Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025

MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Board Members

ERICA SAWATZKE, President of the Board and Poultry Producer, Kensington
PEGGY ANNE HAWKINS, Vice President of the Board and Veterinarian, Northfield
STEVE NEIL, Livestock Producer, Northfield
BRANDON SCHAFER, Livestock Producer, Goodhue
JESSICA KOPPIEN-FOX, Veterinarian, Marshall
ALEX STADE, Cattle Producer and Member of a Tribal Nation, Prior Lake
ABIGAIL MAYNARD, Veterinarian Specializing in Companion Animals, St. Paul Park

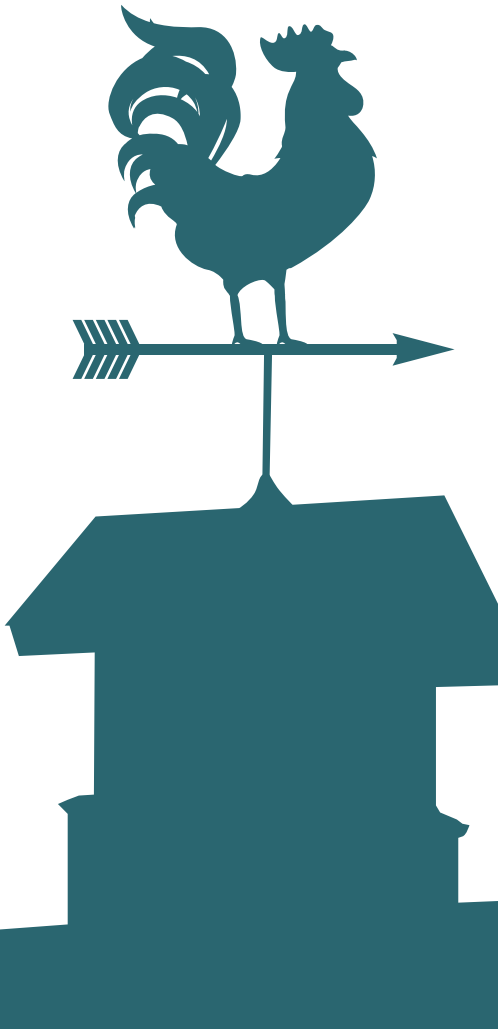
Board Meetings

September 17, 2024
December 10, 2024
February 4, 2025
April 1, 2025

The Annual Report of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is published in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes.

The Board of Animal Health is an equal opportunity employer.

Table of Contents



Letter from the State Veterinarian

It feels like we always have new twists to deal with on the disease front each year I write this letter, and fiscal year 2025 lived up to the expectations. H5N1 influenza made the move to dairy cattle across the U.S. and Minnesota and hit its peak at the end of fiscal year 2024 and the start of this fiscal year, more on those responses later. This year was also important for our funding as the legislature undertook its biennial budget cycle and we were fortunate to end the fiscal year with an agriculture budget appropriated. While some weeks were up and others were down, our staff and our state, local and federal partners collaborated to carry out another successful fiscal year of defending and advancing animal health in Minnesota.

The H5N1 in dairy cattle kicked off fiscal year 2025 with a lot of angst and concern for how it would interact with our poultry populations in the fall when we typically anticipate a peak in cases tied to waterfowl migration. However, aside from a handful of cases in the summer, the dairy situation didn't yield much for our response measures. We didn't get a full picture of the virus in our dairy herds until our partners at the Department of Agriculture kicked off a statewide milk surveillance testing strategy for H5N1 in February 2025. Fortunately, only one case was detected for the remainder of fiscal year 2025, and we spent the final weeks of the year planning how to transition Minnesota to an unaffected state status for our federal partners.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) lingered in our state again this year, although case counts were markedly lower than years past, and the overall trend since the 2022 outbreak has seen case counts steadily falling. Despite the good news of no HPAI for our poultry industry, the Minnesota Turkey Growers commissioned a study on the impact of Avian Metapneumovirus (a MPV). According to the report, "aMPV in 2024 resulted in the loss of over 2.2 million turkeys, translating to an estimated $112 million in lost sales, $17 million in labor income reductions, $31 million in lost value to Minnesota's economy, and a nearly $8 million dollar reduction in tax revenue to the state's economy." This is important to note because aMPV is not a reportable disease and doesn't qualify for federal response or indemnity funding, so the entire burden falls on the industry.

Every other year the Minnesota legislature meets it determines the biennial budget, including the Board's. Some highlights from the cycle included topping off the state's agriculture emergency fund to further our response to livestock diseases. The Board also received a base budget in the agriculture bill, which shows lawmakers' commitment to agriculture and animal health in Minnesota. As a budget year, the main attention was focused on dollars and cents, and there weren't any major policy issues affecting the Board. However, we'll be focused on collaborating with our stakeholders and lawmakers next session as they explore any policy bills with an impact on our work to protect animal health.

We cannot be complacent with the status quo of animal health in Minnesota. I end every year reflecting on what is happening around the world and what could happen if those issues arrived on our doorstep. In past years, we've focused on African Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth Disease, which are still very much on the radar. This year a pesky fly and its parasitic maggots have my eye. New World Screwworm (NWS) is an old pest, twice eradicated from the U.S., with a new and persistent threat. The NWS maggots are a big threat to livestock and domestic animals and feed on living tissue. While once thought to only be a threat in subtropical and temperate climates, Minnesota's summer and shoulder seasons could allow the pest to spread. Therefore, we end this year with a focus on the status of the NWS fly in Mexico and educating our farmers and pet owners on preventative steps they can take to ensure it isn't inadvertently imported into our state.

I'd like to thank our partners at all levels of government, academia, industry associations, farmers, producers, pet owners, veterinarians and the public for the support and collaboration to assist us in our mission of protecting animal health in Minnesota. Working together drives our success, and I wish everyone a healthy and productive year ahead.

Brian Hoefs, DVM
State Veterinarian and Executive Director

Cattle

H5N1 outbreak

In 2024, we saw the emergence of the H5N1 virus in dairy cattle in the U.S. This is the influenza A virus that causes HPAI in birds. Raw milk from infected cattle is the most reliable sample for detecting the virus because it has been found to replicate in mammary tissue in the udder. To control the spread of H5N1 in Minnesota, the Board implemented quarantines and testing for infected herds. A Federal Order issued April 24, 2024, is still in effect requiring Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and H5N1 testing for all lactating dairy cattle moving between states to all premises except slaughter facilities. To meet the documentation requirement for imports to slaughter facilities, State Animal Health Officials may agree to utilize Owner Shipper Statements instead of CVIs, which Minnesota opted to adopt. Additionally, the Board implemented required H5N1 testing for lactating dairy cattle to attend exhibitions in 2024 through March 31, 2025. In February 2025, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture initiated H5N1 surveillance for all raw milk sent for pasteurization as part of the USDA National Milk Testing Strategy. The surveillance yielded one detection in March 2025, which is a premises that was previously detected in July 2024. Minnesota continues to monitor the national situation as it relates to our response.

H5N1 in Fiscal Year 2025

2

Dairy herds confirmed positive

1,840

Head of bovine exposed

Electronic Identification (EID) in bovine

On November 5, 2024, the USDA Rule for “Use of Electronic Identification Ear tags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison” went into effect requiring identification for cattle and bison contain both a visual and electronic component to be considered official. The Board applied these parameters on the same effective date for intrastate requirements. Identification applied prior to November 5, 2024 can meet the previous state and national definitions of official, and identification applied on or after that date must be visual and electronic when official identification is required for intrastate or interstate movements. As part of the transition, the USDA allocated no-cost radio frequency identification (RFID) electronic tags to states for cattle and bison. Minnesota was allocated 121,000 for the first phase of federal Fiscal Year 2025 distribution. All tags were claimed shortly after being made available and were distributed to producers and veterinarians. Livestock auction markets were able to access the no-cost RFID by trading in visual metal tags. Minnesota is awaiting the second phase of allocation from USDA and will strive to distribute tags effectively and equitably when available.

Farmed Cervidae

Since 2023's annual report, 38 non-white-tailed deer producers have left the industry in Minnesota, with the majority being elk producers. Cervid importation has slowed dramatically as producers are only allowed to import from certain approved states, which few exist. In Fiscal Year 2025, two reindeer were imported from Alaska, and two tufted deer were imported from zoos in New York and Ohio. The tufted deer were allowed to enter the state due to an exception in the farmed Cervidae import statute that applies to a limited number of zoos.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to have authority over regulation of farmed white-tailed deer, while the Board is responsible for administering and enforcing the statues and rules for all non-white-tailed deer farmed Cervidae. Board farmed Cervidae staff have an interagency agreement with DNR staff and meet on a regular basis to assist with managing the program, collaborate on common issues, and provide training as needed.

Exclusionary fencing for all farmed Cervidae became a statutory requirement effective September 1, 2024. All producers were required to submit a fencing plan reviewed by a panel consisting of Board and USDA program and field staff. Many types of exclusionary fencing were approved, including solid barrier fencing, electric fencing, and some double 8-foot fencing. There is one non-white-tailed deer producer who hasn't installed exclusionary fencing and is facing Board compliance action, which could lead to herd registration cancellation.

Herd totals by fiscal year (Fiscal Years 2016-2025)

2025:	68	2020:	291
2024:	87	2019:	360
2023:	209	2018:	395
2022:	227	2017:	421
2021:	259	2016:	462

Herd breakdown by species, Fiscal Year 2025

Herd type	Number of herds	Number of animals
Elk only	41	1,973
Reindeer only	8	42
Red deer only	1	6
Muntjac only	1	6
Fallow deer only	1	12
Mixed herds without white-tailed deer	4	390
Mixed herds with white-tailed deer	12	207*

*Number does not include white-tailed deer.

Cervid species breakdown, Fiscal Year 2025

Elk 2,313	Red Deer 168
Reindeer 48	Fallow Deer 43
Sika 34	Muntjac 21
Pere David's Deer 4	Moose 3
Tufted Deer 2	Caribou 0

Swine

U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP)

The U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) is a producer-driven national pilot program that establishes consistent health standards that serve as a platform for control of foreign animal diseases (FAD) of high consequence like African swine fever (ASF) and classical swine fever (CSF). It also has benefits for the control of existing diseases in U.S. swine herds.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working to establish US SHIP as a national voluntary livestock improvement program. APHIS plans to create sectors for various types of swine herds and production facilities centered on production methods and disease risk. Participating sites achieve certifications for disease monitoring for diseases like ASF and CSF. Achieving status would allow these operators to market their certifications and maintain their interstate and international business during a disease outbreak. The program would be overseen by a General Conference Committee of swine producers and other industry and state animal health participants to advise APHIS on matters of swine health and disease management.

Minnesota is one of 38 states participating in the voluntary US SHIP program. Enrollment information is available on our website.

- 4 Boar Stud farms with a total of 1,114 animals.
- 104 Breeding farms with a total of 338,201 animals.
- 88 Farrow-Feeder-Finish farms with a total of 194,750 animals.
- 1,455 Growing Pig farms with a total of 4,753,903 animals.
- 2 Non-commercial farms with a total of 60 animals.
- 1 Packing plant with a capacity for 7,000 swine.
- 17 Small Holding farms (sites with between 100 – 1,000 animals) with a total of 11,244 animals.
- 3 Live Animal Marketing Operations with a total of 3,300 animals.

Swine sample collector trainings

The Board is part of an effort to train certified swine sample collectors in preparation for a large-scale FAD outbreak. Plans call for utilizing qualified industry resources when state and federal responders are strained. Part of the certification process assures the participants correctly collect, handle and submit samples under the oversight of a category II accredited veterinarian.

Swine-focused veterinarians either collect or oversee the collection of samples from swine for diagnostic and surveillance testing for domestic diseases on production sites. During a FAD outbreak, biosecurity is enhanced, and the quantity and frequency of samples collected increases. This exemplifies the role certified samplers play in supporting the industry in times of crisis.

Minnesota currently has 133 certified swine sample collectors.

Feral swine

Minnesota continues to maintain a “feral swine free” status. The Board and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continue to monitor and follow-up with all reports of loose swine sightings.

Feeding food waste to livestock

The Board licenses two classes of permits (A and B) for facilities that feed food waste to livestock. Class A permits are for operators feeding waste containing meat or refuse of any kind that may have been in contact with meat, and class B permits are for feeding waste or garbage not containing meat. We currently have five producers with class A permits and 12 with class B permits.

Companion Animals

Commercial breeders

The Board licenses and inspects dog and cat breeders with 10 or more intact animals that produce six or more litters of puppies or kittens in a year. This year, one commercial breeder participated in the Breeder of Excellence program. This voluntary program recognizes commercial breeders exceeding state-required standards in the following areas of care: facilities management, behavior and socialization, continuing education, health screening, and canine brucellosis or feline leukemia/FIV screening. One commercial breeder was awarded badges in all areas, earning the title of Breeder of Excellence. The current commercial dog and cat breeder law was first passed in 2014. This year, the Small Animal Welfare Committee of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) worked on proposing updates to current companion animal statutes in conjunction with other legislative initiatives. The Board looks forward to continuing to work with MVMA and stakeholders to ensure continued safety and well-being of Minnesota's companion animal population.

Companion animal imports and regulations

The number of companion animal imports, particularly those by rescue groups and shelters, continues to rise, and we have seen an increase in the number of non-compliant Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) being filled out by veterinarians at the site of origin. The Board has taken multiple steps to reduce the mistakes and omissions that lead to so many non-compliant CVIs. One of which was a webinar to educate importing groups on Minnesota import requirements. This included a discussion of CVI and rabies requirements, along with who they can contact at the Board with any questions or concerns they may have. The Board has issued educational warnings to rescues that have not met the proper import requirements and worked with them to obtain the required information to get into compliance. The Board also has been reaching out to veterinarians that repeatedly submit non-compliant CVIs to educate them on Minnesota's import requirements.

Kennels

The Board licenses and inspects facilities that accept impounded, stray, abandoned, or owner-surrendered cats and dogs. This includes humane societies, rescue organizations and impound facilities. The Board does not currently license training and boarding facilities, animal day care facilities, groomers, or foster sites. Lack of oversight of foster-based rescues continues to be a concern of the public and veterinarians. The MVMA is looking to propose legislation that if passed, would require these entities to obtain a license from the Board.

Canine brucellosis

Canine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease, transmissible to humans, continues to be a concern in companion animals due to its health effects and contagious nature in dogs. The Board continues to partner with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to investigate all non-negative test results for canine brucellosis. The Board also continues to monitor dogs that previously tested positive and are under quarantine. There were two new cases of canine brucellosis detected in Fiscal Year 2025. The Board and MDH are committed to preventing the spread of this disease by educating

of this disease by educating the public, canine businesses, rescue organizations, and veterinarians about the importance of surveillance and reporting.

Tularemia

The trend of year-to-year increases in cases of tularemia continues in Minnesota. In 2024 there were 27 cases of tularemia reported in companion animals, as compared to 21 cases in 2023. The Board, along with our partners at MDH, continue to work to inform and educate veterinarians and the public about the disease. Timely alerts of new cases through social media and emails as well as routinely answering questions from veterinarians and the public are part of our efforts to try and control the spread of the disease. Future cooperative efforts are planned with MDH along with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to continue our education efforts and reach more people.

H5N1

The Board continues to monitor closely for cases of avian influenza virus (H5N1) in companion animals, particularly cats. We partnered with MDH and the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) on a webinar, the goal being to educate veterinarians on the risk factors, clinical signs and diagnostic options in cats. We have also worked with our MDH and VDL partners to develop a plan on how to investigate and report cases of H5N1 in companion animals and educate the veterinary staff and owners that have encountered positive companion animals on zoonotic potential of the virus and the steps they should take to keep themselves safe.

Companion animal data, Fiscal Year 2025

Licensed Commercial Dog and Cat Breeder (CDCB) program

78 Licensed CDCBs

0 New CDCBs licensed

1 Participant in Breeder Excellence Program (all badges earned)

Licensed kennel program

88 Licensed Kennels

10 New kennels licensed

Canine brucellosis

2 Canine Brucellosis investigations

3 Dogs tested

2 Positive detections

1 Negative detection

Tularemia

13 Feline cases

1 Canine case

Canine influenza

0 Canine influenza positives

3 Suspected canine influenza cases (treated as positives)

3 Counties affected (Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka)

12 Quarantines issued

Poultry

HPAI summary

Minnesota continues to respond to the ongoing H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) event that began in the spring of 2022. Similar to past years, fall tends to bring the most significant uptick in cases with 17 new cases in Minnesota added in Fiscal Year 2025. Eleven of those cases were in commercial poultry, with the remaining 6 being detected in small backyard flocks. Except for 3 commercial poultry cases early in Fiscal Year 2025, the H5N1 viruses detected were consistent with the viruses circulating in wild birds. There has been no evidence of infection with the genotype of H5N1 that had been circulating in dairy cattle, which caused most of the HPAI infections in Minnesota poultry producers last spring and early summer. The Board continues to work with the poultry industry on HPAI preparedness and is ready to respond to any new detections. The Board is appreciative of the support provided by our partner agencies, including the USDA, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, and the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

aMPV summary

While HPAI had less of an impact on Minnesota poultry producers last year than in previous years, a new infectious pathogen spread rapidly across the United States and had devastating impacts on the poultry industry. Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) is an infectious respiratory viral disease of poultry characterized by coughing, swollen sinuses, nasal discharge, lowered feed/water consumption and a decrease in egg production. The disease is highly contagious, and the infection rates within a flock can reach 100-percent. Mortality depends on many factors but can range from 0.5 – 80-percent. Avian Metapneumovirus infections support the replication of co-infecting pathogens, and those secondary infections are often resistant to treatment. Turkeys are more susceptible to the effects of aMPV, resulting in major production and economic impacts. A report released by the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association confirmed the devastating toll aMPV has taken on Minnesota's turkey industry with a reported loss of 2.2 million turkeys in 2024. This resulted in an estimated $112 million in lost sales, $17 million in labor income reductions, $31 million in lost value to Minnesota's economy, and a nearly $8 million reduction in tax revenue to the state's economy.

The Board has worked with growers on disease investigations to rule out HPAI and diagnose aMPV infections. We, along with industry members, encouraged the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) to act quickly on approvals that allow aMPV vaccines to be imported into the United States. The Board has been reviewing the requests for use of these vaccines in Minnesota and is happy to report improving availability of aMPV vaccines for use at hatcheries, breeder flocks and other commercial poultry facilities. While the vaccine will not stop transmission of the virus, the reduction in significant clinical signs and mortality provides a glimmer of hope in mitigating the impacts of yet another disease challenge.

NPIP program participants as of June 30, 2025:

NPIP program type	Number of NPIP program participants
Commercial Breeding Flock Facilities	69
Commercial Egg Layer Facilities	30
Commercial Hatcheries	9
Commercial Slaughter Plants	6
Live Bird Markets	3
Poultry Dealers	231
Subpart J - Gamebirds	15
WEGBY Facilities	62

Number of NPIP participating flocks:

NPIP program type	Number of participating flocks	Number of birds
Commercial Egg-Type Chicken Breeders	1	39,000
Commercial Meat-Type Chicken Breeders	84	930,600
Commercial Turkey Breeders	76	1,079,800
Commercial Egg-Type Chicken	153	18,733,241
Commercial Meat-Type Chicken	1.217	71,704,500
Commercial Meat-type Turkey	1,556	35,442,618
Subpart J - Gamebirds	15	125,950
WEGBY Facilities	62	17,012

HPAI Breakdown, Fiscal Year 2025

8 Commercial turkey meat bird flocks

3 Commercial turkey breeder flocks

0 Commercial chicken table-egg layer flocks

0 Commercial broiler flocks

6 Backyard flocks

Horses

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a viral zoonotic disease spread by mosquitoes and thought to cycle between mosquitoes and birds. Mosquitoes contract the virus from birds and then spread it to mammals, most commonly humans and horses. Although horses can become infected with the virus, they cannot spread the disease to others. The virus can cause swelling of the brain and spinal cord, which causes neurologic symptoms such as incoordination of the limbs and muscle twitching. Horse vaccines for WNV are available and have been used extensively, contributing to the decline in the number of affected horses since the disease was introduced to the United States in 1999. Three Minnesota horses were diagnosed with WNV in Fiscal Year 2025, all were unvaccinated or not up to date on their WNV vaccine. Vaccination is the best way to prevent WNV infection in horses, and disease risk can also be reduced by limiting exposure to mosquitoes. This disease is reportable to the Board of Animal Health.

Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy

Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is a disease condition caused by Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV1) entering the nervous system which results in neurologic signs in the horse. EHV1 is a very common equine virus, which usually manifests with upper respiratory signs and sometimes reproductive signs. Most horses are exposed to EHV1 early in life and can be lifelong carriers of the virus. The virus can remain inactive, or latent, in the horse's body and later become reactivated and shed during times of stress such as strenuous exercise, transport or weaning. Active virus can spread from horse to horse through nose-to-nose contact, contact with contaminated objects such as tack, feed and water buckets, grooming equipment, and a person's hands or clothing. Exposure most commonly occurs via respiratory shedding of the virus. When the virus attacks the nervous system, the horse can become uncoordinated and weak, which can progress to the horse being unable to stand. EHM is reportable to the Board of Animal Health due to the potential for rapid spread of the virus. Facilities are immediately quarantined to halt all equine movement on or off the site where the affected horse resides or resided when exhibiting signs. Further, any horse or facility that the affected horse had contact with in the 72 hours preceding development of signs are also quarantined. There were two cases of EHM in Minnesota horses in Fiscal Year 2025, at two unrelated boarding stables. Both horses showed mild neurologic signs and eventually recovered. No additional cases developed at either stable during their quarantine periods.

Pilot project success and challenges

The Equine Exhibition Permit pilot program introduced in the spring of 2024 to address the shortage of veterinarians was extended to the 2025 horse show season to increase awareness and participation in the program. During this fiscal year, 39 equine-only exhibitions received permits for their events. Four of those events applied for and were granted variances to the rule requiring a veterinarian to inspect horses on the day of admission and daily throughout the event. To be granted a variance the exhibition manager must take the online Equine Exhibition Manager Training developed by the Board of Animal Health in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Equine Extension Program. They must also retain a veterinarian to be available on call for the duration of the event to assess any animals the manager is concerned may be showing signs of contagious or communicable disease.

Diseases, Fiscal Year 2025:

3 West Nile Virus cases

0 Eastern Equine Encephalitis cases

0 EIA cases

2 EHM cases

Sheep and Goats

Scrapie

Scrapie is a prion disease of sheep and goats which has been controlled through selective breeding to decrease susceptibility of the sheep and goat population, along with culling of infected herds. Board and USDA personnel continue to collect scrapie samples from Minnesota goats as well as animals from other states to assist in reaching USDA APHIS sampling requirements. Minnesota has not seen a case of scrapie since 2011, but continued sampling is more important than ever as the goal of declaring the United States scrapie free is within reach.

Q Fever

Q fever is a zoonotic disease of sheep, goats, and cattle caused by bacteria that can exist in the environment for many years. The majority of infected animals do not exhibit significant clinical signs. The most common indicator of a Q Fever infection in affected animals is late term abortion, stillbirth or the birth of small or weak offspring. The disease is most likely to be spread through direct contact with birthing fluids or tissues from infected animals, but the bacteria can also be found in other bodily secretions such as milk, saliva, urine, or feces. Indirectly, Q fever can be spread through ticks or fomites, which is any object that might be contaminated with the bacteria such as buckets, equipment, or even dirt or dust that can be inhaled. Testing for Q fever is usually done with blood tests to determine if animals in the herd have been exposed or are currently infected, particularly if the farm is experiencing an increased rate of pregnancy loss or stillbirths. The most common symptom of Q fever in humans is a fever, sometimes with pneumonia or liver disease. Pregnant women who are exposed to Q fever are also at increased risk of pregnancy complications. Q fever is a reportable disease in Minnesota. The Board also informs the Minnesota Department of Health of any positive Q fever tests so they can follow up with potential human exposures.

Rabies

The Board is tasked with monitoring and tracking new cases of rabies in wild and domestic animals. The Board is also responsible for evaluating potential domestic animal exposure to either confirmed or suspected cases of rabies in wild animals and issuing quarantines when required. We continue to work with our partners at the Minnesota Department of Health to help keep Minnesota's animal and human populations safe.

Support for rabies vaccination law

Rabies vaccination of dogs and cats is an important tool in rabies control and prevention. Vaccinated dogs and cats are much less likely to become infected with rabies if they are bitten by another positive animal. This not only protects the health of the animals but public health as well. Bites by dogs and cats continue to be an issue in many communities in Minnesota and primarily affect children and other vulnerable people. Although vaccination would not prevent a bite, it would reduce the potential of human infection with a deadly virus. The Board supports legislation to require all dogs and cats over 16 weeks of age be vaccinated against rabies.

Rabies Data, Fiscal Year 2025

128

Rabies investigations (including non-negatives)

Number of positive cases per species:

49 Bats

4 Skunks

3 Cats

0 Dogs

1 Cattle

1 Fox

58 Total positive rabies cases

Emergency Preparedness

The Board of Animal Health maintains a list of reportable diseases which could significantly impact the health of Minnesota's domestic animal and human populations. Anyone who suspects a domestic animal may be affected by a disease on this list must report it to the Board immediately. Reporting of diseases is often the trigger to initiate the Board's emergency response process. On the personnel side, veterinarians support the Board by conducting regulated activities including surveillance for reportable diseases. Accredited veterinarians are our first line of defense for preventing the introduction of a foreign animal disease (FAD), which is a terrestrial or aquatic animal disease or pest not known to exist in the U.S. or its territories. Examples include highly pathogenic avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and rabbit hemorrhagic disease. In the event a FAD is suspected in Minnesota, one of our 11 FAD Diagnosticians will conduct an investigation. These veterinarians have completed unique training from the USDA. Once an animal is presumed FAD positive, a rapid disease response must be implemented to contain and eradicate the disease. This response includes tracing animal movements, conducting disease surveillance, and epidemiologic investigation. The Board cannot respond to emergencies alone. We work closely with the USDA and Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Health. We also rely heavily on Minnesota farmers, livestock organizations, veterinarians, and local emergency planners and responders.

Foreign Animal Disease Investigations, Fiscal Year 2025

15	Bovine
0	Caprine
2	Equine
92	Poultry
0	Ovine
39	Swine
0	Rabbit

148 Total foreign animal disease investigations

Compliance

With the implementation of Educational Warning notices last year, the Board has improved our ability to identify and track repeat violations. As a result, program staff have identified training opportunities/needs to implement over the next fiscal year with our various stakeholders. The Compliance program focused on two main priorities over the last year, education and account-ability. Both priorities play an important role in the Board's responsibility to enforce state statutes and rules regarding animal health.

Compliance actions, Fiscal Year 2025

Program	Educational Warning	Notice of Violation/ Correction Order	Civil Penalty
Animal Disease Traceability	0	0	1
Canine Brucellosis	0	1	0
Carcass Disposal	1	3	2
Commercial Dog and Cat Breeder	3	21	6
Dealers	0	0	0
Exhibitions	8	3	1
Farmed Cervidae	5	50	14
Food Waste to Livestock	0	0	0
Import/Intrastate Movement	25	3	1
Kennels	15	11	6
Markets	5	2	0
Poultry	23	3	0
Rabies	0	0	0
Sales	2	0	0
Scrapie	0	1	0
Testing Authorization/ Certification	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Veterinary Accreditation	0	0	0

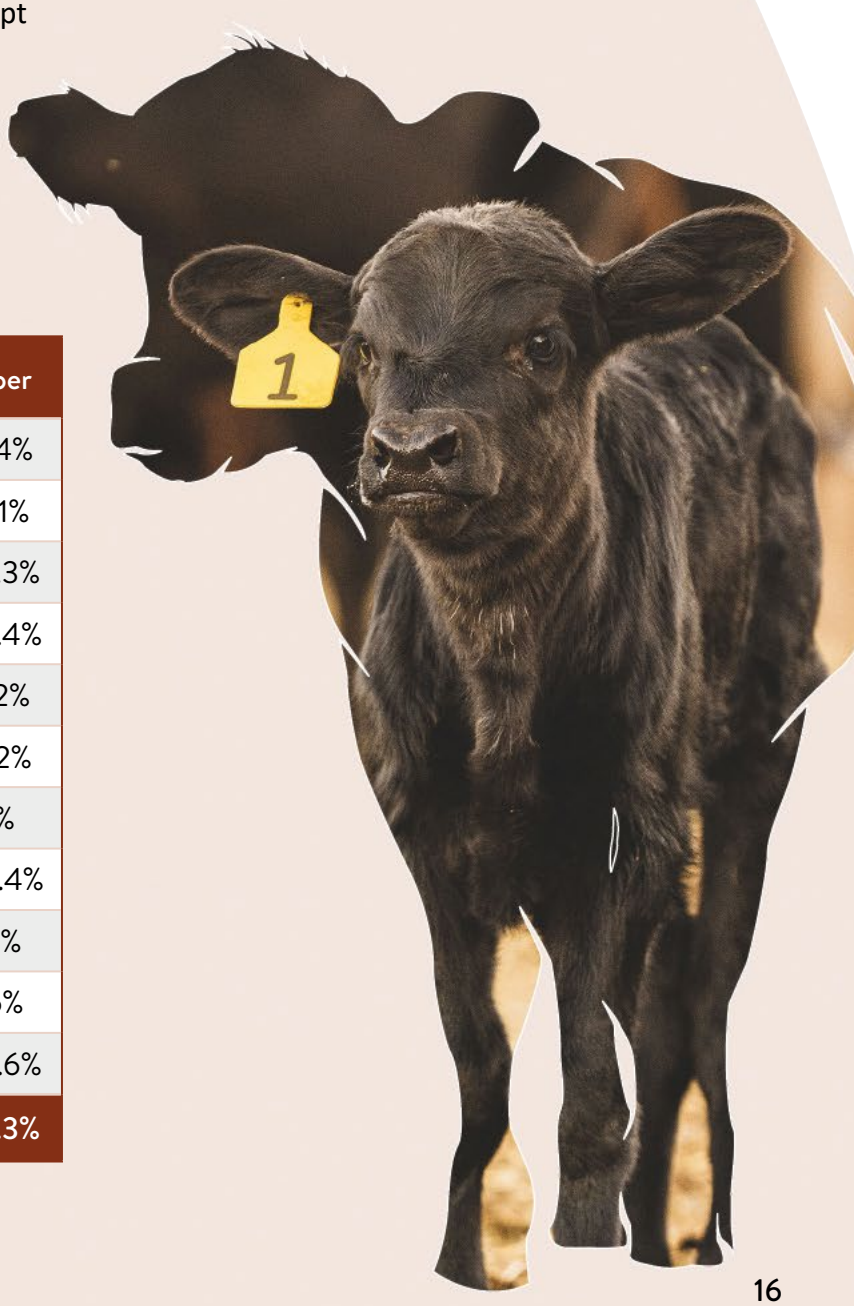
Animal Movements and Traceability

Transition to Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVIs)

The Board is phasing out paper CVIs in favor of electronic ones. This will reduce agency costs in mailing and payroll hours while improving data accuracy and efficiency. Minnesota's eCVI initiatives align with national progress to improve traceability through electronic records. The Board stopped providing paper CVIs on January 1, 2025, and will continue to accept paper CVIs through January 1, 2026.

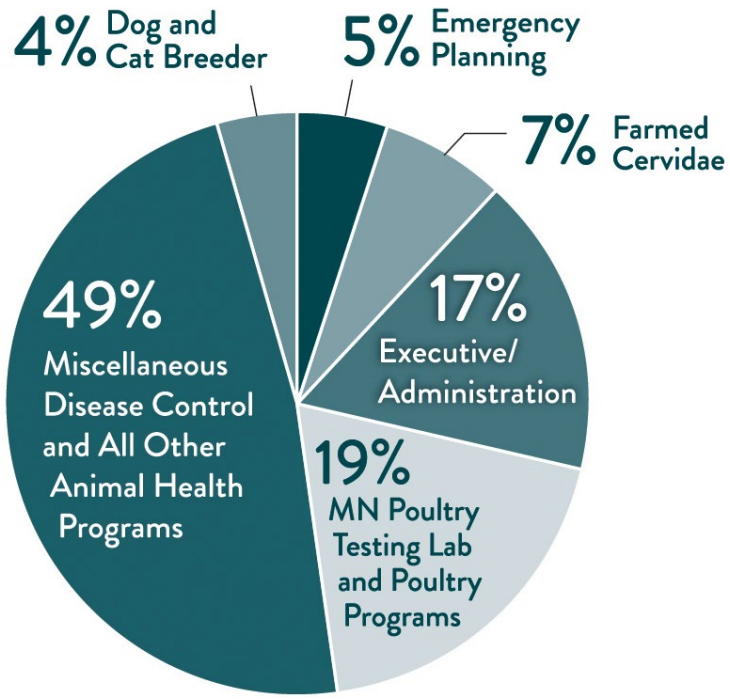
CVIs issued by Minnesota veterinarians by species, Fiscal Year 2025

Species	Number of CVIs issued	Electronic	Paper
Bison	14	78.6%	21.4%
Bovine	15,145	42.9%	57.1%
Cats	423	61.7%	38.3%
Dogs	3,454	65.6%	34.4%
Equine	5,654	82.8%	17.2%
Farmed Cervidae	128	68.8%	31.2%
Goats	497	65%	35%
Sheep	790	55.6%	44.4%
Swine	3,544	97.7%	2.3%
Swine Semen	694	95.5%	4.5%
Other Species	131	79.4%	20.6%
Grand Totals:	**30,560**	**61.7%**	**38.3%**



Board of Animal Health Budget

Total expenses by program
Fiscal Year 2025 expenditures: $7,399,182

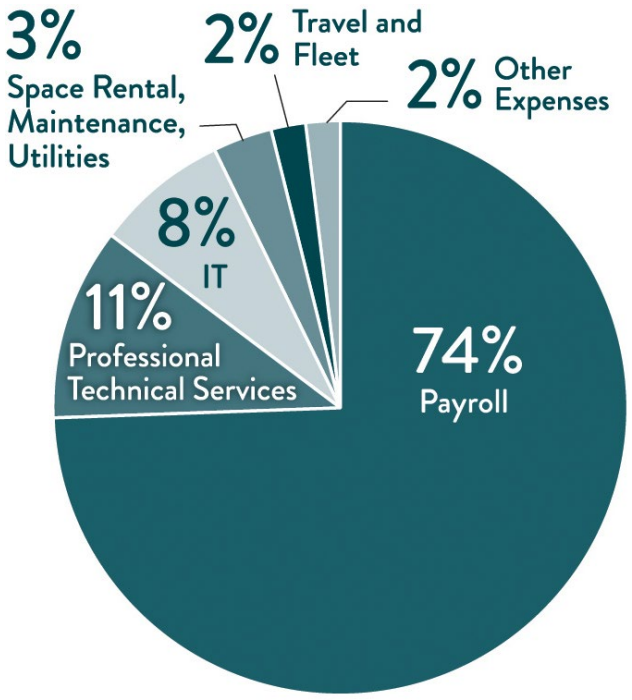


Program	Expenditures	Percent
Miscellaneous Disease Control and All Other Animal Health Programs	$3,544,231	49%
Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory and Poultry Programs	$1,409,565	19%
Executive/Administration	$1,244,930	17%
Farmed Cervidae	$503,231	7%
Emergency Planning	$385,805	5%
Dog and Cat Breeder	$311,421	4%

Expenses charged to revenue source, Fiscal Year 2025

Source of Funds	Expenditures
State - General Appropriation	$6,333,492
State - Emergency Planning and Preparedness	$199,815
Federal	$791,711
Restricted Miscellaneous Special Revenue	$74,164

Total expenses by category
Fiscal Year 2025 expenditures: $7,399,182



Category	Expenditures	Percent
Payroll	$5,514,598	74%
Professional Technical Services	$797,861	11%
Information Technology	$567,720	8%
Space Rental, Maintenance, Utilities	$245,645	3%
Travel and Fleet	$148,517	2%
Other Expenses	$124,841	2%

Legislative update:

The 2025 legislative session produced the 2026 and 2027 biennial budget for the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. Fiscal Year 2026 the Board is appropriated $6,675,000. Fiscal Year 2027 the Board is appropriated 6,800,000. An operating adjustment was included in each fiscal year to maintain the current level of service delivery.

Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory

The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) serve as Minnesota's only American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD)-accredited diagnostic labs and hold Level 1 membership in the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). They are also part of the FDA's Vet-LIRN network, supporting animal health through diagnostics, research, and education.

VDL: Located on the St. Paul campus, specializing in companion animals, livestock, and wildlife diagnostics.

MPTL: A stand-alone facility in Willmar, focused on poultry diagnostics and critical disease surveillance.

Workforce development:

The VDL was approved as an APHL-CDC Fellowship mentorship site, strengthening the diagnostic lab workforce pipeline.

Awards and recognitions

Dr. Hemant Naikare received the 2024 AAVLD President's Award for outstanding contributions to veterinary diagnostics.

Two LCCMR Grants Awarded to Dr. Arno Wuenschmann.

- ` Health & Disease Monitoring in Minnesota Wildlife ($750K, 2025–2028)
- HPAI Impact on Minnesota Wildlife ($1.2M, 2025–2027)

The VDL's AAVLD Accreditation was renewed (valid through Dec 31, 2029) after a successful audit.

Infrastructure and equipment

A new state-of-the-art tissue digester installed (multi-million-dollar project) at the VDL for safe carcass disposal.

Diagnostic testing and surveillance highlights

Total tests conducted (Fiscal Year 2025): 852,263 (up 13,188 from Fiscal Year 2024).

Key disease responses:

HPAI in Poultry & Dairy Cattle:

- 25,481 PCR tests for avian influenza (poultry, cattle, pets).
- Bulk-tank milk testing (~1,600 dairy farms/month) under USDA's National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS).

aMPV Outbreak: 4,081 PCR tests performed.

Ongoing Foreign Animal Disease Surveillance:

- African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever, Foot & Mouth Disease, Newcastle Disease, CWD, PRV.
- Rabies Testing: Collaboration with Minnesota Department of Health for brain sample analysis.

New diagnostic tests developed

Swine: EMCV, Porcine Adenovirus ABC, PPIV, PRCV real-time PCR.

Ruminants: Toxoplasma gondii, Coxiella burnetii, Chlamydia differentiation (C.psittaci/abortus/pecorum), Tritrichomonas foetus real-time PCR.

Research initiatives:

H5N1 Cattle Research: Investigating comorbid infections in dairy herds.

Wildlife Disease Surveillance: Expanded monitoring for zoonotic threats.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the VDL and MPTL demonstrated exceptional growth in diagnostics, research, and workforce development, while playing a critical role in HPAI response and emerging disease surveillance. With new faculty, advanced equipment, and expanded testing capabilities, the labs continue to uphold their mission of protecting animal and public health in Minnesota and beyond.

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Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Data

Procedures by Laboratory

Laboratory	Procedures
Bacteriology	27,858
Clinical Pathology	129
Histology	26,118
Immunohistochemistry	2,534
MN Poultry Testing Lab (MPTL)	3 172,188
MPTL - State Testing	117,842
MPTL - Federal Testing	803
Molecular Diagnostics	285,231

Laboratory	Procedures
Necropsy	7,805
Necropsy/Histopathology Only	4,919
Non-Accredited Research Lab	490
Outsourced Lab Services	8,147
Parasitology	4,676
Receiving, Reporting and Admin	807
Serology	105,972
Udder Health	77,877
Virology	8,867

Animals Submitted

Species	Number
Amphibian	53
Avian, Chicken	30,063
Avian, Miscellaneous	2,828
Avian, Turkey	147,687
Bovine	100,376
Camelid	59
Canine	2,933
Caprine	5,355
Cervidae	1,578

Species	Number
Equine	2,685
Feline	949
Fish	2,459
Miscellaneous Mammals	1,996
Non-Animal Submission	295
Non-Human Primates	134
Ovine	3,410
Porcine	161,419
Reptile	29

Procedures by Species

Laboratory	Procedures
Amphibian	617
Avian, Chicken	43,978
Avian, Miscellaneous	5,909
Avian, Turkey	255,184
Bovine	146,824
Camelid	350
Canine	9,064
Caprine	7,551
Cervidae	4,271

Laboratory	Procedures
Equine	3,762
Feline	3,616
Fish	4,885
Miscellaneous Mammals	4,406
Non-Animal Submission	394
Non-Human Primates	686
Ovine	4,485
Porcine	355,992
Reptile	289

MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Healthy animals for healthy people and communities.

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