we can help you.*

*Thank you,  
State Veterinarian's Office of Colorado*

**Summary of Items:**

- ❑ **[Veterinary Feed Directive: What's New?](#)** Get up to date on what the FDA is saying about antibiotic use in feed and water.
- ❑ **[Sow Packers Require Premises ID for Breeding Stock](#)** Starting in 2015, cull breeding animals heading to packers must be identified with premises ID tags. We've shared the Pork Board's article here.
- ❑ **[RMRHAL Supplying New Animal ID Tags](#)** We are now offering a small, inexpensive visual tag for official identification of animals moving interstate. These tags are lightweight and easily applied with standard taggers.
- ❑ **[A new role for Jamee Amundson](#)** Jamee is now working on Emergency Management state-wide and will help the division advance its capabilities to respond to animal health emergencies.
- ❑ **[Going Mobile: Health Certificate app for iPads](#)** Our office has been working to test an application for creating health certificates on iPads. We have selected a few large animal/equine veterinarians to be the first testers in the nation of this exciting new app. This app will be available soon for free in the iTunes store!
- ❑ **[ADT Reminder: The federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule](#)** As we near the second year of the rule, some changes take effect. Refresh your knowledge of the rule and requirements for animals moving interstate.
- ❑ **[Trich Submission Sample Update:](#)** Starting January 1st, 2014 RMRHAL will no longer be accepting **expired** Trich InPouches or Transit tubes, please check the expiration dates of tubes and pouches before collecting!
- ❑ **[eCVI 3.0 – go electronic for free!](#)** Over 250 Colorado veterinarians are using our free electronic health certificate. Are you? Learn how to sign up and get started in just a few minutes.



## **Update on the FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive**

In December, the FDA announced a proposed rule change to the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). How does this proposed rule change impact you and what does it mean for veterinarians involved in production animal medicine? Below I have summarized the key points for veterinarians, pharmaceutical companies and private producers.

This proposed rule change was published December 11, 2013 and is currently open for comments until March 11, 2014. The FDA is seeking input from the public before finalizing the rule changes and updating the VFD. It is important to know that these changes are only proposed and that for the time being the VFD remains unchanged. Below is a brief summary of the rule and how it would be implemented under these changes. If you need more detailed information, please see the resources at the end of this article.

Key points of the VFD:

1. Medically important antibiotics may not be used for production purposes (e.g. growth promotion or improvement of feed efficiency)
2. Use of medically important antibiotics for disease **prevention** is allowed; its use must ensure animal health. This assumes a specific pathogen has been identified that will cause problems within that production unit unless the antibiotic is used.
3. All use of medically important antibiotics in food producing animals should be under veterinary supervision or oversight.
4. No extra-label use is allowed. The VFD issued by the veterinarian must state this in writing. Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) requirements would still apply and the VFD does not over-ride AMDUCA.

The VFD only covers antibiotic use in food-producing animals and includes aquaculture systems, such as fin fish and shrimp. It regulates the use of antibiotics in feed or water only and does not include parenteral use. The list of VFD drugs essentially includes all antibiotics used in production animal medicine except ionophores, carbadox, bacitracins, and flavomycins. However, if one of these four is used in combination with a VFD drug then the product is covered under the VFD, e.g. bacitracin-chlortetracycline combination.

The rule change also removes the restriction of VFD drugs under a discrete veterinary-client-patient relationship and gives more flexibility to the individual veterinarian. To paraphrase, the proposed change reads:

*A licensed veterinarian may issue a VFD for animals under his or her supervision or oversight in the course of his or her professional practice which is in compliance with all applicable veterinary licensing and practice requirements.*

This statement would replace the veterinary-client-patient relationship requirement, thus it puts the onus on the veterinarian to comply with their state and other licensing agencies in the issuance of the VFD and allows more flexibility beyond a VCPR. Professional and state licensing boards would determine the criteria for veterinary professional conduct.

In December, the FDA also released the document *Guide for Industry 213* directed towards pharmaceutical companies. In this, the FDA asked drug companies to voluntarily change the labels on their antibiotics. Labelling changes will include removing any use for "production purposes" and changing access to these drugs from over the counter to Veterinary Feed Directive use only. Drug companies have 90 days to reply to the FDA as to their intention of compliance. The FDA approves labelling of all drugs and is confident drug companies will comply. While GFI 213 is voluntary, the FDA has signaled it will pursue further regulatory action if drug companies do not comply.

It is important to note that while drug labelling changes are voluntary at this point, compliance with the VFD rule is not. Veterinarians and producers must comply with the VFD, and this includes small non-commercial producers as well. Currently records are required to be kept for 2 years, but the proposed rule change reduces that to 1 year. Records must be kept by the feed distributor, the veterinarian, and the producer and may be transmitted electronically.



For more detailed information or to comment on the proposed rule change, please see the links provided by the University of Illinois at: <http://nutrition.ansci.illinois.edu/AntibioticsWebinar>. A one hour CE webinar is also available at this site.

### **Sow Packers to Require Premises ID Tags in 2015**

Below is an article we are *reproducing* directly from the National Pork Board's website [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org). For more information please visit their site or call our office. This article addresses identification of breeding animals in large-scale production settings heading to U.S. processors.

November 11, 2013  
Contact: Cindy Cunningham  
National Pork Board  
[Ccunningham@pork.org](mailto:Ccunningham@pork.org)  
515-223-2600

### **Sow Packers to Require Premises ID Tags in 2015**

*Producers Can Learn More at [Pork.org/PINtag](http://Pork.org/PINtag)*

In an effort to improve pre-harvest traceability and improve national disease surveillance in the pork industry, many major U.S. packers and processors will require a USDA-approved, official premises identification number (PIN) swine tag as a condition of sale for breeding stock beginning Jan. 1, 2015.

"This is a positive step for our industry as we continue to create a more robust surveillance and traceability system that can help protect our animals, our livelihoods and our customers," said National Pork Board President, Karen Richter, a producer from Montgomery, Minn. "That's why I encourage producers who may not already be using official PIN tags to register their premises and begin using the tags now."

According to Dr. Patrick Webb, Pork Checkoff's director of swine health, the USDA-approved, official PIN tags for breeding swine are customizable with or without a management number and can be purchased in multiple colors.

"This allows producers to use the official tag in any color as a management tag or wait to apply the tag to sows and boars before leaving the production site to enter harvest channels," Webb said.

Once an animal is identified with an official PIN tag, it should not be removed or given a different official tag in the case of parity-segregated farms. Also, records documenting the identification and movement of breeding stock should be kept for three years.

Allflex USA, Inc., Destron Fearing and Y-Tex Corporation have USDA approval to manufacture official PIN swine tags. When ordering, producers must provide the nationally standardized PIN for the breeding farm. If the site does not have a PIN, producers can register for one by going to [www.pork.org/PINtag](http://www.pork.org/PINtag).

To date, packers that will require PIN tags as of January 2015 include: Johnsonville, Hillshire Brands, Calihan Pork Processors, Bob Evans Farms, Wampler's Farm Sausage, Pine Ridge Farms, Pioneer Packing Co., Pork King Packing and Abbyland Pork Pack.



**RMRAHL Offers New Smaller Visual Tags for Individual Animal Identification for All Livestock Species**

To help solve smaller-scale producer's needs for individual animal identification, RMRAHL has begun offering a new option of a smaller visual plastic tag that is compliant with the new ADT rule and meets requirements for animal ID for interstate movement. This tag is available for both private producers and veterinarians to purchase.



Our office has received requests for options to tag younger pigs with tags other than the traditional "brite" metal tags. As a result, CDA's Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Lab is now offering a smaller plastic visual tag that is in compliance with the ADT rule for identification of animals moving interstate. These tags work for all animals, not just pigs, which require individual animal identification. Call RMRAHL if you have questions or would like to order tags.

**From Scrapie to Emergency Management: A new role for Jamee Amundson**

Jamee Amundson, MS recently accepted a new position within the Colorado Department of Agriculture. She has been with the agency for 2 years, previously serving as a sheep and goat Animal Health Technician for the Scrapie Eradication Program. Her new role with the State Veterinarian's Office is as the Animal Incident Management Specialist. In this position, she will be coordinating livestock emergency management efforts and working to enhance a software product called AgConnect. AgConnect will pull pertinent data from a variety of sources to create a common operating picture for livestock emergencies. This common operating picture will help veterinarians, law enforcement, and emergency responders make better and quicker decisions as well as locate resources to provide enhanced livestock emergency response.

Jamee received her Bachelors of Science in Animal Science from Iowa State University and her Masters of Science in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska. Prior to her emergency management position in the state of Colorado, she worked for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture – State Veterinarian's Office. Jamee has been involved in animal emergency management activities for over 5 years including foreign animal diseases, fires, floods, and preparedness.



In her spare time, Jamee enjoys developing dressage horses and training riders. She owns a dressage training business named Rafter J Dressage where she enjoys helping train dressage horses of all types and assisting riders meet their goals. The winter season finds her on the slopes, where she enjoys skiing and is on a journey to begin backcountry skiing.



### **Going Mobile: CDA Releasing an App for mobile CVIs**

CDA has partnered with the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD) out of Texas A&M to create an iPad app for CVIs. The first in the nation to create mobile CVIs, the app is called iCVI. This app is free and works on iPads to quickly create health certificates on the spot (with or without cell service). Certificates can be printed on the spot or emailed to your clients and will be automatically submitted to our office once you create them. CDA has worked with select veterinarians in the state to test out the app and will be launching it in the next few weeks into the iTunes store.

The iCVI app will create certificates for both large and small animals. It can accommodate pictures and import animal records, too. Owners increasingly expect electronic records and we are working hard to support that need while also advancing the traceability of animal movement into and out of the state. We are also working to develop this app for Droid and Windows systems, so look for those later this year.

As mentioned, the app is free, so our office will validate all users – non-veterinarians won't be able to use it to create certificates. CDA is a national leader in electronics and animal health; we appreciate all your support in helping us make this happen. Look for an upcoming email from our office when the app hits iTunes.

### **The ADT Rule Turns One in March: What changes come with that big milestone?**

We are approaching the one-year mark on the federal ADT rule and with that come some implications for accredited veterinarians and official ID tag manufacturers. USDA's main goal for the first year of the rule was to educate the public about the rule. We continue to spread the word as much as we can to all our partners – producers, livestock markets, private veterinarians, extension, Colorado State University, and beyond. Now that we are entering the second year of the rule, the USDA will raise expectations of compliance and begin investigating violations. To help you ensure you are following the rule, please review the following guidelines. And as always, you can call our office to clarify any questions you might have.

New in the second year:

- **As of March 11, 2014**
  - **All** dairy males (bulls or steers) must be officially identified
  - All tags *manufactured* for official identification purposes must now include an official shield (either U.S., 2-letter postal abbreviation, or tribal alpha code) and include the words "Unlawful to Remove"
  - All microchips *inserted* into equines must be ISO 11784/11782 compliant

All other aspects of the rule remain the same:

Animals travelling interstate must be officially identified per their species' requirement and be accompanied by an interstate CVI with their individual official animal identification listed. Animals travelling directly to slaughter may be identified with USDA-approved back-tags. Other terms of shipping may be agreed upon between individual states or tribes, such as acceptance of brands and owner-shipper statements. As always, we recommend veterinarians contact the receiving state to ensure proper import requirements are met.

For **Cattle**, the following animals must be identified with official ID ear tags:

- All sexually intact cattle and bison over 18 months of age
- All female dairy cattle of any age
- All dairy males (intact or castrated) born after March 11, 2013
- Cattle and bison of any age or breed used for rodeo, shows, exhibition, and recreational events.
- The most common official ID ear tags for cattle that will be used by producers and veterinarians are:



- 840 tags (RFID, “bangle” visual tags, or a combination RFID/bangle)
- Brucellosis or Bangs’ Tags (orange metal or orange RFID)
- Silver, “Brite” or NUES Tags (silver metal)

**Horses:** Must be officially identified unless being used as a mode of transportation (e.g. buggy or horseback) for travel to another location and returning to the original location or being transported to for veterinary care and returning to the original location without change of ownership. Official identification can include physical description, ISO-compliant microchips (non-ISO if implanted before 3/11/2014 – 1 year grace period), and digital photographs.

**Sheep & Goats:** No major changes to current requirements. Follow Scrapie rules.

**Swine:** No changes.

**Captive Cervids:** No changes.

**Poultry:** Chicks received from hatcheries or redistributors to poultry growers do not need to be identified, but the growers need to keep records of suppliers.

Poultry moving to live-bird markets will need an interstate CVI (or other acceptable document per state) unless they are considered a custom slaughter facility under state regulations. Poultry are exempt from an interstate CVI when going directly to slaughter or rendering.

#### **Record Keeping:**

Veterinarians are required to retain records of interstate CVIs and other documents related to animal movement for 2 years for poultry and swine, 5 years for all other species. CVIs must be submitted to the issuing/shipping state within 7 days.

#### **What does this mean for producers, veterinarians, and auction markets?**

- Veterinarians will need to individually list all official ID tags for animals moving on an interstate CVI. Livestock that need individual official IDs listed on the CVI are
  - ✓ Sexually intact beef cattle and bison over 18 months of age
  - ✓ Intact dairy cattle of any age (dairy steers need to have official ID but do NOT need the official IDs listed on the CVI under the rule)
  - ✓ Rodeo, show, exhibition cattle of any age
- Attachments with a list of official IDs for the individual animals can be used when accepted by the shipping and receiving state, e.g. VS-622 Tuberculosis Test Record.
- Producers and veterinarians will need to order official ID ear tags from tag manufacturers or distributors who are required to keep records as to which livestock location has received the official ID ear tags
- Veterinarians will still need to order metal brucellosis and “brite” tags (NUES tags) or brucellosis RFID tags from the Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL).
- ***If the livestock that are being moved interstate already have an official ID, that particular ID must be read and recorded on the CVI instead of placing another official ID in the animal’s ear***

The main purpose of the new ADT rule is to ensure a rapid response when livestock disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government. Questions? Call our office for clarification at (303) 239-4161.



### **Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Lab Update: Trich Submission Requirements**

As of January 1st, 2014 RMRAHL is no longer be accepting **expired** Trich InPouches or Transit tubes, please check the expiration dates of tubes and pouches before collecting.

- Any Trich InPouch samples requesting culture must be received within 48 hours of collection.
- Any Trich InPouch samples requesting PCR or Pooled PCR must be received within 72 hours of collection.

Although RMRAHL advises against using Lactated Ringers (LRS), if used, it must be received within 24 hours of collection and will be transferred to either an InPouch or Transit Tube (depending on requested test) upon arrival, and the submitting veterinarian will be charged the cost of the media as well as a transfer fee. **EXPIRED POUCHES AND TUBES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

#### **Pooled Trich PCR**

RMRAHL offers pooled Trich InPouch testing. The cost is \$7.00 per sample. You will still need to collect the individual samples in InPouches as the pools consisting of 5 samples will be done at the lab. Please note, if any of the pooled samples are found to be positive, PCR will need to be done on each of the five individual samples at a cost of \$25.00 per sample.

If using pooled PCR and traveling out of state, please make sure the state to which you are traveling accepts pooled Trich PCR samples.

### **eCVI 3.0 - It's Easy - Large or Small electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection**

#### **Simple • Free • No Internet Access Required**

Writing health certificates is a part of your regular work, maybe a few a week, or several a month. Did you know what we process **1,200 to 1,500 health certificates a week** in our office? That's a lot of paperwork – and most of it is still in paper form. Any information that comes in electronically is processed much more efficiently and can be more accurate.

When you write a health certificate electronically you can save time and money, too. Plus the form is easy to email to your clients – which they appreciate. Our **eCVI 3.0** only requires [Adobe Reader](#) to use and can be emailed to our office for submission. No more postage and mailing. [Sign up now](#) by completing this quick form and sending back to our office.

**Note:** *The eCVI is created on your computer using Adobe Reader.*

*The iCVI app is the application that will be available on iTunes soon and is designed for use with iPads. Both create the same document – an electronic certificate of veterinary inspection.*



### **Reportable Diseases in Colorado**

**The following diseases should be reported to the Colorado Area Office of the USDA (303) 231-5385 or to the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office (303) 239-4161:**

Anaplasmosis (clinical disease only)  
Anthrax  
Avian Influenza (both high or low pathogenic)  
Bluetongue (clinical disease only)  
Brucellosis (bovine, porcine, ovine, or \*canine)  
Bovine Babesiosis  
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)  
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)  
Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)  
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in livestock  
Equine Encephalomyelitis (also reportable to the Colorado Depart. of Public Health)  
Equine Infectious Anemia (positive Coggins/ELISA)  
Equine Piroplasmiasis  
Equine Viral Arteritis  
Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHV-1 & EHV-4)  
Exotic Newcastle Disease  
Johne's Disease  
Malignant Catarrhal Fever  
\* Plague (also reportable to Colorado Dept. Of Public Health)  
\* Psittacosis (also reportable to Colorado Dept. of Public Health)  
Pseudorabies  
\* Rabies (also reportable to Colorado Dept. of Public Health)  
Salmonella (pullorum or enteritidis)  
Scabies (cattle or sheep)  
Scrapie  
Screwworm  
Trichomoniasis  
Tuberculosis  
\* Tularemia (also reportable to Colorado Dept. Of Public Health)  
Vesicular Stomatitis (all species)  
Vesicular Diseases (all species)  
West Nile Virus

**If an animal dies acutely and was exhibiting clinical signs of a reportable disease this incident shall be reported even though no diagnostic testing was accomplished prior to death.  
ANY DISEASE LISTED ABOVE OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OR ANY INFECTIOUS DISEASE OR PARASITE OF LIVESTOCK WHICH WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO EXIST IN COLORADO SHALL BE REPORTED, I.E. ANY DISEASE OF UNUSUAL MORBIDITY OR MORTALITY THAT DOES NOT FIT A NORMALLY EXPECTED CLINICAL PICTURE.**

\*diseases of interest to small animal practitioners





**State Veterinarian's Office**

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[www.colorado.gov/ag/animals](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals)

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John Hickenlooper  
Governor

### Colorado Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) User Agreement

This document establishes an agreement in the use of the Colorado eCVI between you, a licensed accredited veterinarian in Colorado and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry. *Please read through the following terms of agreement carefully. By signing this agreement, you and the veterinary clinic you represent are responsible for the following conditions. Veterinarians that do not agree to or violate these terms will not have access to the certificate.*

1. **Required Fields\***. There are required fields on the eCVI . They must remain required and be completed in order for the certificate to be issued and official.
2. **Form Versions**. As major enhancements are made to the certificate it will be updated and re-released to participating veterinarians. It is the veterinarian’s responsibility to work with the Division of Animal Industry to ensure they are using the most current version.
3. **Signing the form**. The signature on this form is password protected and chosen by the issuing veterinarian. As the issuing veterinarian you will not share your password with any other party, including office staff, so that the digital signature is equivalent to a written signature. You also agree to digitally sign all issued eCVI’s personally.
4. **Distributing to Veterinarians**. This certificate will only be distributed to veterinarians that are licensed in the state of Colorado and federally accredited through USDA-APHIS-VS. This distribution of this form is done **solely** by the Division of Animal Industry. You are **NOT** to share this form with any other party outside of the practice listed below.
  - **Exception:** Issued (locked and finalized) eCVI’s may be emailed to the consignor or consignee upon that party’s request. Editable/unlocked forms may **NOT** be shared.
5. **Changes to the Certificate**. You agree not to change the form in any way regarding its formatting or design. Only the editable data fields may be filled for the purpose of issuing an eCVI.
6. **Form Submission**. You agree to submit each completed/issued eCVI by email no later than 1 week after completion.

*By signing this form you agree that you have read through the above and agree to all of the terms in this agreement.*

Veterinarian’s Printed Name	Veterinarian’s Signature	Date
Practice Name	Practice Address	Practice Phone
Email	CO State License #	

Please send this signed form by email to [sara.ahola@state.co.us](mailto:sara.ahola@state.co.us) or mail/fax to the contact above, attention Sara Ahola.