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Board of Animal Health

Agency Profile 1

Board of Animal Health — Agency Profile

https://www.mn.gov/bah

AT A GLANCE

In FY 2025, the Board of Animal Health

- Had 46 employees across the state.
- Conducted 145 foreign animal disease investigations.
- Permitted 175 exhibitions, county fairs, and the Minnesota State Fair.
- Continued to respond to the multi-year nationwide outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
- Processed 30,560 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection issued by Minnesota veterinarians, for animals exported out of and moved within the state.

PURPOSE

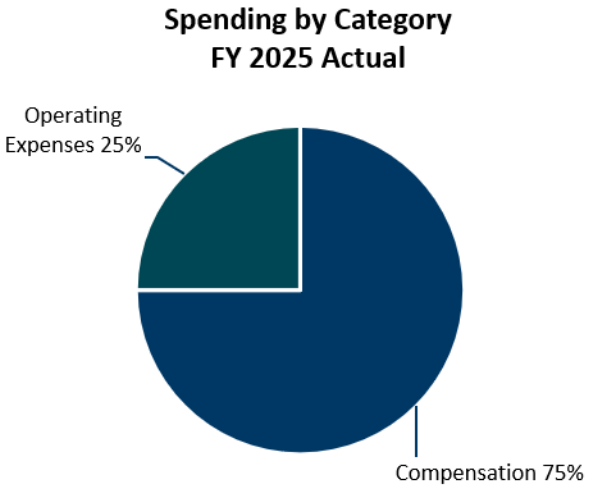
The mission of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (Board) is to protect the health of the state's domestic animals through education and cooperation with veterinarians, producers, owners and communities. As part of its work, the Board provides many services to Minnesota's veterinarians, livestock owners, and the public. The Board will continue to:

- Partner with veterinarians and farmers to promote proactive animal health through measures including vaccination and biosecurity plans.
- Regularly inspect livestock auction markets, sales, and exhibitions, permitted by the Board, to ensure event officials are evaluating animals for official identification, when required, as well as for signs of disease prior to being bought, sold, or exhibited.
- Permit exhibitions so community members can safely show their animals at fairs and events throughout Minnesota.
- Train livestock producers to collect and submit samples to help identify illness and disease.
- Educate stakeholders about biosecurity and minimizing risks of diseases spreading to farms through people, equipment, feed, and wild animals.
- Partner with the Department of Health to protect the health of Minnesotans by monitoring and investigating cases of diseases like rabies and Salmonella which can spread from animals to people.
- Distribute reportable disease newsletters to remind veterinarians and the general public about different diseases that appear in livestock and domestic animals and must be reported to the Board.

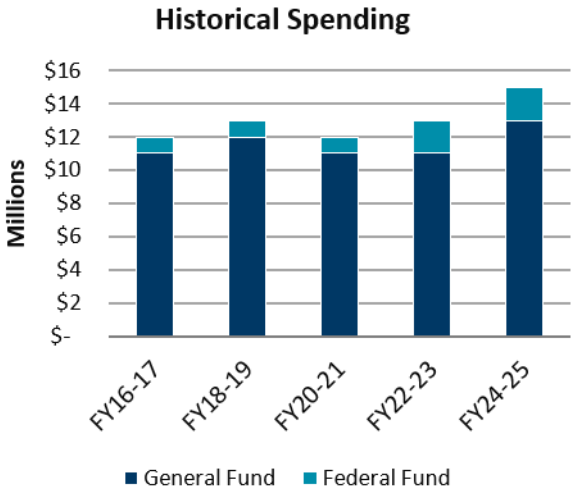
The following is a breakdown of the number of animal herds the Board helped to keep disease-free in Minnesota during FY25:

- 38,916 cattle herds
- 8,870 swine herds
- 14,650 poultry premises
- 78 commercial dog or cat breeders
- 96 kennels
- 63 deer and elk herds
- 16,567 premises with horses
- 3,944 sheep flocks
- 3,636 goat herds

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

Total expenditures for FY25= $6.429 million.
The Board uses its funding for three main activities:

1. Disease surveillance, control, and eradication
2. Inspections
3. Education and outreach

The Board has three funding sources:

1. General funds appropriation
2. Federal cooperative agreements
3. Other sources, e.g., licensing and inspection fees

STRATEGIES

Many animals move into, out of, and within Minnesota every day. One of the Board's biggest tasks is to maximize the probability that those animals are disease-free. To accomplish this, the Board:

- Ensures that if a disease outbreak occurs, animals can be traced and diseases contained. The Board has a system in place to detect, control, and eradicate domestic animal diseases. This strategy is economically impactful, because it allows for free trade of animals and animal products with other states and countries.
- Employs staff members who verify rules and laws governing animal health and safety are being followed during routine visits to farms, livestock sales, livestock exhibitions, and kennels as well as investigate reports of animal health concerns. An example of strategy implementation is the constant vigilance and response of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) team. This team conducted a total of 147 Foreign Animal Disease investigations in Minnesota FY25. These investigations routinely take place with little to no interruption in Minnesota's livestock industry.
- Participates in exercises to improve preparedness for future disease response events. Some of those preparations include revisiting results of recent response activities in the form of after action "hotwashes" to evaluate the effectiveness of established measures. When the Board and response partners reach a pause in Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza cases, they take the opportunity to analyze standard operating procedures as well as identify updates to current directives. FY25, for instance, established new guidelines for audits to biosecurity on farms that determine indemnity eligibility and related restocking approval. These directives required interpretation by response officials and explanation to producers. Additionally, exercising response plans for diseases not yet present in Minnesota determines gaps that can be addressed prior to an actual disease outbreak. For example, the Board was selected as one of three states to participate in a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine distribution exercise in FY26. Preparations began months in advance with USDA collaboration and culminated in a 3-day mock incidence response exercise in June 2026. This exercise established protocols for determining vaccination strategies for an FMD outbreak in Minnesota, ordering appropriate doses of vaccine from the USDA

veterinary stockpile, shipping vaccine within strict chain of custody and temperature control, distribution of vaccine within those chain of custody parameters, administering vaccine (placebo in this case) in conjunction with producers, and recording all inventory in the process.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

The Board's most noticeable work is during an animal disease emergency, such as the ongoing response to the avian influenza outbreak in 2022. In this outbreak, the Board worked with producers and agency partners, both state and federal, in joint efforts to stop the spread of disease and eradicate it from both backyard and commercial flocks. An effective response ensures animals and people alike stay healthy, and producers can restock their barns and sustain Minnesota's $7.1 billion livestock industry. The following table represents additional efforts by the Board in FY25 and FY26.

Table 1: Board of Animal Health Additional Efforts, FY25 and FY26

Type of Measure	Measure	FY25	FY26
Quantity	Number of permitted county fairs and exhibitions.	175	116
Quantity	Number of bovine tuberculosis traces performed.	1	2
Quantity	Number of foreign animal disease investigations	147	154
Quality	Number of cervid farms inspected.	100	65
Quality	Number of inspections in livestock markets.	50	73
Quality	Number of commercial dog or cat breeder inspections.	78	77
Quality	Number of kennel inspections.	95	96
Quality	Number of inspected county fairs and exhibitions.	123	92
Quality	Number of poultry inspections.	424	418
Results	Number of animals discovered in Minnesota with tuberculosis.	0	0
Results	Number of disease outbreaks at a fair or exhibition.	0	0
Results	Number of Avian Influenza surveillance tests in poultry conducted	39,711	40,920
Results	Number of Mycoplasma surveillance tests in poultry conducted	56,274	59,112
Results	Number of Salmonella surveillance tests in poultry conducted	3,218	3,714

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No practices that can be studied through a randomized control trial or quasi-experimental study were identified. However, many of the boards programs are routinely changing practices and policies when responding to and dealing with disease outbreak and response. Many of the guidelines are instituted on the national level by the USDA, CDC, and other national governmental agencies.

Minnesota Chapter 35 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=35) provides the legal authority for the Board of Animal Health.