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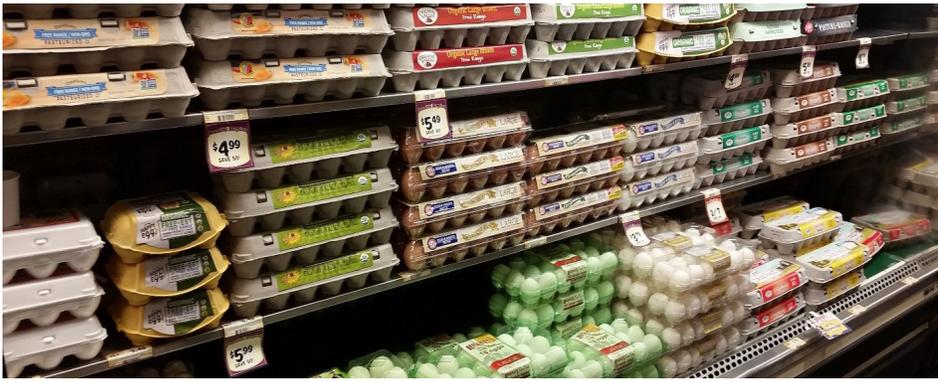
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## Livestock Self-Inspection Reminders

- Fair and show season is fast approaching. Please remember to return your completed seasonal passes at the end of the show season or termination.
- Please submit new seasonal pass applications in a timely manner to allow time for processing and for any questions we may have regarding your animals.
- Seasonal passes cannot be used to transfer ownership. This must be done by a livestock inspector or with a qualifying self-inspection certificate. Please call our office at (602) 542-6407 if you have any questions.
- Don't forget self-inspection is now available on-line. [Click here to get started.](#)
- For more updates check out our facebook page [AZDA Livestock Updates.](#)
- Need to speak with the Brand Department? Call (602) 542-3578 option 2, option 2.





## Different Types of Eggs

It's no secret that eggs are a complete protein and one of the most nutritious foods out there. Yet, do you find yourself in the grocery store aisle pondering what the difference is between all of those egg cartons? Here is a summary of the different types of egg carton labels that are most commonly found in your local supermarket.

### Conventional Eggs:

These are your standard, no-frills supermarket eggs. The hens are usually fed grain, along with vitamins and minerals. They are also usually the most economical option.



### Certified Organic Eggs:

Eggs labeled as "certified organic" have been laid by cage-free or free-range hens on certified organic feed. The hen also has access to the outdoors. The feed provided

is grown without synthetic pesticides, fungicides, herbicides or fertilizers. All ingredients in the feed are 100% organic. (Look for the USDA Certified Organic label.)



### Free-Range Eggs:

Free-range eggs are laid by hens that are not housed in cages or enclosures and have access to the outdoors. These hens are able to eat grains, plants, and the insects they find.

### Cage-Free Eggs:

Cage-free eggs are laid by hens that are not housed in enclosures. They are able to move around in open areas beyond their traditional nest space and perches.

### Pasture-Raised Eggs:

Pasture-raised eggs come from hens that move and forage for food on maintained pasture areas, however, in many cases no standards

have been established for eggs farmed this way. Though, research has shown that eggs laid by hens that have spent more time in the sun contain more Vitamin D than others.

### Omega-3 Enriched Eggs:

These are conventional eggs that come from hens that are fed an omega-3 rich feed. As a result, the eggs have more omega-3 fatty acids (which are known to have many health benefits, including promoting eye health and reducing the risk of heart disease) than the other versions, from 10 to over 600 milligrams per egg.



### USDA Grade:

USDA shell egg grading is a voluntary service paid for by shell egg producers. As an independent third party, USDA is recognized for assuring that eggs meet the U.S. grade standards for quality and sanitary processing. Any type of eggs may carry the shield, but it's most common on conventional and cage free eggs.

During our inspections we see more and more new egg labels and claims, but regardless of what type of eggs you choose to buy, you can be certain that you are getting an egg-cellent product!





## Raw Milk in Arizona

There is a lot of confusion about raw milk sold for consumption, and many are under the impression that raw milk is not available because it is illegal to be sold. Title 3 Chapter 4 § 3-606 of the Arizona statutes allows the sale of raw milk and certain raw milk products to be sold to the public, as long as the milk is produced under sanitary conditions and the farm is licensed to do so by the Department.

- Raw milk has to meet similar standards and requirements as pasteurized milk and milk products.
- Raw milk and milk products are sampled monthly and tested by the State Agricultural Lab for compliance with Grade "A" standards (bacteria, antibiotics, and somatic cell count). However, there is no routine testing for pathogens in raw milk products.
- Grade "A" Raw Milk must be bottled on the farm where it is produced.

It must be bottled on approved, mechanical fillers and may not be hand capped.

- Raw milk and milk products may be sold at retail outlets (grocery stores, farmers markets). It may not be placed next to pasteurized products when sold at retail.
- Raw milk may not be sold or used by restaurants or eating/drinking establishments.
- Milk products that can be made with raw milk include cream, cottage cheese, buttermilk, butter, kefir, and certain aged cheeses.

All containers with raw milk are required to be labeled with the following statement. **"Raw milk: not pasteurized and may contain organisms injurious to your health."**

Raw milk may also be sold as animal feed. The producer must be licensed by the Department; the milk must be colored (officially de-characterized) and labeled "Not for Human Consumption".

Do you think you might be sick from drinking raw milk or eating products made from raw milk? Symptoms of some of the diseases you can get from eating or drinking raw milk include:

### Fever

- Headache or confusion
- Muscle or joint aches
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Abdominal cramps

### Newborns may have:

- Fever
- Poor feeding
- Lack of energy
- Irritability
- Seizures

If you or someone you know is experiencing these symptoms, see your doctor right away, and discuss your possible exposure to raw milk products.

The truth about pasteurized milk:

- Pasteurization DOES NOT reduce milk's nutritional value.
- Pasteurizing milk DOES NOT cause lactose intolerance or allergic reactions.
- Pasteurization DOES NOT mean that it is safe to leave milk out of the refrigerator for a long time.
- Pasteurization DOES kill harmful bacteria.
- Pasteurization DOES save lives.



## Meat and Poultry Inspection Welcomes its Newest Team Member Ms. Jessica Veo

My name is Jessica Veo. I am from Chandler, AZ originally, but currently live in Maricopa, AZ. I have been with the Arizona Department of Agriculture for 2 years as an Administrative Assistant for the State Veterinarian. I enjoy cooking, horseback riding, working with livestock, and my absolute favorite activity is to go fishing. I am very excited to continue my career with the Department of Agriculture as a Public Health Sanitarian II with the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program.



## Emergency Preparedness

The Arizona Department of Agriculture is doing all it can to prepare for any type of natural disaster. On September 19th, members of the Animal Services Division attended the annual Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) Preparedness Symposium. We covered topics from communication technology, cybersecurity, and water outlook for Arizona.

There were members of the Governor's office, military, state and local government, and numerous law-enforcement agencies. This was a time to learn of the shared responsibility during an emergency. It was also time for us to meet our partners to discuss plans and operating procedures.

These types of trainings and symposiums are attended by the Department's employees to keep the agriculture industry of Arizona safe.

## West Nile in Horses

West Nile Virus (WNV) is an arbovirus in the Flaviviridae family that can affect a wide variety of species including birds, horses, and humans making it an important zoonotic disease. While at one time WNV was limited to the Eastern Hemisphere, it is now considered endemic in North, Central, and South America having been introduced to the United States in 1999. It is here to stay! WNV is primarily transmitted by mosquitoes which are typically most active at dusk and dawn and in shaded areas with available standing water in the surrounding area to serve as breeding grounds. The mosquito feeds on an infected reservoir host (various species of birds) and subsequently bites and transmits the infection to horses or humans. Thus, WNV is an infectious disease, but not a directly transmissible (contagious) disease between horses or between people who are dead end hosts. The term dead end hosts means that the infected individuals do not carry enough viral particles in their blood or body secretions to transmit the disease back to mosquitoes or to other adjacent animals. Typically, therefore, WNV infection is only associated with a mosquito having taken a blood meal from an infected bird. Once a horse or human is infected with the virus, there is approximately a 5-15 day incubation period before disease manifests. Clinical signs of disease include fever, lethargy, neurologic signs (stumbling, falling, weakness, paralysis, tremors), hyper-reactivity, and loss of control over urinary function, vision or difficulty in swallowing. The course of disease and the outcome depend on the vaccination status of the animal and individual susceptibility factors. The key to control of WNV is a two-pronged approach.

Firstly, there are a number of safe, clinically efficacious vaccines available on the market. Around the time of the original introduction of this disease back in 1999, some horse owners reported that the vaccines used then had some significant

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## West Nile in Horses *continued from page 4*

associated complications or had been a little on the “hot” side with some horses developing clinical signs of disease. Nearly 20 years have passed since those early vaccines were being hastily developed to prevent loss of life in response to a new emerging disease threat. Vaccine technology has since advanced and many refinements to the vaccine strains and adjuvants (ingredients to stimulate the body’s immune response to the vaccine) used have occurred making them very safe with minimal side effects. At this point in time, there is absolutely no scientifically justifiable reason not to vaccinate your horse. It is true that no vaccine (regardless of the disease being vaccinated against) on the market today, whether it be for humans or animals, is 100% effective in preventing infection or disease all of the time. However, excluding those animals that do end up being fully protected from disease, the main benefit of vaccinating is that in the uncommon event that your animal isn’t completely protected, the form of disease that does end up manifesting is much more mild and responsive to supportive veterinary care (anti-inflammatory medications, antivirals, free radical scavengers). This is undeniably associated with a much better prognosis for recovery with minimal side effects or deficits of neurologic function than those animals that were unvaccinated and completely naive. The vaccines that we use now generally only cause a little muscle soreness in the neck and may result in a little lethargy and being “off” for a couple of days, but this is no different than what happens to us when we get our annual flu vaccine.

The second facet to controlling WNV is controlling the mosquito vectors that transmit the disease. Eliminating sources of standing water to prevent breeding grounds for mosquitoes from forming is crucial. From a management standpoint, applying fly sprays and turning your horses out during periods when mosquito activity is minimal during the day (mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn and in highly shaded, moist or irrigated areas) is recommended. Fans providing constant airflow through a stable can help reduce the ability of the insects to fly to their targets effectively. Cleanliness in cleaning up manure and debris around the property and maintaining waterers in a clean and operational manner are also important.

By following these general guidelines, you can minimize the likelihood of a significant exposure or occurrence of WNV in both your horses and potentially your family members or yourself.



### Contact Us

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**(602) 542-4189**

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**(623) 445-0281**

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**(602) 542-0884**

**Licensing:**  
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**Meat & Poultry:**  
**(602) 542-6398**

**Self-Inspection:**  
**(602) 542-6407**

**State Vet’s Office:**  
**(602) 542-4293**

