



# MBAH News & Views

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Dr. Jim Watson, DVM

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S U M M E R 2 0 1 3

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Reportable Diseases
- Emergency Management Programs
- Mississippi Animal Disaster Relief Fund
- New MBAH Employees
- National Poultry Preparedness Program

## State Veterinarian Update



Jim Watson, DVM  
State Veterinarian

**Greetings from the Board of Animal Health.** It has been a busy six months and it is hard to believe the year is half over!

This July marks the 15th year I have had the privilege to serve as the State Veterinarian. Last week I was thinking about the changes the agency has experienced since I started in 1998.

For many years eradication programs such as tuberculosis, brucellosis and pseudorabies defined much of the activities of the Board. One of the first duties I had when I came in was to participate in the herd test to release the last quarantined brucellosis herd in Mississippi which allowed us to assume Brucellosis Free Status in Oct of 1998. Since then our activities have broadened to include a wide array of disease and animal health issues including emergency management issues.

**International exports are a driving force behind many of our disease surveillance and certification activities.** We spend a great deal of time monitoring disease issues in other parts of the world causing us to create response plans and conduct exercises in preparation for the possibility of those diseases coming to the US. Some of these are newly emerging diseases, many of which are zoonotic, others are the typical foreign animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, all of which have potential to cause a great deal of damage to our food security.

Private practitioners and our diagnostic laboratories are also an important part of the team that safeguards the animal health and food security of our country as the front line of defense in recognizing and reporting these new diseases.



**Mississippi State University's Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory** located in Pearl.

On May 17th of this year we saw an example of a new disease entering the US in the form of Porcine Enteric Disease (PED), a viral disease of newborn pigs that causes severe enteritis and extremely high mortality similar to TGE. This disease has existed in Europe and Asia but not the US and within 17 days the disease had been confirmed in over 103 production sites in 11 states. While this is not a foreign animal disease with eradication measures, it does remind us how quickly these diseases can spread once they enter our country.

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# State Veterinarian Update continued...

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As accredited veterinarians it is important to keep up with disease trends in other parts of the world, and to report suspect cases as well as certain disease syndromes.



## Reportable Diseases/Syndromes are:

1. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
2. Tularemia
3. Equine Viral Arteritis  
(when submitted to out-of-state labs)
4. Eastern Equine Encephalitis  
(when submitted to out-of-state or private labs)
5. West Nile Virus  
(when submitted to out-of-state or private labs)
6. All vesicular lesions in livestock
7. Incidences of undiagnosed high mortality in livestock or poultry
8. Abortion storms in livestock
9. Undiagnosed neurological disease in livestock



Reports should be made to the State Veterinarian's Office at 888-646-8731 or the Federal Office. A trained Foreign Animal Diagnostician (FAD) will be dispatched to collect samples and conduct a disease investigation.

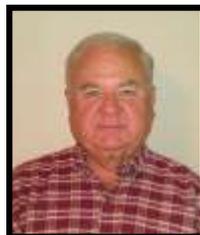
Jim Watson, DVM  
State Veterinarian

## MBAH Employees Retire

Two long-term employees with the Board of Animal Health recently retired. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to the MBAH, and wish them well.



**Reggie Allen** joined the MBAH as a Livestock Inspector in 1974. His retirement plans include working his cattle and poultry operation and managing a corporate retreat he owns in Puckett.



**Billy Hambrick** worked as a Livestock Inspector at the MBAH for nine years. Billy lives in Vaiden and plans to spend his retirement relaxing, and traveling in his RV with his family.

# Partners in Preparedness

Emergency Management (EM) personnel with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) have participated in numerous workshops and work conferences this year aimed at improving our ability to respond to natural disasters and disease outbreaks that may threaten our state.

In April, the MBAH EM personnel attended the Mississippi Preparedness Summit held in Biloxi, where Beth Adcock made a presentation on pet sheltering. This conference was hosted by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Mississippi State Department of Health, (MSDH) and served as **the state's hurricane conference for 2013. This meeting was** attended by state and federal government agencies, public and private businesses, and non-governmental agencies that play a role in the event of a hurricane or natural disaster.

Also in April, the Southern Animal and Agriculture Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA) and the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSP) held a workshop in New Orleans, bringing together EM personnel representing 34 states to discuss animal disease and agricultural disaster issues that we all share.

A Disaster Animal Sheltering course for members of the Mississippi Animal Response Team was held at the MS fairgrounds on May 18th, followed by a hands-on Pet Shelter training on July 20th.



MART members at Disaster Animal Sheltering training held at the MS State Fairgrounds.

Poultry Disease Response Training for the MBAH field employees was held in April and June.

Within the state, MBAH EM personnel have attended several meetings at MEMA in Pearl including an ESF-11 Emergency Coordination Officer meeting to review WebEOC database proficiency, an ESF-6 Mass Care meeting to assure that each support agency understood their role in emergency sheltering of people and pets, and a meeting with the MSDH to provide support and supplies for Special Medical Needs Patients with pets.

Ronnie White  
Emergency Programs



At the recent Mississippi Board of Animal Health meeting, Jerry Sisco (center) was recognized for his six years of service on the board.

Pictured with him are Dr. Jim Watson, state veterinarian, and Cindy Hyde-Smith, commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.

Jerry is a Lincoln County dairyman who was appointed to the Board by Governor Haley Barbour in 2007 to represent the Dairy Industry.

# Disaster Relief Fund Provides Assistance



The **Mississippi Animal Disaster Relief Fund (MADRF)** was established by the MS Board of Animal Health (MBAH), the MS Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and the MS State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM) to provide a mechanism in which monetary donations could be received and disbursements made following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Following this event, the fund was utilized to provide care to animals and to support reestablishment of local infrastructure. The MADRF has been transitioned to a permanent fund that can provide assistance to Mississippians and their animals affected by any disaster in the state. The following guidelines provide purpose, direction, and accountability for this fund.

The purpose of the MADRF is to provide immediate assistance to Mississippians during recovery from animal-related disasters, as well as support efforts to mitigate, prevent, and protect animal health and welfare in disasters. This includes activities such as reimbursement for out-of-pocket veterinary costs, distribution of vouchers for immediate medical care, support of local veterinary infrastructure, preparation for animal care and sheltering, stockpiling supplies, providing for emergency hay and feed needs, and training emergency responders.

## Application for Funds

Any individual Mississippi resident who may incur or has incurred expenses for animal care related to a natural or man-made disaster may apply. Groups such as animal shelters, veterinary clinics, and farm entities may also apply. Supporting agencies under the Mississippi Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11: Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources may apply for monies to prepare for and respond to the care, health, and welfare of animals in disaster situations per their responsibilities in the state response plan.

## Donation Information and Application Forms

For more information on the MADRF program visit one of the following websites:

MBAH - [www.mbah.ms.gov](http://www.mbah.ms.gov)

MSU-CVM - [www.cvm.msstate.edu](http://www.cvm.msstate.edu)

MVMA - [www.msvet.org](http://www.msvet.org)

Former Board of Animal Health employee, **Pete Dooley**, passed away on Friday, July 26th. Pete had been a Livestock Inspector with the MBAH and worked in the EIA program.

Pete enjoyed working with horses and trained horses for all types of Western events.

The MBAH sends its condolences to the Dooley family.

# EEE and Pigeon Fever Information

## Pigeon Fever

Infection with *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, also known as pigeon fever, has historically been common among horses in the hot, dry climates of the Western U.S., but cases have been on the rise in other areas including the Mid-west and Southeast.

The bacteria that causes the disease can live in manure-contaminated soil for eight months, according to new data. **The photo to the right shows a typical pectoral abscess which is a clinical sign of Pigeon Fever.**

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has released new guidelines for identifying and treating the disease. They can be found at <http://www.aep.org>.



## Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

The first case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) was confirmed in Mississippi on 7/5/13 in a miniature horse from Harrison County.

In 2012, 32 cases of EEE and 39 cases of West Nile virus (WNV) were reported in horses in Mississippi. Reports of EEE and WNV can be seen throughout the year so **please let horse owners know that now is the time to vaccinate for both EEE and WNV.**

On April 8, 2013, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reported the state's first human case of West Nile virus (WNV) for 2013. The reported case was in Madison County.

The MBAH will be reporting the number of cases of EEE and WNV in horses once a month on our Facebook page. **So, "Friend" us for the latest in emergency and disease reporting information.**



Hannah is second from the left in the black dress.

**The MBAH's poultry epidemiologist, Betty Roberts, spent last week in Vicksburg cheering for her niece, Hannah Roberts, at the Miss Mississippi Pageant.** Hannah was representing the University of Southern Mississippi and was awarded First Alternate at the State Pageant.

We are proud to see her do so well, especially since she credits some of her public speaking abilities to Future Farmers of America. When she was in high school, **Hannah served as president of her school's Future Farmers of America club** where she participated in public speaking competitions, advancing to compete nationally.

She also once received a silver medal at the national poultry judging competition!



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Our newest Livestock Inspector at the MBAH is **Robbie Jolley**. He lives in Sallis with his wife, Donna, and sons, Maeson and Westin.

Welcome Robbie!

**Jeff Vance** recently joined the MBAH as a poultry epidemiologist.

Welcome Jeff!



[www.mbah.ms.gov](http://www.mbah.ms.gov)

## National Poultry Improvement Plan

### About the program...

The National Poultry Improvement Plan program (NPIP) was developed for the prevention and eradication of Pullorum Disease and another Salmonella disease called Fowl Typhoid.

### How it works...

Following a request to become a participant and be tested, a representative from the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) will call you to set up a time and date to come out to your farm.

Your certification lasts for one year and prior to your retest date a letter will be mailed to you reminding you to give us a call to schedule the test.

The program is a **free service**. For more information contact the MBAH's Betty Roberts at 601-832-3351 or [bettyr@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:bettyr@mdac.ms.gov).



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