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Board of Animal Health

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AT A GLANCE

In FY2024,

- 46 employees across the state.
- Conducted 178 foreign animal disease investigations.
- Permitted 181 exhibitions, county fairs and the Minnesota State Fair.
- Responded to two disease events. A nationwide outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) also impacted Minnesota with 58 cases in 25 counties. Minnesota cattle was also infected by the H5N1 virus outbreak. Both disease responses are ongoing.
- Processed 26,420 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection issued by Minnesota veterinarians, for animals exported out of and moved within the state.

PURPOSE

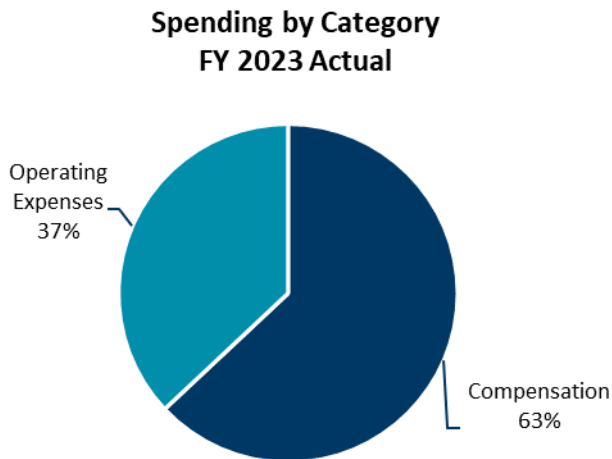
The mission of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (Board) is to protect the health of the state's domestic animals through education and cooperation with veterinarians, producers, owners, and communities. As part of its work, the Board provides many services to Minnesota's veterinarians, livestock 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.
- Inspect livestock auction markets and sales permitted by the Board to make sure animals are officially identified when required and have no signs of disease when they are bought and sold.
- 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.
- Work 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 about different diseases that appear in livestock and domestic animals and must be reported to the Board.

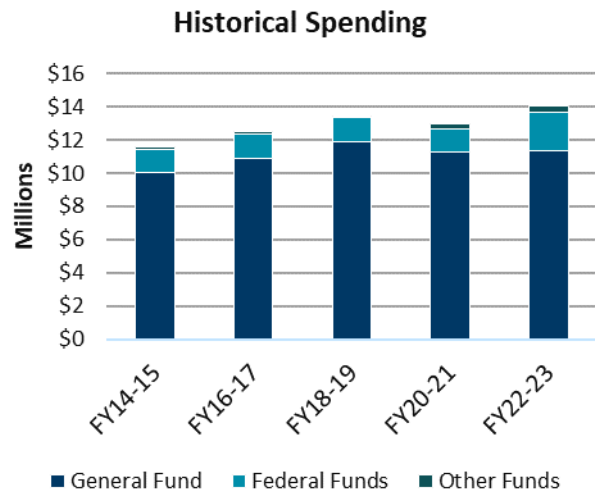
The following is a breakdown of the number of animal herds the Board helped to keep disease-free in Minnesota during FY24:

- 39,214 cattle herds
- 9,171 swine herds
- 16,845 poultry premises
- 112 commercial dog or cat breeders
- 92 kennels
- 87 deer and elk herds
- 16,947 premises with horses
- 6,553 sheep flocks
- 5,935 goat herds

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

Total expenditures for FY23 were \$7.105 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. 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 178 Foreign Animal Disease investigations in Minnesota FY24. These investigations routinely take place with little to no interruption in Minnesota's livestock industry.
- Focuses on improvement through exercises. In December of 2023 the Board conducted a cold weather depopulation/ disposal exercise to evaluate how well equipment functions during subfreezing temperatures and develop standard operating procedures relative to temperature extremes. Additionally, composting during frigid temperatures was evaluated for viability as well as differences between carbon sources used in the process.

RESULTS

The Board's most noticeable work is during an animal disease emergency, such as the response to the avian influenza outbreak that has been ongoing since 2022. In this outbreak, the Board has 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 FY23 and FY24.

Table 1: Board of Animal Health Additional Efforts, FY23 and FY24

Type of Measure	Name of Measure	FY23	FY24
Quantity	Number of permitted county fairs and exhibitions.	151	181
Quantity	Number of bovine tuberculosis traces performed.	0	5
Quantity	Number of foreign animal disease investigations	72	178
Quality	Number of cervid farms inspected.	92	89
Quality	Number of inspections in livestock markets.	54	74
Quality	Number of commercial dog or cat breeder inspections.	119	112
Quality	Number of kennel inspections.	8	37
Quality	Number of inspected county fairs and exhibitions.	115	113
Quality	Number of poultry inspections.	585	468
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	47,239	45,620
Results	Number of Mycoplasma surveillance tests in poultry conducted	59,058	67,101
Results	Number of Salmonella surveillance tests in poultry conducted	4,922	4,675

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