



# MBAH News & Views

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Dr. Jim Watson

Dr. Brigid Elchos

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2012

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Regulatory Updates
- Foaming Exercise
- Animal Working Group Meeting
- Emergency Response Training



Cindy Hyde-Smith is the newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture.

## State Veterinarian Update

Last year was an extremely busy one for us with natural disasters and disease issues requiring our response. We started the year with a tornado destroying a dairy farm in north MS, followed by a succession of other tornadoes and the MS River Flood of 2011. We also spent most of the year addressing Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in commercial poultry operations. These issues and cases like the pathogenic strain of Equine Herpesvirus Type 1 (EHV-1) identified at an international cutting horse event in Ogden, UT, and the resulting response by the quarter horse industry and animal health officials, kept the MBAH actively engaged at the local, state and federal level.

As we look forward to the New Year, we say goodbye to outgoing Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Dr. Lester Spell and welcome Cindy Hyde-Smith as the incoming Commissioner. I would like to offer my personal and professional thanks to Commissioner Spell for his 16 years of service. His leadership and hard work will leave our state ready to face the future. I look forward to working with Commissioner Hyde-Smith. Her solid background in agriculture (especially livestock) as well as her political expertise will serve her well. Her energy, new ideas and political savvy are sure to benefit our state.



Dr. Jim Watson presents a plaque of appreciation to former Commissioner Lester Spell. Both Dr. Spell and Deputy Commissioner Ricky Gray recently retired.

### Regulatory Update

#### Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

Animal Disease Traceability continues to be an important issue among state and federal animal health officials. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI's) allow officials to trace animals and are fundamental to disease investigation and control. Properly filling out the CVI form as well as getting the forms into our office in a timely manner is extremely important. One of the most common problems we see is incomplete name and physical addresses of consignor and consignee. In addition, it is crucial that you check with the state of destination regarding changes to their import requirements.

#### Trichomoniasis Regulation

In the spring of 2010 the Board adopted a Trichomoniasis Regulation. Although, we have tried to make the public aware of the rule, in 2011 there were a large number of cattle producers that imported bulls without the required tests or Virgin Bull Statement. Full information about the regulation can be found on our website.

A common problem is bulls not being properly identified when they are tested. **The regulation requires all bulls tested to have "official USDA identification"**. This allows us to accurately find and confirm bulls that test positive.

# State Vet Update continued...

## Regulatory Update



### Reportable Diseases

As an accredited veterinarian, you are a critical part of our state's disease surveillance program. If we ever have a foreign animal disease, you will most likely be the one called by the producer to examine and collect lab samples. As a part of this process, **disease reporting is an important function of surveillance.** In addition to the list of specific diseases that are reportable, abortion storms, high mortality events, vesicular lesions and undiagnosed neurological cases are reportable. The EHV-1 outbreak in Utah points out the importance of reporting of these events. The first case was seen in Colorado shortly after a **show and immediately reported to the State Veterinarian's Office. This allowed information** to be shared with other states in a timely fashion. Please see our website for a complete listing of diseases and syndromes required to be reported to the State Veterinarian - [http://www.mbah.state.ms.us/disease\\_programs/reportable\\_diseases/](http://www.mbah.state.ms.us/disease_programs/reportable_diseases/).

Please do not hesitate to call the office if I can be of assistance. Our toll free number is 888-646-8731.

Jim Watson, DVM  
State Veterinarian

# Foaming Exercise Held in December

## What does the MBAH have in common with your local Fire Department?

The fact is that we both include water pumps, special soap solutions, hoses, and nozzles to make fire suppressant foam part of our training. Firefighters use the foam to put out fires, while the MBAH uses some of the same equipment to support the poultry industry when disease outbreaks and natural disasters occur.

To improve our response capability and upgrade our foaming equipment, the MBAH has added a new Foam Pro 2000. This system is an electric motor-driven, flow-based proportioning unit. It allows the operator to measure water flow and inject the precise amount of foam concentrate necessary to produce the type of foam required to euthanize infected or exposed birds.

On December 13, 2011, MBAH personnel had their first opportunity to exercise the new equipment and become familiar with its operation. During quarterly training exercises, MBAH field personnel will become familiar with the use of the new equipment and better prepared to assist the poultry industry when disaster strikes.

Ronnie White  
Emergency Coordinator



MBAH's Ronnie White demonstrates the foam machine.

# Technical Large Animal Training Well Received

## Back By Popular Demand-TLAER



The Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Mississippi Animal Response Team, Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and Mississippi State University Extension Service joined together again to host a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) training course on October 22-26, 2011.

This is the third visit by Drs. Rebecca and Tomas Gimenez to Mississippi to share their nationally recognized expertise in the field of large animal rescue with emergency response personnel. Their unique, hands-on training is accomplished by using a trailer load of rescue equipment and live animals (two horses and a lama) to make the training experience as real world as possible. The first training session was an Awareness level

course presented at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, on October 22-23. This **“classroom only” course was attended by MART members and others interested in expanding their knowledge of large animal rescue.** The second training session was an Operational level course held at the Central Mississippi Research and Education Center in Raymond, MS, on October 24-26. **It consisted of a three day, “hands-on” course specifically designed for first responders and emergency managers.**

This unique training provides emergency personnel the opportunity to receive exposure to real life rescue situations in the animal world and allows them to earn certification required for special FEMA emergency response teams.

Our thanks to the MS Office of Homeland Security for once again providing funding to host this training.

### Upcoming Training



Emergency Response Training is available to members of the Mississippi Veterinary Strike Team on Thursday, February 23, 2012. The meeting is sponsored by the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the MS Board of Animal Health. Topics this year include important small animal emergency issues, animal identification, and large animal handling. The session will include lunch and goes from 11am-5pm. Register through the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association at [www.msvet.org](http://www.msvet.org).



Veterinary students will soon have the opportunity to be certified to **teach the American Red Cross’ Pet First Aid.** Once they receive their certificate, several Pet First Aid classes will be set up around the state and will be open to the public.



Mississippi Board of Animal Health  
P.O. Box 3889  
Jackson, MS 39207  
Phone—601-359-1170  
Fax—601-359-1177

Dr. Jim Watson  
State Veterinarian  
[jimw@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:jimw@mdac.ms.gov)

Dr. Brigid Elchos  
Deputy State Veterinarian  
[brigid@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:brigid@mdac.ms.gov)

Non-profit 501 (c) 3 organizations, city shelters and county shelters are encouraged to apply for a Mississippi "I Care for Animals" car tag grant.



Applicants receive "I Care" grant money once they complete the application process and are approved by the MBAH.

Over 48 organizations have received "I Care" grants since 2004. For more information contact Beth Adcock at [beth@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:beth@mdac.ms.gov).



The Board of Animal Health welcomes our newest employee, Beth Mudd. Beth is married to Gary Mudd and they have five children. She and her family live in Brandon. Welcome Beth!

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

**Mississippi's Animal Working Group** met once again at the Jackson Zoo for a day filled with camaraderie and information sharing. The November 22, 2011 meeting attendees included representatives from the Board of Animal Health, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU Extension Service, MS Emergency Management Agency, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, USDA Animal Care, Veterinary Services, and Wildlife Services, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the MS Animal Rescue League, MS Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, the Humane Society of the US, and the MS State Department of Health.

This meeting constituted the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group who meets at least once a year to discuss animal-related issues such as rabies, food and agriculture criticality and protection, wildlife, emergency response, and public health.

### Board Member Spotlight

Tommy Strickland, current chairman, has served on the MS Board of Animal Health as a representative for the Mississippi Sheep Producers Association for the last seven years. He has been a member of the Association since 1984.

Mr. Strickland is retired from the Mississippi Fair Commission and now works as an Agribusiness Instructor for Hinds Community College. His wife, Nancy, works for the MS Beef Council and they have four children and five grandchildren. This grandfather proudly expressed that his oldest grandson, Jacob Bell, just exhibited The Grand Champion Market Lamb at the 2012 Dixie National.

