

## Confidentiality of Livestock Location Information

As Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) reappears in Colorado in 2015, concerned horse-owners want to know what they can do to protect their horses. The State Veterinarian's office receives many calls requesting the location of horses and premises affected by VS.

**Colorado has a state statute called the Confidentiality of Livestock Information which protects livestock producers' operational information and animal disease information; this includes horse and location information (C.R.S. 35-57.9-103)**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture takes the role of protecting this information seriously; this is very much appreciated by the livestock owning public. Aside from the importance of this role, the specific location of horses or livestock affected with VS is not as important for controlling disease transmission as is strict fly control. While VS can be spread by direct contact between animals, **the main method of spread is through insect vectors, primarily biting flies.**

**For disease control purposes, the prevalence of VS cases within YOUR county, as well as prevalence of cases within your area of the state (Western Slope, Front Range, etc...), is more important than the location of specific affected premises.** There are many instances where horses across the fence from VSV affected horses do not develop VS. Increasing numbers of cases within a county or state area mean that there are increasing numbers of flies carrying VS in the area. Counties with confirmed cases are listed and mapped on the [USDA website](#), as well as the [CDA website](#).

Because of the risk from VS-affected flies, **strict fly control is the most important factor in inhibiting transmission of VS.** Minimizing the number of flies biting your animals minimizes the risk of contracting VS. Not only is fly control for the horses important but fly control on the premises and good manure management is key to mitigating risk. While direct transmission is a minimal risk, it is still a risk that can be reduced, by avoiding sharing handling equipment between animals or herds. VS Disease Prevention Tips for Livestock Owners are listed below. No disease prevention methods will prevent all disease from occurring, but following these tips will greatly reduce the risk to your animals.

### VS Disease Prevention Tips for Livestock Owners:

- Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.
- Good manure management
- Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from other herds.
- Colorado fairs, livestock exhibitions, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements based on the extent and severity of VS outbreaks. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can be beneficial to reduce risks. Be sure to stay informed of any new livestock event requirements.
- During an event, important VS disease prevention procedures include minimizing the sharing of water and feed/equipment, applying insect repellent daily (especially to the animals' ears), and closely observing animals for signs of VS.

### Resources:

- CDA VS website (includes up-to-date disease information and VS show & exhibition guidelines): <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/vesicular-stomatitis-virus-vsv>
- USDA VS website (includes situation reports, VS factsheet, and other information): [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/downloads/animal\\_diseases/vsv/Sitrep\\_070215.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/animal_diseases/vsv/Sitrep_070215.pdf)
- CDA News Releases: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agmain/all-news/46786>
- American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) VS Control Guidelines: <http://www.aaep.org/custdocs/VesicularStomatitisControlGuidelinesFinal091212.pdf>
- Colorado State Veterinarian's Office: (303) 869-9130