

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024

Board Members

Erica Sawatzke | President of the Board and Poultry Producer, Kensington

Peggy Anne Hawkins | Vice President of the Board and Veterinarian, Northfield

Jessica Koppien-Fox | Veterinarian, Marshall

Alex Stade | Cattle Producer and member of a Tribal Nation, Prior Lake

Steve Neil | Livestock Producer, Northfield

Brandon Schafer | Livestock Producer, Goodhue

Abigail Maynard | Veterinarian Specializing in Companion Animals, St. Paul Park

Board Meetings

September 27, 2023

December 6, 2023

February 6, 2024

April 3, 2024

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

The Board of Animal Health is an equal opportunity employer.

Letter from the State Veterinarian



It's been an incredibly busy fiscal year with not one, not two, but three disease outbreaks challenging our poultry and dairy simultaneously. We are committed to protecting animal health in Minnesota and will run this marathon as

long as we need to accomplish our goal of ending these outbreaks. I applaud our staff amidst these emergency response efforts because they're also juggling other everyday duties to proactively protect animal health in Minnesota.

We started the year carrying on with the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) response that began in the spring of 2022. Last year it burned through the state in the fall, took a short reprieve in the winter, and reemerged in the spring. The spring wave was deceiving because it first appeared to be a slower rate of introduction giving way to a quieter summer. However, another couple speed bumps appeared on the horizon that quickly changed the calculus.

First was the news out of Texas and Kansas in March about some sick dairy herds testing positive for H5N1, the same virus that causes

HPAI in poultry. We were quick in Minnesota to start the conversations with our partner agencies and industry to discover potential impacts and how we might avoid the same fate. However, the disease presents differently in dairy than it does in poultry and a few months later we had our first confirmed detection on June 4 in a Benton County dairy herd. Although it took months to confirm the first positive and the subsequent handful in the remainder of the fiscal year, we've always been confident there are more cases circulating than are being tested and hope we can make progress on testing and surveillance next fiscal year.

Additionally, we faced a new challenge with the detection of avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) in Minnesota poultry flocks. This respiratory viral disease emerged in the spring and quickly spread, with 150 cases confirmed within the first two weeks. While aMPV is highly contagious and can affect up to 100-percent of a flock, it is less fatal than HPAI and flocks can recover. The main difficulty is distinguishing aMPV from HPAI, which can require extensive investigations, testing and resources.

As we close this fiscal year, we remain vigilant against all three diseases and are preparing for potential future developments. Looking ahead,

we aim to improve our response to H5N1 in dairy by enhancing surveillance and testing to better track the virus. We are grateful for the collaborative efforts of staff from various agencies and industries in tackling these challenges. I am hopeful the next annual report will highlight not only our ongoing efforts but also our successes in overcoming these diseases.

In the upcoming fiscal year, we will enter a biennial budget cycle at the state legislature. We are positioned to advocate for essential programs that have been overlooked in the past, aiming to strengthen our disease control efforts. One key proposal is the introduction of a statewide rabies vaccination law, which we hope will gain momentum this session. Additionally, we will seek updates to other programs, such as kennel laws. While the path from proposal to law is long, our focus remains on identifying issues and working with lawmakers to enhance our capacity to address them. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we work towards a healthier future for Minnesota's animals.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian L. Hoefs, DVM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian L. Hoefs, DVM
State Veterinarian, Executive Director

Swine

U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

U.S. SHIP is modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal partners providing standards for certifying the health status of greater than 99-percent of commercial scale poultry and egg operations across the United States. U.S. SHIP aims to establish a similar platform for safeguarding, improving, and representing the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions. Such a working system is needed to support the current and future health assurance needs of the modern U.S. pork industry.

The principal objectives are to develop and implement an African Swine Fever (ASF)-Classical

Minnesota SHIP participation:

Farm Type	Total Farms	Total Animals
Boar Stud	5	1,154
Breeding	127	410,844
Farrow-Feed-Finish	21	66,600
Growing Pig	1,537	4,856,587
Non-Commercial	1	20
Packing Plant	1	7,000 capacity
Small Holding (sites with 100 to 1000 animals)	22	13,064

Swine Fever (CSF) Monitored Certification of U.S. pork production operations (farm sites and slaughter facilities) modeled after the NPIP's H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored certification of U.S. Commercial Poultry operations.

The U.S. SHIP ASF-CSF Monitored certification aims to mitigate risks of disease introduction and provide a practical means for demonstrating evidence of freedom of disease (outside of foreign animal disease control areas) in support of ongoing interstate commerce and a path towards the resumption of international trade over the course of a trade impacting disease response and recovery period.

In short, U.S. SHIP will establish a national playbook of technical standards and associated certification recognized across participating states that centers on disease prevention and demonstration of freedom of disease outside of control areas in support of animal health, commerce, and trade. U.S. SHIP is designed to be applicable across the full-spectrum of U.S. pork industry participants from the small show-pig farmer to the large commercial producers and slaughter facilities.

Swine Sample Collector Trainings

There are currently 49 Tier 2 Certified Swine Samplers in Minnesota with three individuals added in the last quarter of the fiscal period. More individuals have received partial training with field/hands-on training pending. Additional trainings are scheduled for fall 2024 with a training scheduled during the State Fair to cater to the smaller seed stock producers and a class scheduled in September in Morris. The University of Minnesota Extension

received a grant at the end of this fiscal year to hold more trainings from the National Pork Board and is in the process of scheduling these trainings next fiscal year. The National Pork Board maintains an active list of Certified Swine Sample Collectors and through their outreach efforts has used their influence with swine practitioners to encourage more trainings.

Feral Swine and ASF

Minnesota continues to maintain a “feral swine free” status. The Board and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continue to monitor and follow-up with all reports of loose swine sightings. This past legislative session brought some clarity to the definitions, oversight and response to loose or feral swine following a legislative report authored by the DNR, the Board, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The legislative report also focused on mink farms. The changes are under the DNR's authority in Statute 97A.56. The new language better defines which swine are considered feral, timelines for a response, and who will coordinate the follow-up.

Feeding Food Waste to Livestock

The Board licenses facilities that feed food waste to livestock. There are two classes of permits, class A and class B. Class A permits are for premises feeding waste containing meat or refuse of any kind that may have been in contact with meat, and class B permits are for feeding waste or garbage not containing meat. We currently have five producers with class A permits and 14 with class B permits.

Companion Animals

Commercial Breeders

The Board licenses and inspects dog and cat breeders with 10 or more intact animals that produce six or more litters of puppies or kittens in a year. This year, three commercial breeders participated in the Breeder of Excellence program. This voluntary program recognizes commercial breeders exceeding state-required standards in the following areas of care: facilities management, behavior and socialization, continuing education, health screening, and canine brucellosis or feline leukemia/FIV screening. All three commercial

breeders were awarded badges in all areas, earning the title of Breeder of Excellence.

Companion Animal Imports and Regulations

Minnesota continues to see many dogs and cats entering the state as either owned pets or imports of animal rescue groups for adoption. The companion animal advisory task force has identified disease risks these imports represent, and areas of improvement for import regulations, to continue to protect the health of Minnesota's resident dogs and cats. At this time, the import

regulations have not changed for dogs and cats entering the state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its regulations on animals entering the U.S. from other countries.

Kennels

The Board licenses and inspects facilities that accept impounded, stray, abandoned, or owner-surrendered cats and dogs. This includes humane societies, rescue organizations and impound facilities. The Board does not currently license training and boarding facilities, animal day care facilities, groomers, or foster sites. Next fiscal year, the Board will be working to pursue legislative changes to its kennel statutes. Many statutes

have not changed in decades, including the annual license fee for kennels, which is \$15. The Board looks forward to working with legislators on simple updates to statute terms and definitions to reflect industry changes over time. Kennels and dealers are the terms still used in our laws and rules to refer to what we now call "animal shelters, pet rescues and animal foster homes." The Board also supports the need for regulation of foster-based rescues, which should also be addressed by expanding the Board's statutory authority. Animal fosters currently operate out of numerous private

homes and lack any state oversight. The Board's authority must be updated to keep up with the changing ways this industry operates.

Canine Brucellosis

The Board continues to partner with MDH to investigate all non-negative test results for canine brucellosis. Canine brucellosis is a zoonotic disease of concern because it can be spread from dogs to humans. Because of the contagious nature of this disease, infected dogs must be permanently isolated from other dogs or be euthanized. The Board and MDH are committed to preventing the spread of this disease by educating the public, canine businesses, rescue organizations, and veterinarians about the importance of surveillance and reporting.

Canine Influenza

Canine influenza cases this past year dramatically decreased from the 2023 outbreak. Canine influenza is a similar virus to the flu in other species, including humans and birds, however it only infects dogs. Infection causes respiratory signs including coughing, fever, and severe lethargy. The virus spreads easily between dogs through dog-to-dog contact and on contaminated surfaces. Infection for most dogs is mild to moderate, although in the old, young, and immunocompromised, it can be serious, even fatal. Diagnostic tests on suspect dogs are continuing with very few testing positive for the disease.

Companion Animal Data:

Fiscal Year 2024

Licensed Kennels and Commercial Breeders

92

Licensed Kennels as of
June 30, 2024

4

New Kennels licensed
since July 1, 2023

89

Commercial Dog and Cat
Breeders (CDCB) as of
June 30, 2024

4

New CDCB licensed
since July 1, 2023

3

Breeder Excellence
Program Participants
(all badges earned)

Canine Brucellosis:

20

Investigations

86

Total Dogs Tested

18

Positive detections

68

Negative detections

Canine Influenza

2

Positive Cases

1

Suspect Case

1

County Affected

Farmed Cervidae

The number of mixed, or non-white tailed deer, farmed Cervidae herds in the state has declined from 102 in fiscal year 2023 to 84 this fiscal year. More producers are expected to go out of business this fall, with most citing legislative changes as their reason for leaving the industry. Export continues to be the primary interstate movement of Minnesota farmed Cervidae. Recent legislation prohibiting the importation of farmed Cervidae from a state where CWD has been detected in the farmed or wild cervid population in the last five years has nearly brought importation to a halt. This has prevented some producers from being able to import stock to maintain genetic diversity in their herd.

Farmed cervid oversight

The successful transfer of authority over farmed white-tailed deer from the Board to the DNR is a major accomplishment of 2023. Program staff from each agency worked constantly to divide tasks, problem solve, collaborate on mixed-species herds, ensure the accurate transfer and maintenance of data and records, and so much more. The Board retains responsibility for administering and enforcing the statutes and

rules for all non-white-tailed deer farmed Cervidae. We also continue to assist the DNR with Tuberculosis and Brucellosis programs and interstate movement regulation of farmed white-tailed deer.

Preparations for fencing requirements

The new exclusionary fencing statute requirement is effective September 1, 2024. A panel consisting of Board and USDA staff, including farmed Cervidae staff, field staff and inspectors, and the USDA area epidemiologist has been assembled to review and approve producer fencing plans. Roughly one third of Minnesota farmed Cervidae producers have approved fencing plans on file. Several producers have reported they will be getting out of business instead of installing exclusionary fencing, and just under half have not yet submitted plans as of the close of this fiscal year. Board staff have reached out to producers multiple times to educate them on the new requirements. There are 13 mixed-species herds with white-tailed deer, and the DNR will be handling fencing inspections and approvals for all fences containing white tailed deer in those herds.

Farmed Cervidae Data:

Fiscal Year 2024

Species Breakdown

Elk
2,583

Red Deer
164

Fallow Deer
127

Reindeer
52

Sika Deer
34

Muntjac
22

Pere David's Deer
4

Moose
3

Caribou
1

Herd Breakdown by Species

Herd Type	Total Farms	Total Animals
Elk Only	56	2,248
Reindeer Only	7	43
Sika Deer Only	0	0
Red Deer Only	1	12
Muntjac Only	1	9
Fallow Deer Only	3	100
Mixed Species: No White-Tailed Deer	3	372
Mixed Species: With White-Tailed Deer	13	206*

*Number does not include white-tailed deer.

Herd Totals by Fiscal Year

FY24: 87	FY19: 360
FY23: 209	FY18: 395
FY22: 227	FY17: 421
FY21: 259	FY16: 462
FY20: 291	FY15: 463

Horses

Equine Diseases (WNV, EEE, WEE, EHM)

In fiscal year 2024, we experienced a slight uptick in West Nile virus (WNV) cases in horses through the late summer and fall. All horses that tested positive were either unvaccinated or under vaccinated. A horse is considered under vaccinated when they have not completed the recommended course of initial vaccine and booster series, followed by annual boosters. It is typical to see a cycle of increased WNV cases when horse owners haven't been hearing about many positive cases and feel the risk has diminished. This causes some horse owners to back off on their vaccination schedule, which in turn is followed by an uptick in WNV cases. As these positive cases once again highlight the need to vaccinate, the number of positive cases goes back down.

Both Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and WNV are considered reportable diseases in Minnesota due to the human health risks. While not considered zoonotic diseases that can be directly spread from horse to human, the diagnosis of positive cases in horses identifies mosquitoes carrying these viruses are in the area and humans are at risk of exposure. Positive cases for EEE and WNV are also reported to MDH to advise owners or care givers of the infected horse of the potential risk of exposure to humans in the area.

Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is a disease condition caused by Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV1). EHV1 typically causes respiratory and reproductive signs, but occasionally causes neurologic disease. EHM cases in Minnesota

over the fiscal year consisted of two older horses. Immune compromised and older horses typically mount less of an immune response to the virus and are therefore at higher risk of contracting the disease. One of the older horses recovered with some residual neurologic signs, and the other made a full recovery. A third case was not considered immune compromised but was a young horse under stress due to training. This horse recovered with no apparent residual effects. Historically, approximately half of EHM cases succumb to complications from the disease or are humanely euthanized due to poor prognosis for recovery.

Equine Exhibition Permit Pilot

An Equine Exhibition Permit pilot program was introduced in the spring of 2024 with the intent to address equine industry concerns and adapt to the current veterinary shortage while continuing to uphold the mission to protect the health of the state's domestic animals through education and cooperation with veterinarians, producers, owners, and communities. Equine exhibitions or events lasting longer than one day, or where horses are stabled overnight, require a permit from the Board. Some equine event managers have reported difficulty finding a veterinarian willing to fill the required role of official veterinarian for their event.

In cooperation with the University of Minnesota Equine Extension program, we developed an Equine Exhibition Manager Training program available as an online course. The course is composed of three modules and covers the responsibilities of equine exhibition managers, the requirements

for horses to be exhibited, and how to apply for exhibition permits. The training is self-paced, with each module expected to take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Successful completion of the program can be used to support a manager to apply for a variance to rule 1721.0100 Subp. 4. A, B, and E, which requires an official veterinarian to inspect horses on the day of admission and daily throughout the event. The exhibition manager still must retain a veterinarian to be available on call for the duration of the event, to assess any animals the manager is concerned may be showing signs of contagious or communicable disease. This fiscal year three exhibitions applied for the variance out of approximately 30 equine exhibitions that applied for permits since the pilot program was initiated.

Equine Disease Cases Fiscal Year 2024

West Nile Virus: 5

Eastern Equine
Encephalitis: 0

Equine Infectious Anemia: 0

Equine Herpesvirus
Myeloencephalopathy: 3

Cattle

H5N1 outbreak

H5N1 is an emerging disease in dairy cattle in the U.S. Minnesota had its first confirmed detection in a herd on June 4, 2024. Clinical signs are most often observed in lactating dairy cattle who may experience a sudden drop in milk production, decreased rumen motility, changes in feces and mild respiratory signs. The Board is charged with the protection of domestic livestock in collaboration with stakeholders as we respond to this infectious disease outbreak.

To control the spread of H5N1, the Board implemented quarantines and testing for infected herds. Raw milk from infected cattle is the most reliable sample for detecting the virus because it has been found to replicate in mammary tissue in the udder. Additionally, the Board implemented required H5N1 testing for lactating dairy cattle to attend exhibitions in 2024. Minnesota has most of its exhibitions, such as county fairs, during the summer months and this testing requirement helps prevent infected dairy cows from shedding virus at these events where livestock and poultry gather from multiple

farms. Since testing was developed early in the outbreak, the Board encouraged producers to test their lactating dairy cattle through the end of the fiscal year with little success. The Board also monitored the national situation as it related to our response in Minnesota.

EID in bovine

On May 9, 2024, the USDA published a Rule for “Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison.” This Rule will go into effect nationally next fiscal year on November 5, 2024, and require identification for cattle and bison contain both a visual and electronic component to be considered official.

The Board will apply these parameters on the same effective date for intrastate requirements. Identification applied prior to November 5 must meet the current state and national definitions of official, and identification applied on or after November 5 must be visual and electronic when official identification is required for intrastate and interstate movements. As part of the transition, the USDA allocated free RFID electronic tags to Minnesota for cattle and bison.

H5N1 in Dairy

Fiscal Year 2024

7

Dairy herds
confirmed positive

6,784

Head of
bovine

Poultry

HPAI Summary

Minnesota has been responding to the ongoing H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak that began in the spring of 2022. As expected, a surge in HPAI cases occurred in the fall of 2023 during the wild bird migration period,



resulting in a total of 39 new cases. Commercial poultry cases accounted for 35 of those 39 infections with the remaining being detected in small backyard flocks. The HPAI outbreak and forecast changed in the spring of 2024 with a related strain of H5N1 virus being identified in non-poultry livestock. The first livestock detection in Minnesota occurred when a goat kid (juvenile goat) residing on a farm with a HPAI infected poultry flock tested positive for the same virus. In March 2024, the USDA announced cases of H5N1 being confirmed in dairy milking cows in Texas, Kansas, and New Mexico. Detections were then rapidly identified in other states, likely through movements of cattle. Minnesota's first confirmation occurred in June 2024.

HPAI cases in commercial poultry began in April and continued through the end of the Fiscal Year. A total of 19 additional cases were detected in 2024 in poultry. Commercial cases accounted for 15 of those 19. All but one case of HPAI in commercial poultry was found to have the same genotype of H5N1 being identified in dairy cattle throughout the United States. While biosecurity remains the primary way to protect poultry against HPAI virus introductions, the uncertainty of how the virus

is spreading among these new populations creates additional challenges for poultry producers as they attempt to adjust their biosecurity protocols to protect their birds against new threats.

aMPV Summary

Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) is an infectious respiratory viral disease of poultry characterized by coughing, swollen sinuses, nasal discharge, lowered feed/water consumption and a decrease in egg production. The disease is highly contagious, and the infection rates within a flock can reach 100-percent. Mortality depends on the age of the animals and viral strain but can range from 0.5 – 80-percent. Avian Metapneumovirus infections support the replication of co-infecting pathogens, and those secondary infections are

often resistant to treatment. It is important to conduct diagnostic testing in flocks suspected of being infected with aMPV to rule out other highly contagious diseases like avian influenza.

Many states across the U.S. have been impacted by aMPV in the past year. Minnesota had its first case of aMPV in April 2024. Since then, nearly 300 commercial poultry premises have been infected with aMPV. We expect the virus will continue to circulate, and naive flocks will be susceptible to infections. There is currently no vaccine available in the U.S. to protect against this disease.

Pullorum Shortage

The Board and Minnesota Poultry producers faced additional challenges this year with the shortage of the antigen used to test for Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) disease in poultry. PT testing serves as the basis for the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) program and is also required for interstate movements and entrance to exhibitions and community sales. The sole supplier of PT antigen in the U.S. is AVS Bio. Due to production issues, the antigen was back ordered a couple of times, making the supply of antigen available to Authorized Poultry Testing Agents in Minnesota extremely limited. The Board was able to restock our supply of antigen just in time for a busy spring and summer sale and exhibition season and strives to get all NPIP participants current on their testing requirements.

Poultry Data:

Fiscal Year 2024

NPIP Program Participants: NPIP Participating Flocks:

Flock type	Number of flocks
Commercial Breeding Facility	69
Commercial Egg Layer	27
Commercial Hatcheries	9
Commercial Slaughter Plants	6
Live Bird Markets	3
Poultry Dealers	216
Subpart E -Hobbyist and Exhibition Poultry	69
Subpart F - Ratites	1
Subpart J - Game birds	19

Flock type	Number of flocks	Number of birds
Commercial Egg-Type Chicken Breeders	1	39,500
Commercial Meat-Type Chicken Breeders	60	700,400
Commercial Turkey Breeders	69	1,015,800
Commercial Egg-Type Chicken	138	16,056,937
Commercial Meat-Type Chicken	1,193	68,250,549
Subpart E - Hobbyist and Exhibition Poultry	69	14,847
Subpart F - Ratites	1	13
Subpart J - Game birds	16	156,740

HPAI Case Breakdown:

35	Commercial turkey meat bird flocks	2	Commercial chicken table-egg layer flocks
12	Commercial turkey breeder flocks	0	Commercial broiler flocks
		9	Backyard flocks

Sheep and Goats

For the last several years, Minnesota has exceeded the number of scrapie samples required to be collected from Minnesota origin animals for the National Scrapie Eradication Program and continued to collect samples to boost shortfalls in sampling numbers for other states. National Scrapie staff have recognized and shown appreciation for the efforts made by the Board and local USDA staff to collaborate in collecting these samples to continue the march towards eradicating Scrapie from the United States. As goats become more popular for small scale Minnesota farms, we have also seen an increase in calls to our scrapie line and visits to the small ruminant pages of our website for more information.

Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) are slowly progressive viral diseases affecting profits of small ruminant farmers over time. These diseases have no cure and there is no vaccine. The OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society continue to be a valuable partner to the Board and other regulators in promoting a voluntary OPP and CAE program. The goal of the program is to eradicate these diseases and promote herd health through routine testing, robust management practices and biosecurity.

Rabies

Rabies has been a little more active this year as the season went later into the fall with the warmer than average temperatures and it started earlier in the spring. This spring we saw an increase in the number of cases in cattle, with a total of six animals confirmed positive at four different sites. The cattle were most likely exposed to the virus from skunks. As skunks become symptomatic, they are more likely to be out during the day and have less fear of other animals. Cattle often share environments with skunks and therefore are more likely to be exposed to rabid skunks. We continue to see skunks and bats test positive as the main wildlife species.

Support for rabies vaccination law

Rabies vaccination of dogs and cats is an important tool in rabies control and prevention. Vaccinated dogs and cats are much less likely to become infected with rabies if they are bitten by another positive animal. This not only protects the health of the animals but public health as well. Bites by dogs and cats continue to be an issue in many communities in Minnesota and primarily affect children and other vulnerable people. Although vaccination would not prevent a bite, it would reduce the potential of human infection with a deadly virus. The Board supports legislation to require all dogs and cats over 16 weeks of age be vaccinated against rabies.

Rabies Data:

Fiscal Year 2024

Rabies investigations
(including non-negatives)

134

Rabies positives per species

35

Bats

13

Skunks

8

Cattle

0

Dogs

1

Cat

1

Fisher

59

Total positive
rabies cases

Emergency Preparedness

The primary mission of the Board is to protect the health of Minnesota's domestic animals through education and cooperation with veterinarians, producers, owners, and communities.

One of the ways in which the Board enlists cooperation is by maintaining a list of diseases which could significantly impact the health of Minnesota's domestic animal and human populations. Anyone who suspects a domestic animal may be affected by a disease on this list must report it to the Board immediately.

Minnesota veterinarians are voluntarily accredited by the federal government and support the Board by conducting regulated activities including surveillance for reportable diseases. Accredited veterinarians are our first line of defense for preventing the introduction of a foreign animal disease (FAD).

A FAD is a terrestrial or aquatic animal disease or pest not known to exist in the U.S. or its territories. Examples include highly pathogenic avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and rabbit hemorrhagic disease.

In the event a FAD is suspected in Minnesota, one of our 11 Foreign Animal Disease

Diagnosticians will conduct an investigation. These veterinarians have completed unique training at the National Veterinary Services Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to gain expertise in investigating and diagnosing FADs.

Once an animal is presumed positive for a FAD, or a FAD agent has been isolated and identified, a rapid disease response must be implemented to contain and eradicate the disease. This response includes tracing animal movements, conducting disease surveillance, and epidemiologic investigation.

The Board cannot respond to a FAD alone. We work closely with the United States Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Agriculture to form an integrated Incident Management Team (IMT). We also rely heavily on cooperation and assistance from Minnesota farmers, livestock agencies, emergency planners and emergency responders.

The work that we perform to prepare for and respond to a FAD is vital to maintain continuity of business for Minnesota's agricultural communities.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations (FADIs)

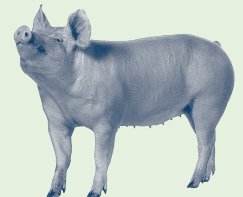
Fiscal Year 2024

Total Foreign Animal Disease Investigations

178



Poultry
130



Swine
25



Bovine
14

Equine
4

Ovine
2

Rabbit
2

Caprine
1

Animal Movements and Disease Traceability

eCVI Transition

The Board will be phasing out paper Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) in favor of electronic ones. This will reduce agency costs in mailing and payroll hours while improving data accuracy and efficiency. This aligns with national initiatives to improve traceability through electronic records. The Board will provide paper CVIs until January 1, 2025, or until current supply runs out, whichever comes first. The Board will continue to accept paper CVIs through January 1, 2026.

Example of the Board's eCVI transition messaging sent out on social media channels.

Minnesota-Issued CVIs by Species

Species	Number of CVIs Issued	Electronic	Paper
Bison	20	25%	75%
Bovine	8,818	42%	58%
Cats	394	54%	46%
Dogs	4,003	29%	71%
Equine	5,256	79%	21%
Farmed Cervidae	144	60%	40%
Goats	379	50%	50%
Regulated Animals	18	72%	28%
Sheep	658	44%	56%
Swine	3,792	97%	3%
Swine Semen	564	90%	10%
Other Species	247	74%	26%
TOTAL	24,370	58%	42%

Budget

Fiscal Year 2024

During fiscal year 2024, the Board expended \$7,483,240 to carry out its many animal health and disease programs. The following charts show how the Board used state funds:

Expenses Charged to Revenue Source: Fiscal Year 2024

Source of Funds	Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures
State - General Appropriation	\$5,897,920
Federal	\$1,267,562
State - Emergency Preparedness	\$196,177
Restricted Miscellaneous Special Revenue	\$121,581
TOTAL	\$7,483,240

Legislative Update

For fiscal year 2025, the Board was allotted \$6,401,000 in general appropriation funding. The next legislative session will begin in January 2025, where legislators will begin the process of deciding what the Board's allotted biennium general appropriation will be for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Board of Animal Health: Total Expenses by Program

Program	Expenditures	Percent
Miscellaneous Disease control and All Other Animal Health Programs	\$3,271,913	44%
Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory and Poultry Programs	\$1,672,123	22%
Executive/Administration	\$1,009,756	14%
Farmed Cervidae	\$872,262	12%
Emergency Planning	\$401,478	5%
Dog and Cat Breeder	\$255,708	3%

Board of Animal Health: Total Expenses by Category

Category	Expenditures	Percent
Payroll	\$5,027,545	67%
Professional Technical Services	\$1,077,119	14%
Information Technology	\$784,859	11%
Space Rental, Maintenance, Utilities	\$263,959	4%
Travel	\$156,825	2%
Other	\$172,934	3%

Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory

The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is the official laboratory for state testing and provides diagnostic services to the Board and others. The University of Minnesota operates two laboratory sites: the main laboratory, referred to as the VDL, on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory, or MPTL, at a stand-alone facility in Willmar. The VDL and MPTL are the only diagnostic laboratories in Minnesota that are fully- accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and are Level-one members of the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (USDA-NAHLN) and member laboratory of the U.S. FDA-Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN). VDL and MPTL lab's mission is to empower animal health professionals with accurate and timely diagnosis, innovative research, and exceptional education. With a diverse set of expertise in the VDL diagnosticians' team that includes microbiologists, molecular biologists

and anatomic pathologists with unique specializations working with specific species and/or multiple species (companion animal pathologists, poultry pathologist, food animal pathologists (swine, bovine)) provide capacity in both the breadth and depth of diagnostic investigation capabilities. In addition, they also contribute to the success of the anatomic pathology residency program.

On February 12, 2024, Dr. Hemant Naikare was appointed as the director of the VDL and MPTL labs and professor in the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Albert Rovira served as the interim director prior to Dr. Naikare's arrival. During FY24, the two labs combined conducted 839,075 tests for diagnostics and surveillance across multiple species including poultry, livestock, companion animals, wildlife and exotics. The MPTL continued to be a critical component of the state's response to HPAI and promptly responding to the re-emergence of aMPV. The VDL performed tests for HPAI with more focus on wildlife and backyard farms.

Combined, the two laboratories performed more than 17,500 PCR tests for avian influenza from avian (chicken, miscellaneous, turkey) and more than 5,800 PCR tests for aMPV. The VDL has been instrumental in supporting the dairy cattle industry with the diagnostic investigations for HPAI in cattle performing PCR tests on individual and bulk-tank milk samples. In collaboration with the USDA, the VDL also participated in foreign animal disease surveillance programs and other economically significant disease investigations including African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Newcastle Disease, CWD, Avian Influenza and PRV. In partnership with state and federal agencies, the Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory continues to contribute to the surveillance of animal diseases in Minnesota including testing of brain samples for Rabies from multiple animal species at the Minnesota Department of Health.



Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Data:

Fiscal Year 2024

Procedures by Laboratory

Laboratory	Procedures
Bacteriology	23,878
Clinical Pathology	69
Histology	23,359
Immunohistochemistry	1,671
MN Poultry Testing Lab+	175,560
MN Poultry Testing Lab*	127,288
Molecular Diagnostics	245,183
Necropsy	7,017
Necropsy/Histopathology Only	4,640
Non-Accredited Research Lab	367
Outsourced Lab Services	11,662
Parasitology	3,450
Receiving, Reporting and Admin	487
Serology	115,093
Udder Health	91,189
Virology	8,162
TOTAL	839,075

+ Producer-funded testing

* Board-funded testing

Animals Submitted

Species	Number
Amphibian	38
Avian, Chickens	37,969
Avian, Miscellaneous	1,157
Avian, Turkey	146,176
Bovine	85,106
Camelid	74
Canine	2,748
Caprine	8,034
Cervidae	2,768
Equine	2,849
Feline	913
Fish	2,125
Invertebrates	1
Miscellaneous Mammals	1,814
Non-Animal Submission	100
Non-Human Primates	159
Ovine	2,060
Porcine	167,368
Reptile	25
TOTAL	461,484

Procedures by Species

Species	Number
Amphibian	386
Avian, Chickens	56,078
Avian, Miscellaneous	3,386
Avian, Turkey	257,503
Bovine	122,975
Camelid	372
Canine	7,185
Caprine	9,760
Cervidae	6,412
Equine	3,521
Feline	3,674
Fish	4,332
Invertebrates	30
Miscellaneous Mammals	3,361
Non-Animal Submission	115
Non-Human Primates	746
Ovine	3,406
Porcine	355,540
Reptile	293
TOTAL	839,075

Compliance

This year was a year of consistency and clarity for the compliance department. With the help of our agency attorney we were able to gain better clarity regarding interpretation of the law and direction on implementing enforcement actions across all programs. Some additional accomplishments and updates we have had include:

- Creating and implementing Educational Warning documentation as an educational tool.
- Improving inspection processes with ongoing hands-on training and updating inspection guidelines for increased clarity for inspectors across all programs.

Compliance Data Fiscal Year 2024

Compliance Actions by Program

Program	Educational Warnings	Notices of Violation/ Correction Orders	Civil Penalties
Animal Disease Traceability	0	0	1
Carcass Disposal	1	0	0
Commercial Dog and Cat Breeders	4	19	0
Dealers	0	0	0
Exhibitions	0	5	0
Farmed Cervidae	5	31	11
Food Waste to Livestock	0	0	0
Import/Intrastate Movement	32	12	2
Kennels	0	15	3
Markets	0	2	0
Poultry	8	0	0
Rabies	0	0	0
Sales	0	1	1
Scrapie	0	0	0
Testing Authorization/ Certification	1	2	1
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Veterinary Accreditation	0	1	0



Healthy animals for healthy people and communities.

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