



# Annual Fiscal Year 2020 Report

# Board Members

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DR. MATT ANDERSON, Vice President, Veterinarian, Zumbrota

PETER RIPKA, Cattle Producer, Ogilvie (replaced by Jim Vagts in April 2020)

DR. GRAHAM BRAYSHAW, Veterinarian, Minneapolis

ERICA SAWATZKE, Poultry Producer, Kensington

JIM VAGTS, Livestock Producer, Harmony (replaced Peter Ripka in April 2020)

# Board Meetings

September 18, 2019

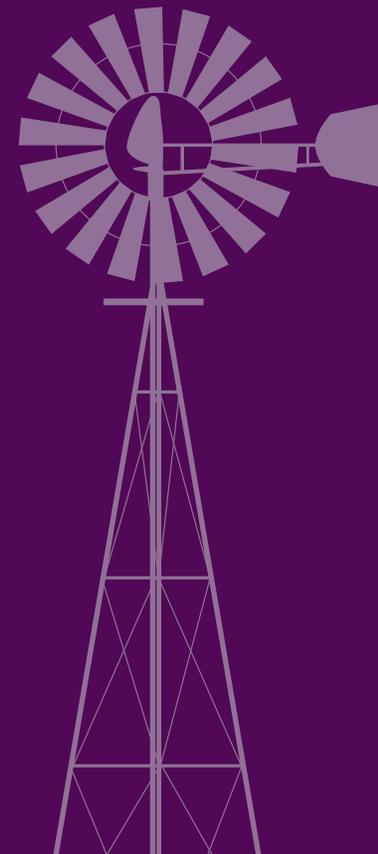
December 11, 2019

January 15, 2020

April 15, 2020

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

The Board of Animal Health is an equal opportunity employer.



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## Please Note:

- This report covers activities and data from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.
- Animal movement, testing, and vaccination data in this report may not represent actual totals for the fiscal year. Not all numbers were finalized at the time of publication due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff shortages.



# Letter from the State Veterinarian



The Minnesota Board of Animal Health Annual Report summarizes activities during the previous fiscal year, which runs from July to June in Minnesota. Despite most of the fiscal

year taking place before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in Minnesota, the majority of our memories of fiscal year 2020 involve COVID-19 and the impacts on every sector of society, including agriculture and domestic animals.

The pandemic challenged us to respond to a non-animal disease affecting healthy livestock because of processing plant slowdowns. We plan and prepare for all kinds of foreign animal disease emergencies and situations. However, up to this point we had never challenged ourselves to respond to a human pandemic and the repercussions it could deliver to our livestock sector. The talented team of responders designated as the Incident Management Team met the challenge though and immediately got to work on assisting farmers struggling with the packing plant disruptions.

The pandemic also pushed us into new territory with remote working and using technology to safely achieve work from different locations. Board employees were thrust into full-time teleworking through the end of the fiscal year and beyond into the next. Throughout the transition they continued to provide excellent service to our partners and stakeholders.

Before the pandemic, at the start of the fiscal year, we spent a lot of time preparing for another disease, African Swine Fever. This is a disease we've drilled, researched and discussed alongside other stakeholders in the swine industry. We participated in national exercises with several other states and figured out how we could keep our food supply secure while responding to a rapidly spreading disease. From those exercises and plans emerged the Swine Emergency Disease Management Committee (EDMC). The Swine EDMC has experts from backgrounds as swine veterinarians, University of Minnesota researchers, animal health officials and swine production companies. This group works through issues like how to move healthy animals through the food chain while safely removing sick animals and stopping the spread of the disease.

As I've said in previous reports, foreign animal disease preparedness and response is a top priority for the Board of Animal Health. We have our eye on several animal health threats around the world. We're closely watching the Asian Longhorned Tick as more U.S. states report detections, we continue collaborating with wildlife officials to address chronic wasting disease, and we kept a close eye on avian influenza detections in the Eastern U.S. to protect our flocks.

The next fiscal year will begin during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We'll likely continue working remotely and leaning heavily on technology to accomplish our priorities. I encourage you to use those digital avenues to protect both animal and human health like our online web forms for permits, supplies and applications.

I'm optimistic about the year ahead and I hope you are too.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth S. Thompson'.

*Beth S. Thompson, JD, DVM  
State Veterinarian, Executive Director*

# Dogs and Cats

The Board continues to license and inspect Commercial Dog and Cat Breeding facilities and kennels to confirm compliance with Minnesota laws governing these programs.

The Commercial Dog and Cat Breeder, Breeder Excellence Program Advisory Task Force comprised of licensed commercial breeders, veterinarians who work with commercial breeders, and Board inspectors and staff continued to meet this year to develop a Commercial Breeder Excellence program. The purpose of this program is to recognize licensed breeders who demonstrate excellence and exceed the standards currently required by commercial dog and cat breeder laws. Breeders with no violations in the past year are eligible for participation in the program beginning fiscal year 2021. Additional information regarding the program and a list of participants will be available on the Board website.

Canine brucellosis continues to be an important reportable disease which is spread between dogs and can be transmitted to people. All non-negative test results for canine brucellosis must be reported to the Board. Dogs that test positive on an initial screening test may be retested using another approved test. Because of the contagious nature of this disease, infected dogs must be permanently isolated from other dogs or euthanized.

The Board is committed to preventing the spread of this disease and amplifying our efforts to educate the public, canine businesses and veterinarians about the importance of surveillance for and control of this disease.



## Licensed Kennel and Commercial Dog and Cat Breeder (CDCB) numbers for fiscal year 2020:

84	Number of kennels licensed at the end of the fiscal year
05	Number of new kennels licensed
119	Number of CDCB licensed at the end of the fiscal year
08	Number of new CDCBs licensed

## Canine Brucellosis numbers for fiscal year 2020:

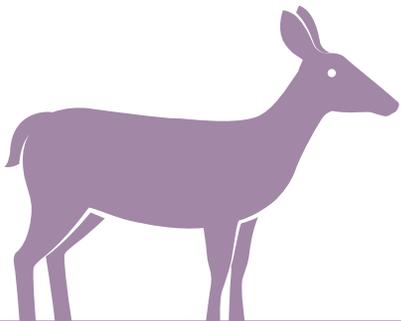
11	Number of canine brucellosis investigations:
05	Positives
94	Negatives
99	Total Dogs Tested

# Farmed Cervidae

This fiscal year the farmed Cervidae program focused on improving compliance. Much of our work began in the second half of last fiscal year with procedures being fully implemented this fiscal year. Program managers created guidelines for progressive enforcement actions for field staff to follow when producers fail inspections and are given a Notice of Violation. This included the development of protocols for issuing written Notices of Violation and Correction Orders with a specified deadline for corrective actions, and assessment of civil penalties for producers who fail to comply by the set deadline. The Board also drafted a policy for referring debt to the Department of Revenue when producers fail to remit inspection fees or civil penalties to the Board.

Five herd registrations were cancelled for long-term non-compliance with Board regulations this fiscal year, requiring three herd owners to disperse their herds through sale or harvest of their animals. Two herd owners entered into agreements with the Board in which they could come into compliance with Board regulations and requirements and have their herd registration reinstated. The goal of these actions is to follow through with non-compliant cervid producers so they don't continue to operate outside of the Board's regulations. Refer to the section of this report titled 'Compliance' for additional information.

Starting January 1, 2020, the Board requires all individuals that collect tissues from Minnesota farmed cervids for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing to be authorized by the



## Species Breakdown by Animals:

Breed	Total Animals	Number of Herds
White-tailed Deer	4,279	195
Elk	3,648	92
Red Deer	145	8
Reindeer	103	10
Fallow Deer	52	9
Muntjac	28	7
Sika Deer	24	5
Pere David's Deer	5	1
Moose	4	1
Caribou	3	2
Mule Deer	2	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>291</b>

The herd count totals more than 291 because some herds have multiple species in their herd and the herd is counted for each species in the herd.

Board. All individuals must attend a classroom training and submit samples from two farmed cervids to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory with an accurately completed submission form and get successful test results on the samples to be authorized. Those individuals that have not collected both obex and lymph node tissues previously from farmed cervids must schedule a demonstration of these

procedures by our field staff before they collect their own samples. All Board authorized sample collectors are issued a collector number which verifies their authorized status to the laboratory when they submit samples for CWD testing. The goal of authorizing sample collectors is to increase the quality of the samples collected and improve the success rate of CWD surveillance in farmed cervids in Minnesota.

Two small white-tailed deer farmed cervid herds were found infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD) this fiscal year; one in December 2019 and one in January 2020. The first herd identified in Douglas County was linked to the second herd in Pine County as it had purchased the deer in its herd from the Pine County herd owner. Both herds were depopulated and six CWD infected animals were found in the 11 animals in these herds. Both sites will be monitored, and the fences maintained for five years to prevent access to the herd enclosures by wild deer.

## Herd Usages:

Herd Usage	Total Herds
Breeding	79
Exhibition/Competition	16
Hobbyist	136
Hunting Preserve Site	15
Meat Production	62
Other Animal Products	10
Trophy/Hunting Animal Sales Sites	93
Unknown	1
Urine Production	6
Velvet Antler Production	20
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>296</b>

A business or commercial operation has more than one usage so this total adds up to more herds.



# Swine

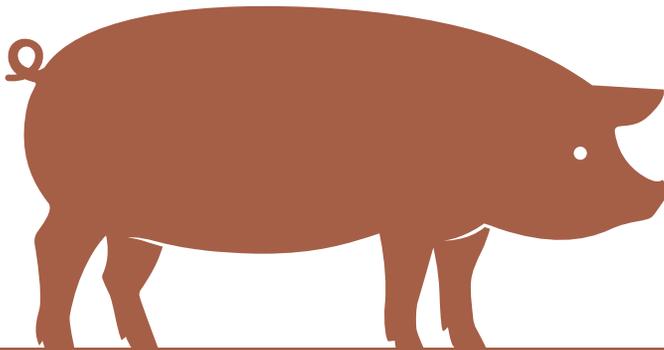
African Swine Fever continues to be a big concern with detections last year in Asia and Eastern Europe. The disease can be spread in a variety of ways, and one of the risks to pigs in the United States is by ingesting contaminated meat, food or feed brought in from an ASF infected foreign country. The good news is, globally, there is a big spotlight on this disease, including here in Minnesota where producers, veterinarians and state and federal animal health officials have been meeting, planning and preparing. Additionally, there is much more research being conducted by both university and private laboratories to understand disease transmission and how long it survives in certain environments like feed.

Toward the end of fiscal year 2019, the Swine Emergency Disease Management Committee (EDMCS) was initiated with the goal of preparing Minnesota for a response to ASF or other swine diseases. The committee ramped up its work in the start of fiscal year 2020 and there are great expectations for what it can accomplish by the end of next year.

The EDMCS has been further divided into subcommittees to evaluate and plan for a swine disease event relative to their group's focus. EDMCS subcommittees meet as needed relative to projects they are engaged in.

- Communications
- Surveillance and Diagnostics
- Information Management
- Health, safety, and welfare of producers, vets, responders, and animals
- Biosecurity and quarantine
- Permitted Movement
- Depopulation, euthanasia and disposal
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Wildlife management and vector control
- Regionalization for interstate and/or international trade

A State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) group representing the largest pig production states initiated weekly meetings to discuss efforts and strategies to prevent introduction of ASF into the U.S. as well as mitigation measures if it breaches our borders. Minnesota hosted a two-day conference with this group to identify key goals that could become uniform in how states approach an ASF outbreak.



Also in fiscal year 2020, COVID-19 inflicted substantial collateral damage on the Minnesota and national swine industry via slaughter plant closures. Sudden halts in the production flow led to significant backups of market hogs. Many producers were faced with the difficult decision to depopulate animals to eliminate extended production cycle interruptions. While the Board of Animal Health did not have jurisdiction to oversee depopulation and disposal procedures, significant guidance was offered regarding American Veterinary Medical Association-acceptable methods, as well as coordinating rendering activities. As rendering capacity reached its maximum, the Board of Animal Health, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture's Incident Management Team, established two "grind and compost" sites for carcass disposal.

Additionally, COVID-19 events inclined the multi-state SAHO group to convene daily for discussions on efforts to assist producers as well as discuss potential funding avenues for related activities and indemnity. Federal and industry

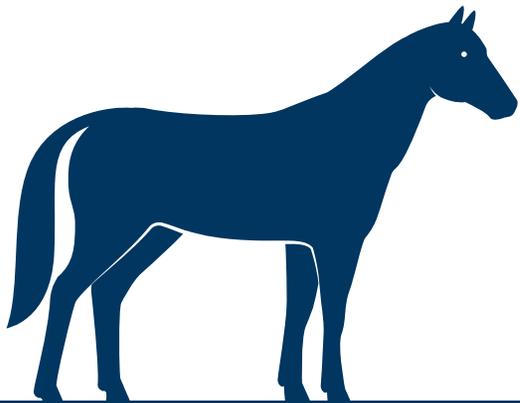
officials were included on these calls to collect additional perspectives. While funding did not come to fruition, establishing an otherwise deplete "store house" of necessary supplies and equipment became paramount. It was apparent that current depopulation and disposal activities forecasted an under prepared response to a foreign animal disease if measures weren't taken to improve resources.

Depopulation and disposal activities allowed for retrospective studies on "what went well" and "what needs improvement." While not identical to a significant disease event, information could be extrapolated to support the need for investing in stockpiles of similar equipment and supplies needed to depopulate and dispose of animal carcasses. Ultimately, USDA funding was approved to manufacture a number of oxygen depletion depopulation chambers to be used for future animal disease events. Additionally, the USDA updated their ASF Response Redbook to further address protocols that would be exercised in the event of an ASF outbreak. Minnesota has evaluated the updates and is working on a State specific approach to that response.

# Horses

Horse health is important year-round; although reportable diseases in horses tend to peak in the summer months because many of these diseases are transmitted by insects and horses tend to commingle more during this season. West Nile Virus disease (WNV), equine encephalitis (Eastern and Western – EEE and WEE), and equine infectious anemia (EIA) are the reportable diseases transmitted by insects. Equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is the reportable disease spread from horse to horse by direct contact or by sharing common equipment such as water sources or feeding areas.

The most effective measure to preventing diseases like WNV and EEE/WEE is a routine vaccination program and insect control. The number of cases reported nationwide have declined significantly in the past decade because of increased vaccine usage. EIA and EHM are best prevented through a successful biosecurity program. The Board requires horses infected with EIA to be quarantined for life or euthanized since the animal will remain infectious for life. EHM positive horses are required to be quarantined for 21 days after testing. EHM exposed horses (those who have been at the same facility or event as an EHM positive horse when infective) must also be quarantined for 21 days after last known exposure. Additionally, rectal temperatures on exposed horses must be monitored and recorded every 12 hours during quarantining. EHM testing must be performed



## Equine disease case numbers, fiscal year 2020:

- 1 West Nile Virus
- 0 Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis
- 1 Equine Infectious Anemia
- 1 Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy

on any exposed horse that exhibits a temperature of 102 degrees Fahrenheit or higher during quarantine.

In addition, COVID-19 has impacted the equine industry with restrictions related to the humans involved. Specifically, Executive Orders first establishing “stay at home” recommendations made equine related activities difficult to pursue. Social distancing and limiting numbers of non-household people at gatherings led to decreased numbers of equine related events as well as limits to classes offered at those events. The Board of Animal Health worked in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota Equine Extension, the Minnesota Horse Council, and the Western Saddle Clubs Association to develop guidelines for interpreting Executive Orders released from the Governor relative to the equine community.



## Sheep and Goats

The Board continues to enhance its ongoing partnership with the Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) Concerned Sheep Breeders Society and multiple state and federal partners to promote a voluntary OPP and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) program, recognizing flocks that meet specific guidelines to achieve and maintain a test negative OPP/CAE status. This producer driven program strives to eradicate OPP in sheep. A list of current participants and details on how to enroll in the program can be found on the Board's website.

# Poultry

The Poultry and Mycoplasma rule change that began in 2017 officially went into effect December 4, 2019. The rule change removes Mycoplasma testing and classification requirements for backyard turkey hatcheries, breeder flocks and hobbyists, but those same requirements don't change for commercial turkey hatcheries and breeding flocks. The rule change applies to turkeys, poults, and turkey hatching eggs and removes the Mycoplasma import and sale/exhibition requirements for backyard turkey producers and hobbyists. As part of the rule change, definitions for commercial egg-type chicken, commercial meat-type chicken and commercial turkey were created.

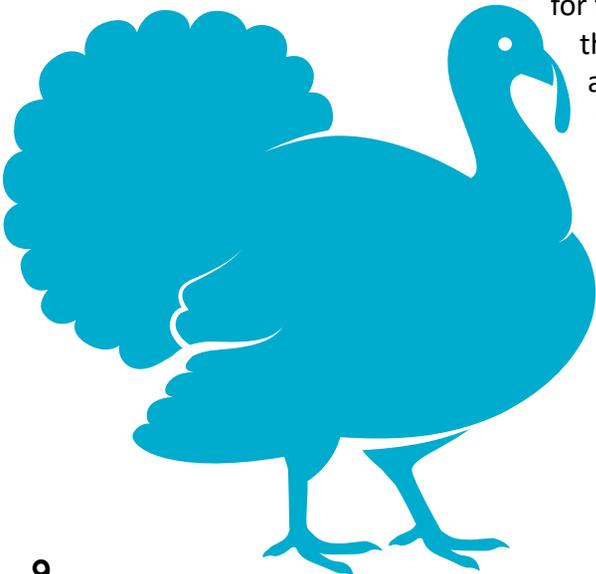
The Board has been challenged with availability of Pullorum Stained Antigen used for testing backyard poultry for Pullorum-Typhoid Disease because the antigen manufacturer has experienced numerous production issues for several years. At the request of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) the Board came up with a contingency plan to address the shortage. In preparation

for the expected shortage, the Board ordered extra antigen, while still available, and did not relax any Board rules applying to Pullorum-Typhoid testing. Measures were taken to test the antigen on-hand monthly to validate efficacy with instructions to all

authorized poultry testing agents to call the Board for guidance and direction before they used the antigen. While the antigen shortage continues, other testing options are being explored.

On April 9, 2020, the USDA announced the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial turkeys in Chesterfield County, South Carolina. This was the first confirmed case of HPAI in U.S. commercial poultry since 2017. This detection served as a reminder that poultry in Minnesota are also at risk of an HPAI introduction. Producers were encouraged to review their current biosecurity plans and practices to avoid a repeat of the 2015 HPAI H5N2 outbreak in Minnesota. The Board sent notices to producers and posted information on the Board's website to provide keys to detecting avian influenza and preventing another avian influenza introduction. These reminders included "Knowing the Signs," "Reporting What You're Seeing," "Submitting Samples for Testing" and "Preventing Exposure by following your Biosecurity Plan."

As the Official State Agency (OSA) for NPIP programs in Minnesota, the Board is responsible for ensuring participants maintain compliance with the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards. Poultry producers had until September 2020 to have a biosecurity plan in place and rated as satisfactory by the Board in order to be eligible for indemnity and compensation. The Board continues to work with poultry producers to audit their biosecurity plans according to NPIP Program Standards. In fiscal year 2020, the Board audited and rated 51 biosecurity plans as satisfactory.



The Board continues to update the Minnesota Initial State H5/H7 LPAI Response and Containment Plan (ISRCP), also known as the Minnesota Plan. Details of the Minnesota Plan procedures and response activities were reviewed and discussed at several meetings with the Emergency Disease Management Committee, a 50-member group comprised of representatives from different sectors of Minnesota’s poultry industry, state agencies and the University of Minnesota. Major changes to the Minnesota Plan include three different biosecurity levels (Baseline biosecurity, Elevated biosecurity, Containment biosecurity), reporting requirements according to Board rules and statutes and a number of flock management options. The Minnesota Plan has been submitted to the USDA for final review and approval.

## NPIP Program Participants as of June 30, 2020:

- 07** Commercial hatcheries
- 67** Commercial breeding flock facilities
- 93** WEGBY facilities
- 255** Poultry dealers
- 02** Upland game birds raised for release
- 06** Commercial slaughter plants
- 34** Commercial egg layer facilities
- 03** Live bird markets

## NPIP-Participating Flocks in Fiscal Year 2020

Poultry type	Number of NPIP participating flocks	Number of birds
Commercial Egg-Type Chicken Breeders	1	32,878
Commercial Meat-Type Chicken Breeders	33	587,438
Commercial Turkey Breeders	65	856,688
Waterfowl, Exhibition Poultry and Game Birds	93	34,097
Commercial Egg-Type Chickens	229	21,728,980
Commercial Meat-Type Chickens	1,371	59,487,273
Commercial Meat-Type Turkeys	1,730	47,910,837



# Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL)

Staff at the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) work to protect and advance poultry health in Minnesota. Two teams unite under one roof in Willmar to accomplish this goal. The Board of Animal Health is the state regulatory agency working to keep producers and industry current with several ongoing disease surveillance programs, responding, and taking action as needed. The University of Minnesota provides the space, hands-on technical expertise and

laboratory technicians to conduct tests for poultry disease surveillance and diagnostic programs.

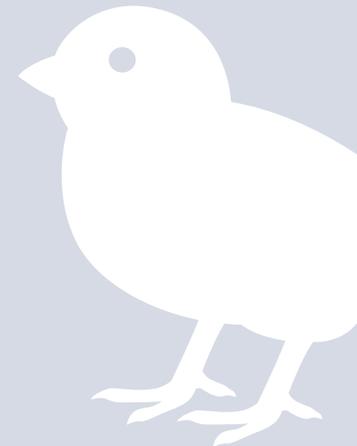
In accordance with Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules (1721.0330), all samples collected from hatcheries and poultry flocks in Minnesota

to meet Board disease program requirements must be collected by an Authorized Poultry Testing Agent (APTA). MPTL staff members conducted numerous APTA training sessions prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure samples are collected and submitted appropriately to meet Board and NPIP requirements. As of June 30, 2020, the Board had 825 Authorized Poultry Testing Agents certified. During FY20, three APTA training sessions were held with 62 individuals trained. In addition, 209 APTA reauthorization trainings sessions were held. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the Board to look at online training sessions as an alternative to the in-person format currently being used.

The University of Minnesota diagnostic labs are accredited with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. The MPTL is considered a branch lab of the

VDL on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota and together they are Level 1 laboratories in the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). This network provides testing on behalf of the USDA using validated testing methods performed by technicians who take proficiency tests for each assay they perform. The MPTL also participates in proficiency testing for other NPIP and NAHLN scope diseases such as Newcastle Disease (NDV), Mycoplasma spp. and Salmonella spp. The validation of an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) developed at the VDL for use in chickens created an opportunity for the MPTL to serve as a USDA export testing laboratory. Testing volumes have declined from the previous year, the numbers are listed in the MPTL Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory test table.

The addition of a poultry pathologist at the MPTL in 2017 has filled a void resulting in a much-needed benefit for poultry producers needing diagnostic assistance. Since his arrival, the poultry pathologist and the Board's Senior Veterinarian have been appointed to serve as members of the NPIP technical committee. This committee reviews proposed changes to the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards before they are accepted into the Plan. In addition, the poultry pathologist and industry veterinarians conducted a Newcastle (NDV) vaccination study to evaluate NDV vaccination programs in turkeys. As part of the MPTL's COVID-19 response, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was donated to the local area hospital and equipment was loaned to the University of Minnesota medical school to help with human COVID-19 testing.



# Compliance

The goal of the Board's Compliance Program is to ensure compliance with Statutes, rules and policies in place to protect the health of Minnesota's domestic animals. The Board strives to resolve violations with minimal enforcement action and within reasonable time limits set by the Board, minimize economic losses for producers and businesses to preserve their livelihood, and effectively utilize state resources to conserve time and state funds.

Individuals or businesses that are not compliant with laws regulated by the Board are subject to progressive enforcement action, which most often includes a notice of violation and correction order intended to educate the offending party and/or a civil penalty intended to incentivize compliance.

## Compliance Cases by Program in Fiscal Year 2020

Program	Notice of Violation/ Correction Order	Civil Penalty
Farmed Cervidae	132	7
Kennel	6	1
Commercial Dog or Cat Breeder	1	2
Livestock Concentration Points	4	0
Movements	6	1
Equine	1	0
Poultry	2	0
Carcass Disposal	1	0



# Cattle

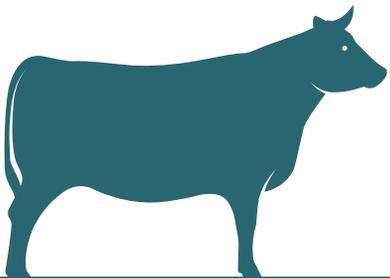
Minnesota continues to maintain tuberculosis (TB) free status. Board personnel work diligently with Minnesota's livestock auction markets, cattle producers, accredited veterinarians, and other stakeholders to track down cattle in Minnesota that may have been exposed to bovine TB in other states. The Board was involved with 117 investigations across 67 different premises in Minnesota. More than 6,100 head of cattle were traced onto Minnesota premises. All potentially TB exposed cattle are traced until they test negative for bovine TB, are traced out of state, or are confirmed as slaughtered. Board personnel worked with seven other states to follow cattle across Minnesota's borders as part of this trace work.

The potentially TB exposed cattle traced this fiscal year were imported into Minnesota and may have been exposed to the disease in Wisconsin (108 investigations), North Dakota (4 investigations), Texas (4 investigations), or South Dakota (1 investigation).

Bovine TB can spread between livestock, wildlife and humans. It is important for Minnesota's population, livestock and human, that this disease does not return to our state. As part of this effort, accredited veterinarians are certified to perform caudal fold tuberculin tests, which

assists in surveilling for this disease, and 10 veterinarians were certified this fiscal year.

No bovine TB cases were identified in Minnesota this year.



## Cattle Program: Fiscal Year 2020

**10** Veterinarians were certified by the Board to conduct caudal fold tuberculin tests this fiscal year.

**32,249** Cattle were vaccinated for brucellosis.

**1,372** Cattle and bison were tested for brucellosis.

**10,181** Cattle and bison were caudal fold tested (CFT) for tuberculosis.

**35** Of the CFT tests were performed as part of the TB trace investigations.

**117** TB traces involved investigations by Board personnel.

**67** Minnesota premises were involved in these TB trace investigations.

# Animal Disease Traceability

In late October, the USDA announced it was suspending the timeline associated with its proposal to phase out visual-only official identification (ID) ear tags in cattle and bison and replace them with official radio frequency ID (RFID) ear tags (beginning with '840' for USA born livestock).

Prior to the USDA's announcement, the Board had prepared to discontinue the distribution of metal National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) visual only tags, including silver metal and orange Brucellosis vaccination tags, in line with the previous USDA timeline. These tags had been distributed by

the Board at no cost since 2012. The federal timeline indicated visual only tag distribution should be concluded by December 31, 2019. The Board's supply of silver metal NUES tags was exhausted in December 2019, while the supply of orange Brucellosis vaccination NUES tags remained available through the end of the fiscal year.

The USDA has indicated a plan to open a comment period for producer feedback pursuant to Executive Orders (13891 and 13892) signed in October. This would allow the USDA to seek additional input on the need for a transition from visual only to RFID ear tags in cattle and bison as well as the recommended timeline associated with this transition. This comment period was not opened by the end of the fiscal year.

The Board decided to maintain its plan to discontinue ear tag distribution and redirect staff time to supporting the USDA's overarching animal disease traceability goals which include:

- Advance electronic data sharing among animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry.
- Use RFID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient.
- Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected.
- Elevate the discussion with states and industry to work toward a system where CVIs are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to state animal health officials.

## Animal Movements in Fiscal Year 2020

Animal	Interstate Imports	Interstate Exports
Cattle	554,080	283,155
Swine	4,864,741	1,777,898
Sheep	11,444	21,351
Goats	3,659	2,331
Farmed Cervidae	91	1,129
Horses	377,064	6,840
Poultry	66,453,661	64,548,203
Dogs	12,483	11,103
Cats	1,073	495

# Rabies

The Board works closely with the Minnesota Department of Health to investigate all non-negative cases of rabies and conducts investigations to determine if domestic animals may have been exposed to the rabies virus. Domestic animals exposed or potentially exposed to an animal suspected or confirmed to be infected with the rabies virus are confined and observed, or officially quarantined at the direction of the Board.

Like other diseases mentioned in this report, vaccination against the rabies virus is strongly recommended, and animal owners should discuss rabies risk and vaccine options with their veterinarian.

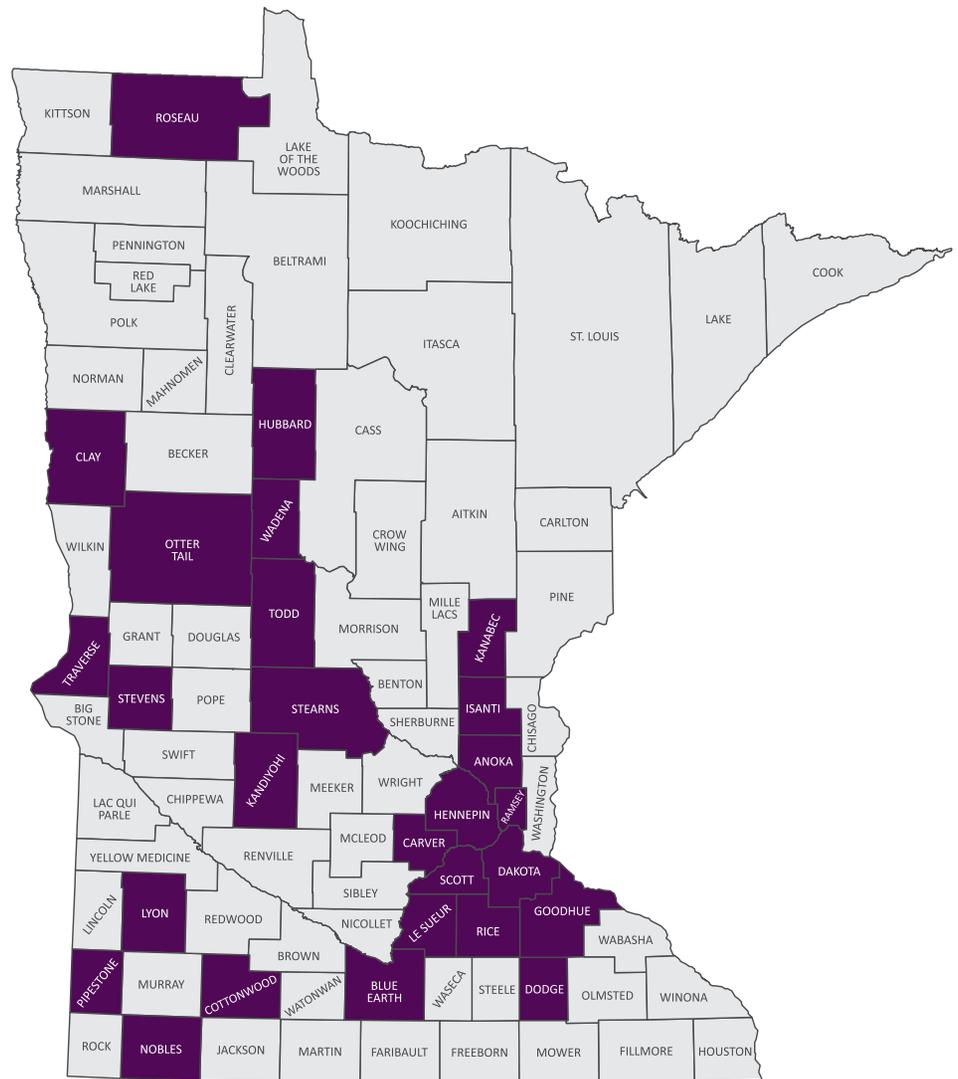
## Rabies Positive Species and Cases: Fiscal Year 2020

**221** Rabies Investigations

### Number tested positive by species:

35 Bats	01 Cow	01 Goat
01 Cat	01 Dog	06 Skunks
	01 Fox	

## Positive Rabies Cases in Fiscal Year 2020



**Positive rabies cases were reported in the following counties:**  
 Anoka, Blue Earth, Carver, Clay, Cottonwood, Dakota, Dodge, Goodhue, Hennepin, Hubbard, Isanti, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, Lyon, Nobles, Otter Tail, Pipestone, Ramsey, Rice, Roseau, Scott, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena.

# Emergency Preparedness

Foreign animal disease investigations are the starting line for implementing the Board’s emergency preparedness plans. If an investigation leads to a positive disease diagnosis, the Board responds immediately and appropriately to protect the health of Minnesota’s domestic animal populations. In fiscal year 2020 the Board and USDA’s 10 Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Diagnosticians conducted 101 FAD investigations.

The biggest challenge the Board will face in any disease response is human capital. The 40 employees at the Board can quickly become overrun by a foreign animal disease. This is why the value of strong working relationships with industry, government and producers cannot be overstated. When disease strikes, these teams come together for the better of all Minnesotans to respond and succeed. They’re constantly preparing and practicing their roles and responsibilities during an emergency response to find weaknesses and shore them up before a real event. It was tested in fiscal year 2020 with the Swine Fever Exercise and Agricultural Resources Functional Exercise. This exercise allowed the Minnesota pork industry and Minnesota Agriculture Incident Management Team to work through a series of critical activities in a simulated outbreak of African Swine Fever. The exercise was organized by testing a different function of the response each day. Participants used current policies, procedures, and protocols to respond. Evaluators monitored the exercise and graded responders to identify areas that needed improvement, which are being incorporated into our African Swine Fever/Classical Swine Fever Response Plan.

## Foreign Animal Disease Investigations: Fiscal Year 2020

Species	Results	Count of results
Rabbit	Negative for RHDV	2
Equine	Negative for VSV	6
Equine	Negative for EVA	1
Turkey	Negative for AI	2
Canine	Negative for Screwworm	1
Swine	Negative for FMD	89
Swine	Negative for ASF/CSF	2
Swine	Positive for SVA	47

A different challenge happened at the end of fiscal year 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic shutting down pork processing plants, a crisis developed for Minnesota pork producers with no place to send their hogs. Unfortunately, many hogs needed to be depopulated by producers and disposal of the carcasses became an issue. The Board and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture stood up the Agriculture Incident Management team and developed two grind and compost sites, in Nobles and Le Sueur Counties, to help producers appropriately dispose of the livestock and poultry carcasses. Not only was this a good service to producers in a time of crisis, it also gave our emergency response team and contractors valuable experience for disposal during a mass depopulation. In the end, more than 20,000 market hog equivalent carcasses and nearly 19,000 breeder turkey carcasses were composted.

**In fiscal year 2020 the Board and USDA’s 10 FAD Diagnosticians conducted 101 FAD investigations.**

# Budget

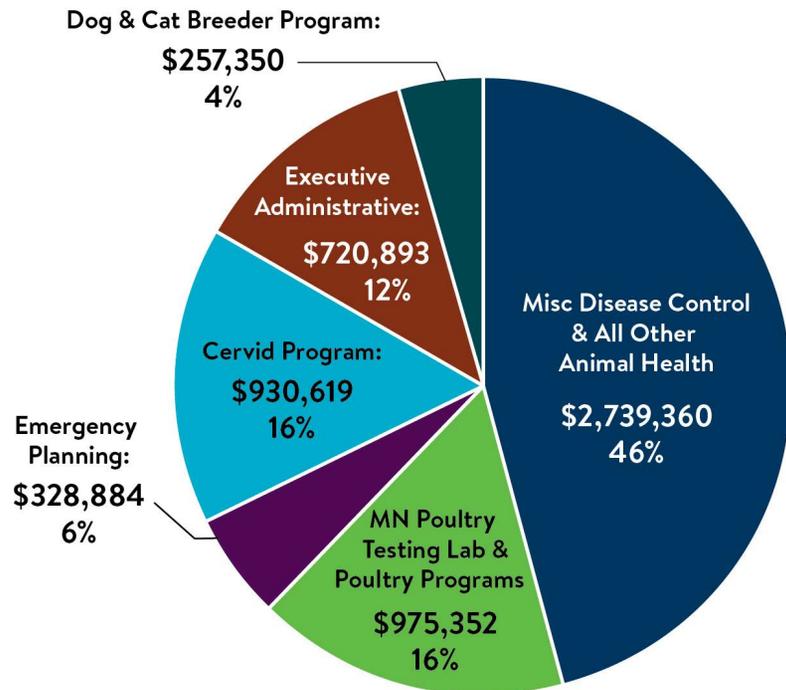
## Board of Animal Health: Fiscal Year 2020 Funding Sources

Source of Funds	Fiscal Year 2020 Expenditures
State - General Appropriation	\$4,653,728
State - Emergency Planning and Preparedness	\$199,923
State - Cervidae Oversight	\$119,951
Federal	\$703,576
Restricted Miscellaneous Special Revenue	\$275,280
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,952,458</b>



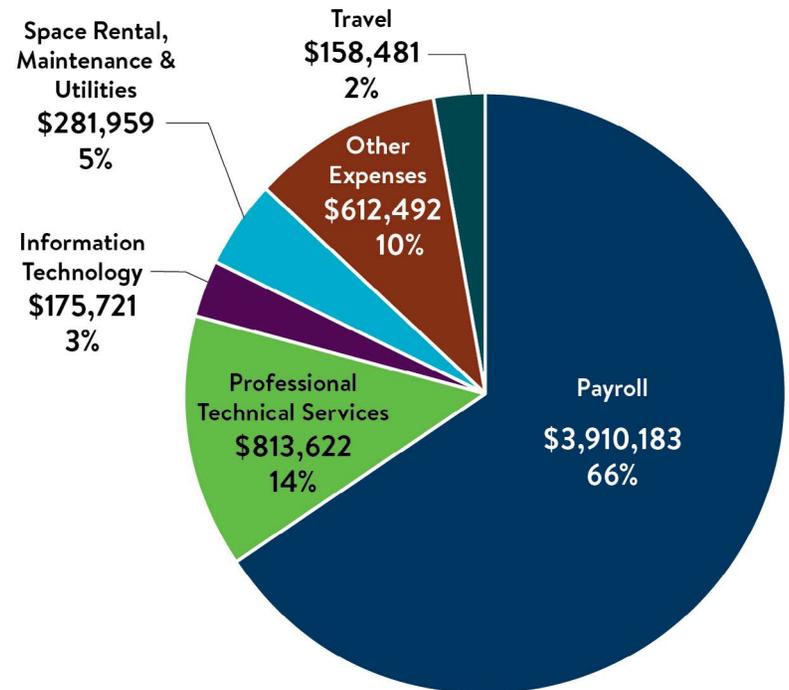
During fiscal year 2020, the Board expended \$5,952,458 to carry out its many animal health and disease programs. The following two charts show how the Board used the funding:

### Board of Animal Health - Fiscal Year 2020 Total Expenses by Program - \$5,952,458



- Miscellaneous Disease Control and All Other Animal Health: \$2,739,360 (46%)
- Minnesota Poultry Testing Lab and Poultry Programs: \$975,352 (16%)
- Emergency Planning: \$328,884 (6%)
- Cervidae Program: \$930,619 (16%)
- Executive Administrative: \$720,893 (12%)
- Dog and Cat Breeder Program: \$257,350 (4%)

### Board of Animal Health - Fiscal Year 2020 Total Expenses by Category - \$5,952,458



- Payroll: \$3,910,183 (66%)
- Professional Technical Services: \$813,622 (14%)
- Information Technology: \$175,721 (3%)
- Space Rental, Maintenance and Utilities: \$281,959 (5%)
- Other Expenses: \$612,492 (10%)
- Travel: \$158,481 (2%)

# Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)

## VDL Fiscal Year 2020: Procedures by Laboratory

Laboratory	Number
Bacteriology	35,314
Clinical Pathology	33
Electron Microscopy	244
Histology	36,187
Immunohistochemistry	10,104
MN Poultry Testing Lab*	131,643
Molecular diagnostics	438,907
Necropsy	12,688
Necropsy/Histopathology Only	7,779
Non-Accredited Research Laboratory	1,840
Outsourced Lab Service	5,652
Parasitology	4,174
Receiving, Reporting and Admin	272
Serology	198,534
Udder Health	86,486
Virology	14,926
Waste Disposal	13
Infectious Agent Repository	11
MN Poultry Testing Laboratory+	100,807
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>1,085,614</b>

## VDL Fiscal Year 2020: Procedures by Species

Species	Number
Amphibian	591
Avian, Chicken	55,677
Avian, Miscellaneous	4,263
Avian, Turkey	184,191
Bovine	170,058
Canine	9,611
Caprine	4,204
Cervidae	10,447
Equine	4,703
Feline	3,762
Fish	4,539
Invertebrates	4
Miscellaneous Mammals	5,845
Non-Animal Submission	320
Ovine	9,753
Porcine	617,163
Reptile	483
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>1,085,614</b>

## VDL Fiscal Year 2020: Animals Submitted

Species	Number
Amphibian	76
Avian, Chicken	43,211
Avian, Miscellaneous	2,188
Avian, Turkeys	115,398
Bovine	113,823
Canine	3,046
Caprine	2,399
Cervidae	4,094
Equine	3,558
Feline	1,081
Fish	2,054
Invertebrates	1
Miscellaneous Mammals	1,840
Non-animal Submission	276
Ovine	8,291
Porcine	297,370
Reptile	72
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>598,778</b>

\*Producer-funded testing

+Board-funded testing





625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

651-296-2942

[animalhealth@state.mn.us](mailto:animalhealth@state.mn.us)