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## THE MINNESOTA DAIRY HEALTH CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MAY 24 - 26, 1994

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The Minnesota Board of Animal Health is a state regulatory agency which is authorized by law to "protect the health of Minnesota domestic animals." The Board carries out this responsibility by administering animal disease control and eradication programs that are part of State-Federal cooperative programs, or are required by State Statute or by action of the Board. The Board's primary responsibility is to develop and enforce rules that protect the animals or herds that are free of disease from those animals that are exposed to or infected by specific diseases.

Specific diseases are identified for these programs. Generally these are diseases for which there is a USDA eradication or control program that the State cooperates with or a disease control program that the livestock producers of the state have requested. The anaplasmosis program is an example of the latter. Brucellosis and tuberculosis programs are examples of the former. The diseases of cattle that have been identified for state control or eradication have been brucellosis, tuberculosis, paratuberculosis and anaplasmosis. In addition, the Board is responsible for rabies cases in all domestic animals including cattle.

The Board also has responsibility for the disposal of carcasses of domestic animals that have died or been killed for purposes other than for slaughter.

The Board is responsible for the interstate movement of domestic animals and for quarantining animals infected with or exposed to diseases that have been identified by the Board as program diseases.

The brucellosis eradication program for cattle and swine has been in place since the 1940s. Minnesota was declared free of brucellosis on October 19, 1984 after having had no cases of brucellosis in cattle for the past year. Brucellosis has been diagnosed in cattle in Minnesota twice since 1984. In both cases the infected and exposed animals were sent to slaughter. Minnesota is one of 36 states free of the disease. The remaining 14 states have less than 230 infected herds.

Swine brucellosis has been reduced to 56 herds nationwide. These herds are found in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. USDA is proposing to purchase the animals in these herds in a final attempt to rid the United States of swine brucellosis.

The tuberculosis eradication program for cattle and swine has been in effect since the 1930s. Minnesota has been free of tuberculosis in cattle and swine since 1976. Surveillance for tuberculosis is maintained at slaughter by USDA personnel. The backtagging program required by USDA for cull dairy and breeding cattle is the method of

identifying infected or suspect animals at slaughter and tracing them back to the herd of origin. The Board is responsible for investigating all suspect cases of tuberculosis and brucellosis.

The Minnesota brucellosis rule for cattle includes bison. *Mycobacterium bovis* is the organism responsible for tuberculosis in bison as well as cattle. It is also found in cervidae, ie., elk and deer. There are 12 tuberculosis infected cattle herds in the United States. These are located in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and New York. 85 per cent of the TB lesions that were identified in FY '93 at slaughter were traced to cattle of Mexican origin. Mexico does not have a well defined TB eradication program for cattle as the US does. Mexican steers are allowed into the United States for feeding and slaughter. TB in the imported Mexican feeding cattle and TB in cervidae of which there are 13 infected herds in the US are the main concern for exposure for cattle in the United States.

Johne's disease or paratuberculosis is a disease of concern to the Board as well as to livestock producers and veterinarians. Because there has not been an effective test developed for Johne's disease in cattle, the Board does not have an eradication program. Up until 1986 the Board quarantined all known Johne's infected herds of cattle. There were 28 quarantined cattle herds in 1986. The quarantined requirement was dropped at that time. There are now over 700 cattle herds identified with paratuberculosis in Minnesota. These are herds with one or more animals that have had a laboratory diagnosis of the disease. The State has a 5 Stage classification program for cattle herds for paratuberculosis. There are no cattle herds at this time that are classified free of paratuberculosis.

The anaplasmosis program is designed to control the importation of breeding cattle infected with anaplasmosis. The anaplasmosis rules require that cattle entering Minnesota for breeding purposes that originate from states West and South of the states that are adjacent to Minnesota are required to have an anaplasmosis test prior to entry. Positive animals or herds which have positive animals are not allowed to enter the state.

The Board investigates all reported cases of rabies in domestic animals in Minnesota. There are rabies vaccines approved for use in cattle, horses and sheep as well as for dogs and cats. Exposed animals are quarantined for 90 days. The quarantine is established by the district veterinarians following their investigations.

The Board is responsible for the disposal of all livestock carcasses that have died or been killed for purposes other than slaughter for human or animal consumption. The requirements by law are that these carcasses must be disposed of by burning, burying, rendering or other methods as approved by the Board. The other method that has been approved so far is the composting of poultry carcasses. The Board is currently considering the composting of other species. Burning and burying are not possible in all parts of the state. Rendering is not available in some parts of the state and it is not available for sheep carcasses at all.

The Board updates its rules as necessary. This is an ongoing process. The brucellosis, anaplasmosis, auction market and exhibition rules were amended in the last year. The changes to these rules reduced the requirements for testing for transfer of ownership and the exhibition of cattle.

The anaplasmosis rule was changed to allow certain cattle into Minnesota without an anaplasmosis test.

The Board receives and approves all Certificate of Veterinary Inspection on livestock leaving the state.

The Board of Animal Health consists of 5 members who are appointed by the Governor to serve 4 year terms. By statute, there must be three livestock producers and two practicing veterinarians on the Board. They choose the Executive Secretary, who in turn assembles the staff. The Board has 35 employees. Fourteen are veterinarians, nine of which are located in districts throughout the state. They work directly with the producers and practicing veterinarians.

The Board operates two laboratories. The State-Federal Brucellosis Laboratory is located at the Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. The Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory is located in Willmar, MN. These laboratories process in excess of 1,000,000 samples annually.