

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Business Impact Analysis¹

Rule Subject: **Animal Diseases and Movement**
Adm. Code Reference: **ATCP 10, 12 and 17**
Rules Clearinghouse #: **Not yet assigned**
DATCP Docket #: **07-R-01**

Rule Summary

This rule modifies Wisconsin animal health and disease control rules. Among other things, this rule:

- Establishes new rules related to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in fish, and simplifies registration of fish farms. DATCP has adopted temporary emergency VHS rules, which this rule would make “permanent.”
- Modifies current rules related to farm-raised deer, including rules related to herd registration, disease control, imports, movement and condemnation. Changes are consistent with proposed federal rules.
- Modifies current rules related to cattle, including rules related to voluntary Johnne’s disease testing and classification, tuberculosis import testing, and imports of cattle originating from Mexico.
- Modifies current rules related to poultry imports and enrollment in the national poultry improvement program.
- Modifies current rules related to animal markets, dealers and truckers. Among other things, this rule:
 - Eliminates current requirements for animal market operators, animal dealers and animal truckers to pass a test in order to obtain a license.
 - Clarifies animal transport vehicle registration requirements.
 - Requires animal market operators, animal dealers and animal truckers to record the livestock premises identification code, if any, of each premises from which the market operator, dealer or trucker receives livestock, or to which the market operator, dealer or trucker delivers livestock.

¹ This analysis includes, but is not limited to, a small business analysis (“regulatory flexibility analysis”) under s. 227.114, Stats.

- Modifies current rules related to Wisconsin’s livestock premises registration program. This rule makes it easier to register, and extends the current annual registration period to 3 years.
- Clarifies current disease indemnity appraisal procedures.
- Regulates imports of llamas and alpacas.
- Makes other minor changes to update, clarify and correct current animal health and disease control rules.

Business Impact

Aquaculture Industry

This rule creates new regulations to control viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in fish, and simplifies registration of fish farms. This rule will affect fish farm operators and bait dealers. This rule will also affect the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The effect on DNR is described in the fiscal estimate for this rule.

This rule will benefit the aquaculture industry by helping to control the spread of VHS, a very serious disease of fish. This rule will also benefit fish farm operators, by simplifying current fish farm registration requirements (operators will be able to register multiple fish farms on a single registration form). However, this rule may add costs or limit operations for some fish farmers and bait dealers, as described below.

Fish Farm Operators

DATCP estimates that this rule will affect 30-40 private fish farms, not counting DNR “cooperator” fish farms registered by DNR. Many of the affected fish farms are “small businesses,” and many of them will be substantially affected by this rule. VHS testing requirements may force some fish farm operators to curtail all or part of their operations. However, some fish farms already conduct VHS tests in order to meet federal requirements for interstate movement of fish.

Fish farm operators may incur added testing requirements under this rule if they keep VHS-susceptible fish or fish eggs that were either (1) collected from any wild source within the preceding 12 months, or (2) kept on a fish farm that received fish or fish eggs (of *any* species) collected from any wild source within the preceding 12 months. Operators must test those VHS-susceptible fish or fish eggs before they distribute them for bait, for stocking to Wisconsin public waters, or for delivery to other fish farms (other than those registered by the same operator).

A veterinarian or other qualified fish health inspector must certify that the fish or fish eggs are VHS-free, based on tests using approved methods. VHS tests must be conducted on a statistically representative sample of fish drawn from the tested species or farm. The average cost to test and certify a single lot of fish is approximately \$500 (actual costs vary depending on test method, number of fish in the lot, number of fish species in the lot, etc.). A single fish farm might need to test from 1-30 lots per year, depending on the source and species of the fish, the number of separate fish lots kept on the fish farm, and purposes for which the fish are kept and distributed.

DATCP estimates that approximately 30-40 private fish farm operators will need to conduct VHS tests, and that they will conduct those tests on a combined total of approximately 40 lots of fish per year. Assuming an average cost of \$500 per test per lot, the *combined total cost to all affected private fish farm operators* will be approximately \$20,000 per year. However, some of those affected fish farmers are already performing VHS tests in order to meet federal requirements for shipping fish in interstate commerce, so the net impact of this rule may be less than \$20,000. Fish farm costs may increase if USDA finds that additional fish species are susceptible to VHS (the amount of the increase will depend on which fish species are found to be susceptible).

Bait Dealers

Wisconsin bait dealers are currently licensed by DNR. This rule will affect licensed bait dealers in 2 ways:

- If bait dealers buy VHS-susceptible bait species that originate from wild sources, their purchase costs may reflect the seller's added cost of VHS testing under this rule.
- If bait dealers collect VHS-susceptible bait species from wild sources, they will need to conduct VHS tests before reselling or distributing the bait. They will also need to withhold the bait from distribution for at least 4 weeks pending the completion of VHS tests. That will add costs, and may not be practically feasible for affected bait dealers.

This rule applies only to bait species that are known to be susceptible to VHS. Of the major bait species in Wisconsin (fathead minnow, white sucker, golden shiner and emerald shiner), only one species (emerald shiner) is currently known to be susceptible to VHS. Emerald shiners are obtained exclusively by wild harvesting, while other major bait species can be hatched and raised on farms. At this time, DATCP estimates that emerald shiners represent less than 10% of the overall bait market in Wisconsin (the market for wild-harvested emerald shiners has already diminished as a result of federal VHS testing requirements for emerald shiners moved in interstate commerce).

DATCP estimates that approximately 25 Wisconsin bait dealers are currently harvesting emerald shiners from the wild. DATCP estimates that each of those bait dealers would need to test an average of 6 lots of wild-harvested emerald shiners each year, before distributing the emerald shiners for sale. Assuming an average cost of \$500 per test lot, the average annual cost for an individual bait dealer would be about \$3,000 per year, and the combined total cost to all 25 of those bait dealers would be about \$75,000 per year. That figure does *not* include added costs to hold the emerald shiners for 4 weeks while testing is completed. It is extremely difficult to hold emerald shiners for extended periods, so it may not even be possible for most bait dealers to hold them for the required 4 weeks.

The difficulty of holding emerald shiners for 4 weeks, combined with the added cost of testing emerald shiners, may drive many bait dealers out of the business of harvesting wild emerald shiners for sale as bait. However, those bait dealers may still be able to harvest and sell other types of bait that are not affected by this rule.

Bait dealers that are not currently harvesting emerald shiners will not be substantially affected by this rule unless USDA finds that additional bait species are susceptible to VHS. If USDA finds that other major bait species are susceptible to VHS, this rule could have a more dramatic impact on bait dealers. The impact will depend on the species that are affected.

Farm-Raised Deer Keepers

This rule changes current rules related to farm-raised deer. This rule makes all of the following changes:

- Requires veterinarians who perform chronic wasting disease (CWD) tests to report test results to DATCP.
- Changes the annual expiration date for farm-raised deer herd registrations, from December 31 to March 31.
- Clarifies that a person may keep farm-raised deer at 2 or more locations identified in a single herd registration certificate, subject to specified conditions.
- Clarifies that separately-registered farm-raised deer herds may be kept at the *same location* (even if they are owned by different persons), subject to specified conditions.
- Modifies current CWD testing requirements. Under current rules, a test must be performed on every farm-raised deer at least *16 months old* that dies in captivity, or is killed or sent to slaughter (the test sample must be sent to an approved laboratory within 10 days after it is collected). Under this rule, testing is required for deer at least *8 months old* that meet the same criteria. Under this rule, a test sample must be collected within 10 days after the animal dies, or is killed or slaughtered (or within 10

days after the death is first discovered). Under this rule as under the current rules, the test sample must be sent to an approved laboratory within 10 days after it is collected.

- Clarifies current rules related to DATCP condemnation of diseased or suspect farm-raised deer. Under this rule, a condemnation order may specify a reasonable compliance deadline, may direct appropriate testing and disposition of carcasses, and may require the herd owner or custodian to enter into a “premises plan” as a condition to the payment of state indemnities.
- Clarifies annual herd census requirements under Wisconsin’s chronic wasting disease herd status program. Under this rule, an annual herd census must report apparent escapes, and must explain and account for changes in herd population since the last census.
- Clarifies that a person applying to register a herd of white-tailed deer with DATCP must include, with the registration application, a copy of a valid DNR fence certificate (currently required by law) for each registered location.
- Clarifies that a person applying for a 10-year hunting preserve certificate from DATCP must include, in the application, an estimate of the farm-raised deer population on the hunting preserve premises (by species, age and sex). The application must also include the identification numbers of any farm-raised deer on the hunting preserve that bear identification numbers. Under this rule, all non-natural additions to a hunting preserve must have 2 forms of official individual identification, one visible and one implanted.
- Extends the term of a brucellosis-free herd certification, from 2 years to 3 years, so that it is consistent with the term of a tuberculosis-free herd certification. That will allow herd owners to conduct simultaneous tests for both diseases.
- Allows DATCP to extend the 15-day slaughter deadline for tuberculosis reactors by up to 30 days (current rules allow only a 15-day extension).
- Modifies current tuberculosis regulations for imports of farm-raised deer, to make them consistent with federal standards for interstate movement. This rule also eliminates current requirements for post-import testing.
- Clarifies current rules related to movement of farm-raised deer between separately registered herds in this state.

Most of the changes in this rule are designed to clarify current rules, or to make current rules consistent with federal rules. The rule changes will have minimal impact on most farm-raised deer keepers, and will reduce costs and facilitate deer farm operations in many cases. Clear and effective rules will help prevent and control chronic wasting disease and other diseases, for the benefit of the entire farm-raised deer industry.

This rule will require farm-raised deer keepers to perform chronic wasting disease tests on farm-raised deer that die between the ages of 8 months and 16 months (current rules only require testing of animals that die at age 16 months or older). The reduction in test age may require some farm-raised deer keepers to test a slightly larger number of farm-raised deer. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently pays laboratory testing costs, but farm-raised deer keepers must pay at least part of the cost to have test samples collected by a veterinarian. The sample collection cost ranges from \$15/head to \$140/head depending on the availability of a veterinarian. In recent years, USDA has paid the first \$50 of this cost (future funding is uncertain).

This rule requires additional (implanted) ID tags for farm-raised deer entering hunting preserves, to facilitate disease traceback. The cost of the additional tag is estimated at less than \$5 per farm-raised deer. In recent years, USDA has paid for implanted ID tags (future funding is uncertain).

Cattle and Goat Producers

Under current rules, Johne's disease test samples must normally be collected by accredited veterinarians. This rule allows Dairy Herd Improvement Technicians to collect milk samples that are used as Johne's disease test samples. That will make it easier, and less costly, for dairy farmers to participate in the Johne's disease herd testing and management program.

Current rules exempt imported bovine animals (cattle and bison) from the requirement of a pre-import tuberculosis test if the animals originate from a state that USDA has classified as "TB-free" if that state accepts Wisconsin animals without a TB test. Under this rule, the exemption does not apply if the state of origin has a confirmed TB-positive herd, until that herd is depopulated and all epidemiologically linked herds have tested negative for TB. This rule also prohibits imports of cattle originating from Mexico, except directly to slaughter. This rule will help prevent imports of diseased cattle, and provide important protection for Wisconsin's livestock industry. It will not have significant adverse effects on the livestock industry.

Poultry Producers

Under current rules, a poultry flock owner may voluntarily enroll in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (enrollment facilitates the sale and movement of poultry). Under this rule, a flock owner may not enroll unless the owner has registered flock premises under Wisconsin's livestock premises identification program. This will not have a significant impact on flock owners, because registration is already required by law.

Current rules regulate poultry imports to Wisconsin. This rule modifies poultry import standards, to provide more flexible options for poultry importers. This rule will have no adverse impact on poultry importers.

Animal Markets, Dealers and Truckers

This rule does all of the following:

- Eliminates the current requirement for animal market operators, animal dealers and animal truckers to pass a test before being initially licensed by DATCP.
- Requires animal market operators, animal dealers and animal truckers to transport and handle animals in a safe and humane manner.
- Clarifies animal transport vehicle registration requirements.
- Requires animal market operators, animal dealers and animal truckers to record the official individual identification of goats that bear official individual identification.
- Requires animal market operators, animal dealers and animal truckers to record the livestock premises code, if any, of each premises from which the operator receives or to which the operator ships livestock.
- Requires operators of federally-approved livestock import markets to disclose, to livestock recipients, the state of origin of livestock leaving the import market.

This rule will simplify licensing of animal market operators, dealers and truckers, by eliminating current testing requirements. This rule will require some animal market operators, dealers and truckers to make minor changes in recordkeeping and operating procedures. Recordkeeping changes will improve disease control and traceback capability, for the benefit of the entire livestock industry. This rule will not have any significant adverse effect on animal market operators, dealers or truckers.

Persons Keeping Livestock; Premises Registration

Under current law, a person who keeps livestock at a location in this state is required to register that location with DATCP. Under current rules, the person must renew the registration annually. If the person holds another license from the department, the person must register as part of the license application process.

This rule extends the registration renewal period from one year to 3 years. Under this rule, a license holder may register as part of the license application process but is not required to do so (the person may register separately). Under this rule, DATCP may register known livestock premises if the livestock operator fails to do so (because the operator has religious objections, for example). These changes will make it easier and more convenient for livestock operators to comply with premises registration requirements. This rule will have no adverse impact on the livestock industry.

Slaughter Establishments

This rule clarifies the current prohibition against removing live animals from slaughter establishments. This rule will not have any adverse effect on slaughter establishments.

Disease Indemnities

This rule clarifies the procedures that DATCP will use to determine the appraised value of animals condemned for disease control purposes, in order to determine the amount of state indemnity payments. This rule will not have any significant adverse effect on livestock operators, and will clarify indemnity procedures.

Accommodation for Small Business

Overall, this rule improves disease control and prevention for the benefit of the entire livestock and aquaculture industry. In many cases, this rule will actually improve flexibility and reduce costs for individual businesses, including small businesses. Overall, this rule has few adverse impacts on small business.

This rule may have some adverse effects on some small businesses (especially bait dealers that harvest emerald shiners from wild sources for sale as bait). If USDA finds that additional fish or bait fish species are susceptible to VHS, this rule may have a more dramatic impact on fish farm operators or bait dealers, or both. Many of the affected entities will be small businesses.

This rule is needed to protect the health of Wisconsin livestock industries, including the aquaculture and farm-raised deer industries. It is also needed to protect the health of wild animals, including fish. Effective disease control is important for all the people of the state, and for the affected livestock industries.

Although this rule may have some adverse effects on some small livestock businesses, those effects are generally minimal and are outweighed by the need to prevent and control the spread of serious diseases that could destroy entire industries. DATCP has not exempted small businesses, because the risk of disease spread is unrelated to business size.

Conclusion

Overall, this rule will benefit Wisconsin livestock industries by improving control of serious diseases. This rule will also increase flexibility and reduce costs for many individual businesses. This rule may have some adverse effects on some individual businesses, those effects are generally limited and are outweighed by the need to prevent and control the spread of serious diseases that could destroy entire industries.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2007

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
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By _____
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