# USDA, APHIS, VS District 1 Accredited Veterinarian Newsletter

#### **NVAP Corner**

Need to renew? See Page 2 www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap

Need to contact your NVAP coordinator click <u>here</u>

# What is the difference between Category I and Category II ?

#### **Category I animals:**

All animals **except**: food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm-raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock. Category I animal species **examples**: dog, cat, laboratory animal (rat, mouse, gerbil, guinea pig, and hamster), non-human primate, rabbit, ferret, mink, gopher, hedgehog, amphibian/reptile, native nonruminant wildlife, and marine mammal.

**Category II animals:** All animals. Category II animal species **examples**: food and fiber animal species (cow, pig, sheep, goat, all ruminant), horse (mule, ass, pony, zebra), all bird species and poultry, farm-raised aquatic animal species, livestock species (bison, captive cervid, llama, alpaca, antelope, other hoofed animal), zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock.

NVAP presence at upcoming conferences in District 1

**2015 AVMA Annual Convention** July 10-14, 2015 Boston, MA

**2015 Hambletonian Continuing Education Seminar** August 6-7, 2015 East Rutherford, NJ

**Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical** Association Keystone Clinic August 13-16, 2015 Hershey, PA

**North Carolina Veterinary Conference** November 6-8, 2015 Raleigh, NC

**Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association 3 Rivers Clinic** November 7-8, 2015 Pittsburgh, PA

**2015 Potomac Regional Veterinary Conference** November 13-15, 2015 White Sulphur Springs, WV

See NVAP presence at upcoming conferences <u>Nationwide here</u>

# On The Watch for HPAI

Chrislyn Wood Nicholson, DVM, VMO/Poultry Specialist District 1



USDA Veterinary Services has been very busy responding the Highly

Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in several states since December 2014. including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Missouri, Arkansas, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. To date (May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015), there have been 119 confirmed premises in the US with HPAI, with 108 occurring just this past month in April. Recently, the HPAI virus has severely affected the commercial turkey industry in Minnesota and large scale layer chicken complexes in Iowa and Wisconsin, with this HPAI H5N2 strain. The virus is mainly spread by wild migratory birds, such as ducks and geese, as they are a natural reservoir host. The commercial turkey and layer farms infected with the

disease have had a mortality rate of close to 98-99%. The virus is very contagious and has the ability to spread very quickly on a farm and throughout multiple barns, killing nearly all the poultry generally within a week. More than 300 USDA VS employees have been deployed to help respond to the HPAI outbreak in the west and Midwest US.

So what does this mean to you as a local veterinarian?? Well, if you see any backyard poultry or pet birds in your practice, you should be aware of HPAI by knowing the signs to look for, who to call if you suspect a case, and have education on biosecurity to provide to your clients to help prevent this disease in their bird flock. The clinical signs of birds affected with all forms of AI may show one or more of the following: Sudden death without clinical signs; Lack of energy and appetite; Decreased egg production; Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs; Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks; Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs; Nasal discharge; Coughing, sneezing; Lack of coordination; and Diarrhea.

With the highly pathogenic form of avian influenza that has been affecting the large commercial turkey and chicken farms, extremely quick death loss is the main sign noted.

If any of your bird clients contacts you with any of the previously mentioned disease signs, please contact your local USDA APHIS VS office, State Department of Agriculture, animal diagnostic laboratory immediately to report the sick birds. Here is the toll-free number that can be dialed to reach the local USDA VS office within your state: 1-866-536-7593.

USDA VS has a plethora of information about disease prevention on our website: <u>http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov/</u>

We are watching the HPAI outbreak situation very closely, and it is likely to arrive in the Atlantic flyway / East coast very soon, especially due to the migratory wild bird spread. Please visit the websites mentioned for additional information and questions. Thanks for doing your part to help look for and control this serious disease!

# **Biosecurity Tips**

Keep your distance Isolate your birds from visitors and other birds.

Keep it clean Prevent germs from spreading by cleaning shoes, tools and equipment.

**Don't haul disease home** Also clean vehicles and cages.

**Don't borrow disease from your neighbor** Avoid sharing tools and equipment with neighbors.

Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases Watch for early signs to prevent the spread of disease <u>Report sick birds</u> Report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths.

More information about the current HPAI situation and additional handouts, question and answer sheets, and video / audio recordings can be found <u>here</u>

(Go to <u>www.usda.gov</u>, and click on *Avian Influenza* under the Popular Topics)

# **Top 10 International Animal Health Certificates Errors**

1. Failure to check with a VS-NIES office or the IREGs pages of the USDA-APHIS website for the most current information before completing a health certificate.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ animal-health/export

2. Assuming the information the owner has obtained is accurate and not taking responsibility to assure, in fact, that it is.

3. Failure to line-out and initial inapplicable statements on European Union health certificates; failure to add page numbers to these same certificates. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ regulations/vs/iregs/ animals/downloads/ ee\_updated\_ann\_new\_eu\_n on\_commercial.pdf

**4.** Not including the required bilingual statements on health

certificates for certain Central and South American countries.

5. Omitting the country and other information under Consignee (destination). APHIS-VS cannot endorse a certificate that lacks a destination

country.

**6.** Submitting multiple copies of health certificate when, in fact, only 1 can and will, be endorsed.

7. Completing a health certificate for an animal knowing it is not compliant with the regulations of the importing country. Assuring compliance is a significant regulatory responsibility that comes with USDA accreditation.

**8**. Not adhering to the date format required by the importing country.

**9.** Incorrect or incomplete information: e.g. microchip numbers, vaccination dates, birthdates/ages, scientific names (genus + species), etc.

**10.** Information not consistent across all required documents (e.g. health certificate vs. laboratory reports). Such as: markings/description, ear tag numbers, tattoos, microchip numbers, etc.

You can refresh your knowledge by reviewing Module 9 – Interstate and International Health Certificates for Category I Animals at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ animal-health/nvap/take



## National Import-Export Services (NIES) – Service Center 1 Contact Information

# New York – Service Center Headquarters

Serving: NY, NJ, MA, CT, RI, VT, NH, ME, NC and WV

USDA-APHIS-VS 500 New Karner Road 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Albany, NY 12205 Email: <u>vspsny@aphis.usda.gov</u> Telephone: 518-218-7540 Fax: 518-218-7545

### <u>Virginia</u>

Serving: VA, MD and DE

USDA-APHIS-VS Federal Building 400 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 726 Richmond, VA 23219 Email: <u>vspsva@aphis.usda.gov</u> Telephone: 804-343-2567 Fax: 804-343-2599

Pennsylvania Serving: PA

USDA-APHIS-VS 2300 Vartan Way Suite 250 Harrisburg, PA 17110 Email: vspspa@aphis.usda.gov Telephone: 717-540-2770 Fax: 717-782-3809

# **Renewal Instructions in a Nutshell**

The renewal process is a **two-step** process:

**Step (1)** Complete your required number of APHIS Approved Supplemental Training (AAST) Modules: three (3) Modules for Category I, or six (6) Modules for Category II. Choose any of the 23 Modules.

(a) The Modules are available **free** on the NVAP Website <u>http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/nvap/take</u>, or

- (b) By ordering the CD or paper versions for the cost of production and mailing. Contact your NVAP Coordinator, or
- (c) They are also available as lectures at veterinary meetings and conventions (see related article).

**Step (2)** Complete and submit a Renewal Application (VS Form 1-36A):

- (a) Submit On-line\*, or
- (b) Paper Form\* Submit via mail or cause the renewal application to be delivered directly to your NVAP Coordinator.

\*These are the **only** two methods allowed for submitting your Renewal Application.

Additional **renewal** information may be found here: <u>http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\_health/vet\_accreditation/</u> <u>renew.shtml</u>

Additional **Signature Requirement** information may be found here (under Related Links): When Originals, Faxes, and/or Electronic Submissions Are Accepted

Thank you for making our 1st newsletter a great success. Your feedback was greatly appreciated and continues to be extremely important to us. Please reply to the email you received this newsletter in and let us know your suggestions. If you no longer wish to receive these newsletters, reply to the email and we will remove you from the distribution list.