



# Office of the State Veterinarian

House Resources Committee

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The Office of the State Veterinarian is responsible for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases in all animals in the state including livestock and pets, safeguarding the health and food production capacity of the State's livestock, reindeer, and poultry and preventing the transmission of animal diseases to humans.





# Program Functions

- “One Health” Animal Disease & Traceability
  - Import Regulations for Animals
  - Disease Surveillance and Investigation
  - Import of Veterinary Biologicals
  - Emergency Response
    - Animal Evacuation and Sheltering
- Dairy
  - Sanitation at Dairy Farms & Milk Facilities
  - Dairy Products Safe for Human Consumption
- Reindeer Slaughter
- FSMA Produce Safety Rule
- Fish Tissue Monitoring





# Collaborative Partnerships

- Department of Natural Resources
  - Division of Agriculture
- Department of Fish & Game
  - Division of Wildlife
  - Board of Fisheries
- Department of Health & Human Services
  - Public Health
  - Epidemiology
- Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
  - Division of Homeland Security
- Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development
  - Veterinary Licensing
- University of Alaska
  - Veterinary School
  - Cooperative Extension
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Veterinary Services
  - Wildlife Services
  - Food Safety Inspection Services
- Food and Drug Administration
- U.S. Department of the Interior
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - National Park Service
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
  - Marine Mammals
  - Commercial Fisheries
- Centers for Disease Control
  - Public Health
- Customs and Border Protection



# Animal Disease & Traceability

*The mixing of people, animals, the environment, and the health of each group is very closely interconnected*



- One Health – Ecosystem Approach
  - Animal Health (livestock, wildlife, & domestic pets)
  - Public Health
  - Environmental Health
- 1,461 diseases can be passed from animals to people
- ~75% of emerging human diseases are zoonotic



# Alaska Animal Imports

		Cattle	Sheep/ Goats	Equine	Swine	Poultry
FY2014	# Permits	6	26	77	19	220
	# Animals	37	92	203	2,050	14,000
FY2015	# Permits	5	21	63	13	490
	# Animals	22	38	118	668	30,623
FY2016	# Permits	14	22	203	31	1,645
	# Animals	169	298	352	2,668	128,372

\*These numbers do not include imports that do not require a permit (i.e. pets), but do require a health certificate from the state or country of origin





# Disease Outbreaks in Alaska

- Brucellosis
  - ~20% of brucellosis cases are associated with recreational and subsistence hunting
- Domestic Animals
  - Pet Foods (brucellosis canis, leptospirosis, rabies, avian, swine, and canine influenza)
  - Poultry (Marek's Disease, fowl cholera, avian influenza)
  - Baby Chicks (salmonella)
  - Outbreaks at the Fair (Strep. suis, Malignant Catharral Fever)
  - Domestic Rabbits (herpes virus)
- Treats & Raw Foods
  - Poultry Deaths (SouthCentral; toxin)
  - Horses (Kodiak; aflatoxin)
  - Domestic Pets (salmonella, chemical contaminants)





# Dairy

- Dairy Sanitarians
  - Required for Grade A milk by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO)
- Regulatory Testing
  - Milk and milk products sold commercially
  - Brucellosis surveillance
  - Equipment Testing
- FDA Certified Laboratory Evaluation Officer (LEO)
  - Certification of on-site screening laboratories







# Reindeer Slaughter



- Regulatory oversight of commercial-scale slaughter and processing of reindeer
- Ensure wholesomeness, quality, and non-adulteration of reindeer products
- Jurisdiction over reindeer:
  - Intended for sale as part of intrastate commerce
  - Intended for human consumption
  - Potentially comingled into USDA inspected sausage-type products

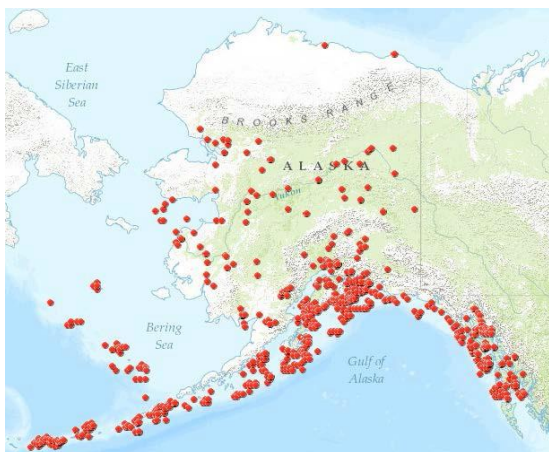


# FSMA Produce Safety Rule

- Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule
- Federal regulatory science-based minimum standards for safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce on farms
- Integrated food safety approach across the Division of Environmental Health's existing regulatory programs
- Located in the OSV
  - Make best use of available resources and expertise
  - Enhance existing relationships with agricultural food producers in Alaska
- Collaborating with Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Services
- Current Activities
  - State Self-Assessment
  - Farm Inventory
  - Development of a multi-year strategy to potentially implement a State regulatory program with a focus on education, outreach, and technical Assistance



# Fish Tissue Monitoring



- Monitor for contaminants such as mercury and PCBs in over 90 species of Alaska's fish and shellfish
- Over 10,000 samples from across the state analyzed
- Respond to concern of emerging contaminants
  - Fukushima Radiation
  - Arsenic in Shellfish
- Identify areas where contaminants are elevated
- Inform regulatory partners for contaminant mitigation
- Collaborate with DHSS for issuance of fish consumption guidelines for Alaskan seafood
- <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/FMP.html>



# Questions?

