

Valleywide News



VALLEYWIDE VETERINARY SERVICES

Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1) in dairy cattle

As many of you already know, the state of Vermont has started monthly bulk tank testing for avian influenza. The state may leave a note letting you know they were there to collect a sample, but will only contact you thereafter if the test is positive. We are not expecting positives! In the last 30 days, 31 new cases of H5N1 in dairy cattle have been reported in California and Michigan (see map at right). However, if your bulk tank does test positive, it's not time to panic! You can still ship milk from healthy cows, and continue to cull healthy animals (for slaughter in VT and out of state)

as normal. This monthly testing may also allow us to detect the virus before your animals start showing clinical signs, so we can be better prepared for an outbreak of illness.

Number of New Confirmed Cases in Cattle by State, Last 30 Days

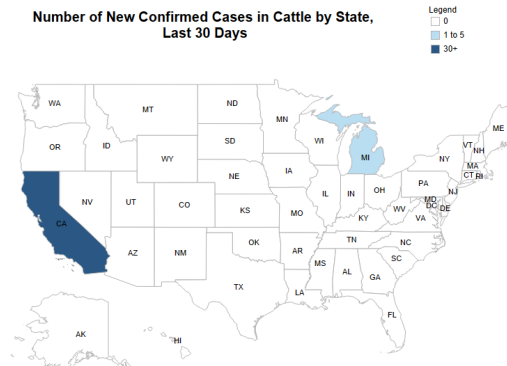


Image from aphis.usda.gov

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Important On-Call Update:

As of January 2025 we are no longer using the answering service. Instead, any after hours calls will be forwarded directly to the on-call vet. Please leave a detailed voicemail about the nature of your emergency. We hope this change will make it easier for you to communicate accurate information to us, and allow us to respond more quickly to emergencies!

Green Mountain Dairy Discussion Group Dates

All meetings are held at the Addison Fire Hall and include lunch. Everyone is welcome, please RSVP.

February: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Dr. Heather Dann, Miner Institute
Lunch sponsored by Phoenix Feeds & Nutrition

March: Friday, March 14, 2025 Dr. Paul Virkler, QMPS
Case Study of Mastitis Outbreaks
Speaker and lunch sponsored by Poulin Grain

April: Friday, April 4, 2025 Dr. Geof Smith, Zoetis
The Latest and Greatest in Managing Calf Health
Speaker sponsored by Zoetis

Backorder Update

Cavalry 9
Ceftiflex
Estrumate
Guardian
Coronavirus vaccine
Syringes 6mL and bigger

Allocation:

Excede
Dexamethasone
Tri-Shield

New Milk Lab Results Reporting

Dr. Emma Cijka

We have recently updated our milk lab in hopes of providing you with more useful information on milk quality! Here are a few differences you may notice in how we report culture results:



The biggest change is in our streps (streptococci species of bacteria). Streps are found primarily in the environment but can also establish reservoirs in the udder and spread cow to cow during milking times. Some streps cause chronic infections in the udder that do not respond to intrammary treatment, while others respond well to treatment (these include strep. agalactiae, strep. dysgalactiae, and strep. uberis). On reports, you will now see streps classified as either **“treatable streps”** or **“non-treatable streps”**. We recommend 5 days of treatment with an intramammary antibiotic for these “treatable streps”. Quarters with “Non-treatable streps” are unlikely to cure even with aggressive antibiotic therapy. Rather than invest time and money into these non-treatable streps, our recommendation is to consider making that cow 3-quartered, dry her off early and treat with a dry tube, or cull the cow. If you see an increase in mastitis due to streps, it might be worth investigating and sampling the environment for sources of infection (such as contaminated bedding).

Quarters with “Non-treatable streps” are unlikely to cure even with aggressive antibiotic therapy.

We also wanted to remind you about our staphs (staphylococci species of bacteria) which are listed as either “environmental staph” or “Staph aureus”. **Staph aureus** is a contagious pathogen that is very difficult to treat, so we recommend culling these cows. **Environmental staph** includes all the other species of staph that generally are not contagious; they are differentiated from staph aureus by a negative coagulase test (so can also be called “coagulase negative staph”). These staphs are often found on cows’ skin or in the environment, so they are a common cause of mastitis and generally respond to intramammary treatment.

If a culture result comes back **“contaminated”**, that means more than 2 types of bacterial colonies were seen, likely due to environmental contamination during sampling or milk sitting at room temperature for too long. Remember to clean the teat end carefully prior to taking the sample, carefully pop the lid to the sample vial, and hold the vial away from the udder while directing the stream of milk into the vial. Always wear clean gloves during milking, and especially when taking a milk sample. Milk samples should be placed on ice or in the freezer immediately to stop bacterial growth.

If you see a culture result you are unsure how to interpret, please email us or give the office a call and we would be happy to discuss treatment options!

