MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

# Meeting Minutes: Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: September 19, 2018
Location: Minnesota Animal Humane Society, 845 Meadow Lane North, Golden Valley, MN 55422

## Attendance

### BOARD MEMBERS

Dean Compart, Producer
Graham Brayshaw, Veterinarian
Matt Anderson, Veterinarian
Erica Sawatzke, Producer

### CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD

Jerry Torrison, Director, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Trevor Ames, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health
Stephan Schaefbauer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services
Mary Donahue, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Service

### GUESTS

Jim Byrne, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
John Deen, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
Nicole Frank, Minnesota Turkey Growers Association/Minnesota Chicken and Egg Association
Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
Elaine Hanson, Minnesota Pet Breeders Association
Chris Jannelle, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Stephanie Johnson, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Fellow
Greg Lubinksi, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
Morgan Maisel, Extern, Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Daryn McBeth, Lobbyist, Minnesota Pet Breeders Association
Michelle Medina, Minnesota Farmers Union
Nicole Neeser, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
David Preisler, Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Laurie Seale, Whitetails of Wisconsin
Mike Starkey, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Kraig Wurst, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association

### STAFF

Beth Thompson
Linda Glaser
Dale Lauer
Shauna Voss
Greg Suskovic
Stacey Schwabenlander
Courtney Wheeler
Mackenzie Reberg
Annie Balghiti
Morgan Grelson
Michael Crusan
Erin Crider

## Introduction of New Board Member, Approval of Agenda and April 12 Meeting Minutes

Dean Compart called the meeting to order. He asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Graham Brayshaw made a motion; Matt Anderson seconded. A vote was taken, with all voting aye.

After introductions around the room, he asked Erica Sawatzke, whom Governor Dayton recently appointed to the Board, to introduce herself. Ms. Sawatzke is a sixth-generation Minnesota farmer and turkey producer from Kensington. She returned to the family farm with her husband last year.

Mr. Compart asked for any changes or corrections to the April 12, 2018, meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Anderson made a motion, and Graham Brayshaw seconded, with all voting aye.

## Board of Animal Health Update

Beth Thompson introduced Annie Balghiti and Mackenzie Reberg, new Board staff attending today's meeting.

Dr. Thompson summarized the Board's contracts and other uses for the current Emergency Preparedness funds, which must be used before the end of the current biennium (June 30, 2019).

- Dr. Dave Wright is under contract to work on the Secure Pork Supply Program, which includes working with producers and preparing for meetings.
- Dr. Carie Alexander is contracted to work the secure food supply at Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). The Board is paying 50 percent of her salary.
- The Board had a contract with the Swine Health Monitoring Project (SHMP) to help build up the premises information in their database. The Board continues to work with SHMP to determine how their data could be used by the Board in the event of a foreign animal disease event.
- The Board continues to work with Scott Dee and the Pipestone Group on studying pathogens that might come to the U.S. in foreign-produced feed; Dr. Dee is now focusing on mitigants for those pathogens.
- The Board is working with the state's bovine groups, which includes Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, Beef Council, MN Milk and Midwest Dairy Association, on detailed plans for a secure beef supply in the event of a disease outbreak.
- The Board is planning a poultry depopulation exercise using CO2 for this fall. Two farms have volunteered to help test this depopulation method.

## USDA Update

Stephan Schaefbauer gave a summary of USDA activities. Dr. Schaefbauer reviewed how they are working to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF).

- The USDA now has a dedicated ASF page on their website.
- They are partnering with groups, including Iowa State, to set up biweekly conference calls to stay up to date on the current ASF situation.
- Dr. Schaefbauer also mentioned the USDA has had the Waste Feeding and Swine Health Protection Act in place to regulate waste feeding. The act states any garbage coming in from outside the country needs to be

disposed of properly. The authority to ban feeding of waste containing meat lies with individual states. In Minnesota, the Board oversees the state's Garbage Feeding Program, with assistance from the USDA.

- The USDA is conducting a survey to identify opportunities to increase or enhance inspections. USDA import inspections already prohibit entry of untreated products, including meat, from countries known to have ASF.
- Swine casings that originate from ASF-positive countries are prohibited from entering the U.S. The USDA is working with the casings industry to review the procedures for U.S.-origin casings processed in Chinese facilities.
- In addition to oral fluids validation, the USDA is validating whole tonsil and spleen sample types for PCR testing.
- To increase active surveillance, they are incorporating ASF testing into National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) lab diagnostic testing of sick pigs.
- They are planning a large-scale exercise, including swine industry partners, for responding to an ASF event.

Mr. Compart asked what Minnesota is doing to regulate garbage feeding. Courtney Wheeler stated there are two classes of garbage feeding permits: Class A is for cooked garbage, meat or items that have had contact with meat. Currently, there are seven swine producers with Class A permits. Class B is for vegetable waste. She said there has been no change in application numbers; the same people have been practicing garbage feeding for years. Mr. Compart asked if they run into any issues during slaughter or processing. Dr. Wheeler said all of these producers do a custom slaughter. Dr. Schaefbauer noted that because the law allows garbage feeding in Minnesota, it's very valuable to keep inspecting these facilities, as management practices have to be correct to prevent animal disease.

Dave Preisler noted the Minnesota Pork Producers Association receives 30 to 40 calls a year from schools looking for farms that would accept their food waste. He said the organization directs these calls to the Board and tells them not to give their food waste to someone who is not licensed.

Dr. Schaefbauer said the USDA is starting over on the TB/Brucellosis Rule. They have two separate working groups for each disease, which will be looking at the pros and cons of having the regulations combined. Once done, they will withdraw the current federal order and issue a revised one, obtain stakeholder input, and publish separate rules for TB and Brucellosis. The new rules will include the National Assembly's current practices. They plan to publish the new rules in 2020.

Dr. Brayshaw asked why the TB and Brucellosis rules were being separated. Dr. Thompson said the two programs align well together, but the differences between the two are enough that they should not be combined.

Dr. Schaefbauer also mentioned a national pilot study on interferon gamma specificity testing that began in June. The USDA suspended the official status of interferon gamma testing in May 2017, after numerous notifications of deficiencies in consistency, sensitivity and specificity since 2014. The study will focus on examining each test component and its sources. In order to return the test to official status, the USDA must revalidate it. Substantial sensitivity data is available from recent and current TB-infected cattle herds. The target number of samples for the study is 700; 400 already have been collected from across the U.S.

## University of Minnesota Update

Trevor Ames provided an update on the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. The College just admitted a new veterinary class of 105 students. The application process for next year's class is already starting, with the application period closing on Friday. Dr. Ames stated they already have over 1,000 applications. He also said the

College had been working to increase the number of students in their graduate school program. He reported enrollment is up to 88 students this year, which is about the number of students they can support.

During the legislative session the University is asking for an overall budget increase of $40 million and a commitment to keep funding programs, especially for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and programs in rural Minnesota. The plan needs to be approved by the Board of Regents at their meeting in October.

Dr. Ames noted the recent passing of two College faculty members. Yesterday, swine researcher Dr. Michael Murtaugh passed away, and Dr. Dale Sorensen died last week at the age of 94. Dr. Sorensen was a founding member of the College and served as Dean for a time.

## Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Jerry Torrison gave an update on activities at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). Dr. Torrison said the VDL is one of 11 National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs allowed to test for African Swine Fever (ASF). They can test whole blood or purple top tubes for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing. Over the past nine months, the VDL participated in a negative cohort study to confirm their ability to identify a negative. There will be more work on positive samples soon, and oral samples will be coming in the future. They hope to be able to add more sample types later. As there are no ASF investigations in Minnesota, the VDL is not testing for the disease right now, but they want to be prepared to test multiple sample types if, or when, an investigation is needed.

Mr. Compart asked who currently tests positive samples. Dr. Torrison said it's a lab in Winnipeg, Canada. A lab in Kansas does feed sample testing, but not clinical samples. The NVSL in Plum Island, New York, also tests for ASF.

Dr. Torrison stated the VDL accreditation was approved for another five years. The process identified a few minor things that need to be fixed, and they have several months to correct those issues.

The VDL continues to upgrade their information systems. The SHMP receives weekly self-reported data from swine producers. Some have agreed to share their diagnostic data to be combined with VDL data to determine if a more sensitive method of health changes exists. The Swine Disease Reporting System combines data from Iowa State University, South Dakota State University, Kansas State University, and the VDL into one database to create summaries of the majority of swine in the region. They hope this can be used as a model for other species.

The VDL is beta testing the mobile-friendly version of their Laboratory Information System (LIMS). It has a highly-navigable user interface that intuitively allows the user to look up his or her cases, use filters to customize the view of information, and get to what they need in three taps or less. They expect to have beta testing complete by mid-March.

The VDL also is planning to update the LAB/SAVI system, a prototype originally created for the SHMP. It allows a user to view cases on a map or in a list. Users can view related cases, cases over a certain time period, add their own sequences, and view a number of reports. At this time, the system only has data on PRRS PCR, PRRS sequencing and antimicrobial susceptibility. A wider range of data will be added for other species if this system proves useful.

## Agriculture Response Management and Resources Exercise Overview

Greg Suskovic gave an overview of the Agriculture Response Management and Resources (ARMAR) functional exercise that was held in May. This was a national project involving USDA, several states and many agencies. The exercise centered on response to a rapidly expanding Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the U.S. Minnesota agencies participating included the Board, the Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the USDA. All parties practiced responding

to events in real time. Any entity not participating was "played" by the third party company contracted to help simulate the outbreak events. The company also provided a Sim Deck, which was a secure environment simulating news websites, agency websites, social media outlets, and blogs.

Dr. Suskovic gave a summary of daily events during the exercise:

- **May 7:** Participating states were notified of a non-negative case of FMD in Montana.
- **May 8:** Case was FMD positive, and the USDA declared a national movement standstill. Minnesota set up hotlines, and Board field staff were notified to be ready to respond, if needed.
- **May 9:** Minnesota had a confirmed FMD-positive case. The Board notified stakeholders, had the herd appraised, activated the MDA Incident Management Team (IMT) and requested a National IMT (NIMT).
- **May 10:** The Green NIMT was integrated. Depopulation of the Minnesota farm began, as well as surveillance efforts in the surrounding area. The secure food supply plan and a vaccination program were in progress at the end of the exercise.

Dr. Suskovic stated evaluators were observing and grading the response efforts. Evaluators graded most of Minnesota's activities as "Performed with much difficulty." Dr. Suskovic said overall, everyone did very well. The IMT Incident Command Structure was set up quickly, and everyone seemed to know where they fit. Field staff did very well fulfilling their roles. The initial depopulation and disposal was planned and started within 24 hours of diagnosis, and all integrated well with the Green NIMT. The Public Information Officer (PIO) sent out communications to stakeholders in a timely manner.

The exercise showed a couple of areas for improvement. Timely and consistent communication with other agency and local emergency managers, as well as adding more detail to daily briefings, was needed. There was also a need for clear staffing for hotlines and talking points for those answering calls. Guest wireless and cell phone coverage in the incident command post were not reliable, making communication difficult.

Dr. Suskovic also mentioned IMT/incident command system (ICS) issues. Some people did not know how to perform all of their responsibilities in the IMT, and others forgot how to operate in the ICS. There was need for improved communication among Operations, Planning and Logistics. The MDA IMT transition did not go well because most personnel had lost their EMRS access. The appraiser did not have an indemnity calculator, so he needed to go through the process of getting one from the USDA.

Dr. Suskovic stated the draft After Action Report (AAR) with Minnesota's improvement plan has been written and submitted. There will be a meeting in March 2019 to discuss all of the AARs, and a comprehensive AAR with improvement plan will be developed. He said there is a possibility of another ARMAR functional exercise in three years.

Dr. Lauer asked how the movement standstill worked. Dr. Suskovic said the USDA issued the order. If people were on the road at the time of issue, they were to get to their destination and stay there. Markets and auctions could not operate. Field staff looked to see who had sales that day and went out to tell them to stop. Dave Preisler stated sow farms do not have the space to hold pigs for multiple days. This shows the importance of the secure pork supply plan implementation. Producers also need to prepare their own individual plans for this type of situation.

## Poultry Program Update

After welcoming Erica Sawatzke to her first Board meeting as Governor Dayton's most recent appointment to the Board representing the poultry industry, Dr. Lauer provided an update on the Board's poultry program activities and

operations at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL). The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Biennial Conference was held in June in Franklin, TN, with a number of proposed changes to the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards. The proposed changes included 12 from Minnesota, 10 of which were adopted and approved by NPIP Delegates. The changes include new avian influenza (AI) definitions for infectious and non-infectious (exposed) flocks; updated sanitation procedures; a new Subpart J (egg/meat-type game birds and raised-for-release game bird breeding flocks and products); U.S. Salmonella Monitoring program for Subpart E participants; H5/H7 LPAI program.

USDA Veterinary Services has recently adopted the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) definition for AI. The OIE defines AI as an infection of poultry caused by any influenza A virus with high pathogenicity (HPAI) and by H5 and H7 subtypes with low pathogenicity (H5/H7 LPAI). Non-H5/H7 influenza A viruses are not defined as "avian influenza" and are not notifiable.

The APHIS Final Rule on conditions for indemnity payments went into effect on August 15, 2018. The rule allows for payment to be split between poultry and egg owners and their contracted growers, and it provides a formula to calculate the split. The rule also adopts the 14 NPIP biosecurity principles and required auditable biosecurity plans to be in place to be eligible for indemnification. As the Official State Agency (OSA) in Minnesota, the Board is responsible for auditing biosecurity plans in Minnesota. These paper audits consist of a review of training records, pest control documentation, identification of entry points onto farms, mortality records, carcass disposal methods, and more. Dr. Lauer said they have 41 audits complete, 12 in progress, and 30 ready to be started. They have around 100-150 audits to complete by 2020. Several field staff have been trained and are helping review biosecurity plans.

Dr. Lauer stated the MPTL is planning to hold a CO2 layer depopulation exercise in November. This will help determine if Minnesota can depopulate an egg-layer chicken flock using State of Minnesota equipment and personnel contracted by the State within 24 hours, in the event of a large-scale disease outbreak. The plan is to test the equipment and set up at a South Central Minnesota farm, and then hold the depopulation field exercise two weeks later at a farm in Central Minnesota.

In August the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed Newcastle Disease in Minnesota cormorants. It was found in a colony at Chautauqua Lake in Ottertail County, a single cormorant in Marshall County, and in birds at Minnesota Lake in Blue Earth County. The disease is not as widespread this year as it has been in other years. This information has been shared with poultry veterinarians and the Emergency Disease Management Committee.

Dr. Lauer said the mycoplasma testing rule change approved by the Board at its April meeting will be going out for public comment soon. If the changes are adopted, they would remove the mycoplasma testing requirements for backyard turkey flocks.

Dr. Lauer stated a LPAI H7N3 virus was confirmed in two commercial turkey flocks in California on September 6, 2018. The virus was of North American wild bird origin. The flocks, numbering 25,000 to 26,000 birds, were depopulated and rendered on September 11. Dr. Lauer said if this happened Minnesota, the Board would determine if controlled marketing the flocks would be a viable solution before moving to depopulation.

The MPTL has recently developed an Authorized Poultry Testing Agent (APTA) Handbook for WEGBY (waterfowl, exhibition fowl, game birds, and backyard birds) testing agents. The handbook, which was an initiative by Dr. Shauna Voss, covers why and how to test birds in order to improve testing consistency.

In August, Minnesota hosted the 2018 USDA Live Bird Market System Continuing Education Training Course at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Participants came from across the country to attend. The course included a tour of a live bird market in South St. Paul and sample collection procedures of birds.

## Virulent Newcastle Disease Update

Mary Donahue gave an overview of the virulent Newcastle Disease situation in California. The first positive came from a backyard flock on May 18, which was the first case in the U.S. since 2003. Currently, there are 142 confirmed positive cases. Tests are run at their NAHLN lab, just as the tests were run in Minnesota during the 2015 HPAI outbreak. There have been no positive cases in any commercial poultry facilities.

Dr. Thompson asked how much the USDA has spent on indemnity in California. Dr. Schaefbauer did not have an exact number, but she said it was not much. They are only paying for birds. In 2003, the USDA paid higher amounts for genetically valuable birds and also paid to clean entire facilities. Today, there is a predetermined amount the USDA pays out for each bird.

Dr. Schaefbauer stated the number of cases is around what was expected based on the surveillance practices on the premises. She said the California USDA is doing a great job keeping virulent Newcastle Disease out of commercial facilities.

## African Swine Fever Update

John Deen gave an overview of the current African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks in China and Eastern Europe. The first ASF case was reported in China on August 3. Since then, the disease has moved in slaughter plants along the coastal provinces, though recently a few cases have come up in Inner Mongolia, which does not have a large pig population. Inadequately processed feed, swine transportation and pork storage practices likely aid in disease spread. Dr. Deen said China has 50 percent of the world's pig inventory, but their disease eradication capability is limited. Traceability of disease is inconsistent from province to province, as provinces also have responsibility for depopulation and disposal. China has banned live hog transport from affected areas, but border controls are weak within the provinces and within Southeast Asia.

There is also an ASF outbreak in wild boars and domestic pigs in Eastern Europe. The most concerning problem is in Romania. Since August 22, there have been 42 new outbreaks in several regions, with four of those being at large commercial pig farms. The total number of pigs on affected premises was over 140,000, and all were culled. Romanian authorities are performing preventive culling around the commercial farms and setting up control points around affected regions to increase biosecurity and enforce movement restrictions. Several nearby countries, including Poland, Ukraine, and Belgium, also have known ASF outbreaks.

The European Union is involved in assisting with control measures to keep the outbreak from spreading. The U.S. industry also needs to be involved, especially in regard to biosecurity measures. Since the PEDv outbreak, the U.S. and the swine industry are more aware of foreign animal diseases. The industry realizes the need for individual producers to consider risk mitigation and the importance of biosecurity practices and contingency plans in the event of an ASF outbreak. The USDA, national industry organizations, the Swine Health Information Center, the Secure Pork Supply Plan, and other groups are engaged in discussions on disease prevention and what the industry would need to do in the event of ASF.

## Farmed Cervidae Update

Linda Glaser provided an update on the Farmed Cervidae Program. Dr. Glaser stated the Office of the Legislative Auditor's final report on the Farmed Cervidae program audit was released in April. The report offered a number of recommendations for the Farmed Cervidae Program, and the Board is taking steps toward meeting each one. (Recommendations are the first sentence of each of the following list items.)

- **Verify herd inventories, animal by animal, at a minimum of every three years.** Dr. Glaser said the herds approved to move animals interstate already handle their animals at a minimum of every three years, so the remaining herds will be divided into thirds. One third will be required to do an inventory every year. Accredited veterinarians can verify the herd inventory.
- **Systematically analyze Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing compliance.** To address CWD testing compliance, Dr. Glaser stated the Board changed the data entry procedures for CWD testing as of July 2018. They also have developed a report to track testing compliance by herd and for all herds. In addition, there is an ongoing review of penalties across all Board programs.
- **Develop an approval program for deer and elk producers who want to collect their own samples.** The Board is implementing a sample collection training program for veterinarians and producers in 2019. The training will include required classroom attendance at one of a number of sessions to be held around the state. Then, the Board will provide individual hands-on training in sample collection when an animal dies. The name of the certified sample collector will be recorded in the CoreOne database. Producers who have proven years of successful sample collection will need to attend the classroom training but will not need a hands-on training in sample collection.
- **Ensure producers follow the state's deer and elk laws, strengthen consequences and monitor field staff performance.** The Board sent out educational materials, including forms and updated requirements, in early 2018 and will be sending additional materials again in early 2019. This mailing will include information on CWD sample collection training, animal-by-animal inventories, a fact sheet on the tuberculosis accredited and brucellosis certified herd programs, reporting purchased animals, and biosecurity practices, including carcass disposal and taxidermy. Animal health field and office staff now issue a written Notice of Violation (NOV) to each producer who fails to meet requirements, along with a plan and timeline for correction to strengthen consequences of non-compliance. If correction timelines are not met, the Board will issue a civil penalty to the producer.
- **Work with the DNR to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with respect to data sharing.** The Board and the DNR are looking at developing a MOU that goes beyond data sharing to include inspections, escapes, identification of CWD positive farmed cervids and response, CWD surveillance and testing, and general communications. The first meeting will be on October 18.

Dr. Glaser stated the Farmed Cervidae Task Force has met three times. They continue to develop Board guidelines for exclusionary fencing to prevent commingling of farmed and wild cervids and provide recommendations for regulatory changes needed for the farmed Cervidae business to remain viable in Minnesota. The task force will meet again in December.

Dr. Glaser said the final epidemiology report on the Winona County CWD-positive herd is complete. She invited Mary Donahue to provide an overview of the potential risk factors identified at the farm. Dr. Donahue stated the most concerning factor at the Winona County farm was the producer's taxidermy practices. He volunteered that he took trimmings from the neck and tossed them into the deer pen to feed the feral cats. He also described dumping skulls into the deer pen, which could have had brain matter still attached. His skull boiling process was also concerning:

outside of his garage, he used a high-pressure washer to blast off meat and tissue, which would reduce the boiling time from eight hours to 1.5 hours. He added a half cup of bleach to two gallons of boiling water, which would not have been enough bleach to inactivate any prions that may have been present. After boiling, he would dump the water down the driveway, which is about 100 feet uphill from his deer pen. He also reported that he disposed of taxidermy waste in the ravine behind his property.

Dr. Donahue mentioned other concerning biosecurity factors. He did not change his clothes when entering or leaving the pen, and he did not use protective eyewear. The feral cats he was feeding defecated in the feed bunk, which could have repeatedly exposed the herd to CWD. The feed storage area was not secure, so wild deer could enter and eat the hay he intended for his herd. He said a wild deer had jumped into his pen, but it was not a recent occurrence. His pen only has one fence.

There were other issues on the farm that probably did not contribute to CWD. His fence was below the required 96" minimum height in some places. He also reused tags in his animals, and he did not report all movements and deaths to the Board, as required.

## Fall CWD Surveillance Plans and Southeast Minnesota Deer Study

### Fall CWD Surveillance Plans

Michelle Carstensen offered an overview of the DNR's plans for CWD surveillance this fall. She reviewed last fall's surveillance efforts, which included mandatory sampling of all adult deer taken opening weekend in the three surveillance areas (around the CWD-positive Crow Wing County farm and Meeker County farm, and in the southeast area of the state, including Area 603). The DNR identified the needs to improve communication with hunters, landowners and the community, especially in the southeast. Dr. Carstensen noted the DNR identified CWD as their top priority and wrote a White-Tailed Deer Management Plan. They held focus groups with residents in Area 603 to help understand their viewpoint and what would encourage them to support DNR efforts. They created a Landowner Assistance Specialist position to attend meetings with landowner groups and are updating their CWD Response Plan to include a CWD Management component. Future considerations include creating a walk-in access program for deer hunters and offering incentives for landowners and hunters.

This fall, the DNR will do surveillance in the same areas on opening weekend of hunting season. The zones surrounding the Crow Wing county and Meeker County farms will be reduced to a 15 mile radius, and they hope to gather 500 samples from each zone. In the Southeast zone outside of Area 603, they hope to collect 3,150 samples. There will be mandatory sampling in Zone 603 throughout all hunting seasons (archery through muzzleloader). The feeding ban area has been expanded.

Dr. Carstensen said they plan to set up a surveillance zone around the Winona County farm where CWD was found. They propose to collect mandatory samples on opening weekend of both firearms seasons in Deer Permit Area (DPA) 346, where the farm is located, as well as in 349, 348 and the 344/345 block, with the goal of collecting 450 samples per DPA. Dr. Carstensen noted that they tested 890 total animals within 15 miles of the farm in 2016-2017.

CWD was detected in a wild deer in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, 28 miles from the Minnesota border, so the DNR also will be doing surveillance in Minnesota areas near Eau Claire County.

Dr. Carstensen mentioned several of the DNR's CWD communications and outreach efforts, including an updated CWD webpage, adding CWD information to their Hunting Regulations Handbook, posters for the State Fair and other fairs, brochures, videos on how to cape and quarter deer, planned messaging for various communications channels, and mailing whole carcass ban information to Minnesota's out-of-state hunters, taxidermists and meat processors.

### Southeast Minnesota Deer Study

Dr. Carstensen introduced Chris Jennelle, who provided a summary of preliminary findings from the DNR's Southeast Deer Movement Study. The study aimed to monitor dispersal patterns and estimate activity ranges of juvenile males and females and adult males and use the information to map corridors of possible CWD spread. In March, 109 animals were captured and collared with GPS tracking devices. The DNR used Area 603 and the surrounding 20 miles as the basic study area.

Dr. Jennelle noted technical problems that have occurred during the study. The expansion mechanism on the juvenile male collars caused 13 collars to break. The magnetic expansion on the adult male collars may be interrupting signal transmission on some of the collars. There are also 37 collars from which the DNR has not received data in over 60 days.

The preliminary results showed the deer winter home range is what was expected. Juvenile females have a higher probability of dispersing in the spring. On average, males dispersed almost twice as far as juvenile males did. One female trekked 77 miles from her winter range, while another female moved 41 miles. Dr. Jennelle noted that if these two females were removed, the average range was about six miles, while juvenile males averaged nine miles. He said the long-distance dispersal of juvenile females is not a new occurrence; previous studies have documented other instances of young females dispersing 60 to over 100 miles.

Dr. Jennelle stated they feel the results from the spring dispersal are not conclusive, and they need to collect more data over several years to draw strong conclusions. He said they are expecting another surge of dispersal this fall during the rut. The DNR will continue to collect data on the collared deer until they die or until the collars stop transmitting. They will be collaring 30 additional juvenile males and 30 juvenile females next spring. Wisconsin and Michigan are conducting similar studies, and the DNR will be collaborating with them to make stronger regional inferences on deer movement.

## Chronic Wasting Disease Testing Requirements at Slaughter

Laurie Seale from Wisconsin Whitetails brought a request from Crescent Meats of Cadott, Wisconsin, to consider a change in Minnesota Chronic Wasting Disease testing requirements at slaughter. Currently, Minnesota only allows the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test at slaughter. This test takes up to four weeks for results to be returned. Slaughter facilities are holding carcasses until results come back, but they do not have the space to store meat for four weeks. Ms. Seale stated a new restaurant is opening in Minneapolis, and they want Crescent Meats to provide them with seven fresh carcasses every week. Wisconsin producers are not producing enough to fulfill this request, but several Minnesota producers haul their meat to Cadott for processing and could potentially take advantage of this new market for venison. However, current IHC testing makes this impossible.

Ms. Seale asked Minnesota to consider accepting the ELISA test, which can be done in three to four days. The NVSL at Texas A&M has used the test with no false negatives and only one false positive. The Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratory has confirmed that the ELISA test sensitivity is the same as the IHC test. After presenting this information to the USDA, Ms. Seale said the USDA added ELISA testing at slaughter to their proposed program standards.

A concern to consider is that the Minnesota VDL currently does not run ELISA testing for CWD. In order for Minnesota deer farmers to be reimbursed for test cost, the test needs to be performed in Minnesota. The costs of both tests are very similar. Dr. Carstensen added the DNR uses ELISA as the standard test for wild deer; they send their samples to the University of Colorado for testing.

Jim Byrne asked if the VDL had the capability to run ELISA tests. Dr. Torrison said not at this time. He stated they had the capability in the past, but it wasn't utilized often. They stopped offering the test, and the manufacturer took their equipment back. Currently, there is no machine available for the VDL. Cost and staffing needs are also important considerations. The VDL is willing to consider bringing back the test if there is enough need and it is economically feasible.

Nicole Neeser said there is nothing in the current state standards requiring slaughter plants to hold carcasses until results are back. They are within their rights to do so on their own, but the state does not require it.

Ms. Seale said, while they are not required to hold carcasses, the industry wants to err on the side of caution and make sure the meat they release to the public is disease free. The ELISA test will allow them to ensure safety and meet industry demands.

Mr. Compart asked what the next step would be. Dr. Thompson said if the new USDA program standards are approved, Minnesota will likely change state program standards to match the USDA. Mr. Byrne said there need to be more discussions about reimbursement for testing and the possibility of bringing testing back to the VDL. Dr. Thompson agreed, stating the current state contract for reimbursement is only for IHC testing at the VDL.

## Animal Traceability Update

Stacey Schwabenlander gave an update on the ongoing tuberculosis (TB) trace investigations from the three positive cases in South Dakota. These 120 traces involved 61 Minnesota premises, 12 states and 10 TB-exposed animals, which were all tested and found to be negative.

Two traces are still open. One is being controlled marketed, after which the animals will go direct to slaughter. The other trace is more recent and complex. In June 2018, a TB-positive red heifer was found at a Wisconsin slaughter plant. This animal had spent the previous seven months at a northwest Iowa feedlot, and had gone through various channels before that. The TB isolates matched up with the infected Harding County, South Dakota farm.

Before the Iowa feedlot, the heifer went through an Iowa livestock market. From there, she could have been on any of 13 farms. After Iowa and Minnesota investigated all the possibilities, the Board is focusing on one producer who bought seven heifers and cows from a Nebraska producer in 2011, and one bull from the same farm in 2012. He states all the animals he had were products of his own animals, and he only sold them directly through one South Dakota market. In May 2018, this producer dispersed all his animals through this market, retired from farming, and is living out of state. Dr. Schwabenlander hopes to have him search his records for the name of the Nebraska producer and any other helpful information when he returns to Minnesota in October. The Board is also tracing the animals he dispersed in May. One animal was indemnified by the USDA last week, and no information on the necropsy was known at the time of this meeting.

Dr. Schwabenlander also mentioned another TB trace from a positive black steer found at slaughter in a Potter County, South Dakota, feedlot in June 2018. This feedlot had five different sources of animals. Minnesota has received six traces so far. The steer only had a management tag applied by the last producer, and there is no record of official ID. None of the six premises own a feedlot. The Board will work with all of the producers to test their herds and verify none were the source for the infected steer. Dr. Schwabenlander noted that the genetic isolate of this TB strain is not the same as any of the three in Minnesota or other isolates in the U.S.

Beginning October 1, the USDA will stop Brucellosis slaughter surveillance in all plants east of the Mississippi River and phase out sampling in Texas plants. They will focus surveillance efforts on California, Utah and Idaho plants that

receive animals from the Greater Yellowstone Area, where Brucellosis is known to exist in the U.S. There are Minnesota producers who sell their animals through the Idaho plant, and the Board has received four traces from this plant. With surveillance focused on the Idaho plant, Minnesota may continue to see traces.

## Compliance Procedures at the Board

Courtney Wheeler presented an update on Board compliance procedures. The Board's goals when addressing compliance are to achieve the resolution of violations with minimal impact on producers and utilize as few resources as possible. Dr. Wheeler stated there are a number of enforcement actions the Board can take; depending on the producer and the farm, as each situation is unique. Field staff, program administrators and program directors discuss which action(s) are appropriate. Considerations include risk to public or animal health, the producer's history of violations, if the violation was willful or intentional, and if the violator complied with a correction order.

In most situations, the Board issues a Notice of Violation (NOV) and Correction Order to the producer or owner. This is a written warning which includes the specific statute violated, a specified time for correction and a notice that failure to correct will result in additional progressive enforcement action. If a person does not comply, the Board issues a Civil or Administrative monetary penalty, indicating a deadline for payment, and notice that failure to pay could result in additional progressive enforcement action. If payment is not made by the deadline, the Board will file a case in conciliation court to collect the payment. The Board also has the ability to revoke or suspend a person's license, in certain cases, after issuing written notice. The Board may apply for an injunction to immediately stop the violation or charge a person with a criminal penalty, if the violation is endangering human or animal health.

Dr. Wheeler said the Board wants to further develop standard operating procedures for the Board's compliance program to ensure enforcement actions are applied uniformly, offer online payment options, develop outreach materials, create a fee schedule for civil and administrative penalties and develop a standard protocol for determining subsequent penalty amounts.

Elaine Hanson asked how often penalties are necessary. Dr. Wheeler said currently, penalties are very infrequent. However, having standard procedures will clarify the process for staff, producers and the public.

Terry Sistad stated the Board needs to go to the county attorney to file charges against someone, as the Board does not have authority to do that on their own. Dr. Wheeler concurred, saying the same is true for injunctions.

## Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting of the Board of Animal Health will be held on December 5, 2018, at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, starting at 9:30 a.m. Dean Compart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Anderson made the motion, and Erica Sawatzke seconded, with all present voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Thompson
State Veterinarian
Executive Director