

Vesicular Stomatitis Outbreak in Texas and New Mexico

Vesicular stomatitis (VS), a disease with international implications for animal movement because symptoms mimic those of foot and mouth disease, was confirmed May 19 in three horses in western Texas. On June 4th VS was confirmed in horses on one premise in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Horses, cattle, pigs, and occasionally sheep, goats, and deer are affected by VS, which causes blisters to form in the animal's mouth, on teats, or along the coronary band of hooves. These blisters result in excessive salivation, lameness, or oozing sores.

Prior livestock VS outbreaks occurred in 1995 (365 ranches infected in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Texas), and May 1997 (in Arizona, which eventually led to the infection of 380 ranches in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah).

More information on VS may be found in the archives of the Colorado Dairy News on the web at <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/ilm/outreach/cdn>. Updates on the progression of this outbreak are posted on the web at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/vs/vs.html> >.