

# In Changing Times: An Update on Animal Health and Welfare in Saskatchewan



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Ministry of Agriculture



# Animal Health

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# Outline

- Animal Health
  - Reportable/Notifiable Diseases
    - Anthrax
    - Rabies
  - Blue Green Algae
  - Antimicrobial Resistance
- Animal Welfare



# Disclaimer

I am still very new in this role. If I do not know the answer to a question, I will happily find the answer and get back to you!

# Reportable vs. Notifiable Diseases

- Under *The Animal Health Act*, provincially reportable diseases are those that require action be taken for prevention, control or eradication of the disease.
- Notifiable diseases are those that require monitoring for trade purposes, or to help the industry detect or understand their presence in Saskatchewan. In most cases, no action is taken in response to the confirmation of a provincially notifiable disease, although further action may be taken at the discretion of the CVO.

# SK Reportable Cattle Diseases

1. ANTHRAX

2. RABIES

These are also federally reportable (to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency)

# SK Notifiable Cattle Diseases

- Bovine Anaplasmosis
- Q Fever
- Lyme Disease
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever

# Anthrax



- Caused by bacteria in soil
- Cattle are infected by eating or inhaling bacteria
- Can also enter open wounds
- High fatality rate in cattle once infected
- Can also infect people
- Do not touch the carcass!

# Anthrax

## Ministry's Role:

- Carcass-side tests
  - Vet clinics can request carcass-side test kits in high-risk areas
- Testing at PDS funded
- Outbreak response:
  - Minimum 7-day quarantine
  - Lifted 7 days after last death AND disposal/C&D



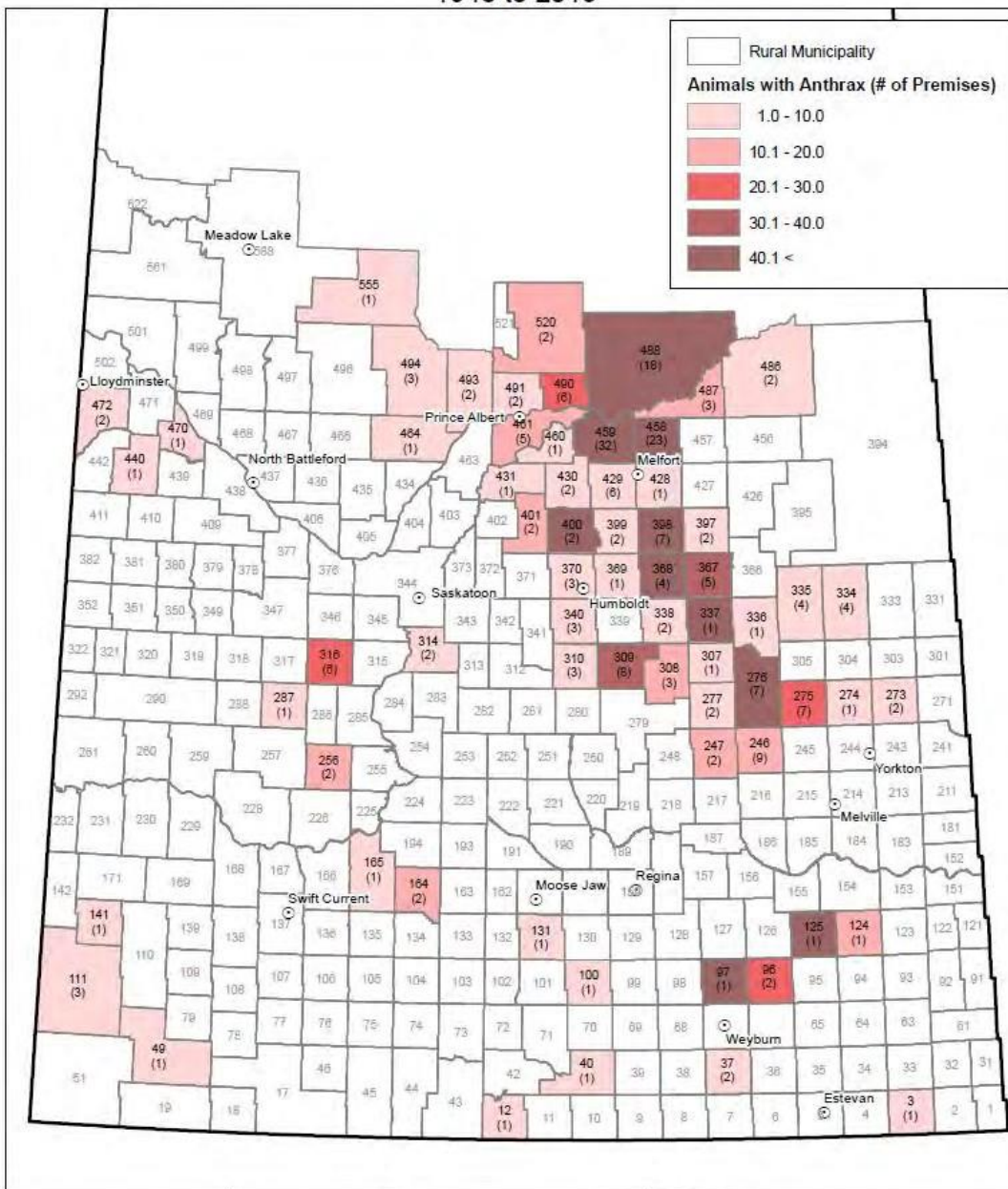
# Signs of Anthrax in Cattle

- Sudden unexplained death of cattle
- Blood from nose or rectum
- Swellings of the body, bloat
- Prior to death may exhibit difficulties walking, stiff hind legs, neurological signs (trembling, seizures), which rapidly progress to death

# Anthrax Prevention

- Vaccines are the best way to protect livestock from anthrax
- Protection takes 7 to 21 days to develop and lasts six months to one year
  - Animals must be vaccinated every year to remain protected
- Remember to be proactive. Anthrax is much easier to prevent than treat!
- Talk to your veterinarian about appropriate vaccinations for your operation and location.

# Cumulative Anthrax Cases in Saskatchewan 1948 to 2019



# Rabies

- Viral disease
- Rabies can be transmitted from animals to humans!
- Spread through saliva from infected animal
- Once symptoms appear, rabies is fatal
- Saskatchewan Provincial Rabies Response Program



# Signs of Rabies in Cattle

- Depressed, hide/isolate
- Difficulties swallowing, drooling, foaming at mouth
- Excitable, aggressive
- May attack objects or other animals
- Weakness in hind legs (and other neurological signs)
- Make strange noises

# Rabies



Your contact for rabies program questions:

- Email: [RRAV@gov.sk.ca](mailto:RRAV@gov.sk.ca)
- Rabies hotline: 1-844-7-RABIES (1-844-772-2437)

[Rabies Response Program | Animal Health and Welfare | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

# Blue Green Algae Toxicity

- Cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins
  - Freshwater harmful algal blooms (FHABs)
- Increasing with climate change and pollution
- FHABs arise when water temperatures exceed 15°C
  - Direct sunlight
  - Stagnant bodies of water (ponds, lakes, reservoirs, dugouts, slow moving streams, tanks and water buckets)
- Not all blooms stay on the water surface
  - May not be visible
- Most common route in cattle is ingestion



# Signs of Blue Green Algae Toxicity

- Onset of illness can vary from minutes to days
- Clinical signs and severity of disease varies with dose and type of cyanotoxin (s)
  - Shock, pale mucous membranes
  - Diarrhea, vomiting, salivation
  - Jaundice and other signs of liver disease
  - Bleeding disorders
  - Weakness, muscle tremors, rigidity, paralysis, and other neurological signs
  - Respiratory failure
  - Death
- Diagnosis
  - Clinical signs
  - History of exposure
  - Post-mortem findings

# Blue Green Algae Prevention

- Remove animals from FHAB source
- Provide fresh, clean drinking water to cattle
  - Off-site watering systems
  - Aeration to keep water cool and moving
- Physical barriers to prevent access to standing water
- Water testing?
  - Reach out to your local livestock and feed extension specialist to ID algae!
- Water treatment
  - Copper sulphate products
  - Keep cattle off water for 2 weeks

# Antimicrobial Resistance

- Improper use of antibiotics leads to highly resistant bacterial pathogens
  - Type
  - Dose
  - Administration
    - How the medication was given (did the animal actually get the medication appropriately?)
    - Frequency
    - Duration
- Animal health and human health concerns



# The Producer's Role in AMR

- The producer's role in prudent use of antibiotics and antimicrobial stewardship:
  - Consult your veterinarian, the expert!
    - Antibiotics and other drugs should come from reputable sources
  - Follow instructions exactly
- Prevent infections before they happen
  - Good biosecurity, husbandry, and animal welfare practices
- Research continues to look at more preventative options like vaccinations to inhibit bacterial infections from happening in the first place

# Thank you!

Questions can be saved for Q & A discussion



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# Animal Welfare in Saskatchewan

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# Animal welfare

- Well-being of an animal
- Guided by the 5 freedoms
  - Hunger and thirst
  - Discomfort
  - Pain, injury or disease
  - To express normal behavior
  - Fear and distress

# Animal Welfare Legislations

- **Federal**

- Criminal code of Canada
- Health of Animals Regulations, Part XII

- **Provincial**

- Animal Protection Act ,2018
- The Meat Inspection(Saskatchewan) Regulations

# Animal Welfare – Slaughter Facilities

- *The Meat Inspection(Saskatchewan) Regulations*

*Procedures re slaughtering and processing meat products and inspections*

*15(1) No operator shall fail to ensure that, respecting every animal that the operator deals with:*

*(a) the animal is received and handled in a manner that:*

*(i) the minister is satisfied is humane; and*

*(ii) does not subject the animal to avoidable pain or distress;*

*(b) the animal is stunned in a humane manner that does not subject the animal to avoidable pain or distress and that renders the animal unconscious before being bled*

# The Animal Protection Act, 2018

- The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture administers *The Animal Protection Act, 2018* (Act) and *The Animal Protection Regulations, 2018* (Regulations).
- Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS)
- Regina Humane Society – Regina
- Member of RCMP, and municipal police officers are **Appointed Animal Protection Officers** responsible for enforcement of this legislation

# The Animal Protection Act, 2018

- Animal- any animal other than a human being
- Defines animal in Distress
- Referenced codes, standards of care
- Abandoned animals
- Authority to enter premises holding animals
- Proactive inspection authorities
- Summary offences with penalty up to \$25,000 and or maximum jail period of 2 years

# Duties of care

- **Animal care duties**
- The person responsible shall ensure the animal is provided
  - Adequate food and water
  - Veterinary care as needed
  - Adequate Shelter and reasonable protection
  - Adequate housing

# Duties of care

- Humane slaughter and euthanasia
- Mandatory reporting for veterinarians

# Prohibitions

- No person shall cause an animal to be in distress or permit an animal to be in distress
- Prohibited to transport unfit animals

# NFACC codes of practice

- Nationally accepted codes in care and management of farms animals
- Referenced in the Act
- Practices accepted under the NFACC codes are deemed acceptable under the Act.
- Outcome based!

# APSS

- Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan(**APSS**).
- Enforces the Act in the province of Saskatchewan, excluding Regina.
- **All livestock concerns are handled by APSS**

# Ministry's role in Animal welfare

- Ensures the administration of the Act is equitable in the province
- Funds the enforcement of the Act
- Designates agencies and appoints Animal Protection officers to enforce the Act
- Enforcement data collection from agencies
- Engagement with stakeholders

# Programs and services

- Multiple programs available under CAP
- Primary contact - **Agriculture Knowledge Center or AKC**
- Assurance Systems-Producer Rebate program
- Farm and Ranch water Infrastructure program
- Livestock Feed Extension Services - subject experts on feed and rationing

# The Farm Stress Line

- *Clarifying the problem or concern.*
- *Work with you to find solutions*
- *Connect you with the right organization, professional or program*
- *Listen and support in a safe, neutral & non-judgmental environment*

# Transport Regulations

- Prohibited to transport unfit animals
- Compromised animals can be transported with provisions – 12 hours max
- Transportation records
- Transfer of care
- Monitoring of animal's - risk assessment.
- Outcome based results

THANK YOU!

Animal welfare is a shared  
responsibility