



# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

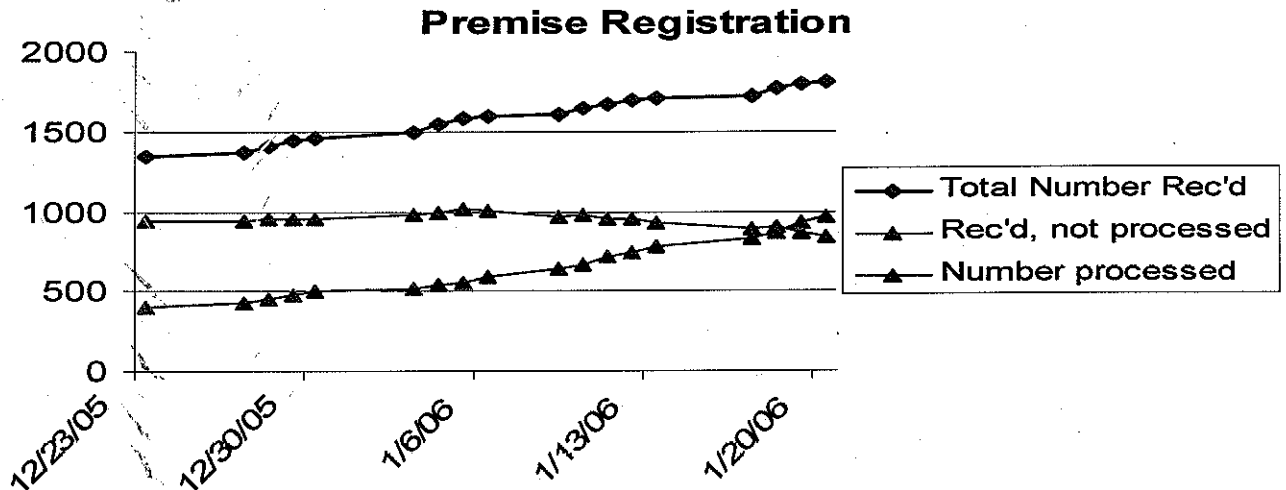
PATTY JUDGE  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

## Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee January 24, 2006

### Premises Registration:

Premises registration is the first step in a three step process which is known as the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The three parts are: (1) premises registration, (2) animal identification, and (3) animal tracking. Premises registration serves as the foundation for this system conceived and designed by a federal-state-industry partnership with a purpose of protecting animal health. The goal of the system is to provide, within 48 hours after discovery, all premises and animals that may have had contact with a foreign animal disease or a domestic disease of concern.

Iowa received federal funding to begin this program mid - 2005. Due to Iowa's late entry into this national endeavor, it has received a high priority among the Animal Industry staff. NASS estimated that Iowa has 90,000 premises with livestock. In addition, non-producer participants (auction markets, fairgrounds, vet clinics, slaughter plants, renderers, concentration points, etc.) are an integral part of this system and being registered as well.



Some of the accomplishments thus far:

- Posters in all county extension offices, county FSA offices, county Soil Conservation offices.
- Posters in auction markets, veterinary clinics, concentration points, slaughter plants, etc.

- Mass mailing to sheep and goat producers enrolled in scrapie eradication program.
- Mass mailing to dairy producers.
- Personal communication with premises/ licensees visited within the scope of current regulatory activities.
- Numerous press releases, articles, interviews, etc. with industry publications, Farm Bureau, and popular press.

The premise registration program is a voluntary program in Iowa. TX, IN, and WI have taken steps to make premise registration mandatory. The current USDA Strategic Plan (April 25, 2005) lists January, 2008, in the timeline for requiring premise registration and animal identification.

IDALS is incorporating premise registration into current regulatory activities – ram testing, Johne’s diagnostics and risk assessments. IDALS is also involved in a pilot project to capture movement data in the swine industry

**Farm Deer Program:**

**CWD Program Update**

150 Premises currently enrolled in the program:

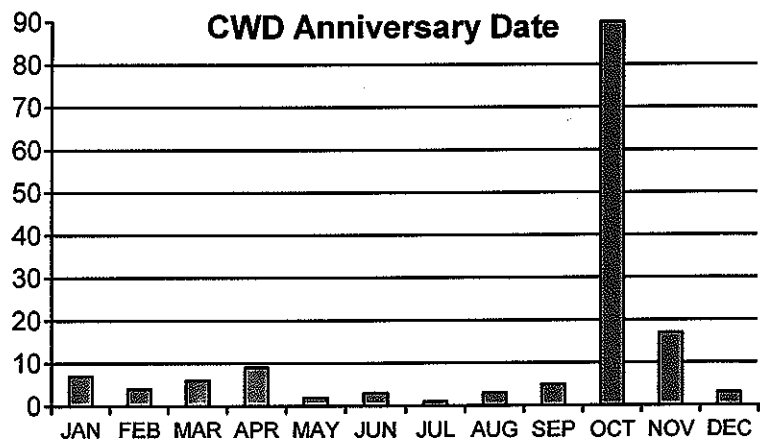
84 Deer premises (whitetail)

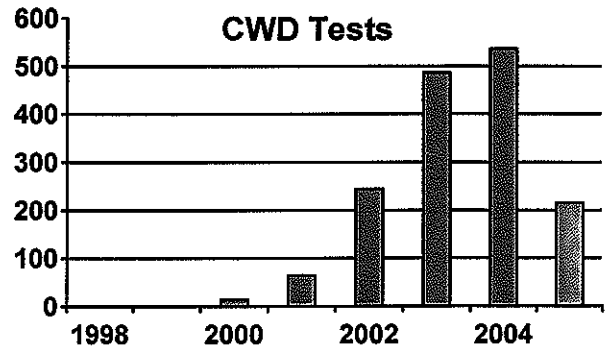
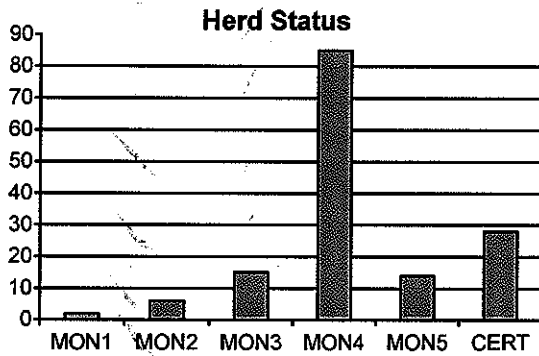
54 Elk premises

12 Mixed Deer premises (includes 2 Deer/Elk premises)

Anniversary Date, by month:

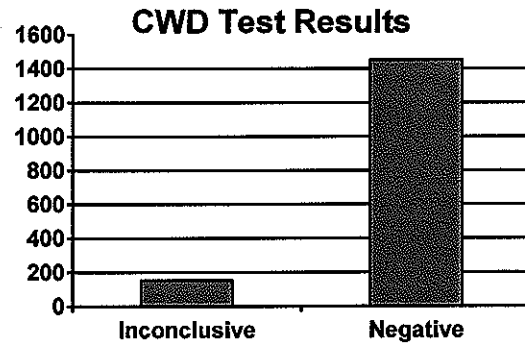
January	7
February	4
March	6
April	9
May	2
June	3
July	1
August	3
September	5
October	90
November	17
December	3





5,467 animals enrolled in the program:

- 2,781 Elk
- 2,592 Whitetail
- 40 Fallow deer
- 31 Mule Deer
- 9 Reindeer
- 8 Sika deer
- 3 Mixed (Mule/Whitetail)
- 3 Muntjac



**Fence inspection.** IDALS, in cooperation with DNR, provides for the inspection of fences constructed to maintain whitetail deer.

**Fees.** IDALS has been able to conduct this program without the imposition of fees, due to state budget appropriation and USDA federal cooperative agreement funding. As long as those funding streams remain, fees are not anticipated.

### Animal Health Issues:

#### **Feral swine**

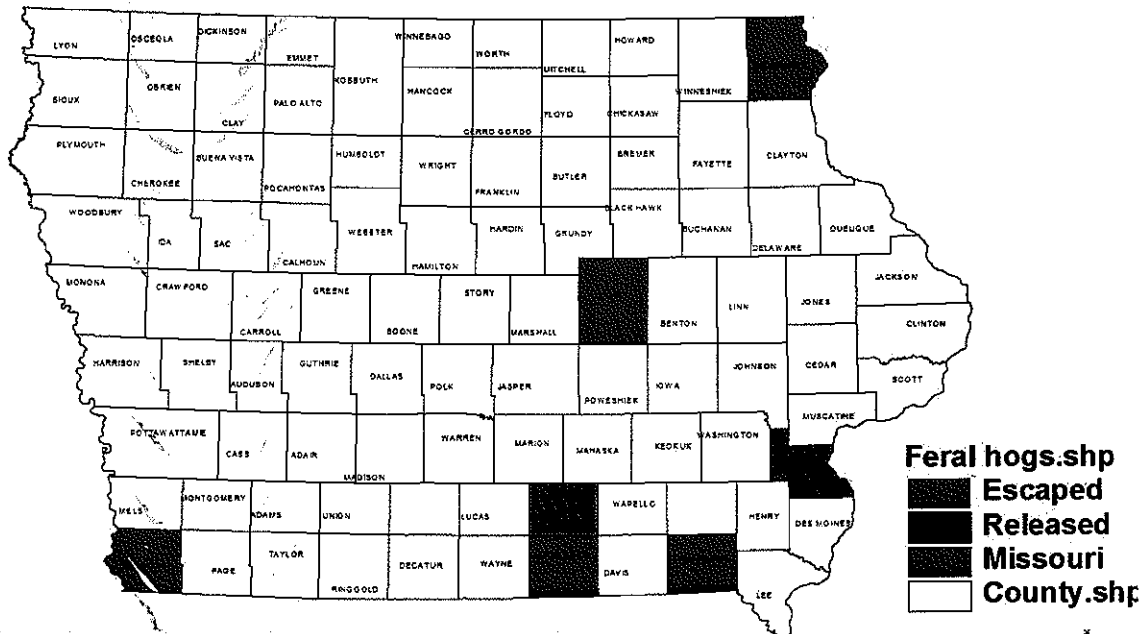
Over the last 18 months, the presence and scope of feral swine in Iowa has emerged as a growing concern. Disease and environmental issues are the major concerns. IDALS worked closely with DNR and had some success in trapping, testing, and eliminating a large number of feral swine in SW Iowa. Testing for PRV and Brucellosis is being conducted on all feral swine from which an acceptable sample can be obtained.

IDALS and DNR have joined forces to deal with feral swine. Wildlife Biologists and District Veterinarians have served as contacts for producers to report sightings and to collect testing samples. Both agencies have adopted a policy of eliminating feral swine.

A Feral Swine Task force has been formed with representation from IDALS, IDNR, Farm Bureau, USDA, and IPPA that has met a couple of times and will be introducing legislation to address this issue.

## Counties in Iowa with feral hogs (2003-2005)

### Potential sources of origin.



Escaped hogs possibly originated from shooting preserves. Released were intentionally brought in and released. Missouri animals probably moved in from populations in Missouri.

### Swine Brucellosis Case

#### **Introduction**

On June 2, 2005, IDALS received a call from a veterinarian inquiring about brucellosis testing swine for a producer who the University of Iowa believes may have brucellosis.

On the same day, IDALS received a call from of the Iowa Department of Public Health regarding a swine producer in SE Iowa testing positive for swine brucellosis at University Hygienic Laboratory located in Iowa City. IDPH informed us that four blood cultures revealed isolation of *Brucella suis* biovar 1.

IDALS ordered a test of all breeding swine remaining on the premises for brucellosis and pseudorabies. A complete epidemiological investigation was initiated.

#### **Epidemiology**

99 breeding swine were tested on June 6, 2005. Serum was submitted the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for pseudorabies testing and to the State-Federal Brucellosis Laboratory, Topeka, Kansas, for brucellosis testing.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, ISU VDL reported the PRV results (3 weak positives which were each retested negative twice). The herd was interpreted as negative. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, results for Brucellosis were received from the Topeka lab with the following results: 35 negative,

14 suspects, and 50 reactors. This swine herd was classified as brucellosis infected. The premises was quarantined.

The producer is under the care of physicians at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and is currently being treated with oral and injectable antibiotics for this infection. B. Suis biovar 1 has been cultured from his blood. He first felt sick about a month ago (first of May), and went to his physician two weeks later.

The producer stated that he has not been gone from home for several months, and has never been involved in the hunting or cooking or consumption of feral hogs in Iowa or any other state.

The producer has about 65 head of pregnant gilts, and about 30 older sows. He still breeds and gestates hogs outside on pasture. He also has a finishing building that he uses. He is the only farrowing operation in about a 3 mile radius. All other swine operations in the area are finisher only. All sites within 1.5 miles were contacted.

Late in the summer of 2004, the producer had a group of about 70 older sows being bred in the pasture. On two different occasions when he was checking these sows, he saw feral boars in with his sows that were being bred. He says he chased them out both times, and did not think much about it because there had been other cases of feral hogs being seen and killed in the neighborhood.

When this group of 70 sows began farrowing in December of 2004, there were several abortions and early born pigs, and other symptoms consistent with swine PRRS. Some of these sows (he thinks maybe half) never did get bred and farrow. There were no diagnostic tests done at the time, even though he did consult his herd veterinarian. They thought it was a typical PRRS outbreak. He did admit handling these aborted fetuses and coming in contact with birthing fluids. This group of 70 have been sold down to the current 30 because of their reproductive difficulties. All culled sows went to slaughter.

The herd has basically functioned as a closed herd. They introduce only boars, never any females, and last added 3 boars in March of 2003. The operation has not experienced any other disease problems that they are aware of, including the finishing swine. No equipment or trailers are shared with anyone else.

There are two groups of gilts and the producer reports that he has had no difficulty getting them bred.

All finishers have gone to slaughter.

USDA provided funding, and made arrangements, for indemnification and depopulation of the premises.

The swine herd was depopulated and the carcasses disposed. The premises will be cleaned and disinfected prior to quarantine release.

## **Summary**

This appears to be a case of feral swine infecting a transitional (a herd with exposure to feral swine) Iowa swine herd. Over the last year, feral swine sightings and harvesting have become more prevalent in SE and SW Iowa. IDALS and the swine industry in Iowa are very concerned and view this as a significant threat to the Iowa swine industry. IDALS has been working with the Iowa DNR to trap, euthanize and test feral swine, with the goal of eliminating feral swine from Iowa. IDALS also has been working with hunters to test feral swine which have been hunted (there are no restrictions on hunting of feral swine). To date, all test results have been negative. It is illegal to import feral swine into Iowa.

Iowa achieved brucellosis free status in commercial swine in 1977. Producers have enjoyed the trade benefits of this status. The finding of brucellosis infected swine poses a real threat to maintaining this disease free status.

## **Avian Influenza in Poultry**

### **Background:**

- Avian Influenza
  - Reportable disease in Iowa
    - All highly pathogenic
    - Low Pathogenic H5 and H7
- Iowa commercial poultry industry is a very biosecurity-conscious industry

### **Levels of surveillance:**

- Mandatory AI surveillance in commercial poultry (chickens, turkeys, quail and breeder flocks)
  - 20 birds/flock (house) prior to closeout and after respiratory illness
  - Implemented in 2003
    - 19,000 tests in 2004
    - 16,000 tests thus far in 2005
  - State appropriation (\$50,000) – sole use is to pay for diagnostic testing
- Diagnostic submissions to ISU which meet case definition.
- Foreign Animal Disease Investigations
  - Including fighting birds
  - Routine testing for END/AI at NVSL, Ames, IA
- Veterinarians
  - IRVIN notification and what and how to report
- Poultry industry
  - Educational and awareness campaigns (Got Birds?)

**Control:**

- High Pathogenic Avian Influenza is treated like a foreign animal disease through activation of the Iowa Response Plan
- Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5 & H7) is similarly handled through a state control and management plan prescribed by administrative rules.

**Premise Registration:**

- Adjunct program which will prove instrumental in targeting/focusing surveillance, efficient response, and industry communication.

**Scrapie:**

5,500+ sheep flocks/goat herds enrolled in eradication program  
500 High risk animals traced  
13 RSSS animals traced  
16 infected/source flocks  
About 2,000 sheep genotyped  
About 700 sheep indemnified  
474 animals necropsied and tested

Ram testing – IDALS is offering ram testing for Iowa producers to encourage use of genetics which seem to aid in resistance to disease. Producers can have up to 10 rams tested by departmental personnel.

**Johne's:**

Dr. Randy Wheeler has been hired to direct activities relating to the Johne's program in Iowa.

**Tuberculosis:**

Iowa was involved in two traces for tuberculosis last year – the positive herd in MN and a dairy herd in AZ. The traces from MN resulted in the testing of about 2,000 head of Iowa cattle on multiple premises. No tuberculosis was found in the Iowa herds.

**Foreign Animal Disease Investigations:**

13 foreign animal disease investigations have been conducted by department personnel, in cooperation with USDA personnel during the last 12+ months.