

NYSCHAP

New York State Cattle health assurance program

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In This Issue:

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- Foot and Mouth Disease Links
- Expected NYS FMD Response
- NYSCHAP Mastitis Module
- Farm Family Insurance – Discount for NYSCHAP Farms
- Update on NYS Diagnostic Laboratory Johnes Fecal Culture

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Foot and Mouth Disease Links

The outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK has been devastating. Many US farmers are looking for information on the disease and updates on the outbreak in the UK. Please see the following sites to gain more information.

- <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/>
- <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/fmd/index.html>
- <http://www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/fmd.htm>
- <http://www.promedmail.org/pls/promed/promed.search.html.pmedtoday>
- <http://www.usaha.org/issues/fmd2001.html>
- www.guardian.co.uk/footandmouth
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/footandmouth/flash/0,7365,443772,00.html>
- <http://aleffgroup.com/avisfmd/>

Expected NYS Foot and Mouth Disease Response

NYS is working on having a response in place if the state should have a case or outbreak of foot and mouth disease. NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets has been working with other state agencies as well as the USDA to prepare an emergency response. NYS will follow the response guidelines developed by USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services). This document can be viewed at the following Internet location:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/fco412.pdf>.

NYSCHAP Mastitis Module

Over the past six months the Mastitis Module development team has devoted an extraordinary amount of time and expertise in creating the resource materials necessary for the module. Module developers included Dr. Frank Welcome and Dr. Ynte Schukken from Quality Milk Promotion Services, Dr. Bill Stone from Pro-Dairy and Dr. Mark McConnon, NYS Field Veterinarian. Mastitis is a complex disease that encompasses many different pathogens and risk situations. Therefore, the number of resource materials created is impressive. After beta-testing from Field Staff and approval of the NYSCHAP Management Team, the module will be released in its full form. Congratulations to the development team for a job very well-done!

Farm Family Insurance Offers NYSCHAP Discount

Kevin Cook, Farm Family Insurance

At **Farm Family**, we understand the farming community, it is the cornerstone of our business. We recognize that farming operations of varying size and scope need different insurance coverage.

Our **Special Farm Package "10" (SFP 10)** can tailor coverage to the specific needs of milk producers. We can advise you on the right coverage to best protect your interest.

By participating in NYSCHAP, you demonstrate a commitment to producing the highest quality product. As a result you become eligible for a 15% credit on certain coverages within SFP "10".

Find out how we can assist you with your agribusiness insurance needs, please call **1-800-THE Farm (1-800-843-3276)** or visit our Web Site at www.farmfamily.com.

New Johnes Fecal Culture System

Starting May 1

Dr. Sue Stehman, NYS Diagnostic Laboratory

The Diagnostic Laboratory will be implementing a new liquid culture system for Johnes fecal culture starting May 1. Based on preliminary results, the new system offers the advantage of faster turn around time for a Johnes fecal culture result with an added benefit of improved sensitivity for detecting low fecal shedders. The traditional Johnes solid media methods require up to 12 weeks for a final result. The new liquid media system offers a final result on low shedders in approximately 42-49 days. Preliminary results on field samples are presented in Table 1 on the next page.

The new culture method detected most positive samples (> 93%) by 3 weeks for heavy shedders (mean days of 13.8); 4 weeks for moderate shedders (mean days of 21.4); 6 weeks for low shedders (mean days of 30.8). The liquid media system detected organisms after 42 days of culture that were not detected on solid media in 12 weeks and thus provides a more sensitive method for detecting low shedders.

Sample contamination was increased from 4% on solid media to an average of 10% in the new system and appeared to be more of a problem on some farms than others. Contamination might be linked to feeds or

environment of particular farms. Contamination can be decreased by briefly processing samples in the laboratory through a low temperature (-70° to -80°C) freezer prior to culture. To minimize contamination, fecal samples should be taken and shipped promptly (with cold packs). If possible avoid feeding forage with gross mold contamination for 3-4 days prior to sampling. Do not freeze or refrigerate samples. Keep at 40-50 degree range. The Johne's fecal culture result format will change; results will be reported in categories of negative or not detected, low, moderate or high shedding. Colony forming units will no longer be available. Procedures for submitting fecal samples for Johne's culture are otherwise unchanged. We still request that fecal cultures be scheduled in advance for herds on a regular testing schedule, or for submissions over fecal 25 samples. This

is especially important when submitting large numbers of samples. Johne's fecal culture requires a three day setup procedure. The laboratory processes fecals for Johne's culture Monday through Wednesday. Unscheduled samples, or samples arriving after Wednesday of each week will be frozen and set in the order that they are received, starting the following Monday. Please keep these considerations in mind when calculating expected turnaround time and allow a 1-2 week buffer.

In conclusion, the liquid media culture system was more sensitive (with 13% more positivity) and faster (detection within 2-6 weeks) than the solid media method for detection of Johne's in bovine feces. Research is continuing for application in other ruminants, such as sheep, goats, farm deer and camelids.

Table 1. Detection days of *M. paratuberculosis* by Liquid Media Detection System based on preliminary results from 300 field cases

Fecal Shedding Level	Mean days to detection (Range)	S.D.*	% Detection by day						
			7 d	14 d	21 d	28 d	35 d	42 d	49 d
Heavy >300 CFU	13.81 (3.4 – 23.06)	3.49	4	65	97	100			
Moderate 31-300 CFU	21.17 (15.99-37.03)	5.06			7	93		100	
Few 1-30 CFU	30.84 (19.99-49.71)	6.93			3	39	73	94	100

*Standard Deviation

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