Horse Owners Should Be Aware – EHV-1, Equine Herpesvirus

Horse owners who are getting ready to hit the road for the spring show season are also facing a serious health concern. Veterinarians at Michigan State University recently had to euthanize a barrel racing horse infected with equine herpesvirus, or EHV-1. This was Michigan's 1st case of the virus in 2015, but it was the 6th state to have a horse with the virus die this year.

Almost all horses have been infected with EHV-1 by the time they are 2. In most cases, the virus is dormant, but travel and stress can bring the disease into an active, aggressive state. It's is airborne transmitted and not through bodily fluids. Foals usually contract the virus from their mothers and then become carriers. Horses that carry the virus show no signs while the virus is dormant but long distance travel, stress, and strenuous activity can activate the virus.

Equine herpesvirus (EHV-1) infection in horses can cause respiratory and neurological disease, abortion in mares, and neonatal foal death. The neurological form of the disease is known as equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM) and has the potential to cause high morbidity and mortality.

EHV-1 is easily spread and typically has an incubation period between 2 and 10 days. Respiratory shedding of the virus generally occurs for 7-10 days but may persist longer in infected horses. For this reason, the isolation period recommendation for confirmed positive EHM cases is 21 days. Clinical signs of EHM in horses may include nasal discharge, incoordination, hindquarter weakness, recumbency, lethargy, urine dribbling, and diminished tail tone. The prognosis for EHM positive horses depends on the severity of signs and the period of being down. Treatment includes employing supportive treatment with intravenous fluids, anti-inflammatory drugs, and antiviral drugs, since there is no specific treatment for EHM.

Initial symptoms may appears as not quite feeling up to par and they may consume less feed and water. They may have a cough, runny nose and runny eyes. After the initial signs, neurological signs appear as a result of damage to the blood vessels in the brain and spinal cord. Many horses fighting the virus will have trouble standing or be unable to get up. This disease can spread fairly fast.

Brushes, water buckets, feed, and human contact with infected horses can spread the virus in seconds. What many horse owners don't know is even the air around a horse shedding the virus can spread the potentially deadly disease.

Currently, no EHV-1 equine vaccine has a label claim for protection against the neurological strain of the virus. This is a disease that has a profound effect on horses and owners.
Horses have a very tough time recovering from this disease. This disease is not to be toyed with. Owners should heed the words of the veterinarians. Enforce the rest and isolation of your horse. Protect your horse and other horses as well. Biosecurity remains the best means of minimizing the risk of an EHV-1 outbreak.

Processing Fruits and Vegetables to Add Value

A workshop for fruit and vegetables growers interested in adding value through a food processing enterprise called “Food for Profit” will be held at the James E. Ward Ag. Center, Lebanon, TN on May 4. The workshop will be held 9AM-4PM. Lunch will be provided.

This workshop will take you step by step through the information necessary to start and run a small food product business by adding value to fruits and vegetables. The workshop provides information that you will be able to use immediately to ensure that your business starts out and grows in a way that matches your vision and goals. Topics covered include the realities of a food business by a local food manufacturer, regulatory requirements, packaging, safe food handling, marketing, financing, and developing a game plan.

Pre-registration is required by five business days prior to the workshop. The fee of $30 per person must be received to complete registration. Register online with a credit card at http://tiny.utk.edu/FFP or call (931) 486-2777. Space is limited to 25 participants. Details will be emailed to registered participants a few days prior to the workshop.

This workshop qualifies as one course toward the educational requirements to receive 50% TAEP cost share for ONLY: Fruits and Vegetables and Value-Added diversification sectors.

Agricultural Market Summary

Cattle Market Trends

A large number of cow-calf producers continue marketing last year’s late summer and early fall calf crop. Cow-calf producers should be vigilant in keeping an eye on market cow prices this spring if there are any cows that did not calve or if there are cows that need to be culled from the herd. Feeder steers steady to $4 higher, $178.00-$380.00; Feeder heifers $1 to $3 higher, $165.00-$335.00; Slaughter cows $1 to $4 lower, $92.00-$114.00; Slaughter bulls steady, $127.00-$145.00.

Grain Market Trends

Soybeans and wheat were up, corn was down, for the week. Corn – cash price, $3.70-$4.19. May futures closed at $3.86, down 5 cents a bushel. Soybeans – cash price, $9.63-$10.19. May futures closed at $9.86, up 19 cents a bushel. Wheat – cash price, $4.67-$4.90. May futures closed at $5.36, up 29 cents per bushel.

For additional information on these and other topics, contact the UT Extension Office, 925 East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087, 615-444-9584 or acorrell@utk.edu. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Visit the UT/TSU Extension webpage at http://utextension.tennessee.edu/wilson or look for UT & TSU Extension, Wilson County on Facebook.

#####