



Commodity Development and Promotion Program & ASD Leadership Change

by Mark Killian

Effective July 1, 2018 Leatta McLaughlin will become the Assistant Director for **Commodity Development and Promotion**. This is a new position, but as a program this is not new to AZDA. As many of you already know, AZDA had a 5 staff unit dedicated to promoting Arizona agricultural products to the rest of the world. Budget cuts last decade unfortunately ended this valuable program. After visiting with many agricultural leaders and the Governor's Office, we've decided to bring back 1 of the 5 positions to oversee the program. After I became the Director 3 years ago, I tasked Ms. McLaughlin with being the liaison to WU-SATA (Western United States Trade Association) and USDA Trade Missions to start figuring out ways we could open up markets to Arizona's agricultural products. This new

position that Ms. McLaughlin will fill will allow her to work full-time on economic opportunities for Arizona agriculture.

Replacing Ms. McLaughlin as the new Associate Director for our Animal Services Division is Chris McCormack. Mr. McCormack is currently AZDA's staff attorney via the Attorney General's Office. Mr. McCormack was raised on a 1000 head cattle ranch in Oregon and brings a wealth of practical, first-hand knowledge to our Animal Services Division. As AZDA's attorney the past two years, Mr. McCormack has been involved in numerous ASD issues. He brings an abundance of his hands on ranching experience and coupled with his law degree makes Mr. McCormack a perfect fit for this position. Mr. McCormack's replacement as our agency attorney is currently being worked on by the Attorney General's Office and we will have a replacement for Mr. McCormack in the very near future.

Stray Horse Sale June 2nd at 2pm

by Richard Shore

The department has impounded two sets of stray horses and we need your help.



The first set was impounded on Wednesday May 16th. In this set we have 13 various horses. There were four mares with fillies and one mare

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Office of Special Investigations Update

The Office of Special Investigations (OSI) assisted the Phoenix Police Department with approximately 40 neglected horses. One person was arrested for felony charges. Currently OSI is working on two separate investigations, one with the Wyoming State Department of Agriculture and a second with the Phoenix Police Department.

Stray Sale *cont. from p.1*

about to foal. We also have 4 yearling mares and one stud. These horses were found near Sahuarita, AZ. The second set of horses were impounded on May 23rd from the Santa Cruz area. This group includes 2 mares, 2 studs, and 4 geldings.

The horses from Sahuarita have been reported to be from the area mines. The neighborhood people have been putting hay out for these animals. We were able to have contact with the fillies and pet them. It is unknown how much involvement the geldings from Santa Cruz have had with people.

These horses are looking for a new home. One of the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture is to pick up stray livestock on state and deeded land. The Department transported these horses to Arizona Livestock Auction at 23300 W. Broadway Rd in Buckeye, AZ. Due to the holiday weekend these horses will sell June 2nd at about 2:00pm after the sheep and goat sale. As per ARS § 3-1402 these horses must be sold to the highest bidder.

The auction could start early, so arrive early to see the horses. There will be Livestock staff on hand to answer questions about these horses.



Exhibitor Spotlight: Kelcie Hale



Kelcie is eleven years old and attends Tartesso Elementary School in Maricopa County. She has been a member of Odyssey 4-H for two years and has done projects for two heifers and one rabbit.

Q: What other activities, sports, or clubs do you participate in?

I am Chief Science Officer, National Junior Honor Society member, and play volleyball and softball.

Q: What awards have you won as an exhibitor?

I have one first and third place in Junior Heifer Classes at Maricopa County Fair and Best Opposite Breed Rabbit.

Q: What are your goals for the future?

I want to become a veterinarian.

Q: Who has influenced you the most?

My dad, Casey Hale, who has helped me with my cattle projects.

Q: What does agriculture mean to you?

Raising beef cattle for production.

Meat & Poultry Compliance Officer

by Rick Mann

The Compliance Officer (CO) is an integral part of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program. Having only one AZDA CO to ensure statewide compliance keeps CO David Pineda very busy. AZDA's CO is authorized by the Arizona Revised Statutes and Federal Meat Inspection Act and Poultry Products Act to enforce both State and Federal statutes. The statutes give the CO the authority and responsibility to protect consumers by assuring meat and poultry products are wholesome, not adulterated and properly labeled. The CO conducts surveillance reviews at distribution centers, public warehouses, retail stores, restaurants, schools, prisons and poultry-exempt facilities. The CO conducts surveillance reviews to ensure industry compliance and consumer safety. These surveillance reviews consist of product and facility assessments, food safety, sanitation, hazard control and labelling assessments.

The CO also investigates food safety, misbranding and other violations of law to protect public health and to support criminal, civil, and administrative action. An investigation includes planning, decision-making, evidence collection, identification, custody, interviews, photographic evidence, reports of investigation and investigative liaison with at-

torneys. The CO is authorized to identify, detain, and control adulterated, misbranded, illegally imported, and other illegal or unsafe meat, poultry products so they do not reach consumers.

In the event of a product recall, the CO also performs recall effectiveness checks in commerce to ensure no recalled product is being sold. If requested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety & Inspection Service compliance staff, the AZDA CO will assist with illness outbreak and epidemiological investigations. This consists of conducting product trace back and trace forward.

The AZDA CO coordinates with the USDA CO and various statewide health departments in conducting surveillance reviews and investigations of retail stores and restaurant to ensure that meat and poultry products are wholesome and properly labelled. The AZDA CO also conducts investigations of illegal slaughter and or processing operations statewide.

The AZDA CO has a database of over 100 licensees which include warehouses, distributors, jobbers, dead stock haulers, brokers and meat storage.

Changes to the Expiration Dating of Egg Cartons

by Roland Mader

As you may already know, Arizona law has changed in regards to the expiration date requirements of eggs. The changes are effective on August 3rd 2018. What has changed? A.R.S. § 3-701. Definitions

13. "Expiration date" means:

(a) **FOR EGGS THAT ARE MARKED GRADE AA**, the words "sell by" or "buy thru" followed by a date, including the month and day, that is not more than **twenty-four days** after the eggs were candled and that includes the date the eggs were candled.

(b) **FOR EGGS THAT ARE MARKED GRADE A**, the words "**BEST BY**" or "**USE BY**" followed by a date, including the month and day, that is not more than **FORTY-FIVE DAYS** after the eggs were candled and includes the date the eggs were candled.

Therefore, if Grade AA eggs were packed on May 1st, the cartons should be marked either: **SELL BY MAY 24 OR BUY THRU MAY 24.**

Therefore, if Grade A eggs were packed on May 1st, the cartons should be marked either: **BEST BY JUN 14 OR USE BY JUN 14.**

The following provisions have not been changed and remain: A.R.S. § 3-719. Reuse of standard cases and other containers; identification of eggs; expiration date markings;

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Changes to the Expiration Dating of Egg Cartons *cont. from p.3*

exceptions

E. **Cases, half cases, cartons or containers** marked grade AA or grade A **shall be marked with an expiration date.** Months shall be abbreviated Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov or Dec.

F. The expiration date marked on a **case, half case or container** holding fifteen dozen eggs or more shall be plainly and conspicuously marked in bold-faced type not less than three-eighths inch in height on one outward end of the case or container.

G. The **expiration date** marked on a carton or container holding less than fifteen dozen eggs shall be plainly and conspicuously marked in bold-faced type not less than one-eighth inch in height on one end of the outward top face of **each carton** and on **one outward end or the outward top of each container.**

H. Only one description of the size and grade of eggs and one expiration date shall appear upon any carton, container, subcontainer or case of eggs.

Taking the example that Grade AA egg cartons were packed on May 1st, the following two examples are in compliance:
BUY THRU MAY 24 OR SELL BY MAY 24.

The following are examples of NON-COMPLIANCE dating which is subject to being removed from sale and/or having a violation notice/civil fine issued. Again, this assumes that the product was packed on May 1st:

- GRADE A & GRADE AA - EXP MAY 24
(this prefix cannot be used)
- GRADE A & GRADE AA - SELL BY 144
(julian dates cannot be used)
- GRADE AA - SALE BY MAY 24
(incorrect prefix)
- GRADE AA - SELL BY 05 / 24
(must use name of month)
- GRADE AA - SELL BY MAY 25
(expiration date may exceed 23 days + pack date)
- GRADE AA - BEST BY MAY 24
(incorrect prefix)
- GRADE A - SELL BY JUN 14
(incorrect prefix)
- GRADE A - BEST BY 06 / 14
(must use name of month)



to the question: what does a dairy farmer do if one of the cows get sick? Similar to what a parent does when a child is sick, the animal gets the treatment it needs to get well soon. This means that in some cases antibiotics are needed. Just like antibiotics that are used to help people, the antibiotics are prescribed by a veterinarian for use on the dairy farm.

This poses the question: are antibiotic residues in the milk supply? The answer is no. Antibiotic residue is prohibited in milk and regulated by the AZDA's Dairy Control and Lab team. We enforce and monitor an antibiotic testing program to ensure that all dairy farms adhere to the withhold times of drugs and have a tracking system in place. Doing so makes certain that after the cow receives treatment and is removed from the milking herd, that she tests free of antibiotics before being placed back after the required withdrawal period.

Antibiotics in Milk

by Roland Mader

Arizona dairy farmers are taking animal health and wellbeing seriously. After all, it is in the best interest of everyone to have healthy and well cared for dairy animals. This leads

In addition, milk processing plants are held responsible as well. All processing plants are required to test every load of milk that they receive to be free of antibiotics before it is unloaded. The residue tests are sensitive and detect ex-

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Antibiotics in Milk

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tremely low levels of the drug. The milk from one treated cow in an entire tanker load would test positive. In the rare case when a tanker load tests positive, the **entire load** which can be more than 8,000 gallons of milk, is discarded and under no circumstances allowed for human consumption. The originating dairy farms Grade A permit is immediately suspended and a dairy sanitarian visits the dairy farm to determine the cause. Only after the dairy farm's milk tests negative for antibiotics will the dairy permit be reinstated and the farm may start shipping milk to the processing plant again.

Virulent Newcastle Disease

by Dr. Peter Mundschenk

Virulent Newcastle disease is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds and poultry. The disease is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. Virulent Newcastle disease can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry.

Clinical signs of virulent Newcastle disease include: sudden death and increased death loss in the flock; sneezing;

gasping for air; nasal discharge; coughing; greenish, watery diarrhea; decreased activity; tremors; drooping wings; twisting of the head and neck; circling; complete stiffness; and swelling around the eyes and neck. Images of some of these signs are available here.

No human cases of Newcastle disease have ever occurred from eating poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat. In very rare instances people working directly with sick birds can become infected. Symptoms are usually very mild and limited to conjunctivitis. Infection is easily prevented by using standard personal protective equipment.

The Arizona State Veterinarian would like to remind bird owners about the need for biosecurity after the confirmation of a case of virulent Newcastle disease, and the identification of one additional presumptive positive case, in backyard birds in San Bernardino County, California. Virulent Newcastle disease has not been found in commercial poultry in the United States since 2003.

Anyone who owns, shows, or works with birds or poultry to increase their biosecurity practices immediately. Biosecurity includes simple steps like washing hands and scrubbing boots before and after entering an area with birds; cleaning and disinfecting tires and equipment before moving them off the property; and iso-

lating any birds returning from shows for 30 days before placing them with the rest of the flock. Bird owners should also limit visitor contact with their birds, and not let anyone else who owns birds come in contact with their flock to avoid potentially sharing/spreading germs between flocks.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to the State Veterinary Office immediately either by email at DiseaseReporting@azda.gov or call (602) 542-4293 and leave a message.

For information about exotic Newcastle disease, please view the attachment at the end of this newsletter.

Contact Us

Dairy:
(602) 542-4189

Dispatch:
(623) 445-0281

Egg:
(602) 542-0884

Meat & Poultry:
(602) 542-6398

Self-Inspection:
(602) 542-6407

State Vet's Office:
(602) 542-4293

Exotic Newcastle disease (END)

Last Modified: Jun 1, 2017

END is a contagious and fatal disease affecting all species of birds. Previously known as velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease, END is one of the most infectious diseases of poultry in the world. The mortality in unvaccinated birds can reach 100 percent, and birds may die without any clinical signs of disease. Though recommended and widely used, vaccination does not fully protect against END and may obscure the disease, resulting in further spread.

Identifying Affected Birds

END affects the respiratory, digestive, and nervous systems. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 15 days. An infected bird may exhibit some or all of the following signs:

- Sneezing, gasping, nasal discharge, coughing;
- Greenish, watery diarrhea;
- Depression, muscular tremors, droopy wings, opisthotonus, circling, and complete paralysis;
- Partial to complete drop in egg production and thin-shelled eggs;
- Swelling of tissues around the eyes and in the neck;
- Sudden death; and
- Increased flock mortality.

Epidemiology

END is spread primarily through direct contact with droppings and nasal, ocular, or oral secretions of infected birds. The virus is present in high concentrations in body fluids and discharges and spreads rapidly through birds in confinement. The virus can be carried from one premises to another on contaminated shoes and clothing of service crews and visitors and their contaminated vehicles. END virus survives for several weeks in a warm and humid environment on feathers and in manure and other materials and can survive indefinitely in frozen material. It is rapidly destroyed by dehydration and ultraviolet rays. Smuggled psittacines, especially Amazon parrots from Latin America, pose great risks for introducing the virus into the United States. These parrots are asymptomatic carriers and can carry the virus for up to 400 days.

Biosecurity Measures on the Farm

Veterinarians should work with poultry producers to strengthen biosecurity practices. Established and enforced biosecurity protocols will help prevent introduction of END and other infectious agents. Recommend biosecurity measures include:

- Establishing an “all-in, all-out” flock-management policy;
- Protecting against exposure to wild birds or water or ground contaminated by wild birds;
- Closing bird areas to nonessential personnel or vehicles;

- Providing employees with clean clothing and disinfection facilities and directions for their use;
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting equipment and vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) when entering or leaving the farm;
- Banning the borrowing or lending of equipment or vehicles;
- Banning visiting other poultry farms, exhibitions, fairs, and sales or swap meets (if visits must occur, direct workers to change footwear and clothing on their return); and
- Banning bringing birds in slaughter channels back to the farm.

Reporting Suspicious Diseases and Illegal Bird Movements

Veterinarians may receive information regarding illegal introductions of birds from countries at risk for END. All such incidents should immediately be reported to both the Assistant District Director (AD) and the State Animal Health Official. Once END has been introduced, the only way to eradicate it is through depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, and strict quarantine. Practitioners are encouraged to educate their poultry clientele and petbird owners to report all signs of disease. If signs of disease resemble END or cannot be diagnosed, they should immediately be reported to the AD or State animal health official.