



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EQUINE EVENT MANAGERS

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Livestock events/exhibitions may wish to institute new entry requirements based on the current Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) cases in Arizona. Cases finding of VSV have been found in Santa Cruz County. The 2014 VSV outbreak has been declared over because no new cases have been identified since early December 2014. However, there are still 8 counties in CO with VSV-positive premises under quarantine. TX no longer has any animals or farms under quarantine.

Requiring Certificates of Veterinary Inspection be issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can reduce the risk of importing not only VSV but other diseases such as Equine Herpes Virus. A window of risk still exists that cannot be completely eliminated given that the usual incubation period for VSV ranges from 2 - 8 days. Another option to consider would be to have all entries examined by a veterinarian prior to unloading on the grounds. No doubt the logistics would be a challenge.

During an event, important disease prevention/mitigation procedures are warranted. They include minimizing the sharing of water and feed/equipment, applying insect repellent daily, and closely observing animals for signs of disease.

In response to the Equine Herpes Virus outbreak associated with an event in Ogden, UT event in 2011, folks at CDFA developed a biosecurity toolkit for equine events. It is very extensive, broken down into 3 components - Basic, Enhanced and an Appendix of Forms, Charts, and Guides. In 2014 folks primarily in CO released their biosecurity and business continuity guidance based in part on the CA work. **Links to those documents are given below.**

References:

http://cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_biosecurity.html
http://colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/EHV-1%20Biosecurity%20Guidance%20for%20Equine%20Event%20Organizers_0.pdf

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Signs and Transmission:

VS susceptible species include horses, mules, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, pigs, and camelids. The clinical signs of the disease include vesicles, erosions and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, teats and above the hooves of susceptible livestock. Vesicles are usually only seen early in the course of the disease. The transmission of vesicular stomatitis is not completely understood but components include insect vectors, mechanical transmission, and livestock movement.

The Center for Food Security and Public Health has a "[Fast Facts on VSV](http://cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/vesicular_stomatitis_F.pdf)" at http://cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/vesicular_stomatitis_F.pdf

Tips for Horse Owners:

- Strict fly/biting insect control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.
- Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from other herds.

Important Points for Veterinarians:

- Any vesicular disease of livestock is reportable to the State Veterinarian's Office 602.542.4293.
- Since VS is considered a foreign animal disease, any case with clinical signs consistent with VS will warrant an investigation by a state or federal foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD).