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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
CAHFS will be open, but will have limited services available on Friday, November 11 due to Veterans day.

CAHFS will be closed on Thursday, November 24 due to Thanksgiving, and open but with limited services available on Friday, November 25, that day samples will be received only between 8 am and 12 pm.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza update

By the end of October, the Eurasian strain H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in wild birds in the following 33 California counties: Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Lassen, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Trinity, Ventura, Yolo. HPAI has also been detected in domestic flocks in the following 10 California counties: Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Monterey, Sacramento, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne. Most cases have been diagnosed by CAHFS and confirmed by NVSL.

Currently HPAI is widespread in California and may also be present in other counties that are not listed above. Enhanced biosecurity is critical to protect the health of captive birds in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks. Report any unusual or suspicious sick or dead domestic, pet, or collection birds immediately via the California CDFA Sick Bird Hotline at (866) 922-2473. Report any unusual or suspicious wild bird deaths to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/Mortality-Report. If you have questions about wildlife rehabilitation, please contact the CDFW at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov or (916) 358-2790. If you need assistance with reviewing your existing avian biosecurity plan or need help developing your plan, please contact our Secure Food Supply Program staff at sfspermits@cdfa.ca.gov.

The four CAHFS laboratories (Davis, Turlock, Tulare and San Bernardino) receive submissions of domestic birds for necropsy and diagnostic work up. If HPAI is suspected, PCR for this disease is performed before other tests are done. For wildlife submissions, please contact CDFW’s Wildlife Health Laboratory first at WILab@wildlife.ca.gov or (916) 358-2790.

Welcome Dr. Todd Cornish!

Dr. Todd Cornish has joined CAHFS-Tulare as a Pathologist and as Branch Chief. Dr. Cornish comes to CAHFS with 23 years of experience as a board-certified veterinary pathologist at the Wyoming Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, where he also served as Interim Director and Interim Department Head for one year. He completed veterinary school at UC Davis, residency training in Pathology at North Carolina State University, and a PhD in Veterinary Pathology at University of Georgia. In addition to his extensive pathology experience and administrative abilities, Dr. Cornish is also recognized as an award-winning teacher and for his scientific contributions, especially to understanding chronic wasting disease in free-ranging wildlife.

Bovine

Epizootic bovine abortion (EBA) was diagnosed in eight, 6.5-9-month-old beef fetuses submitted from four ranches with losses ranging from four abortions in one day to over 15
Wildlife

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2) infection was recently detected in a black-tailed jackrabbit in Yolo county. This is another indication that the virus is slowly moving North since its first detection in Southern California in May 2020. Our previous recent detections of RHDV2 were in Southern and Central California.

Porcine

Urinary calculi causing urethral obstruction and secondary bladder rupture was the cause of death of a 2.5-year-old castrated male potbelly pig on a diet of primarily alfalfa hay. Postmortem exam revealed a 2.5 cm tear in the bladder wall, and a small blood clot and two 0.5 cm calculi in the lumen. Another calculus was lodged in the urethra obstructing outflow. The abdomen contained 2L of red tinged urine.

Poultry

Erysipelas and fowl cholera were diagnosed in a flock of 94-week-old, H&N chicken egg layers with a complaint of increased mortality. On post mortem examination, the birds had markedly enlarged livers, moderately enlarged spleen, yolk coelomitis and several birds had regressed reproductive tracts. Hepatic necrosis was observed microscopically. Pasteurella multocida, the causative agent of fowl cholera, and Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae, the agent of erysipelas, were isolated from the livers, and PCR for P. multocida was positive on the liver.

New Tritrichomonas foetus assay

We remind our clients that effective November 1st we will only be offering the new Tritrichomonas foetus RT-qPCR assay. We will no longer be testing In-pouches by PCR. Samples need to be submitted in 15mL plastic conical screw top tubes. We are not accepting samples in glass Red Top tubes.