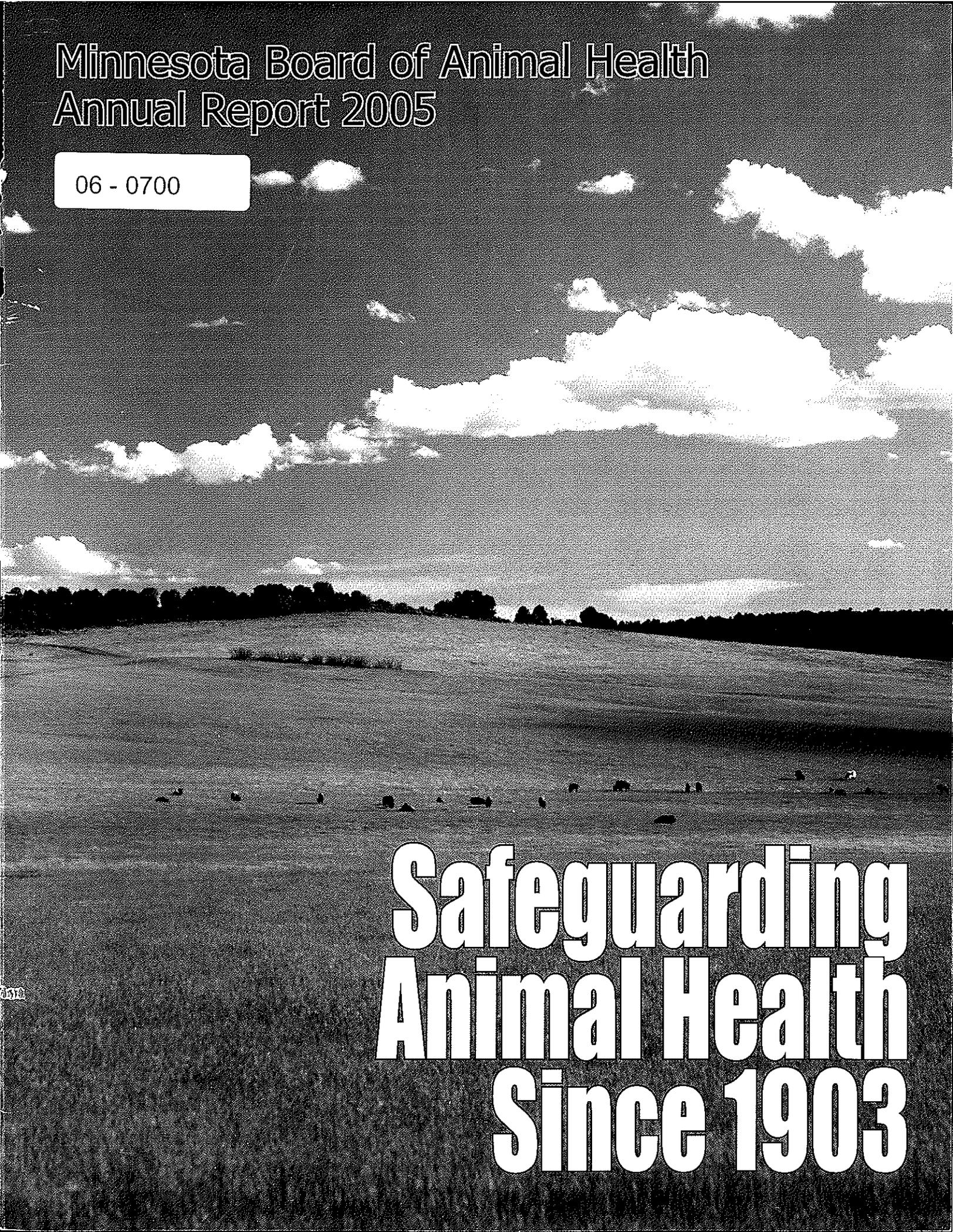


Minnesota Board of Animal Health Annual Report 2005

06 - 0700



**Safeguarding
Animal Health
Since 1903**

July 1, 2006

Dear Friends of Minnesota Agriculture:

For more than 100 years, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health has been safeguarding one of Minnesota's most important resources: animal agriculture. While the obstacles we face may change from year to year, our goal always remains the same - to work alongside producers and veterinarians in controlling and eradicating disease from Minnesota's domestic animal population.

This past year presented many new challenges, as officials detected bovine tuberculosis, prepared for avian influenza, and witnessed one of Minnesota's worst years on record for anthrax.

We have been busy this year and I am proud to say that with the help of private practitioners and livestock producers, we have faced each challenge head on. There are a number of important things to accomplish in the upcoming year and as the State Veterinarian, I look forward to continuing our important work together.

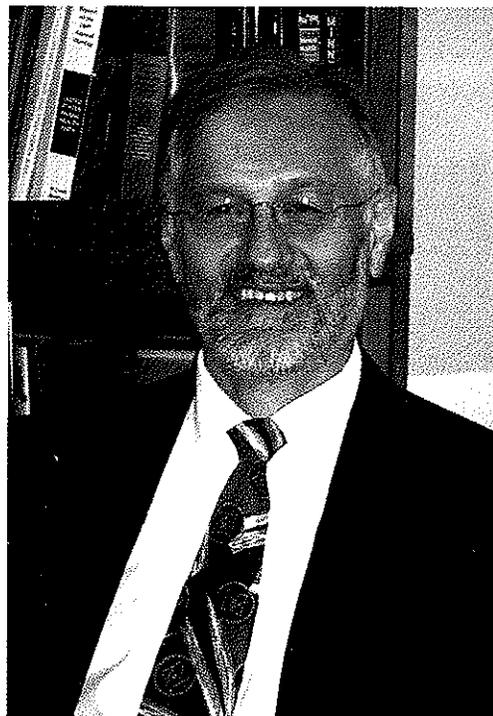
I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our numerous partners. We have been fortunate to enjoy the support of so many producers, industry leaders, and veterinarians across the state of Minnesota. It is thanks to their support that we continue to improve the quality of Minnesota livestock every year and maintain our status as a national leader in animal agriculture.

I take great pleasure in sharing with you the 2005 Minnesota Board of Animal Health Annual Report. The information contained within is from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. For more information on our disease programs, I encourage you to explore the Board's website at www.bah.state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bill Hartmann
Executive Director and State Veterinarian



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The Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Board Members

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 Dr. John Whitten, Vice-President...Alexandria
 Dr. Holly Neaton.....Watertown
 Paul FitzSimmons.....Good Thunder
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Quarterly Board Meetings

September 14, 2005
 December 13, 2005
 February 16, 2006
 April 12, 2006

The Board minutes are recorded in the Official Minute Book of the Board of Animal Health and are kept on file at the Board's office.

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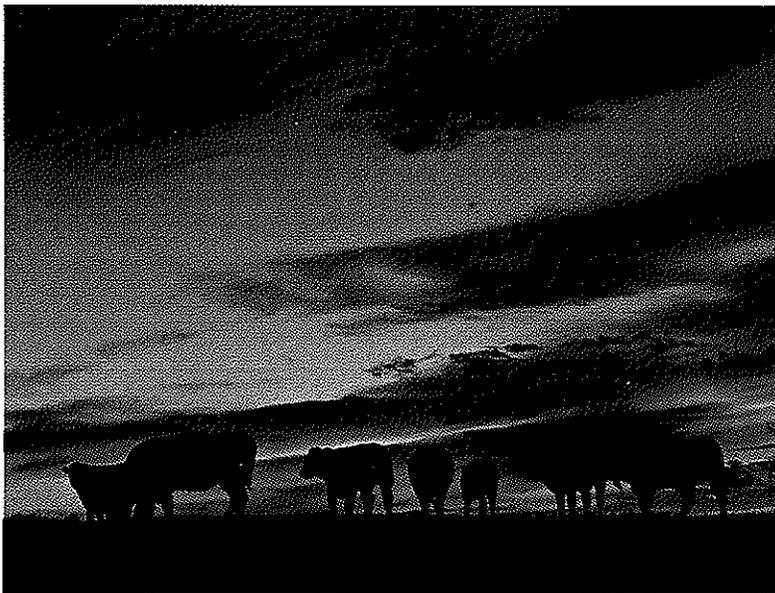
Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

In March 2005, a cow at harvest was identified as positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB) and traced to a large beef cattle herd in northwestern Minnesota. A herd TB test found other infected animals and by the end of 2005, a disease investigation identified four additional infected beef cattle herds. These five herds were indemnified by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and depopulated.

Due to the discovery, USDA downgraded Minnesota's TB status from TB-free to Modified Accredited Advanced. With the change in TB status came additional testing requirements in order to ship cattle out of state and an added cost to Minnesota producers. To regain our status, the Minnesota investigation must meet criteria set forth by USDA in the Code of Federal Regulations as well as comply with the requirements of the USDA Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules. To meet these requirements and set the course for regaining TB-free status, the BAH and USDA signed the Minnesota Bovine TB Management Plan.

TB testing can be completed by regulatory veterinarians or TB-certified private veterinarians. The Board developed training to certify veterinarians on the official testing and reporting requirements for the caudal fold tuberculin test for cattle and bison. Private vets are reimbursed for TB-testing done as part of the investigation.

In early 2006, the Board requested assistance from USDA with the TB investigation. In response, the USDA supplied two Emergency Response Teams that were working in Minnesota from February 1 to March 17, 2006. Around the same time, a TB Task Force was formed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information between those conducting the investigation and those affected by the investigation. The task force includes state and federal agencies, producers, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association, congressional staff, and state legislators.



During the 2005 hunting season, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted surveillance of hunter-harvested white-tailed deer within a 15 mile radius of an infected premises. At eight check stations in northwestern Minnesota, tissue samples were collected and submitted to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. One TB-infected deer was identified.

During the winter of 2005-06, the DNR issued special shooting permits to landowners of the infected premises allowing them to collect deer on their property. One additional TB-infected animal was discovered through this surveillance.

A bovine TB education and outreach plan was developed to keep veterinarians, producer groups, and other state and federal agencies informed about the investigation and the plan to regain Minnesota's TB-free status. Tools such as informational materials, newsletter updates, producer meetings, and a well maintained website were utilized.

Johne's Disease (JD)

Johne's Disease is a chronic, contagious enteritis characterized by persistent and progressive diarrhea, weight loss, debilitation, and eventually death. It is caused by bacteria and can affect cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, camels, farmed deer, and other domestic, exotic, and wild ruminants. There are conflicting data on the involvement of the causative organism in Crohn's disease, a chronic enteritis in people.

The Board of Animal Health manages a JD control program for Minnesota dairy and beef producers and by the end of the year, 1,907 herds were enrolled. Each herd has been visited by a Board staff member to perform a Johne's Disease risk assessment and develop a herd management plan. Of the enrolled herds, 627 have been assigned Negative Program Status. The remainder have had positive test results and have implemented management plans to eliminate the disease from their herds.

During the year, 2,041 producers tested 80,938 cows for Johne's Disease. Of the cows tested, 74,678 tested negative and 5,825 tested positive. Of the 2,041 premises tested, 1,207 had positive test results, 405 had positive results on an official fecal test.

Anthrax

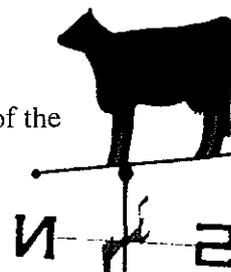
Prior to 2000, anthrax mortality in Minnesota livestock was documented only in southern and southwestern counties of the state. Since 2000, anthrax mortality in livestock has been reported exclusively in northwestern Minnesota. In the summer of 2005, five northwestern Minnesota cattle premises reported anthrax mortality as part of a much larger outbreak across North and South Dakota.

Anthrax mortality was reported earlier in the summer of 2006 than in previous years, with the first report on June 10, 2006. Twelve premises confirmed anthrax mortality in cattle, horses, or bison as of June 30, 2006. The Board continued to monitor anthrax mortality in livestock, investigate confirmed anthrax cases, and provide oversight and information on treatment, vaccination, and carcass disposal.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

The Board works with government agencies and livestock organizations to educate consumers about BSE. This spring, the USDA evaluated the enhanced nationwide BSE surveillance conducted between June of 2004 and March 2006, concluding that the prevalence of BSE in the U.S. cattle population was "extraordinarily low."

After reviewing data, USDA will develop a surveillance plan for U.S. cattle. The USDA and the Board continue surveillance in targeted cattle. As of June 2006, 47,163 cattle tested negative in Minnesota.



Safeguarding Cattle Health

Safeguarding Deer and Elk Health

Chronic Wasting Disease (CDW)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the brain and nervous system found in elk and deer in certain parts of North America. The disease is believed to be caused by an abnormally shaped protein called a prion which can damage brain and nerve tissue. Infected animals show progressive loss of body weight with accompanying behavioral changes. In advanced stages of the disease, infected animals become emaciated, thus "wasting" disease.

There are 705 farmed cervidae producers in Minnesota raising approximately 20,000 animals, including elk, red deer, reindeer, fallow deer, sika deer, white-tailed deer, muntjac, and a variety of other species. All deer and elk producers are required to register their animals with the Board of Animal Health and participate in a surveillance program for CWD.

During the last twelve months, Minnesota farmed deer and elk producers tested 1,855 animals for CWD.

One white-tailed deer tested positive for CWD. The animal was a farmed white-tailed deer from a Lac Qui Parle County farm. The 10-year-old female white-tailed deer from the herd was diagnosed with CWD on March 14, 2006. The herd was quarantined by the Board of Animal Health and an investigation began to determine the source of the infection and whether other deer or elk may have been exposed.

The remaining 21 animals in the herd were euthanized on June 27, 2006 and tested for CWD by the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. All 21 animals tested negative for CWD. The results were confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), in Ames, Iowa.

The Board of Animal Health investigation did not identify any other animals or herds that may have been exposed to CWD. The source of infection was not determined. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plans to sample hunter-harvested white-tailed deer in the area in November 2006.



West Nile Virus (WNV)

West Nile Encephalitis is a viral disease of both humans and horses that is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The virus is maintained in a transmission cycle between birds and mosquitoes. A vaccine for West Nile Virus (WNV) is now available for horses and has been very effective when used according to manufacturer guidelines.

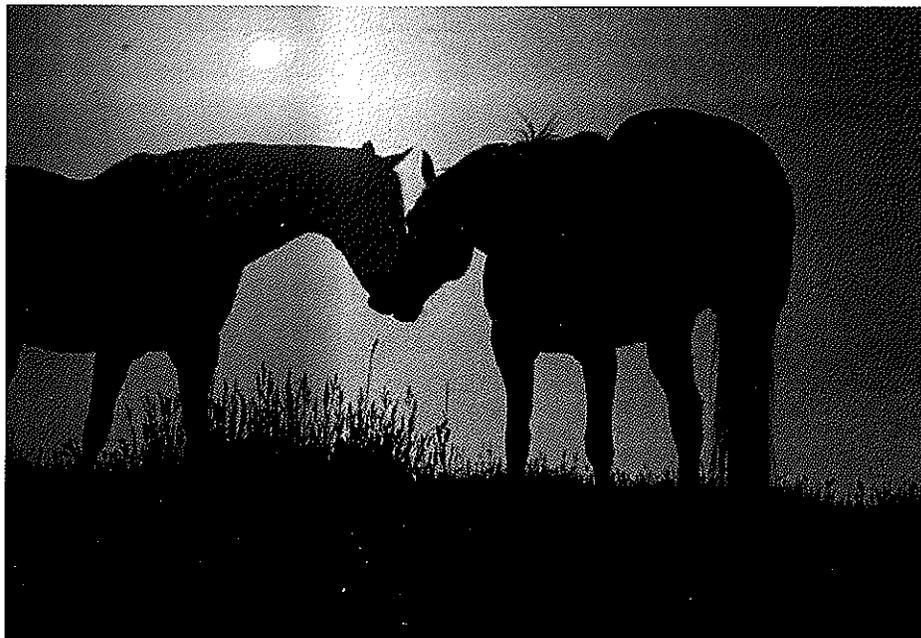
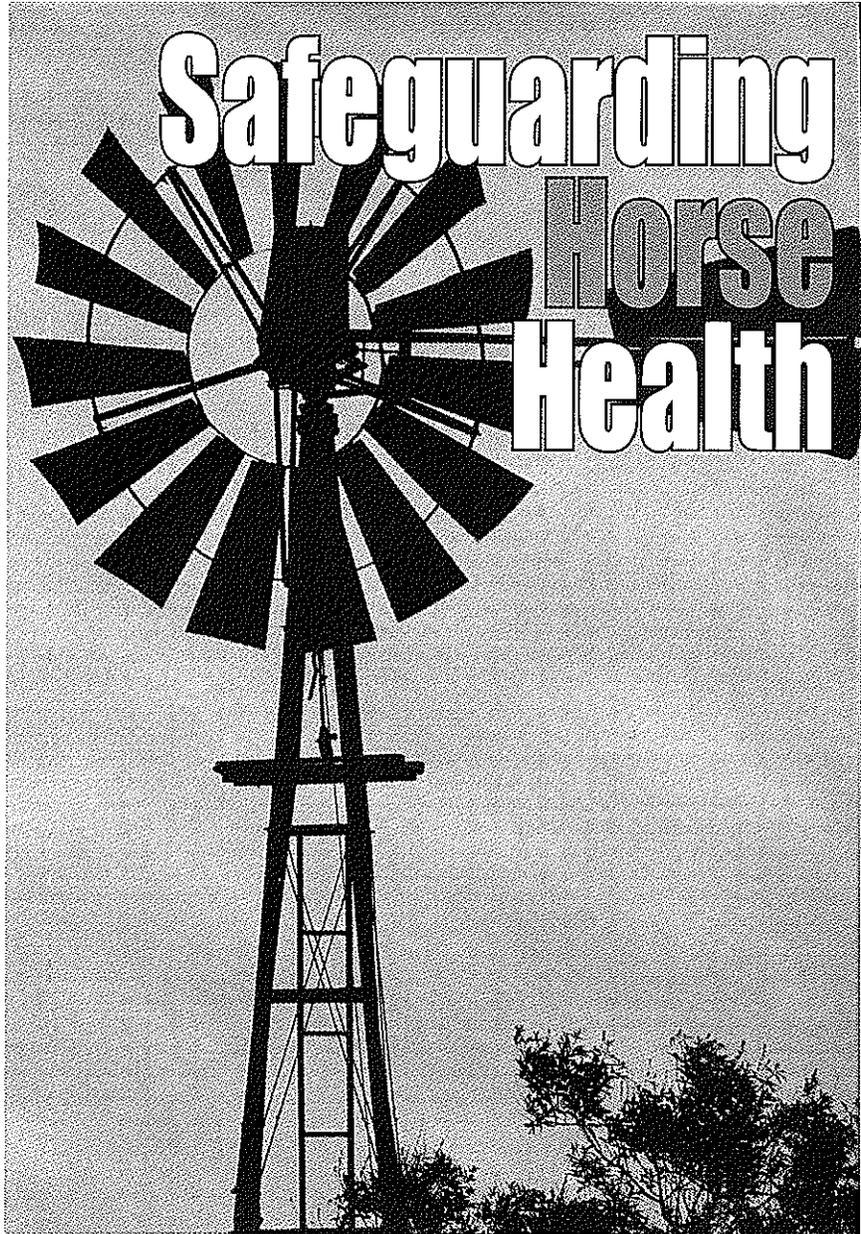
From July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, five Minnesota horses were confirmed to have WNV, none of which were vaccinated.

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), also known as swamp fever, malarial fever, mountain fever, or slow fever, is a viral disease of horses. The virus is closely related to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in humans. There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease and once a horse is infected, it will be infected for life. An infected horse is a reservoir for spread of the disease which is 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.

During the last twelve months, 48,044 Minnesota horses were tested for EIA.

Sixty-six (66) new cases of EIA were identified, all from one farm located in Todd county.



Safeguarding Poultry Health

Avian Influenza (AI)

As a result of the potential for human pandemic influenza related to the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic AI, Minnesota has increased surveillance for all types of AI in the state's poultry. The H5N1 strain has been identified in Europe, Africa and East Asia, but has not been identified in the U.S. This year, Minnesota tested 94,112 samples from 3,761 flocks. Ten flocks were identified as positive for low pathogenic AI, a strain with no human health risk. Investigations determined the virus did not spread to other flocks.

The Board conducts surveillance in the commercial broiler/layer, turkey, and upland gamebird industry. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) monitors small poultry processing plants, live bird markets and other poultry operations.

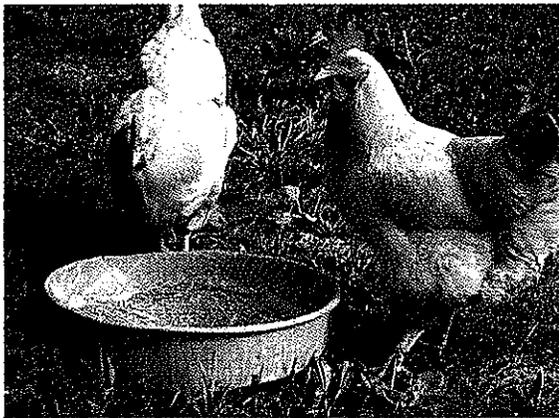
Board staff participated in numerous AI presentations to promote, inform, and educate individuals from industry, state agencies, and the public. The Board also assisted in developing a state AI website, brochures, and a multi-language DVD.

Avian Pneumovirus (APV)

For the first time since the emergence of the disease, the number of APV-positive flocks at processing declined (59% in 7/05 to 33% in 6/06). Appendix A has details on APV surveillance.

The Board received funds from the USDA to coordinate an APV Eradication Project with the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Turkey Growers. Over a three-year period, this project evaluated a modified-live vaccine in a controlled pen study at the U of M, designed and implemented a coordinated vaccination field project, and analyzed the results to evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccine.

The Board was responsible for implementing a vaccination field project in the Morgan and Faribault areas. Using a standardized vaccination protocol with additional USDA funding, a 12 month dataset from 380 project flocks was collected. The final report is still pending.



Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory

The Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) is a joint venture between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota. The MPTL provides a wide range of diagnostic services to the poultry industry, including testing for Avian Influenza (AI), Avian Pneumovirus (APV), and other diseases. The MPTL is a state-of-the-art facility that provides a high level of accuracy and reliability in its testing services. The MPTL is a key component of the Minnesota Poultry Health Program, which is designed to protect the health of the state's poultry industry and to ensure the safety of the food supply. The MPTL is a leading provider of diagnostic services to the poultry industry in Minnesota and is a valuable resource for poultry producers and processors. The MPTL is a state-of-the-art facility that provides a high level of accuracy and reliability in its testing services. The MPTL is a key component of the Minnesota Poultry Health Program, which is designed to protect the health of the state's poultry industry and to ensure the safety of the food supply. The MPTL is a leading provider of diagnostic services to the poultry industry in Minnesota and is a valuable resource for poultry producers and processors.

Safeguarding Sheep and Goat Health



Scrapie Eradication

Minnesota has an active scrapie eradication program for sheep and goat producers. In addition to identifying scrapie-infected farms and working with producers to eliminate the disease from their flock, the Board registers goat herds and sheep flocks so they can receive official identification. As of June 30, 2006, 3,695 producers had registered their herds or flocks with the Board. Additional activity is provided in the Appendix, chart 1.2.

New scrapie eradication and identification rules were adopted in March 2006:

- *Exhibition:* All sheep and goats for exhibition in MN require scrapie ID.
- *Intrastate movement:* All sheep and goats require scrapie ID when moved, with exceptions of animals younger than 18 months in slaughter channels.
- *Importation:* All sheep and goats imported into MN require ID, except feeders younger than 18 months in which case only a permit is required.

Scrapie Genotyping

This year, the Board offered free genotyping for sheep producers to determine their flock's genetic susceptibility to scrapie. Throughout the year, we allowed up to 10 rams per farm to be tested and from January through June, we allowed up to 20 ewes (blackface or mottled face) to be tested. In order to receive the free genotyping, producers agreed to cull or 3rd eyelid test any ewes found with the susceptible "QQ" genotype. Field staff collected blood for genotyping from 1,469 sheep on 129 farms as part of this effort.

Scrapie Surveillance Testing

This year, almost 100 surveillance tests were performed.

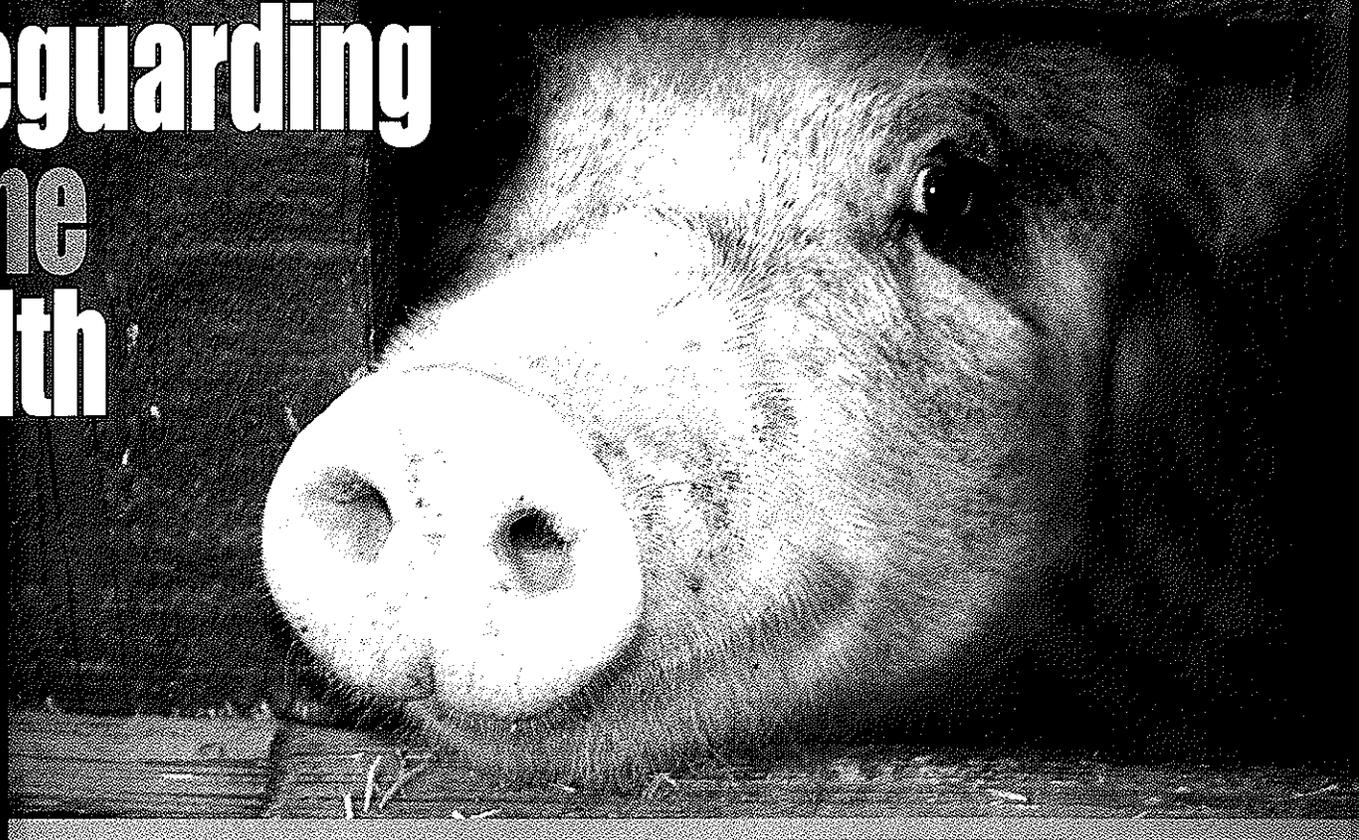
Scrapie Flock Certification Program

Participation in the voluntary scrapie certification program increased with 30 flocks enrolling during this past year. Nine of those flocks are now certified Scrapie-free.

Minnesota Sheep Facts

Minnesota has more than 2,600 sheep farms with more than 155,000 sheep. Sheep production contributes over \$15.5 million annually to the state's economy.

Safeguarding Swine Health



Pseudorabies Control and Eradication

Pseudorabies, also known as Aujeszky's Disease, is a disease of swine that is caused by a herpes virus. Infected swine harbor the virus for life and may shed the virus intermittently. While swine mortality rates vary, the disease is always fatal for cattle, sheep, goats, dogs or cats. Pseudorabies does not infect humans or horses and the disease is not a human food safety concern.

The disease has been successfully eradicated from domestic swine in all 50 states but continues to exist throughout the southern United States in feral swine and thus presents a significant and ongoing risk for reintroduction into domestic pigs.

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. At least five percent of the state's breeding swine population undergoes an official pseudorabies test each year. All suspected positive animals are traced to the herd of origin and such herds may be subjected to an official random sample herd test.

During the last year, 105,870 Minnesota sows and boars were tested for pseudorabies. All test results were negative.

Swine Brucellosis

Minnesota was declared Validated Swine Brucellosis Free in 1975. Slaughter surveillance is used in Minnesota to maintain Swine Brucellosis Free status and at least five percent of the state's breeding swine population is subjected to an official brucellosis test each year. All suspected positive animals are traced to the herd of origin and such herds may be subjected to an official random sample herd test.

During the last 12 months, 87,581 Minnesota sows and boars were tested for brucellosis. All test results were negative.

Communications

The Board's communications needs increased significantly this year with an ongoing bovine TB investigation, statewide avian influenza (AI) preparation, and a statewide focus on emergency planning. A bovine TB communications plan was designed and implemented concurrently with the investigation to inform and educate cattle producers, industry advocates, veterinarians, and the public at large. The Board worked with other state agencies and industry leaders to design an AI communications plan to educate poultry owners about disease information, biosecurity practices, and free disease testing. Throughout the year, the Board has traveled across the state to discuss these animal health issues in public forums with affected parties.

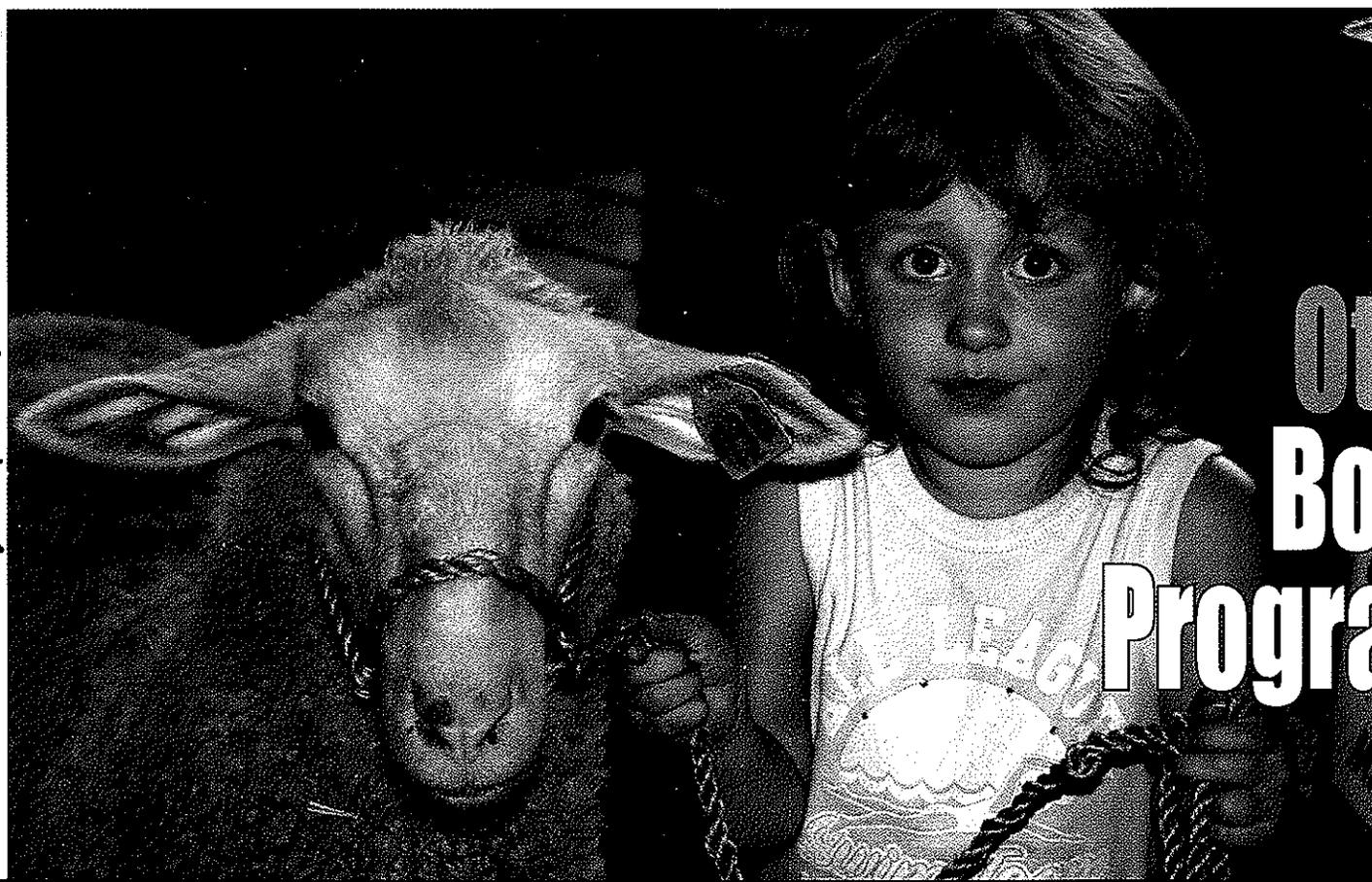
The Board continues to improve its electronic communications infrastructure, including the ability to provide press updates, newsletters and web content. The Board will further develop its capabilities to deliver news on demand, including signup for public e-mail newsletters.

Emergency Planning

Minnesota is a national leader in poultry production and this year the Board's emergency planning activities focused on a potential response to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

The Board worked with several state agencies to develop a comprehensive influenza response plan which included response to both HPAI in wild birds and domestic poultry and pandemic influenza in humans. In cooperation with Minnesota's poultry industry, the USDA, the Board and MDA are increasing surveillance for AI and training state and federal animal health staff in epidemiological investigation, euthanasia, carcass disposal and control of AI outbreaks.

The Board continues to work with MDA to train staff on the Incident Command System (ICS), a management and communication structure used nationally to organize response to a wide range of emergency situations. Staff from the Board, MDA, and USDA participated in ICS structures implemented for the bovine TB investigation and the weekly HPAI response planning meetings held in the MDA/BAH Emergency Coordination Center.



**Other
Board
Programs**

Exotic Animals

On January 1, 2005, a new law went into effect prohibiting most Minnesotans from purchasing, obtaining, or owning certain exotic animals. Restricted animals include bears, all members of the Felidae (cat) family excluding domestic cats, all non-human primates, and any hybrid or cross between an animal listed above and a domestic animal, as well as offspring from all subsequent generations of those crosses or hybrids.

People who owned these types of animals prior to January 1 were allowed to retain the animals contingent upon registration with the local animal control authority. All registration information is forwarded by the animal control authority annually to the Board. Registration information is available in the Appendix, chart 1.3.

Garbage Feeding

Regulations for garbage feeding are designed to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases into Minnesota livestock, pigs in particular. Diseases of concern that could be spread by feeding uncooked garbage include Foot and Mouth Disease and Hog Cholera.

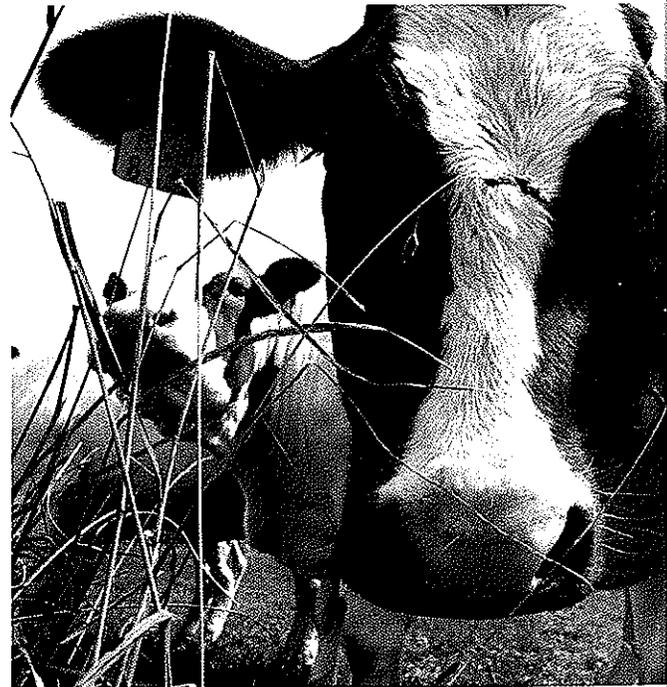
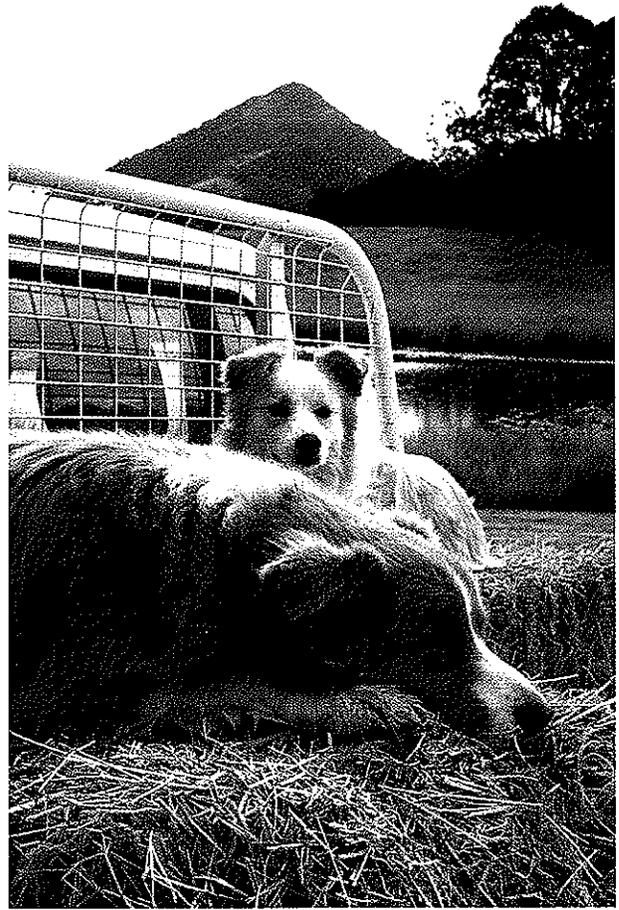
No person may feed garbage to livestock or poultry in Minnesota unless a permit has been issued by the Board of Animal Health. All garbage fed to livestock must be cooked at 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes and facilities and trucks must be inspected each month. There are currently 10 producers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

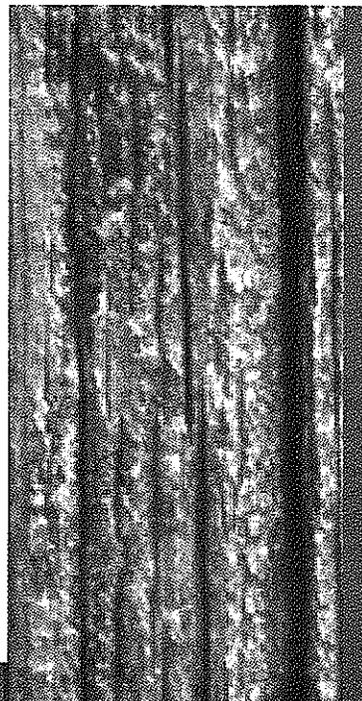
Livestock producers may also apply to the Board for an "Exempt Materials" permit. The permit allows producers to feed certain non-meat food waste to livestock and poultry without cooking it prior to feeding. There are 19 producers who have obtained permits to feed exempt materials.

Kennel, Dealer and Institution Licenses for Dogs and Cats

The Board inspects and licenses kennels that house stray, abandoned or unwanted dogs and cats. In fiscal year 2006, the Board inspected and licensed 128 kennels, including 60 veterinary clinics and 38 humane societies throughout Minnesota. During the past year, 91 inspections were completed.

Research institutions that utilize dogs and cats for purposes of investigation and instruction as well as dealers that sell or transfer animals for such purposes are required to be licensed. In fiscal year 2006, the Board inspected and licensed two research institutions and one animal dealer.





Livestock Brands

The Board approves, registers and maintains records on livestock brands in the state. This year, 1069 brands were registered.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

Together with the livestock industry, state and federal agencies are implementing a system that will enable animal health officials to trace an exposed or infected animal to its herd of origin within 48 hours in the event of a disease outbreak.

NAIS implementation efforts are currently focused on premises registration. As of June 30, 2006, the Board of Animal Health has registered more than 11,000 premises. The Appendix, chart 1.5, provides premises registration details by species.

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) applied for additional funding from the USDA to continue implementation of NAIS. A grant was given by the Board to the University of Minnesota Extension Service to facilitate producer education. Funds were also used to organize and attend meetings and educational events for producers and livestock industry representatives around Minnesota. The external steering committee made up of industry representatives continues to provide leadership on NAIS implementation. The Board assisted MDA in creating and filling a new Minnesota NAIS Project Coordinator position.

Rabies

The Board, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health is responsible for investigating all known positive rabies cases in Minnesota. To prevent the spread of rabies, the board issues quarantines for all exposed animals. During Fiscal Year 2006, 115 rabies investigations were conducted and 54 animals tested positive for rabies. Detailed information on rabies cases is available in the Appendix, chart 1.4.

Chart 1.1

Imports & Exports

Type of Animal	Imported	Exported
Cattle	361,820	158,303
Chickens - Broiler/Layer	10,996,448	16,182,220
Deer	43	120
Elk	21	710
Horses	8,199	12,419
Poultry - Non Commerical	2,713,221	325,858
Swine - Breeding	147,829	179,428
Swine- Feeding	4,584,067	1,758,136
Turkeys - Commercial	10,304,411	32,274,029

Chart 1.2

Scrapie Eradication Program Activity

Item or Action	Quantity
Scrapie Investigations completed	73
Genotype tests performed during scrapie investigations	3,664
Scrapie tests conducted	267
Infected flocks identified	5
Scrapie-positive sheep identified	42
Prevalence of scrapie in animals tested	15.7%
Flock quarantines issued	6
Flock quarantines released	10

Chart 1.3

Regulated Animals Registered

County	Registered Facilities	Large Exotic Cats	Small Exotic Cats	Bears	Primates
Anoka	1				1
Beltrami	1	4	1		5
Clay	2	1			1
Cottonwood	1				17
Goodhue	2	1			1
Hennepin	1				10
Martin	1	1			
Morrison	2	12	4	3	
Nicollet	1			4	
Ramsey	3				3
Stearns	2		1		2
Washington	1		2		6
Wilkin	1		18		
Winona	1	1			

Appendix

Chart 1.4

Rabies Cases by County and Species

County	Skunk	Bat	Bovine	Canine	Feline	Equine
Anoka		1				
Benton	2					
Carver		1				
Chippewa	1					
Clearwater	1		1			
Dakota		2				
Douglas					1	
Fillmore	1	1	1		1	
Hennepin		6				
Isanti		1				
Kittson				1		
Lincoln	1					
Marshall			1			
Mille Lacs		1				
Morrison	6					
Mower					1	
Nobles	2					
Norman	1					
Pennington	1					
Pipestone	3		1		2	1
Ramsey		1				
Roseau				1		
Scott		1				
Stearns					1	
Todd	1		2			
Washington		2				
Watsonwan	1					
Yellow Medicine	1					

Chart 1.5

Premises Registration

Premises Type	Number of Premises
Beef	6,857
Dairy	2,891
Swine	2,096
Poultry	1,594
Sheep/Goats	1,735

Chart 1.6

Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory Statistics

Program	Birds/Samples Tested	Birds/Samples/Flocks Positive
Avian Influenza	94,112	12
Avian Pneumovirus	29,849	2,372
Mycoplasma Program (MG)	20,220	1
Mycoplasma Program (MM)	42,253	0
Mycoplasma Program (MS)	57,513	0
Salmonella Enteritidis	600	0
Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid	20,754	0
Salmonella Sanitation Monitored (Environmental)	1,768	408
Salmonella Sanitation Monitored (Pre-placement Environmental)	672	2
Salmonella Sanitation Monitored (Hatchery Debris)	3,417	869
Salmonella Typhmuri	32,249	0

Chart 1.7

Poultry Hatcheries, Dealers, and Testing Agents

Item or Employee	Quantity
Poultry Dealer Permits	199
Hatchery and Independent Flockowner Permits	109
New Authorized Testing Agents	37
Authorized Testing Agents	339
District Veterinarian Field Instructions	27

Board Staff

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

Assistant Director ... Dr. Kristine Petrini
 Senior Veterinarian ... Dr. Linda Glaser
 Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Lindsey Aipperspach
 Program Administrative Technical Specialist ... Courtney Sutton
 Project Analyst ... Bethany Hahn
 Administrative Assistant ... Melissa Petersen
 Administrative Assistant ... Melissa Brow
 Administrative Assistant ... Bliia Xiong
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Assistant Director ... Dr. Paul Anderson
 Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Carissa Allen
 Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Bethany Docken
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 Communications Coordinator ... Ted Held
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 District Veterinarian ... L. Kern Schwartz, DVM, Worthington
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 District Veterinarian ... Greg Suskovic, DVM, North Mankato
 District Veterinarian ... Dale Neirby, DVM, Faribault
 District Veterinarian ... Dr. Keith Friendshuh, Stillwater

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