



American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Issue: # 11-13

November 2013

Hog Outlook: PEDv cases surpass 1,100

Ron Plain and Scott Brown, University of Missouri
PorkNetwork.com
November 22, 2013

The average retail price of pork during October was record high for the second consecutive month. At \$3.809 per pound, the average grocery store pork price was up 1.7 cents from the month before and up 32.5 cents from a year ago.

Retail pork demand was up 1.6 percent during September. This was the ninth consecutive month with demand above the year-earlier level. Export demand for U.S. pork was up 1.7 percent during September.

EPA has proposed lower targets for 2014 biofuels production. If it becomes the final rule, then 2014 production of ethanol from corn might be close to 13 billion gallons rather than the 14.4 billion gallons implied by the original Renewable Fuels Standard.

Iowa State University estimates the typical Iowa hog was sold at a profit of \$3.26 in October, which was the fifth consecutive profitable month. The breakeven price of \$66.88/cwt, was down for the ninth consecutive month and was the lowest since June 2012.

Testing data from the National Animal Health Laboratory Network says that as of November 10, the PED virus has been confirmed in 1,161 swine premises in 19 states. This is an increase of 92 locations from the week before. The number of new cases has set new records each of the last five weeks. Five states have more than 30 cases: Iowa 355, Oklahoma 227, North Carolina 205, Kansas 115, and Minnesota 77. There is an unknown amount of double counting in this data.

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Full text: <http://www.porknetwork.com/pork-news/Hog-Outlook-PEDv-surpasses-1100-cases-233053081.html>

U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee Debates Horse Racing Safety, Integrity

Editors Note: AAVLD representatives recently met with representatives of the horse racing industry regarding the use of AAVLD accredited labs for both drug testing and post-incident investigations. The industry acknowledged the value of accreditation and agreed to work towards voluntary guidelines that include the use of AAVLD accredited labs.

By Frank Angst
TheHorse.com
November 22, 2013

In considering the newest wrinkle to add federal oversight in horse racing, this time through the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), a House subcommittee discussed the sport's equine health and integrity issues at a Nov. 21 hearing in Washington, D.C.

The House Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade is considering legislation (HR 2012) that would give the USADA the responsibility of ensuring the integrity and safety of racing. The legislation was considered during a hearing that lasted about 70 minutes Thursday in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Racing currently is regulated at the state level but the bill would require any track that wishes to participate in interstate wagering, where most of racing's pari-mutuel revenue is generated, to submit to USADA oversight on drug issues.

The USADA and its chief executive officer Travis Tygart are best known for their 2012 report outlining doping by cyclist Lance Armstrong and his teammates. Tygart said his non-profit group that serves as the anti-doping organization for Olympic sports in the U.S. is ready to include horse racing under its umbrella.

Full text: <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/32933/house-subcommittee-debates-horse-racing-safety-integrity>

Farm Bill Talks Stumble

By David Rogers
Politico.com
November 21, 2013

Farm bill talks stumbled badly Thursday and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) said it would be "very challenging" now for him to meet the Republican leadership's schedule of having a final agreement back on the House floor by Dec. 13.

The Oklahoma Republican had been pressing hard for some framework of a deal before the Thanksgiving recess. But after three face-to-face meetings between House and Senate negotiators in less than 24 hours, the upshot seemed more a picture of frustration.

"Anything is possible but it is very challenging," Lucas said. He added that it was a "fair assessment" that he had not made the progress he had hoped for this week.

Failure to meet the Dec. 13 deadline means that the farm bill will be kicked over into a third year of debate after Congress failed to act in 2012 and is now at risk of doing the same for 2013.

Not all is lost: real progress has been made and the process has advanced much further in this Congress. But it raises the prospect that lawmakers will need to adopt a short-term extension into January of at least dairy program provisions.

Full text: <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/11/farm-bill-update-100217.html>

Food Safety Chief To Resign From USDA

Mary Soukup
PorkNewtork.com
November 15, 2013

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced today, November 15, the resignation of Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elisabeth Hagen, effective in mid-December.

USDA Photo Ken Hammond According to the announcement, Dr. Hagen will pursue an opportunity in the private sector, where she served prior to her appointment at USDA. Dr. Hagen has led USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service since August 2010.

"Thanks to Elisabeth Hagen's hard work and sound leadership of the thousands of employees at the Food Safety and Inspection Service, America's meat, poultry and processed eggs are safer for Americans. Under Dr. Hagen's leadership, USDA adopted a new zero-tolerance policy for additional strains of E. coli in beef and adopted new standards to protect Americans from Salmonella and Campylobacter in poultry," said Vilsack. "She also spearheaded the effort to develop a new Public Health Information System to better inform consumers about proper food handling and food safety, to reduce the risk of food borne illnesses. I'm proud of our record under the Obama Administration to ensure a safe food supply for Americans, and Under Secretary Hagen has played a key role in those efforts. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors."

Full text: <http://www.porknetwork.com/editorial/Food-safety-chief-to-resign-from-USDA-232088831.html>

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Sincerely,

Jim Kistler
Executive Director
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