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### AT A GLANCE

In FY2018,

- 45 employees across the state.
- Conducted 118 foreign animal disease investigations.
- Permitted and inspected 96 county fairs and the Minnesota State Fair.
- Tested and certified 76 commercial poultry and 77 waterfowl, exhibition, gamebird and backyard Authorized Poultry Testing Agents to submit samples to the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory for routine disease monitoring.
- Received 29,697 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection representing livestock imports and exports for Minnesota during the fiscal year 2018.

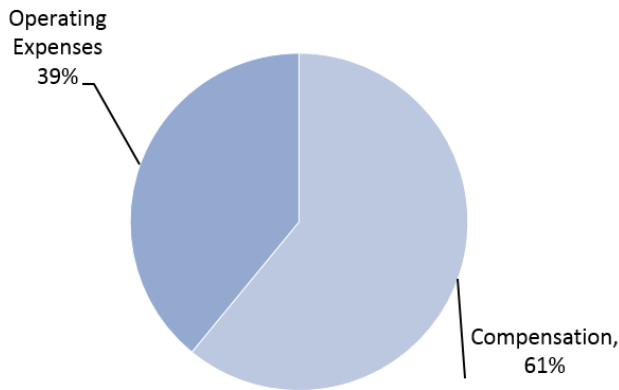
### PURPOSE

The mission of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health 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:

- Partner with veterinarians and farmers to promote animal health through things like vaccination and biosecurity plans.
- Inspect livestock markets and auctions to make sure animals are officially identified and in good health when they are bought and sold.
- Permit exhibitors so they can show their animals at fairs, petting zoos and events throughout Minnesota.
- Teach livestock producers how to collect testing samples from their herd to help identify illness and disease.
- Educate all our stakeholders about biosecurity and the process of minimizing risks of diseases entering their farms on people, equipment, feed and wild animals.
- Protect public health with the Department of Health by monitoring and reporting zoonotic diseases like rabies, which are capable of spreading from animals to people.
- Distribute monthly reportable disease newsletters to remind veterinarians about a different disease each month that could appear in livestock and must be reported to the Board.
- The following is a breakdown of the number of animals we worked to keep disease-free in Minnesota FY18:
  - 35,200 cattle herds
  - 7,895 swine herds
  - 11,055 poultry premises
  - 180 commercial dog or cat breeders
  - 85 kennels
  - 430 deer and elk herds
  - 16,525 farms with registered horses
  - 3,890 sheep herds
  - 3,750 goat herds

## BUDGET

**Spending by Category  
FY 17 Actual**



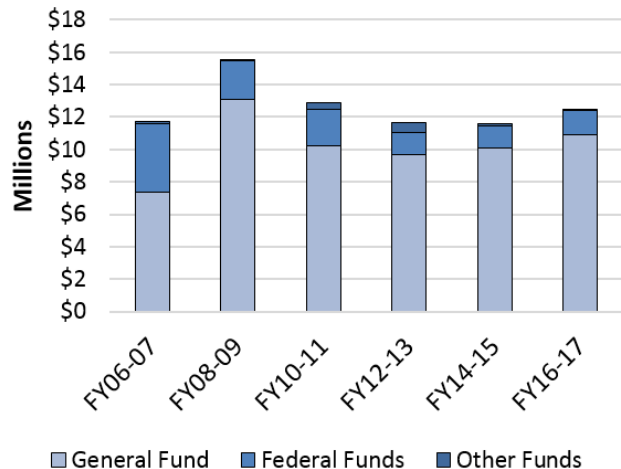
Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Total expenditures for FY17 = \$5.991 million.

We use our funding for three main activities:

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

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

We have 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 and out of Minnesota every day. One of our biggest tasks is to confirm those animals are disease-free. We also work to make sure that if an outbreak does occur, our animals can be traced and the diseases contained. We have a system in place to detect, control, and when necessary, eliminate domestic animal diseases.

Along with detection and containment of diseases, another important role we play is enforcement. Our staff make regular visits to farms, livestock sales, livestock exhibitions, and kennels to assure all rules and laws governing animal health and safety are being followed.

A strategy of economic importance to Minnesota's livestock is our earnest effort to maintain animals free of certain diseases of national and international importance to allow for free trade of animals and animal products with other states and countries.

An example of implementing one of our strategies is the constant vigilance and response of our Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) team. This group is led by our Senior Veterinarian who is in charge of Emergency Planning and Response. A total of 118 Foreign Animal Disease investigations were conducted in Minnesota FY 2018 and 16 investigations have taken place as of August in FY 2019.

These investigations are a collaborative effort between our agency and the farmers, processors, veterinarians, and general public who contact us to report suspicious clinical disease signs in an animal. Once a suspect case is submitted to the Board, it is logged, assigned a case number and assigned a FADD to investigate. The Board has a FADD on call at all times and they respond to the reported site to collect diagnostic samples from the suspect

animal. They then package those samples and submit them to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory to be tested for foreign animal diseases.

While samples are en-route to the laboratory, the Senior Veterinarian assesses the case and clinical signs to determine if emergency response team notifications are necessary. If they suspect a foreign animal disease they can notify private and federal partner agencies of the pending test. Once results are reported, the Senior Veterinarian makes the decision to stand down the team or pursue a foreign animal disease response.

These situations routinely take place with little to no interruption in our livestock producers' daily work nor in Minnesota's livestock markets and exhibitions. There are enormous economic repercussions for a positively identified foreign animal disease in Minnesota and the FADD team handles cases with discretion and professionalism to maintain public confidence.

## RESULTS

Our most noticeable work is during an animal disease emergency like northwest Minnesota's tuberculosis response in the early 2000's and the avian influenza outbreak in 2015, which affected the state's poultry. Minnesota is the top turkey producing state in the country, annually raising between 44 and 46 million birds. The state's approximately \$800 million turkey industry supports families and communities across Minnesota. In 2015, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health worked with poultry producers to stop the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Together, they were able to stop the spread of avian flu and ensure producers were able to restock their barns as soon as possible.

- 2015 avian influenza outbreak farms affected: 108
- Turkeys affected: 9,024,632
- Counties impacted: 23
- Estimated economic impact: \$650 million
- Last case of avian influenza: June 5, 2015
- Quarantine ended: July 2015

However, a majority of emergency preparedness occurs during the times when we are not actively responding to diseases. We focus on how we can improve through exercises, like our participation in the Agricultural Response Management and Resources (ARMAR) exercise this past spring with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state, local, and regional agencies from across the country. Minnesota was one of many states to take part in the four day simulated exercise to test our emergency response efforts addressing a fictitious case of foot and mouth disease (an economically devastating and highly contagious animal disease). This national exercise took several years to plan and coordinate. During the drill, FADD staff "detected" the disease and began the simulation for a multi-agency response in St. Paul. The Board's relatively small response team was quickly overwhelmed and was able to call upon its agreements with other state agencies and federal partners to respond together. Refreshing these relationships allowed us to identify needed improvements in our incident response.

It takes years of preparation and coordination to confidently and successfully respond to a foreign animal disease, which is why the Board participated in the ARMAR. New and existing relationships were tested and public/private partnerships were found to be extremely valuable as we worked through the exercise. Building relationships with these livestock organizations allowed the Board to develop "Secure Supply Plans." Secure Supply Plans are invaluable emergency response plans that answer the questions of how to keep the food supply and Minnesota's agricultural economy moving while simultaneously eliminating a disease from the affected species.

Minnesota was evaluated in this exercise and anecdotal results from the evaluators indicate we responded well. Evaluators also suggested the Board continue to strengthen relationships with the livestock industry while waiting

for the final results to be published in 2019. This is an ongoing goal as we focus on future emergency response efforts.

The following table represents additional efforts by the Board in FY18.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Number of permitted county fairs and exhibitions.	117	118	FY17, FY18
Quantity	Number of bovine tuberculosis traces into Minnesota.	32	13	FY17, FY18
Quality	Number of cervid farms inspected.	498	464	FY17, FY18
Quality	Number of inspections in markets.	421	336	FY17, FY18
Quality	Number of commercial dog or cat breeder inspections.	183	169	FY17, FY18
Quality	Number of inspected county fairs and exhibitions.	92	94	FY17, FY18
Quality	Number of tuberculosis tests in Minnesota.	22,375	28,546	FY17, FY18
Quality	Number of poultry dealer inspections.	183	224	FY17, FY18
Results	Number of tuberculosis positive animals discovered in Minnesota.	0	0	FY17, FY18
Results	Number of disease outbreaks at a fair or exhibition.	0	0	FY17, FY18
Results	Number of carcass disposal complaints resolved.	16	3	FY17, FY18

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