



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

June 21, 2011

RE: EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS SURVEILLANCE AT FAIRS

On June 1, 2011, equine piroplasmosis testing of horses being imported into Michigan from states that have had cases of equine piroplasmosis in the past 12 months has been discontinued. However, the following health statement is required to be included on the health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian:

"I have examined the animal(s) listed on this certificate. At the time of the examination, the animal(s) listed on this certificate is/are not under quarantine for piroplasmosis, not displaying signs of piroplasmosis, and either did not have evidence of live ticks or was/were successfully treated for ticks if ticks were present."

Reports received monthly from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reveal that the greatest number of horses found to be positive for EP are those being used for racing. In an effort to stop the introduction and spread of this disease within the racing industry, many racetracks around the U.S. have voluntarily instituted a requirement for a negative test for EP from any horses being raced at their track. In addition, educating race horse owners, trainers, handlers, veterinarians, and others involved in the industry that EP may be spread by multiple use of needles will go a long way in preventing the spread of the disease.


Many county fairs include some form of horse racing in their schedule. We encourage fairs that accept race horses from infected states (list enclosed) to require a negative test for EP in order to prevent the introduction of the disease into Michigan, and also to prevent the possibility that the disease could transmit from out-of-state race horses to local 4-H horses.

Enclosed is information about equine piroplasmosis and a list of the states that have had cases in the past 12 months (note: this list may change if additional cases are found). For the most current information, please contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at (517) 373-1077 or (517) 335-5713.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our office.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Respectfully,


Steven L. Halstead, DVM, MS
State Veterinarian

Enclosure