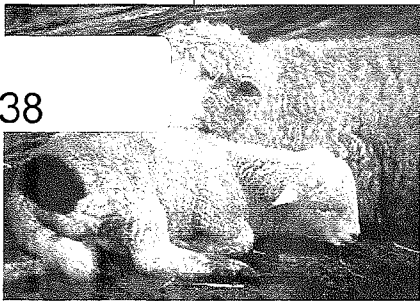


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# *Annual Report*

Safeguarding Animal  
Health in Minnesota  
for 100 years

2003-2004



# Message from the Executive Director

November 1, 2004

The past year has been challenging. The Board of Animal Health staff has had to overcome state budget shortfalls and increasing workloads, during a time of national occurrences of foreign animal diseases. Overcoming these obstacles, we continue to make progress during challenging times.

Below are some highlights from the past year:

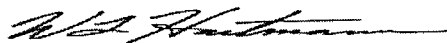
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) announcement in late December 2003 of a positive bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) cow in Washington state was a holiday gift none of us wanted. Although investigators found no connection between the BSE case and Minnesota, our livestock producers suffered the financial impact of the announcement through a drop in cattle prices and bans against U.S. beef shipments in major export markets. In June, the USDA and the Board kicked off an enhanced BSE surveillance effort in "high risk" cattle. The enhanced surveillance program could test over 280,000 head of cattle nationwide. In Minnesota, sample numbers could exceed 10,000.

The Board is currently developing a system that will allow an exposed animal to be traced within 48 hours in the event of a disease outbreak. To accomplish this goal, it is imperative that we collect the location of every livestock premise in Minnesota along with contact information for producers. We have started a process of validating the more than 50,000 premises currently in our database. When this validation has been completed, we will begin assigning national premises identification numbers and notifying each premise of the change. Over the upcoming months, we will continue to keep Minnesota's livestock industry current on the National Animal Identification System program and the impact it may have on producers in the state.

To celebrate the Board's 100th anniversary, an open house was held at Tesk Holm Holsteins near Rochester, Minnesota in September. Past Board members, producers, legislators, and employees were all in attendance to help the Board celebrate this special occasion.

Over the past twelve months, the Board has accomplished feats such as wrapping up a decade long pseudorabies eradication effort, registering and educating cervidae producers on a new mandatory CWD program, registering new flocks in the National Scrapie Eradication Program, investigating an increasing number of rabies cases, and substantially increasing the number of herds participating in the Johne's disease program. Over the past twelve months, the Board's employees have continued to strive towards our agency's mission—to safeguard domestic animal health in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Dr. William L. Hartmann  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Board of Animal Health

# 2004 Annual Report

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## Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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Animals contribute to Minnesota by providing food, income, recreation, assistance, and companionship to millions everyday. That is why the Minnesota Board of Animal Health has been actively reducing, controlling, and eradicating diseases for the last 100 years.

As the official animal disease control and eradication agency of the State of Minnesota, the Board was created to protect the health of the state's domestic animals. In carrying out its mission, the Board is part of a network of state agencies protecting public health and providing an abundant, wholesome food supply to Minnesota consumers.

## Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory

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The Board operates the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The MPTL is located in Willmar, MN, and exists to conduct surveillance for several poultry diseases that are potential human pathogens. Surveillance programs are in place to monitor, identify, and eliminate or reduce the levels of Avian Influenza and Salmonella. Surveillance for Avian Pneumovirus and Mycoplasma are in place with results provided to the poultry industry in a timely manner. These surveillance programs allow Minnesota poultry flocks and hatcheries to maintain disease free classifications with the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). Poultry flocks and hatcheries are certified and classified, allowing for the interstate and international commerce of poultry and poultry products. The MPTL, while serving as an authorized NPIP laboratory and poultry field laboratory for Minnesota, is also a research and education center for the Minnesota poultry industry.

## Agency Contact Information

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Minnesota Board of Animal Health  
 Agriculture Building  
 90 West Plato Boulevard  
 St. Paul, MN 55107  
 651-296-2942 (office)  
 651-296-7417 (fax)

The Annual Report of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is published in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes.

# Board Information

## Board Meetings

### Meetings Held:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Quarterly Board Meeting | September 10, 2003 |
| Quarterly Board Meeting | December 8, 2003   |
| Quarterly Board Meeting | February 25, 2004  |
| Quarterly Board Meeting | April 21, 2004     |

The Board minutes are recorded and on file at the Board office.

## Board Members

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Dr. Mahesh Kumar, President      | St. Cloud    |
| Dr. John Whitten, Vice President | Alexandria   |
| Dr. Holly Neaton                 | Watertown    |
| Mr. Paul FitzSimmons             | Good Thunder |
| Mr. Steven Brake                 | Wilmont      |

## Staff Members

Executive Director ... Dr. William L. Hartmann  
Executive Assistant ... Jessica Monson

Assistant Director ... Dr. Keith Friendshuh  
Administrative Assistant ... Melissa Petersen  
Administrative Assistant ... Janice Schmidt

Assistant Director ... Dr. Kristine R. Petrini  
Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Lindsey Aipperspach  
Administrative Assistant ... Helen Woodford

Assistant Director ... Dr. Paul L. Anderson  
Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Kimberly Blackford  
Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Bethany Hahn  
Administrative Assistant ... Ginny Kasper  
Administrative Assistant ... Marie Marty

Assistant Director ... Dr. Dale Lauer  
Administrative Assistant ... Kelly Adolphson  
Administrative Assistant ... Anne Oveson

Administration Manager ... Barbara Troyer  
Accounting Officer ... Rita Hatch  
Administrative Assistant ... Sandy Hinrichs

Communications Specialist ... Malissa Fritz

Information Technology Specialist ... Dave Wiklund  
Information Technology Specialist ... Milan Tomaska

District Veterinarian ... Terry Bolding, DVM, Breckenridge  
District Veterinarian ... Arnold Jostock, DVM, Dawson  
District Veterinarian ... Brad Peterson, DVM, Owatonna  
District Veterinarian ... L. Kern Schwartz, DVM, Worthington  
District Veterinarian ... Jeff Smith, DVM, Zumbrota  
District Veterinarian ... Greg Suskovic, DVM, North Mankato  
District Veterinarian ... Dale Neirby, DVM, Faribault

Agriculture Regulatory Specialist ... Carl Denking, Faribault  
Agriculture Regulatory Specialist ... Glenn Korman, Porter  
Agriculture Regulatory Specialist ... Don Myren, Pierz

# Cattle Programs

## Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program

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Minnesota's Johne's Disease Program started in 1998 in an effort to assist producers in identifying and controlling Johne's disease in their herds. This program includes the following elements:

**Education:** The Board, in cooperation with University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine and Extension Service, helps increase awareness of Johne's disease throughout the State. Current information is disseminated to veterinarians and farmers through meetings, brochures, publications, letters, and the Board's website. Educational efforts for FY 2004 in Minnesota included the following:

- Producers - 800 Risk Assessments (RA) which is on farm education
  - 10 to 12 small producer meetings through veterinary clinics
- Veterinarians - 300 One-on-one meetings with all the veterinary clinics that are doing Johne's testing
  - MVMA convention
- Brochures and letters mailed to producers and veterinarians
- Status herds listed on our web-page ([www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us))

**Herd testing:** The Board provides financial assistance to producers who wish to test their herds for the disease. During FY 2004, the Board paid the laboratory and veterinary costs for testing 30 cows in a herd as a screening test for the disease.

Approximately 67,693 cattle were ELISA tested and 6,118 cattle were fecal tested as part of Minnesota's Johne's Disease Program. Approximately 867 cattle were tested by other means, such as the PCR, AGID or TIP. 74,678 cattle were tested on 2,230 premises. Of the cattle tested, 67,148 were negative, 6,919 were positive, and 611 were pending test results. The Board paid for a whole herd test, with a maximum of 200 tests per year.

**Johne's Disease Control on the Farm:** Minnesota's district veterinarians are available to perform a thorough assessment of farm management practices to help identify areas of Johne's disease risks and to make recommendations for changes to reduce the transmission of disease on the farm. During FY 2004 811 risk assessments and herd control plans were completed.

**Test-negative status herds:** Test-negative herds provide a source of low risk replacement animals for producers throughout the State and are eligible for participation in the U.S. Voluntary Johne's Disease Herd Status Program. Minnesota has 231 herds in this status program, most of them agreed to allow their names to be published on our web page as sources of negative replacement stock.

**Demonstration Herds:** The Board, in cooperation with University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, supports a variety of research efforts to identify better testing and more effective prevention and control methods. One of these projects is the ongoing surveillance of the demonstration herds. In FY 2001, six dairy herds and three beef herds of varying sizes and with varying management systems were identified to participate in this project. These herds have tested positive for Johne's disease and serve as a model for control programs. These herds are closely monitored and evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the disease control programs that have been implemented. In FY04, two new herds, that use heifer raisers, were added to the demonstration herd project.

During FY 2004, approximately 2,326 ELISA tests, 2,326 fecal culture tests and 55 PCR tests were performed on these demonstration herds. Information from risk assessments and test results are maintained on a data base and analyzed regularly.

## Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

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Minnesota was classified a Bovine Tuberculosis Accredited Free State by USDA in 1976. USDA, FSIS maintains a bovine tuberculosis (TB) surveillance system that checks all Minnesota cattle slaughtered for evidence of tuberculosis. If positive cattle are found, the Board of Animal Health is notified. Utilizing the back tag applied to that animal, the herd of origin is located and an investigation is done. Additionally, the Board of Animal Health follows up on all cattle that test positive on the intradermal test. The follow up consists of a comparative cervical intradermal test and an investigation of the herd of origin. Special testing requirements and permits are required on ruminants imported from Michigan due to the discovery of TB in free-ranging whitetail deer in the northeast part of that state.

## Bovine Brucellosis Surveillance

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Minnesota was classified a Bovine Brucellosis Certified Free State by USDA on October 1, 1984. Calfhood vaccination and surveillance are carried out to maintain that status. Surveillance consists of testing cattle at slaughter and testing milk from all dairy herds.

# Equine Programs

## West Nile Virus in Horses

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West Nile Virus (WNV) arrived in Minnesota in July 2002. Between July and October, 994 Minnesota horses were confirmed to have the disease. Approximately 40 percent of these horses died.

West Nile Encephalitis is a viral disease of both humans and horses and is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The virus is maintained in a transmission cycle between birds and mosquitoes. Vaccines for West Nile Virus are now available for horses and have been very effective when used according to manufactures guidelines.

In 2003, 82 Minnesota horses were confirmed to have WNV. In 2004, only 10 Minnesota horses contracted the disease.

## Equine Infectious Anemia

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During Fiscal Year 2004, two new cases of Equine Infections Anemia (EIA) were identified. The cases occurred in Hennepin County and Anoka County. Since 1972 when the national program to control EIA began, 637 Minnesota horses have been diagnosed with EIA.

EIA is a viral disease of horses. It is closely related to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in humans. It is also known as swamp fever, malarial fever, mountain

fever, or slow fever. There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease. Once a horse is infected, it is infected for life. Once infected, a horse is always a reservoir for spread of the disease. It is most frequently transmitted between horses in close proximity by large biting insects, such as horse flies and deer flies (tabanids). Mosquitoes are not a vector for EIA.

### EIA Testing Activity

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

| Type of Test | Test Charts | Horses Tested |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Diagnostic   | 45,263      | 45,263        |

## Horse Imports and Exports

---

Imported or exported between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004.

| Type of Animal | Imported | Exported |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Horses         | 46,045   | 32,227   |

# Cervidae Programs

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

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**CWD in Minnesota:** The first Minnesota case of CWD was identified on August 30, 2002. The disease was found in a five-year-old bull elk on a farm near Aitkin. The animal had been ill for several months and died with symptoms typical of CWD. An investigation was initiated by the Board of Animal Health to locate, euthanize and test all other cervidae that might have been exposed to the disease. The process took more than 12 months to complete and involved 51 Minnesota elk herds and 28 herds in other states. Exposed animals were traced to Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The investigation was completed on September 15, 2003.

During the investigation, two more CWD infected elk were identified. One was found on January 15, 2003. It was a three-year-old elk cow from a farm near Sauk Centre, Minnesota. This animal was euthanized and was not ill at the time of its death. The other was found in March 2003. This animal was a seven-year-old elk cow on a farm near Valders, Wisconsin. The animal had been ill for a short time before it died.

The source of the infection was not determined, but the three CWD infected elk did have a connection. All three were housed on the Sauk Centre, Minnesota, farm during the summer of 2000. Clinical histories for the elk strongly suggest that exposure may have occurred during this period of time. The timing from exposure to development of clinical symptoms in all three of the animals is consistent with a normal incubation period for CWD in elk between 16 to 34 months.

By the time the investigation was completed, 332 elk had been euthanized and tested in Minnesota and 77 elk were euthanized or quarantined in other states. Producers were compensated for their animals through an indemnity program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**Legislation for CWD eradication:** New laws for CWD eradication in captive cervidae were passed by the 2003 Minnesota Legislature. These laws became effective January 1, 2004, and require all cervidae producers in Minnesota to participate in a CWD surveillance and eradication program. These new laws apply to all animals that are members of the family "Cervidae" which includes, but is not limited to white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer, and muntjac.

Minnesota captive cervidae registration is now under the Board of Animal Health, registration of all farmed cervidae is mandatory and surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease is mandatory. Specific requirements for fences, animal identification, inspection fees, and reporting of animal movements are included in the farmed cervidae laws.

**Program Participation:** Progress to register all Minnesota cervidae producers has been steady, but there is still much work to accomplish; 775 premises with farmed cervidae have been identified, 581 are registered, 482 are in the CWD surveillance program, and 711 have paid their annual inspection fee.

**CWD testing in farmed cervidae:** This year, farmed cervidae producers have tested 2,279 animals for CWD. All test results have been negative. The number tested represents about 11 percent of all Minnesota farmed cervidae.

## Cervidae Imports and Exports

---

Imported or exported between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004.

| Animal | Imported | Exported |
|--------|----------|----------|
| Elk    | 97       | 556      |
| Deer   | 9        | 154      |



# Poultry Programs

## Pullorum-Typhoid

Minnesota received the Pullorum-Typhoid Free State Classification for turkeys in January, 1973 and the U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean State Classification in August, 1975, both from USDA. Since July 1, 1975, commercial-type turkey and chicken hatcheries can participate in the program and qualify their breeding flocks without a test. Exhibition, game and waterfowl hatcheries are still required to have their breeding flocks tested under a partial testing schedule. Blood samples from turkey and egg-type chicken flocks submitted to the laboratory for other purposes are still monitored for Pullorum-Typhoid Disease using a combination antigen.

| PULLORUM-TYPHOID PROGRAM TESTING                          |               |               |                  |                  |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| POULTRY TYPE  | INITIAL TESTS | BIRDS TESTED  | BIRDS IN FLOCK   | RESULTS          |
| Turkey Breeders   | 72            | 28,873        | 831,470          | Negative         |
| Egg-Type Chicken Breeders                                 | 3             | 300           | 39,103           | Negative         |
| Chicken Broiler Breeders                                  | 33            | 0             | 448,183          | No test required |
| Waterfowl, Game, Backyard, including wild turkey serology | 41            | 4,935         | 13,536           | Negative         |
| Waterfowl, Game, Backyard Hatchery Debris Testing         | 45            | 187           | 41,903           | Negative         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>   | <b>194</b>    | <b>34,295</b> | <b>1,374,195</b> |                  |

## Exhibition Testing (Individual Flocks)

Poultry exhibited or sold in Minnesota must meet the Pullorum-Typhoid test requirements. Poultry test records, health certificates, statement of origin and other forms are submitted to the Board at the completion of exhibitions, fairs and sales. Forms are checked for accuracy and contact is made with the testing agent, exhibition/sale managers or veterinarians when required. Out of state poultry being exhibited in Minnesota must also meet the state's import requirement.

| POULTRY TYPE            | # LOT TESTS | BIRDS TESTED  | # IN FLOCK    | RESULTS  |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Exhibition Birds        | 192         | 3,171         | 3,171         | Negative |
| Sales                   | 393         | 10,342        | 10,342        | Negative |
| Wild/Exhibition Turkeys | 25          | 193           | 193           | Negative |
| <b>TOTALS</b>           | <b>610</b>  | <b>13,706</b> | <b>13,706</b> |          |

## Salmonella Enteritidis (Egg-Type Chickens)

All egg-type chicken breeding flocks and hatcheries participate in the Salmonella enteritidis program. Environmental samples and blood samples were submitted from 12 flocks supplying one Minnesota hatchery. 300 blood samples were tested serologically for Salmonella enteritidis and all samples were negative. 978 environmental samples from 12 flocks on three premises were tested for Salmonella. 425 samples from 12 flocks on three premises were positive for Salmonella. Eight different Salmonella serotypes were identified, but all environmental samples were negative for Salmonella enteritidis.

## Poultry Imports and Exports

Poultry import permits were issued to 152 out of state hatcheries. These permits are issued on an annual basis. The numbers below include hatching eggs, baby, and adult poultry, except for slaughter poultry. With poultry export the NPIP papers are examined to assure compliance with the state of destination requirements.

| POULTRY TYPE                              | IMPORTS           | EXPORTS           |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Egg-Type Chickens                         | 9,421,269         | 23,121,800        |
| Meat-Type Chickens                        | 2,925,704         | 695,680           |
| Turkeys                                   | 18,212,223        | 23,707,429        |
| Waterfowl, Exhibition, Gamebird, Backyard | 419,590           | 146,794           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                             | <b>30,978,786</b> | <b>47,671,703</b> |

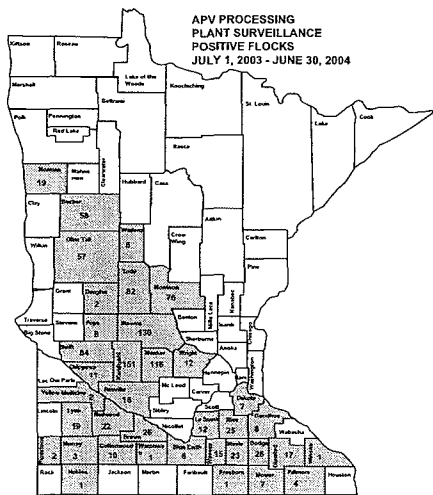
## Salmonella Control (Turkeys)

The Minnesota Salmonella typhimurium program was established in 1971 to identify turkey breeder flocks infected with *S. typhimurium*. These flocks cannot be used for the production of hatching eggs if the hatchery elects to maintain its “*S. typhimurium* tested” classification. All turkey breeder flocks participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Sanitation Monitored Program to reduce and monitor Salmonella levels in their breeder flocks. In addition, a cooperative Salmonella control program established in 1980 to help control Salmonella in Minnesota turkey breeder flocks continues. Both the Minnesota turkey industry and the primary breeders have agreed to specific test standards for Salmonella, and have agreed to report Salmonella serotypes to each other. The goal is to identify serotypes associated with breeder parent stock, environment and feed. The test results follow:

- 28,873 turkeys from 72 flocks were serologically tested as part of the *S. typhimurium* Official Test using a *S. pullorum*-*typhimurium* plate antigen. All samples were negative.
- 38,350 turkeys from 77 flocks were tested for *Salmonella* via rectal swabs as part of the *S. typhimurium* program. 49 flocks were positive for *Salmonella* with 731 *Salmonella* paratyphoid recoveries. 15 different *Salmonella* serotypes were identified. *S. typhimurium* was isolated from one recycled flock.
- 907 environmental samples from 71 flocks on 45 premises were tested. 33 flocks were positive for *Salmonella* with 280 *Salmonella* paratyphoid recoveries. 14 different *Salmonella* serotypes were identified.
- 724 pre-placement environmental samples from 48 flocks on 29 premises were tested. Eight flocks were positive for *Salmonella* with fifteen *Salmonella* paratyphoid recoveries. Five different *Salmonella* serotypes were identified.
- 236 hatchery debris samples were tested from 81 grandparent and parent breeder flocks. 10 flocks were positive for *Salmonella* with 20 *Salmonella* paratyphoid recoveries. Five different *Salmonella* serotypes were identified.
- 2,391 hatchery debris samples from six Minnesota turkey hatcheries were tested. 550 samples were positive for *Salmonella*. Ten different *Salmonella* serotypes were identified.

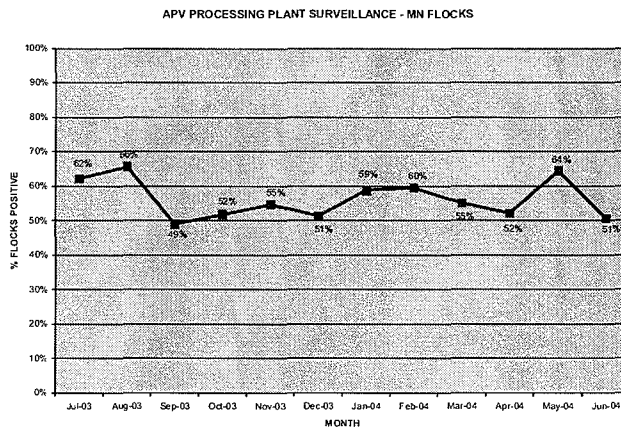
# Avian Pneumovirus

The Board continues to investigate and identify flocks infected with Avian Pneumovirus (APV), a viral disease of turkeys that has affected the Minnesota turkey industry since 1997. The disease has been diagnosed in Minnesota and a few neighboring states, with the majority turkey flocks in Minnesota. The Minnesota turkey industry has requested the Board to develop a surveillance program to identify infected



flocks. The program developed uses the turkey processing plant monitoring samples from all flocks grown or processed in Minnesota. The program began in August 1998 using an ELISA test developed at the University of Minnesota. 24 the MPTL. 1,410 flo

Vaccination for Avian Pneumovirus using a modified-live USDA licensed vaccine is regulated through a permitting process under the supervision of the Board in order to maintain the integrity of the prevalence program. 61 growers.



## Mycoplasma

All turkey breeder flocks participate in the Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG), Mycoplasma meleagridis (MM) and Mycoplasma synoviae (MS) test programs. All egg-type and meat-type chicken breeder flocks participate in the MG and MS programs. MG and MS programs are required breeder programs. Any breeder flocks positive for MG or MS are quarantined. No products can be used until all positive birds are removed unless the breeder flock and hatchery agree to participate in a salvage program that has been approved by the Board. Positive flocks are usually depopulated. Mycoplasma meleagridis is a voluntary program and positive flocks are not quarantined or restricted. Minnesota received the U.S. Mycoplasma gallisepticum Clean State -Turkey classification in February 1980. Minnesota also received the U.S. Mycoplasma synoviae Clean State -Turkey and U.S. Mycoplasma gallisepticum Clean State - Meat Type Chicken classifications in March 2003.

Three turkey breeder flocks on two premises were diagnosed with MS. The flocks were depopulated prior to production. One turkey breeder flock on one premise was diagnosed with MM. There are no restrictions on products with MM but the hatchery did not qualify for the NPIP MM Clean status. One wild/exhibition turkey flock was positive for MG/MS. The flock was depopulated. Flock results are based on the year of their Initial/Official Test. Flocks are then divided, moved and reassembled in different locations for their egg production cycle and monitored there.

| Mycoplasma Program Testing |            |                  |               |               |               |                 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| POULTRY TYPE               | FLOCKS     | BIRDS IN FLOCK   | MG TESTS      | MM TESTS      | MS TESTS      | POSITIVE FLOCKS |
| EGG-TYPE CHICKEN BREEDERS  | 3          | 39,103           | 2,100         |               | 2,098         | 0               |
| BROILER BREEDERS           | 33         | 448,183          | 10,767        |               | 11,006        | 0               |
| TURKEY BREEDERS            | 72         | 831,470          | 8,341         | 37,476        | 41,010        | 3-MS, 1-MM      |
| WILD/ EXHIBITION TURKEYS   | 29         | 7,739            | 672           | 0             | 672           | 1-MG/MS         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>              | <b>137</b> | <b>1,326,495</b> | <b>21,880</b> | <b>37,476</b> | <b>54,786</b> |                 |

## Poultry Disease Program Participation

Hatcheries and Independent Flockowners operating under permit from the Board

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| - Chicken  | 3   |
| - Turkey   | 10  |
| - Waterfowl, Game Exhibition and Backyard Flocks | 89  |
| - TOTAL  | 102 |

Poultry Dealers operating under permit from the Board

221

Hatchery, Independent Flockowner and Poultry Dealer inspections

329

Poultry Testing Agent training courses conducted

2

- Attendance at the St. Paul Course

22

- Attendance at the Fergus Falls Course

23

Field Instruction Schools conducted by district veterinarians

33

Testing authorizations issued (effective for three years)

30

- Temporary authorizations

7

Testing Agents holding current authorizations

307

# Avian Influenza

In response to the changing Avian Influenza situation locally, nationally and internationally, surveillance to AI has continued to increase due to a number of different factors:

- The ability of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza viruses to mutate to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza viruses.
- Persistence of Avian Influenza viruses in Live Bird Markets.
- Global and world trade issues relating to AI.

Avian Influenza control program objectives identified in 1984 by a Minnesota Poultry Industry Task Force remain. They include:

- Develop guidelines for preventing introduction of AI into Minnesota poultry flocks.
- Develop guidelines for the voluntary control and eradication of an outbreak.
- Develop and present an educational program for all segments of the industry.
- Establish a united, voluntary control and eradication program for AI.

In 1986 a cooperative, voluntary processing plant monitoring program for commercial turkeys began as surveillance for Avian Influenza if and when it is introduced into the Minnesota poultry industry. This cooperative program between the Minnesota turkey industry and Board of Animal Health continues today. Twenty blood samples per flock are tested for Avian Influenza using Agar Gel Immunodiffusion (AGID) test reagents from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), Ames IA. When a flock is identified based on a positive AGID test, samples are immediately sent to NVSL for sub-typing. In addition, positive AI samples from industry laboratories are forwarded to the MPTL for submission to NVSL. As part of the control program a reporting network is activated to alert the rest of the poultry industry. A district veterinarian conducts an epidemiological investigation to determine if there is spread from the index flock and to determine the source of introduction. In addition to the voluntary processing plant program there are breeder flocks participating in the NPIP U.S. Avian Influenza Clean program.

| Avian Influenza Program Testing |            |        |                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------------|------------|
| POULTRY TYPE                    | AGID TESTS | FLOCKS | POSITIVE FLOCKS | AI TYPE    |
| Commercial turkeys              | 70,356     | 2,135  | 3               | H1N1, H?N2 |
| Breeder turkeys                 | 3,863      | 423    | 0               |            |
| Broiler Breeders                | 1,880      | 81     | 0               |            |
| TOTALS                          | 76,099     | 2,639  | 3               | H1N1, H?N2 |

Three introductions of Influenza were identified. The locations are:

Brown County, 2 flocks – H1N1,

Le Sueur County, 1 flock – H?N2

# Sheep and Goat Programs

## Scrapie Eradication and Flock Certification Programs

---

### National Scrapie Eradication Program

The Scrapie Eradication Program requires that many classes of sheep and goats be officially identified to allow trace-back of Scrapie-infected animals to their flock of origin. As of June 30, 2004, 2463 producers had registered and received official identification for their sheep/goat flocks/herds.

The Scrapie Eradication Program also requires that Scrapie positive, suspect, and trace animals are investigated, reported, and control measures implemented. Activity relating to Scrapie eradication within Minnesota during FY 2004 is summarized in the graph below.

| <b>Scrapie Eradication Activity</b><br>July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 |      |
|---|------|
| Total Scrapie Investigations conducted                                    | 74   |
| Infected flocks identified  | 14   |
| Sheep genotyped to determine susceptibility to Scrapie                    | 2353 |
| Prevalence of Scrapie in sheep tested                                     | 5.7% |

### Scrapie Flock Certification Program

The Scrapie Flock Certification Program is a voluntary program which provides producers the opportunity to protect their sheep from Scrapie and to enhance the marketability of their animals through certifying their origin in Scrapie-free flocks. The intent of the program is to monitor flocks over a period of five years or more to identify flocks that are free of Scrapie.

The longer a flock is enrolled and following program requirements, the more likely the sheep in the flock are to be free of Scrapie. The Board registers and maintains records on all participants in this program. As of June 30, 2004, there were 24 flocks enrolled in the program; 2 have been certified as Scrapie-free.

# Swine Programs

## Pseudorabies Control and Eradication

Minnesota was granted Pseudorabies Stage V "Free" Status in October 2003. The last pseudorabies-infected swine herd in Minnesota was released from quarantine in October 2002. A slaughter surveillance program is used in Minnesota to maintain Pseudorabies Free status where at least five percent of the state's breeding swine population is subjected to an official pseudorabies test each year. All suspects are traced to the herd of origin and such herds may be subjected to an official random sample herd test.

| Pseudorabies Testing Activity |              |                |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Type of Test                  | Test Charts  | # Pigs Tested  |
| Monitoring Tests              | 94           | 2,048          |
| Traces from Slaughter Tests   | 7            | 389            |
| Qualified Herd Tests          | 652          | 18,763         |
| Imported Swine                | 5            | 60             |
| Private Sale                  | 48           | 1,473          |
| Show or Exhibition            | 183          | 1,140          |
| Tests at Slaughter Plants     | 435          | 105,633        |
| Diagnostic Tests              | 214          | 5,257          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1,677</b> | <b>135,490</b> |

## Swine Brucellosis

Minnesota was declared Validated Swine Brucellosis Free on May 1, 1975. A slaughter surveillance program is used in Minnesota to maintain Swine Brucellosis Free status where at least five percent of the state's breeding swine population is subjected to an official brucellosis test each year. All suspects are traced to the herd of origin and such herds may be subjected to an official random sample herd test.

| Swine Brucellosis Testing Activity |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Validated Herd Tests               | 18,206         |
| Diagnostic Tests                   | 3,547          |
| Tests at Slaughter Plants          | 103,831        |
| Traces from Slaughter Tests        | 219            |
| Private Sale Tests                 | 150            |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>125,953</b> |

## Swine Imports and Exports

Imported or exported between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004.

| Type of Animal | Imported  | Exported  |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Breeding Swine | 99,689    | 166,151   |
| Feeding Swine  | 5,008,704 | 2,189,408 |

# Other Programs

## Anthrax

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In March, 2002, the Biologics rule was changed to allow producers to vaccinate their own animals against Anthrax. This resulted in almost all the cattle in the northwestern Minnesota Anthrax area being vaccinated.

In FY 2004, no Anthrax was diagnosed in Minnesota.

## Brands

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The Board approves, registers, and maintains records on livestock brands in the state. Fifty-seven new brands were issued during this fiscal year. The number of brands now registered in Minnesota is 1033.

## Dead Animal Disposal

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The Board of Animal Health investigates complaints concerning the disposal of dead livestock. These complaints come from the general public, law enforcement personnel, municipalities and other agencies. Agriculture Specialists visit the premises to ensure disposal of carcasses complies with Board of Animal Health rules. 23 visits were made to 15 premises. Four fines were issued and warning letters were sent to additional premises.

## Dead Animal Composting

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Composting is approved in Minnesota as a method for disposal of poultry, sheep, goat, and swine carcasses. The process converts waste products such as animal carcasses, straw, sawdust, and poultry litter into an odorless, inoffensive, generally pathogen-free product that can be used as an organic fertilizer. Board of Animal Health rules require that composting facilities must be constructed on an impervious pad using rot resistant materials. Three educational meetings were held throughout the state to promote composting, with about 75 producers attending.

## Feeding of Garbage to Livestock and Poultry

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No person may feed garbage to livestock or poultry in Minnesota unless a permit has been issued by the Board of Animal Health. All garbage fed to livestock must be cooked at 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes and facilities and trucks must be inspected each month. There are currently 10 producers in Minnesota who have obtained permits from the Board to feed garbage to pigs.

Livestock producers may also apply to the Board for an "Exempt Materials" permit. The permit allows producers to feed certain non-meat food waste ("exempt materials") to livestock and poultry without cooking it prior to feeding. There are 16 producers whom currently have obtained permits from the Board to feed exempt materials.

## Pet Food Processing

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Board of Animal Health Agriculture Specialists inspect all pet food processors that use dead animals or discarded animal parts for compliance with agency rules and state statutes. Permits are issued yearly to establishments to process pet food. Three permits were issued in this fiscal year.

# Companion Animal Programs

## Kennel, Dealer and Institution Licenses for Dogs and Cats

The Board inspects and licenses kennels that house stray, abandoned, or unwanted dogs or cats. As of June 30, 2004 there were 129 kennels licensed by the Board. Sixty of these were veterinary clinics, and the remainder were humane societies or other kennel facilities.

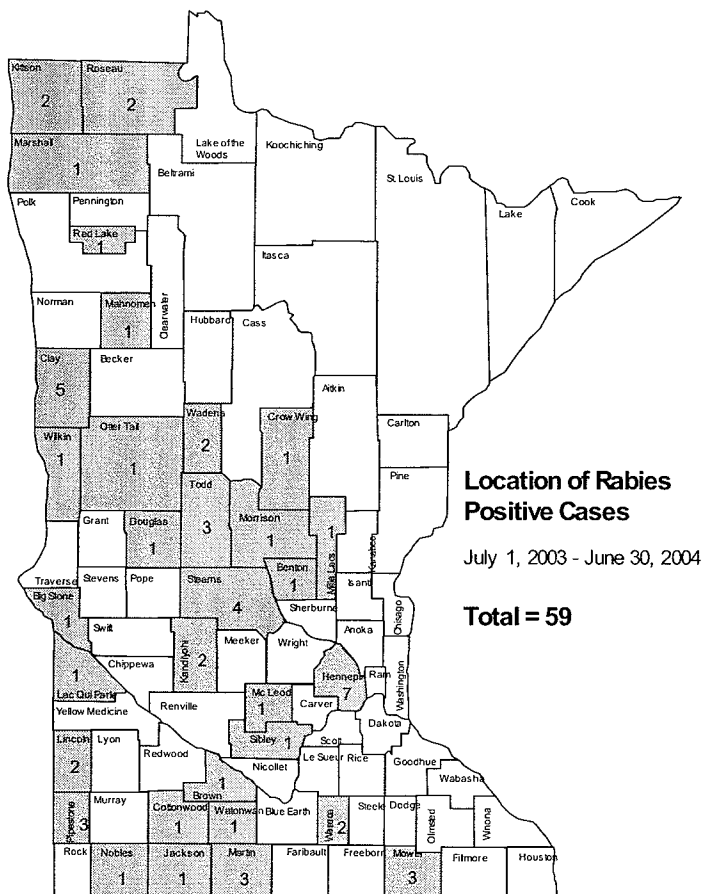
The Board also inspects and licenses any research institution which conducts investigations or instruction using dogs and cats obtained from a pound, as well as animal dealers who sell or transfer dogs or cats to such institutions. As of June 30, 2004 there was 1 dealer and 2 research facilities licensed by the Board.

## Rabies

The Board, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health, investigates all positive rabies cases in Minnesota. The Board quarantines animals exposed to rabid animals to prevent the spread of disease.

During FY 04:

- 141 rabies investigations were conducted.
- 151 animals were quarantined on 28 premises because of exposure to a rabid or potentially rabid animal.



| Number of Rabies Cases<br>by Species<br>July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 |                     |                  |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Species  | Clinical<br>Suspect | Test<br>Positive |
| Bat  | 3                   | 10               |
| Skunk  | 6                   | 35               |
| Bovine   | 0                   | 8                |
| Feline   | 0                   | 2                |
| Equine   | 0                   | 0                |
| Canine   | 0                   | 4                |
| All Species  | 9                   | 59               |



## Rendering Plants

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Permits to operate a rendering plant or act as an independent hauler are issued yearly. Agriculture Specialists inspect all rendering facilities and trucks for compliance with Board of Animal Health rules.

### Number of Permits Issued

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Minnesota Rendering Plants | 8  |
| Independent Haulers        | 16 |
| Out-of-state Plants        | 3  |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Inspections conducted at rendering facilities,<br>pet food establishments and reload stations | 28 |
|---|----|

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Minnesota trucks inspected | 272 |
|----------------------------|-----|

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Out-of-state trucks | 5 |
|---------------------|---|

## Emergency Planning

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Minnesota's Emergency Animal Health Response Plan is a framework that will facilitate early detection, control, and eradication of a highly contagious Foreign Animal Disease as quickly as possible, so a crisis can be avoided, and the consequences minimized. The following is a highlight of some of the emergency preparedness activities for FY04:

- Completed a comprehensive assessment of Minnesota's animal disease emergency preparedness.
- Completed an animal disease emergency strategic plan which identified goals and objectives, and prioritized tasks for emergency planning activities
- Provided general Incident Command System training to all Board staff.
- Conducted numerous animal emergency test exercises with Board staff and other agencies, including table-top exercises to test our preparedness for responding to Avian Influenza, Plague, Anthrax, and Pseudorabies. In addition, the Board participated in Minnesota's State Agency Terrorism drill and several nuclear power plant incident drills.
- Recruited over 285 veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and students for the Minnesota Veterinary Reserve Corps which will be trained to respond during animal emergencies.
- Established a 24-hr reporting system for potential animal disease emergencies.
- Held meetings with numerous organizations and agencies throughout Minnesota to discuss and clarify roles, responsibilities and authorities needed during an animal disease emergency
- Trained the state's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians to use the Emergency Management Response System for reporting foreign animal disease investigations.

## National Animal Identification

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The Minnesota Board of Animal Health, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, has launched a project to implement National Animal Identification in Minnesota. In early July, we submitted a proposal for funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Our project was accepted and fully funded (\$435,000). The main focus of our project is to collect premises information in Minnesota and transmit this information into a national system. USDA has provided a platform to store this information called the Generic Database (GDB). As part of the project, we will be connecting the GDB to the National Animal ID System (NAIS) so updates seamlessly flow to the national system. We will also test Radio Frequency ID in swine and beef production in Minnesota. To maintain a constant flow of information to Minnesota's livestock industry and producers, we will work with the University of Minnesota, Agriculture Extension Service.

