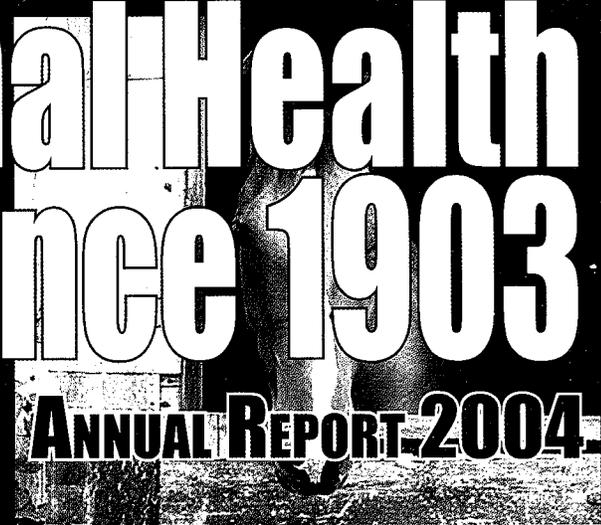
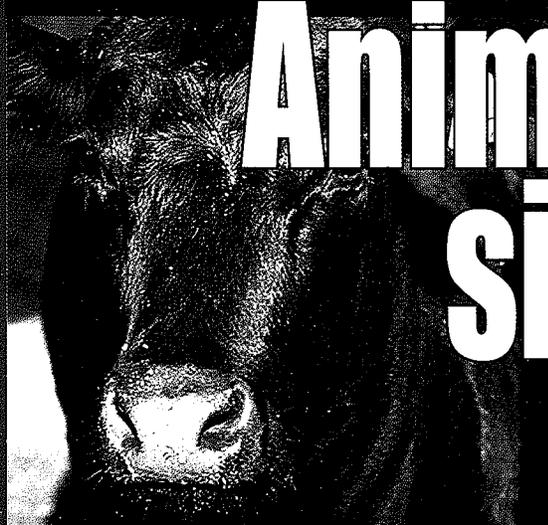
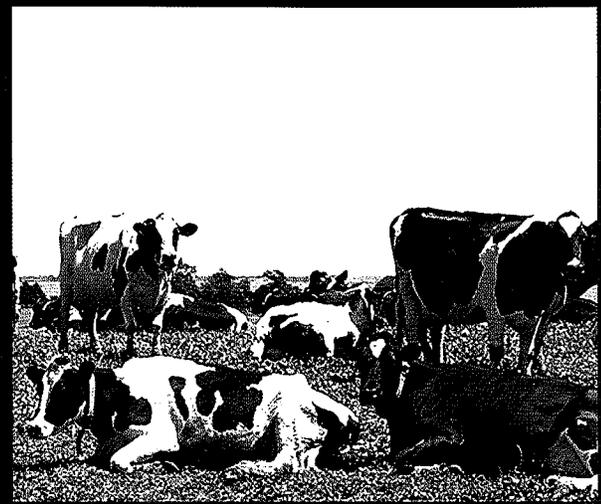


Minnesota

05 - 0644

Board of Animal Health



Safeguarding Animal Health since 1903

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



Safeguarding domestic animal health in Minnesota since 1903

Proud Past ...
Promising Future



In 1903, lawmakers recognized the value of protecting animal agriculture in the state and formed the Minnesota Livestock Sanitary Board.

One hundred years later, this organization is known as the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. It operates under the direction of a governor appointed five-member board consisting of livestock producers and veterinarians.

Minnesota animal health statutes and rules are designed to safeguard the state's domestic animals. The Board's team of veterinarians and animal health officials travel to all corners of the state to investigate possible disease outbreaks and advise animal owners about disease prevention.



2004-2005 Board Office Staff (left to right) Back Row: Barbara Gertsema, Jan Schmidt, Glenn Korman, Melissa Brow, David Wiklund, Bill Hartmann, Kern Schwartz, Paul Anderson, Arnie Jostock. Second row: Linda Glaser, Barbara Troyer, Melissa Petersen, Carissa Allen, Sandy Hinrichs, Ginny Kasper, David Nguyen, Milan Tomaska. Front row: Malissa Fritz, Rita Hatch, Jessica Monson, Terry Boldingh, Lindsey Aipperspach, Bethany Hahn, Nicole Owen. Not pictured: Helen Woodford, Kimberly Blackford, Kris Petrini.



Board Mission Statement

Animals contribute to Minnesota by providing food, income, recreation, assistance, and companionship to millions everyday. That is why the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) has been actively reducing, controlling, and eradicating animal 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.

The Minnesota BAH is a small independent state agency that oversees numerous voluntary and mandatory programs that focus on safeguarding animal diseases in Minnesota.

Animal Health employees keep a watchful eye on developing diseases across the state to protect the health of Minnesota's domestic animals.

Board Staff

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

Assistant Director ... Dr. Keith Friendshuh
Management Analyst ... Kimberly Blackford
Administrative Assistant ... Janice Schmidt

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

Assistant Director ... Dr. Paul Anderson
Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Nicole Owen
Agricultural Regulatory Specialist ... Carissa Allen
Administrative Assistant ... Ginny Kasper

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Principal Laboratory Technician ... Lisa DeVaan
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Office Specialist ... Julie Skonard

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Information Technology Specialist ... Milan Tomaska
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Administration Manager ... Barbara Troyer
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Administrative Assistant ... Sandy Hinrichs

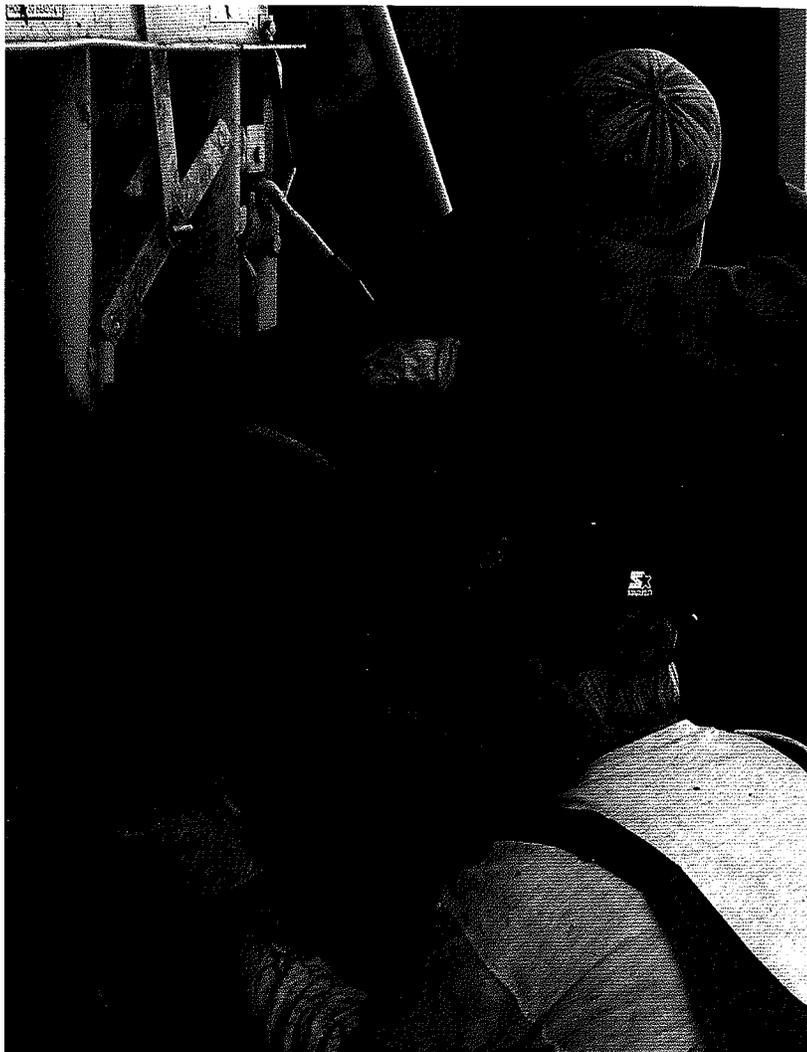
District Veterinarian ... Terry Boldingh, DVM, Breckenridge
District Veterinarian ... Arnold Jostock, DVM, Dawson
District Veterinarian ... Brad Peterson, DVM, Owatonna
District Veterinarian ... L. Kern Schwartz, DVM, Worthington
District Veterinarian ... Jeff Smith, DVM, Zumbrota
District Veterinarian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

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



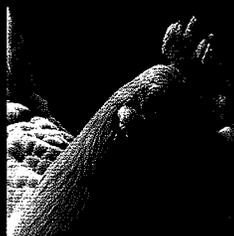
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Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory

The Board operates the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) in Willmar in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The MPTL assists Minnesota's poultry industries in providing



an abundant supply of wholesome food by conducting avian health testing services. These tests are essential to maintaining vigorous and healthy poultry populations in the state. The MPTL serves as the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) authorized laboratory for Minnesota. The MPTL also serves as the field laboratory for avian disease surveillance, along with being a research, field and educational center.

The MPTL is located at 622 Business Hwy 71 NE in Willmar, Minnesota, 56201. Staff can be reached by calling 320-231-5170, or by emailing poultry@bah.state.mn.us.

Board Members

Dr. Mahesh Kumar, President.....St. Cloud
 Dr. John Whitten, Vice President...Alexandria
 Dr. Holly NeatonWatertown
 Mr. Paul FitzSimmonsGood Thunder
 Mr. Steven BrakeWilmont

Board Meetings

Quarterly Board Meeting	September 8, 2004
Quarterly Board Meeting	December 8, 2004
Quarterly Board Meeting	February 16, 2005
Quarterly Board Meeting	April 6, 2005

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



2004 Board of Animal Health Summary



In 2004, the Board educated producers, state officials, and consumers on Bovine Spongiform Ecephalopathy (BSE), developed and implemented a national animal identification program in Minnesota, and initiated a bovine Tuberculosis (TB) investigation all in an effort to continue safeguarding the health of Minnesota's domestic animals. Each of the previously mentioned projects are highlighted on this page.

Bovine Spongiform Ecephalopathy (BSE)

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has been working with government agencies and livestock organizations to educate consumers about BSE (also known as Mad Cow Disease). Board staff have given numerous informational and educational presentations in an effort to heighten the public's awareness on the current surveillance program, the disease, and the safeguards that are in place to protect the food supply. Currently, the USDA and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health are working to increase their BSE surveillance efforts in targeted cattle. As of June 2005, Minnesota had tested almost 20,000 head of cattle. All test results were negative.

National Animal ID System

The Board is developing a system that will allow an exposed animal to be traced to its herd of origin within 48 hours in the event of a disease outbreak. To accomplish this goal, the Board is asking all Minnesota livestock producers to voluntarily register their premises with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). So far, more than 4,000 producers have chosen to register. This year, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill keeping livestock producer and premises information confidential.



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

During routine slaughter surveillance a USDA veterinarian detected suspicious lesions in a five-year-old cow in February 2005. The cow was traced back to northern Minnesota using a 'back tag' placed on the cow prior to being sold for slaughter. The herd of origin was quarantined, tested, and an investigation initiated. If this herd tests positive for bovine TB it will be the first positive herd identified in Minnesota since 1971, when the state was declared free from tuberculosis.

Safeguarding Cattle Health



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

Minnesota was classified a Bovine Tuberculosis Accredited Free State by USDA in 1976. The primary surveillance method for bovine tuberculosis in the US is visual inspection of carcasses at slaughter by the USDA, FSIS. This year FSIS is working with USDA, VS to enhance tuberculosis surveillance by increasing laboratory testing of suspicious lesions collected from cattle at slaughter. Sample submissions from cattle with suspicious lesions have increased markedly in the last year.

In late February of 2005, a slaughter plant in Wisconsin found a Minnesota cow with suspicious lesions of tuberculosis. Samples collected from this animal were submitted to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa and tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. The ensuing investigation identified a large beef herd in northwestern Minnesota as the animal's herd of origin. The herd was quarantined and a whole herd test was completed in mid-May. This test resulted in 21 animals from the herd being classified as TB 'Reactors'. The 'Reactors' were sent to the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for diagnostic evaluation and sample collection for submission to the NVSL. At the end of the fiscal year, test results were not available. When results are available, state and federal authorities will review the results and assign a status to the herd.

Johne's Disease (paratuberculosis)

Johne's Disease is a chronic, contagious intestinal infection characterized by persistent and progressive diarrhea, weight loss, debilitation, and eventually death. It is caused by a bacteria named *Mycobacterium avium* paratuberculosis. It affects 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 intestinal infection in people.

The Board of Animal Health has implemented a Johne's disease control program for Minnesota dairy and beef producers. By the end of the year, 1,599 herds were enrolled in the program. Each herd has been visited by a Board or USDA staff member to perform a Johne's Disease risk assessment and develop a herd management plan. Of the enrolled herds, 440 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, 2,008 producers tested 69,525 cows for Johne's Disease. Of these, 63,238 cows tested negative and 5,610 cows tested positive.





Safeguarding Deer and Elk Health

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain and nervous system disease 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 the brain and nerve tissue. Infected animals show progressive loss of body weight with accompanying behavioral changes. In later stages of the disease, infected animals become emaciated (thus “wasting” disease).

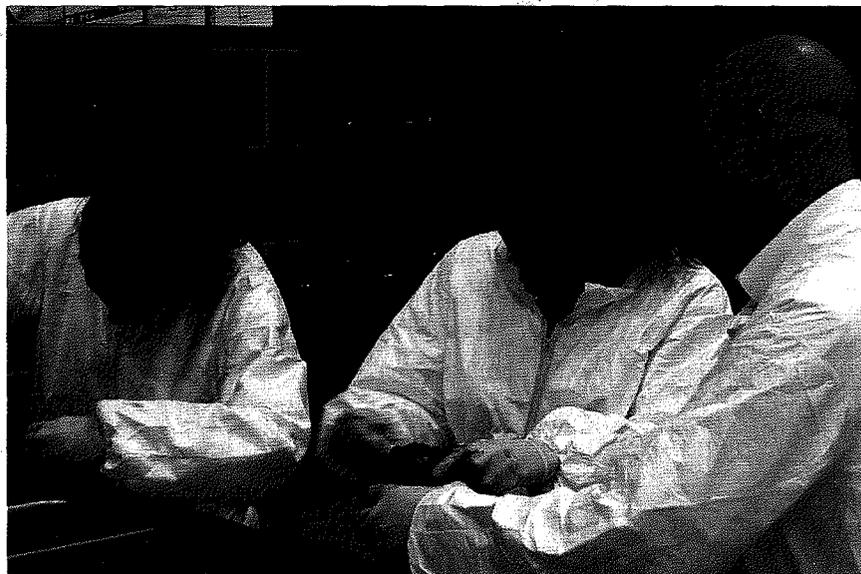
There are 755 farmed cervidae producers in Minnesota. They raise approximately 20,000 animals. These animals include elk, red deer, reindeer, fallow deer, sika deer, white-tailed deer, muntjac, and a variety of other deer species. All producers are required to register their animals with the Board of Animal Health. They are also required to participate in a surveillance program for CWD.

During the last twelve months, Minnesota farmed cervidae producers tested 2,384 animals for CWD. All tests were negative.

During the 2005 Legislative session, statutes for farmed cervidae were recodified from Minnesota Statutes Chapter 17 into Chapter 35. The reason for moving these laws for farmed cervidae into Chapter 35 was to give the Board the necessary authority to enforce them. The Board increased its enforcement activities immediately after these laws were enacted.

2004 Deer and Elk Facts

Approximately 20,000 farmed cervidae (elk, deer, etc.) are registered with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. The majority of the farmed cervidae in Minnesota are elk and deer. The state also has muntjac, moose, caribou, reindeer, fallow, and sika.



Horse



West Nile Virus

West Nile Encephalitis (WNV) 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 WNV are now available for horses and have been very effective when used according to manufactures' guidelines.

In the last twelve months, 12 Minnesota horses were confirmed to have WNV. All of these cases were in unvaccinated horses.

Equine Infectious Anemia (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.

During the last twelve months, 49,126 Minnesota horses were tested for EIA. Five new cases of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) were identified. The cases occurred in Morrison, Wadena, Hubbard, and Kanabec counties.

Horse Facts

There are over 9 million horses in the United States today. Most of these horses are kept for recreational purposes, though over 800,000 are involved in the racing industry and still others continue to make contributions to agriculture. Minnesota has the ninth largest horse population in the nation with over 150,000 horses.

The horse industry contributes \$39 billion annually to the United States economy. In Minnesota, horses contribute almost \$1 billion annually to the state economy. In addition to providing economic returns, horses are an important recreational asset to the state. Horse racing, showing, and recreational riding are activities enjoyed by many Minnesotans.



Safeguarding Poultry Health

Avian Influenza (AI)

AI is a viral disease of poultry characterized by respiratory signs, depression and reduced feed and water intake. As part of Minnesota's surveillance program, 75,036 samples from 2,715 flocks were tested. Twenty positive flocks were identified. Subtypes confirmed include H1N1, H2N1 and H3N2.

As part of a response plan to deal with an introduction of an H5 or H7 AI virus, the Minnesota commercial poultry industry has developed the Minnesota Response Plan. Key program components include: Emergency Management Committee (EMC), biosecurity, emergency awareness plans, and management plans for infected flocks. Meetings with participating companies are being conducted in order to complete the Plan.

Avian Pneumovirus (APV)

APV is an infectious respiratory viral disease of turkeys, characterized by coughing, swollen sinuses, nasal discharge and lowered feed/water consumption. In Minnesota it has been a disease problem for the turkey industry since the virus was identified in 1998, with positive flocks also diagnosed in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Appendix B contains detailed statistics on APV processing plant surveillance.

In response to the APV situation in Minnesota, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health received funds from the USDA to implement a coordinated vaccination field project. This project evaluates the USDA approved modified-live vaccine in a controlled pen study at the University of Minnesota, designs and implements a coordinated field vaccination project and analyzes the data collected to determine if a coordinated vaccination strategy is possible and successful. Field vaccination began February 1, 2005, in the Morgan and Faribault areas of Minnesota and will continue for one year per project protocol design. Supplies for the collection of samples to generate flock profiles have been provided for 249 project flocks. Two-hundred ninety-seven field and processing plant submissions have been received and tested. Forty-nine project flocks have been marketed.

Poultry Rule Change

On November 8, 2004, the Board's poultry rule was changed at the request of the Minnesota poultry industry. The poultry rule changes include a new testing age requirement for poultry to be sold, purchased or traded, a requirement for exhibition and wild turkey breeder flocks to participate in the Mycoplasma synoviae (MS) Clean program and a revised Salmonella typhimurium test protocol for turkey breeder flocks. In addition, commercial poultry flocks may participate in National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) programs. A requirement for authorized testing agents to complete continuing education course updates was included in the rule change.

Safeguarding Sheep and Goat Health



Scrapie Eradication

Minnesota has an active scrapie eradication program. Activity associated with this program is provided in Appendix A, chart 1.3. In addition to identifying scrapie-infected farms and working with producers to eliminate the disease from the flock, the Board registers goat herds and sheep flocks in Minnesota so they can receive official identification. As of June 30, 2005, 3335 producers had registered their herds or flocks with the Board.

Sheep Genotyping Project

In FY05, the Board offered a program for farmers to determine the genetic susceptibility of some of their sheep to scrapie. Originally the program allowed producers to test 10 rams on their farm at no cost to them; later it was expanded to include up to 20 animals of either sex. This was a cooperative program funded by the USDA. During Fiscal Year 2005 field staff collected blood for genotyping from 2855 sheep as part of this effort.



Twenty-seven percent of the sheep tested showed genetic susceptibility to scrapie. Another 47 percent were considered less susceptible to scrapie and 26 percent were resistant.

Scrapie Flock Certification

Participation in the voluntary scrapie certification program increased slightly during FY05. The total number of flocks enrolled by the end of the fiscal year was 27. Four of those flocks are now certified.

2004
Sheep Facts

Minnesota has more than 3,000 sheep farms with more than 140,000 sheep. Sheep production contributes over \$13.5 million annually to the state's economy.



Safeguarding Swine Health

Pseudorabies Control and Eradication

Pseudorabies, also known as Aujeszky's Disease, is a viral disease of swine that is caused by a herpes virus. Swine that are infected with the virus are infected for life and may shed the virus intermittently. Mortality rates in swine vary, but when cattle, sheep, goats, dogs or cats are infected, the disease is always fatal. Pseudorabies does not infect humans or horses and is not a human food safety concern.

Pseudorabies has now been eradicated from domestic swine in all 50 states. The disease continues to exist throughout the south in feral swine and presents a significant 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 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.

During the last twelve months, 139,938 Minnesota pigs were tested for pseudorabies. All tests were negative.

Swine Brucellosis

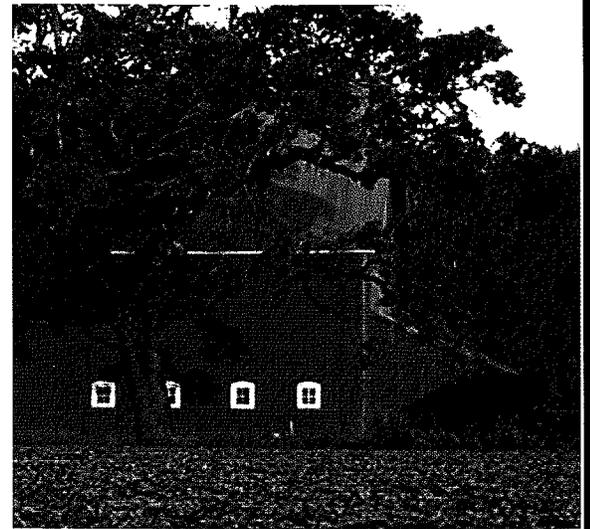
Minnesota was declared Validated Swine Brucellosis Free in 1975. Slaughter surveillance is used in Minnesota to maintain Swine Brucellosis Free status where at least five percent of the state's breeding swine population is subjected to an official brucellosis test each year. All suspects are traced to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

During the last 12 months, 125,800 Minnesota pigs were tested for brucellosis. All tests were negative.

Minnesota has about 6.5 million hogs on over 5,700 farms. The 600,000 breeding sows kept in Minnesota produce almost 10 million piglets every year. Minnesota is third in the nation for total number of pigs, and the swine industry contributes over \$1 billion annually to the state's economy.

2004 Swine Facts

Miscellaneous Programs



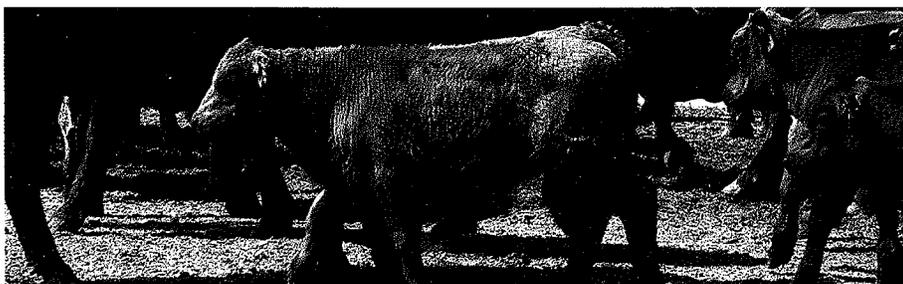
Emergency Planning

The objectives of the Board of Animal Health's (BAH) emergency planning efforts are to detect and respond to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal disease with a trained work force and the necessary resources. To improve detection of a foreign animal or other highly contagious animal disease, two additional district veterinarians were trained in foreign animal disease diagnosis this year. A total of eight Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) are available in Minnesota to investigate reports of suspicious illness in animals.

In FY05, the BAH partnered with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to develop an All Hazards Agricultural Response Plan which includes the response to a highly contagious animal disease outbreak. Staff in both agencies received advanced Incident Command System (ICS) training in planning and managing a response to a highly contagious animal disease outbreak. The ICS is the management and communication structure which will be used nationally for responding to all types of emergencies. The ICS was incorporated into planning and management of several large disease control program activities this year to provide Minnesota animal health staff experience in working in ICS.



The BAH is in the process of transferring the oversight of the Minnesota Veterinary Reserve Corps to the the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA). This transition will allow the Corps to expand their role in emergency planning and response including rescue and sheltering of animals in fires, floods, and tornadoes and working with local emergency managers in developing a local animal emergency response plan. The BAH will continue to train Corps members in preparation for response to an animal disease outbreak.



Livestock Brands

The Board approves, registers, and maintains records on livestock brands in the state. As of June 30, 2005, 1,069 brands were registered with the Board.



Rabies

The Board, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health, investigates all positive rabies cases in Minnesota and establishes quarantines on exposed animals when necessary to prevent the spread of rabies. In addition, the Board provides educational materials and makes recommendations to minimize the risk of rabies transmission. A total of 288 investigations were conducted in FY 05. Ninety-nine animals tested positive for rabies. A breakdown of these cases by species and county is provided in Appendix A, chart 1.4.

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 2005, the Board licensed 125 kennels (including 60 veterinary clinics) and performed 100 on-site inspections of these facilities.

Garbage Feeding

Regulations for garbage feeding are in place to prevent the accidental introduction of foreign animal diseases into Minnesota livestock, especially pigs. Diseases of concern that can 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 ("exempt materials") to livestock and poultry without cooking it prior to feeding. There are 16 producers who have obtained permits from the Board to feed exempt materials.



Exotic Animals

On January 1, 2005, a new Minnesota law went into affect prohibiting most citizens from purchasing, obtaining, or owning certain exotic animals, including: bears, all members of the Felidae (cat) family excluding domestic cats, all nonhuman 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 them contingent upon registration with their local animal control authority. All registration information is forwarded by the animal control authority annually to the Board of Animal Health. Registration information is available in Appendix A, chart 1.5.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota Agriculture Extension competed for funding offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to begin implementation of a NAIS. The BAH received cooperative funding of \$434,000 for the first year beginning in September of 2004. A steering committee made up of representatives from the livestock industry, the University of Minnesota, and other government agencies both State and Federal was formed to help the NAIS implementation process. The cooperative funding was targeted to begin registering Minnesota premises with nationally unique numbers as assigned by a computer housed within USDA. The initial emphasis was on registering premises containing beef cattle.



As of June 30, 2005, the BAH has registered more than 4000 Minnesota premises. Appendix A, chart 1.2, provides further species details on premises registration. This year, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill keeping livestock producer and premises information confidential.

Appendix A

Chart 1.1

Imports

Type of Animal	Imported	Exported
Cattle	157,431	100,847
Chickens - Broilers and Layers	12,517,153	21,549,423
Deer	37	328
Elk	53	824
Horses	8,623	31,455
Poultry - Non Commercial	2,870,846	434,301
Swine - Breeding	125,378	123,015
Swine - Feeding	4,722,143	1,989,057
Turkeys - Commercial	14,870,711	26,070,362

Chart 1.2

NAIS Premises Registration

Premises Type	Number of Premises
Beef	1940
Dairy	601
Swine	569
Poultry	326
Sheep/Goats	382
Horses	287
Misc.	43
Totals	4098

Chart 1.3

Scrapie Eradication Program Activity

Scrapie Investigations conducted	48
Genotype tests performed during scrapie investigations	4040
Scrapie tests conducted	767
Infected flocks identified	16
Scrapie-positive sheep identified	50
Prevalence of scrapie in animals tested	6.5%
Flock quarantines issued	18
Flock quarantines released	20

Chart 1.4

Rabies Cases By County and Species

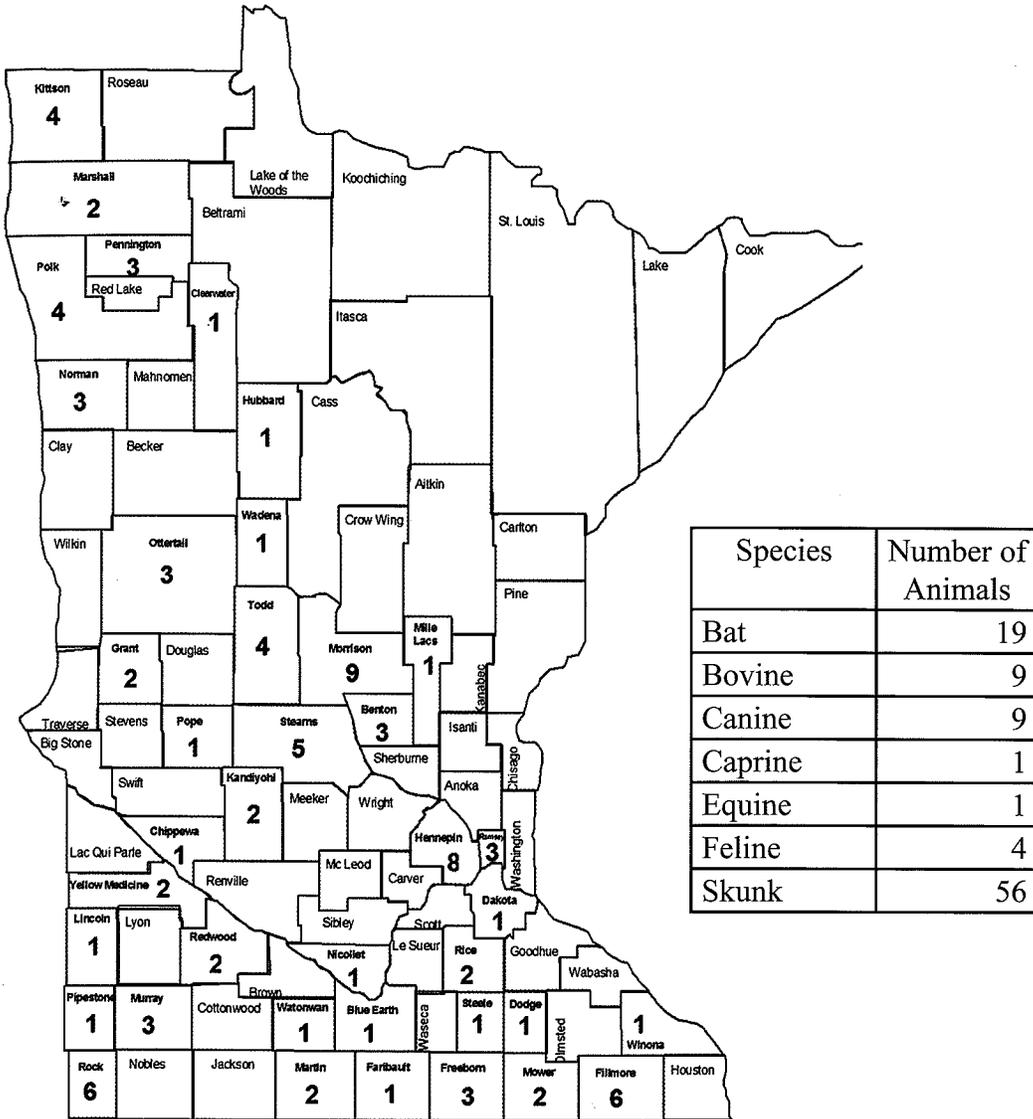


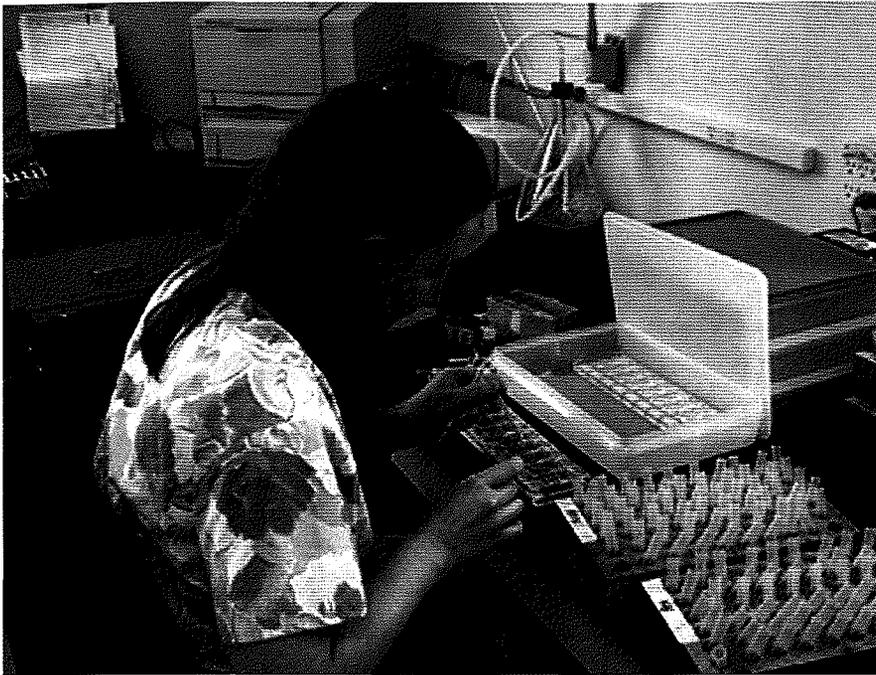
Chart 1.5

Regulated Animals Registered

County	Registered Facilities	Large Exotic Cats	Small Exotic Cats	Bears	Primates
Beltrami	1	4	1		5
Clay	1	1			
Cottonwood	1				17
Goodhue	2	1	1		2
Martin	1	1			
Morrison	2	12	4	3	
Ramsey	3				3
Stearns	1				2
Total	12	19	6	3	29



Appendix B



Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory Testing

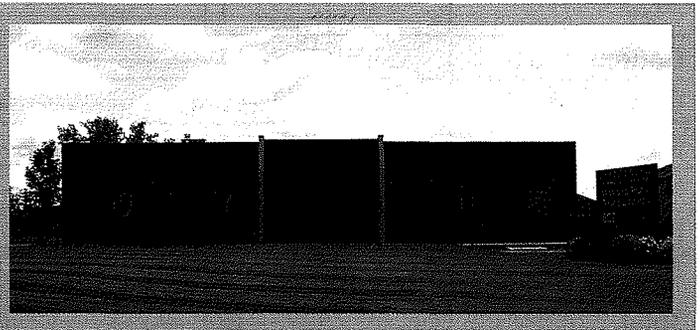
Program	Birds/Samples Tested	Birds/Samples/Flocks Positive
Avian Influenza	75,036	20
Avian Pneumovirus	26,110	1,483
Mycoplasma Program (MG)	21,317	0
Mycoplasma Program (MM)	43,174	0
Mycoplasma Program (MS)	59,821	3
Salmonella Enteritidis	1,935	0
Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid	25,465	0
Salmonella Sanitation Monitored (Environmental)	915	258
Salmonella Sanitation Monitored (Pre-placement Environmental)	672	2
Salmonella Sanitation Monitored (Hatchery Debris)	3,132	766
Salmonella Typhmuri	46,028	0

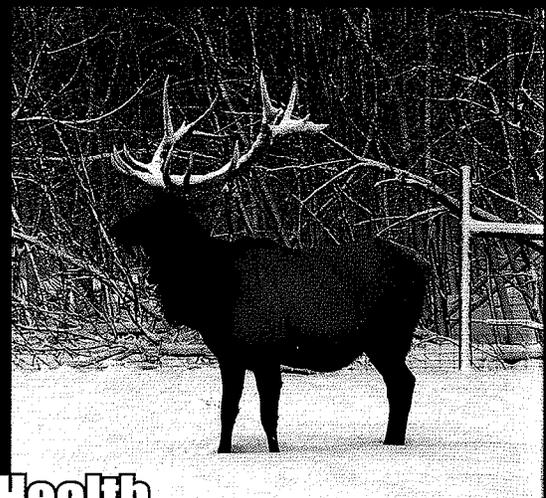
Poultry Hatcheries, Dealers, and Testing Agents

Hatchery and Flock owner Permits	214
Poultry Dealer Permits	341
New Authorized Testing Agents	27
Authorized Testing Agents	317

Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory

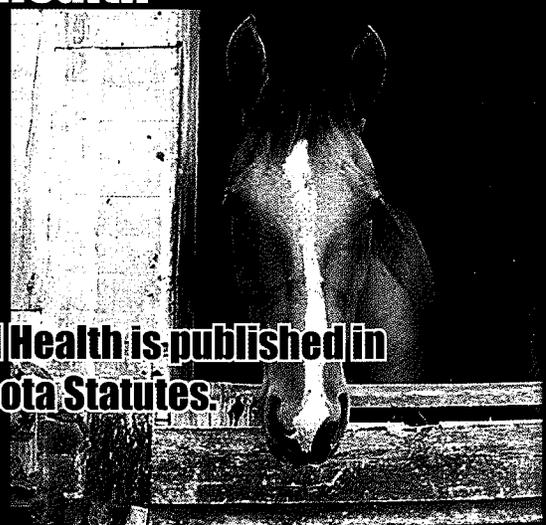
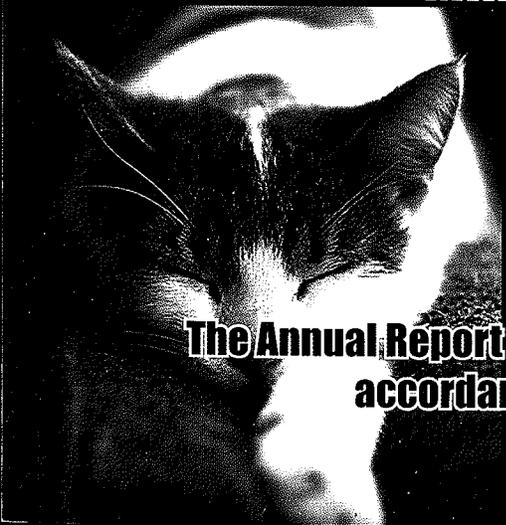
The MPTL is located at 622 Business Hwy 71 NE in Willmar, Minnesota, 56201. For more information call 320-231-5170, or email poultry@bah.state.mn.us.





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