

Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response

By Dr. Mandy Tolson, NCDA&CS

As you are all aware, we have been preparing all year for a possible outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in North Carolina. Fortunately, we have not been faced with an outbreak. As such, the State Veterinarian is lifting the ban on live poultry shows and sales when it expires on Jan. 15.

However, we aren't out of the woods yet and we continue to plan, prepare and hope that all states remain negative. The ban on shows and sales will be reinstated if the national situation changes.

In preparation for any needed response, we have been building teams all year, primarily within the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. We are fortunate to have a large and diverse staff that can fill



many of the roles that would be needed in an initial response. We spent part of this year training staff in many facets of a potential response. Trainings have involved fit testing, medical evaluations and other position-specific training. We realize that if we do face responding to HPAI anywhere in our state, that we will need additional assistance. We hope to be able to utilize the many skill sets within NCVRC for such a response. We know that your availability will vary depending on when and where the outbreak occurs. At the time that we are faced with needing additional volunteers we will contact you about a potential deployment. The recent outbreak in Indiana reminds us of the virus' propensity to mutate quickly. We encourage you to stay educated on any response changes. Again, we hope we never need the capabilities we have built but we will keep you informed if anything changes.

Thank you for all that you do!

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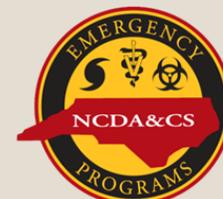


NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

Emergency Programs Division

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

Sharron Stewart, Director





Welcome Dr. Mike Neault!



Dr. Mike Neault recently joined the NCDA&CS Veterinary Division as director of livestock animal health programs.

Mike comes from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development where he served seven years as the emergency programs and animal disease traceability program manager. He was a lead responder in the 2010 Kalamazoo River Oil Spill re-

sponse (the largest US freshwater oil spill), participated at FEMA's headquarters during SuperStorm Sandy response, and low and high path avian influenza responses. Prior to joining state government, he worked in a mixed practice and was part owner in a small animal clinic.



New NCVRC members through NCVC and CVM training

By Dr. Mandy Tolson, NCDA&CS

Each year the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Emergency Programs Division facilitates the public practice track for the NC Veterinary Conference in Raleigh. This day long track is always beneficial, especially for NCVRC members. This year during the morning session, Drs. Bruce Akers and Mandy Tolson trained participants on the proper use of personal protective equipment. Attendees were also given a timely update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza by Dr. Sarah Mason, as well as updates on USDA regulatory guidelines and veterinary credentialing by Dr. Marla Friend. The afternoon session provided attendees with guidelines for standard precautions for preventing zoonotic disease by Dr. Carl Williams. Then Dr. Carol Woodlief gave an overview of Piroplasmosis investigations that have occurred in North Carolina. Next Debrah Snackenber, from Colorado, gave a national perspective for disaster response involving agriculture and companion animals.

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COMPLETE YOUR VRC REGISTRATION AT WWW.SERVNC.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Please see our website for future training and activities.
- Check out our sheltering webinars posted on the website!
- www.ncagr.gov/oep/sheltering/

REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT

- ICS 100, 200, and 700
- Biosecurity/PPE Training
- Knowledge of NC Emergency Management
- Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions
- Attendance at VRC Meetings
- Sign a Code of Conduct

The day concluded with Dr. Marilyn Haskell giving attendees updates and suggestions on handling suspect rabies cases. This day provides not only continuing education for veterinarians and veterinary technicians but also an opportunity to train NCVRC members and connect with members.

During November we were also able to provide training at the NC College of Veterinary Medicine. This year we provided second year students with comprehensive training to credential them as NCVRC members. This class of 100 was very engaged in the training which involved Biosecurity, Personal Protective Equipment, Companion Animal Mobile Equipment trailer, a table top exercise, hazmat, psychological first aid and assistance into writing personal disaster plans.

Every year we gain highly skilled credentialed responders through these venues. We look forward to continuing this each year and adding other potential training opportunities when we can.

ONE HEALTH CORNER

A Review of the 2015 One Medicine Symposium

Teaming Up Against the Flu: A One Medicine Approach to Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface

By: Dr. Anna Allen, NCDA&CS

The Twelfth One Medicine Symposium was held Dec. 9-10 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham.

The One Medicine Symposium is hosted by the NC Department of Agriculture and NC Department of Health and Human Services in cooperation with NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services and the NCSU Office of Professional Development. This conference provides professionals from a variety of backgrounds with current information and take-home tools to improve awareness and understanding of the topics from a One Medicine perspective, promote collaboration across professional disciplines, and enhance preparedness for natural or man-made disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, or other challenges affecting human and animal health. The target audience includes human and animal health professionals, public health professionals, environmental health specialists, agriculture professionals, wildlife professionals, and federal, military, state and local emergency management and disaster responders.



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VRC MISSION: Train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazards) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.

NOTES: To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at www.ncvrc.org. If you have questions about the VRC or would like to offer suggestions or articles for future newsletters, contact Mandy at mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov.



ONE HEALTH CORNER

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The first day began with welcome comments from NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and Dr. Megan Davies, Acting State Health Director and State Epidemiologist, from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. Dr. Gregory Gray from Duke University provided an overview of the One Health and influenza, highlighting some of the latest research into zoonotic influenzas. Dr. Zack Moore and Anita Valiani, from the NC Division of Public Health, covered the biology and epidemiology of influenza in humans while Dr. Scott Zimmerman, Director of the NC State Laboratory of Public Health, presented on human influenza surveillance and testing from the laboratory perspective. Dr. Barbara Porter-Spalding described the USDA surveillance programs for avian and swine influenzas and presented highlights from the National Animal Health Laboratory Network After-Action Report from this year's outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the United States. Brian Long, Director of Public Affairs for the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Kendra Gerlach, Director of the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, NC DHHS, covered important considerations for communications from the agricultural and animal health and human health perspectives respectively.

On the second day, conference participants were welcomed by Dr. Paul Lunn, Dean of the NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Barbara Rimer, Dean of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. State Veterinarian Dr. Doug Meckes and Dr. Sarah Mason, Director of Poultry Health Programs for NCDA&CS gave a detailed overview of the response and impact of the HPAI outbreak in the United States over the past year. Joe Hudyncia from NCDA&CS and Michael Scott from NC Department of Environmental Quality spoke about environmental concerns and considerations related to HPAI. Keith Wehner from USDA Wildlife Services presented on HPAI from the wild bird perspective and gave an overview of the USDA's feral swine program. Dr. Jeanie Lin from USDA Animal Care spoke about HPAI and other disasters from the zoological community perspective, and Brad Hazelton, General Curator at Sylvan Heights Bird Park gave an overview of the facility, the potential impact from HPAI, and their preparations to date. Dr. Julie Casani from the DHHS Division of Public Health, Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch presented on influenza and HPAI from the public health perspective. NC Emergency Management Director Michael Sprayberry ended the symposium with a strong finish, highlighting the unique role of Emergency Management in an animal disease event and the strong existing working relationship between State Emergency Response Team partners in North Carolina. Planning will begin soon for the 2016 One Medicine Symposium. Check the website for updates (www.onemedicinenc.org) or feel free to email Dr. Anna Allen with any questions or to add your name to our listserv (anna.allen@ncagr.gov). We hope to see you there!