

Subject Line: Vesicular Stomatitis (VSV) Outbreak in 3 States.

Dear PRCA Members,

In the U.S. Animal Health Association report dated August 6, 2019, agriculture officials in Colorado have confirmed Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) cases in 14 counties since the first cases in Weld County in early July. The following counties have seen cases: Adams, Archuleta, Boulder, Broomfield, Conejos, Delta, Jefferson, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, and Weld.

For those competing in the following Colorado rodeos, be aware and take precautions to protect your horses against this virus: Craig, Yuma, Lamar, Sterling, Steamboat Springs (twice), and Pueblo.

Also note that a positive Vesicular Stomatitis case was confirmed in Converse County, Wyoming. This report is dated August 2, 2019. Please be aware that other states will likely require new requirements to move to the next place after Douglas. [Click here for the new livestock requirements for Wyoming.](#)

Since July 26, the Texas Animal Health Commission has received reports of 16 new confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) and 65 new suspect cases. The affected counties in Texas presently are: Gonzales, Palo Pinto and Parker.

The VSV virus typically causes oral blisters and sores that can be painful causing difficulty in eating and drinking. Some of the early signs are: Heavy salivation; reluctance to eat and drink; lameness; and weight loss.

The virus can cause your horse or livestock to be quarantined for at least 14 days. There are no USDA approved vaccines for VSV. The Weld County investigation indicates that the VSV-infected insect vectors is the likely source of infection.

We want to remind you to employ additional biosecurity measures to reduce the further spread of the virus. We recommend the following in minimizing contact and spreading of the virus:

- Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.
- Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from others.
- Keep your livestock and horses away from standing water areas as insects tend to populate these areas.
- Clean livestock and horse trailers regularly

Please be aware as your travel across state lines as import requirements may change without notice. State Veterinary Boards, Fairs, and Rodeos may require Certificates of Veterinary

Inspection (CVIs or health certificates) be issued within 2-5 days prior to a rodeo. We will monitor this as closely as possible.

- Please contact the respective State Veterinarian Offices for state of destination when moving horses and livestock across state lines, to ensure all import requirements are met.
- State Veterinary Boards and Rodeos may require Certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs or health certificates) be issued within 2-5 days prior to a rodeo. We will monitor this as closely as possible.
- [Click here for the list of State Veterinary Boards.](#)

About Vesicular Stomatitis: Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle, and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llams, and alpacas. The transmission process of VSV is not completely understood, but includes insects such as black flies, sand flied and biting midges. Humans may become infected when handling affected animals, but this is rare. To avoid human exposure, individuals should use personal protective measures when handling affected animals.

If you have any questions, please contact either one of us directly via email (abartkowski@prorodeo.com) or by phone at 719-528-4729 email (sdorenkamp@prorodeo.com) or by phone at 719-528-4782.

Best regards,

Anthony Bartkowski
Director, Athlete Development and Welfare

Scott Dorenkamp
Livestock Program & Government Relations Manager