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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) Testing Requirements

March 7, 2011

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is an infectious virus spread between horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys by deer and horse flies. EIA can also be spread through repeat use of needles or through other acts where blood is exchanged from one equine to another.

Because there are no effective and safe vaccines, nor can infection be treated, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) established a control program through legislation in 2000 that required owners of equines attending fairs and exhibitions and other equine co-mingling events, or changing ownership and housing location, to have proof of a negative EIA test. This requirement expired at the end of 2010 through a sunset provision included in the enabling Act.

We are working to update the 2000 EIA Law in 2011. If successful, the law will be changed to make the test requirement an annual event based on a 12-month cycle, instead of a calendar year. Additional information will be provided as this process moves along.

Until EIA test requirements are reestablished, MDA recommends that equine event planners, sale yards, stable operators, and horse owners continue to request proof of a negative EIA test completed within the past 12 months as a means of protecting the Michigan equine herd from this disease.

Additionally, effective January 1, 2011, all equidae (horses, asses, jacks, jennies, hinnies, mules, donkeys, burros, ponies, and zebras) **entering Michigan** must:

1. Test negative to an official test for equine infectious anemia (EIA) within 12 months prior to importation, except equidae that are both 6 months or younger and nursing.
2. Be accompanied by an official interstate health certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection documenting the date, laboratory, accession number, and results of the latest equine infectious anemia test, signed by an accredited veterinarian.

Act No. 466, Public Acts of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, Section 19 (9) (MCL 287.719) gives the director of the department of agriculture the authority to institute this requirement.

Complete importation requirements for equidae and other animals can be found at www.michigan.gov/mda and selecting "animal health."

If you have questions, please contact our office at (517) 373-1077.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Halstead".

Steven L. Halstead, D.V.M., M.S.
State Veterinarian