

## Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Appears in Wisconsin Cattle

By Dr. Ralph Stowell  
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This fall, Wisconsin animal health officials confirmed Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in a group of cattle from Waukesha County. At the same time, a significant outbreak of EHD has affected white-tailed deer populations in several southeastern Wisconsin counties, with reported deer mortality in Washington, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, and Milwaukee counties.

EHD is caused by a virus transmitted by tiny biting midges, commonly known as no-see-ums. Cases typically occur during late summer and early fall when midge activity is highest. The disease generally subsides following the first hard frost, which eliminates the insect vector responsible for transmission.

White-tailed deer are particularly susceptible to EHD and may experience high mortality during outbreaks. Common signs include fever, excessive salivation, weakness, and a tendency to seek water as body temperature rises. Deer are often found dead near ponds, streams, or other water sources.

In cattle, however, disease is usually much milder. Many infected animals show few or no clinical signs. When disease does occur, cattle may develop fever, lameness, excessive salivation, reduced appetite, weight loss, and erosions or ulcerations of the mouth, teats, or feet. These lesions can resemble those caused by foreign animal diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, making veterinary examination and laboratory diagnosis important. Because of the similar presentation to Bluetongue Virus and Foot and Mouth disease, EHD is a reportable disease.

There is no specific treatment for EHD. Management consists of supportive care and minimizing stress. Producers can help reduce risk by maintaining overall herd health and implementing practical insect-control measures where feasible. If we see cattle presenting with oral lesions, lameness, or hoof abnormalities during late summer and fall,



EHD can present as ulcerative sores on the foot near the coronary band. These ulcers can also be seen on the mouth and tongue of infected cattle. Similar signs can be seen in small ruminants as well. This is a photo of a Jersey-cross on pasture that tested positive for EHD.

particularly in areas experiencing deer losses from the disease, inform your herd vet.

Fortunately, EHD is not considered a public health concern. The virus does not infect humans, and there is no evidence that people can become infected through insect bites or by consuming meat or milk from affected animals.

Another good question is, will this year's deer hunt in our area be affected? We will see, but hopefully not!

### Fall Brings Waterfowl, Possible Avian Influenza

Fall is here and brings with it ducks and geese, who are carriers of the Avian Influenza. Be careful with the waterfowl landing in pastures, make sure open water in a pasture is fenced off and the birds kept away. If someone wants to hunt in your fields, maybe it's a good idea. Hopefully the ducks and geese will avoid your farm during the fall. Remember, in the herd in our practice area that never had a single sick animal, the disease was discovered on the bulk tank screening that occurs that you have no control over. Getting the disease was a disaster for the farm. Currently, two cattle herds are quarantined in Texas. With the fall migration, this will probably change.

# Frustrations with the Government Big and Small

By Dr. Al Martens

## Waupun Veterinary Services

Democrats objected to a provision in the bill that required the states to pay part of food stamp (SNAP) error rate if it was over 6%. Republicans were giving states one year to fix the errors. Democrats wanted two years.

Realize that this is federal money that states hand out and that some in federal government wanted less errors. Errors include over and under payment to recipients. Currently 42 of 50 states have error rates over 6%. So, the democrats wouldn't support the entire bill over making states accountable.

The bill would have been brought from committee to the full floor, except that two republicans were absent when the committee voted, with their votes it would have passed as the 11 Democrats voted against the bill. McConnell due to health issues, Tuberville just didn't show up. You can vote by mail for the president, but you must be present for a congressional vote. Is there a deficit for a reason?

More government frustrations. The childhood Diabetes Reduction Act of 2026 proposes to require warning labels on food for "ultra-processed foods". Makes sense to me, I'm all in. One third of young people 17-24 years of age don't qualify for the military BECAUSE OF OBESITY. But then it turns out that milk, because it's pasteurized, is considered ultra processed so this would require warning labels on milk containers. I grew up on whole milk; all I could drink. No soda, no snacks, but any time I wanted I could drink a big glass of milk.

Do these representatives realize they have a job to do?

Here's a different story related to government frustrations.

East of the vet office there's a vacant lot. Several of us that own the building purchased the vacant lot some years ago. It was covered in brush and boxelders, like a 90-foot-wide fencerow. After we purchased it, the city came to us and said we had to pour a concrete sidewalk. I have no idea why there never was a sidewalk in the first place.

Behind the office, the sidewalk was about 8 feet from the street, but to the east, at the car dealership, the sidewalk was about 5 feet from the street. Fun fact, the area between the sidewalk and the street is

called the terrace and it belongs to the city, but the property owner is responsible for maintaining it and maintaining the sidewalk, (another hidden tax).

I called up Director of Public Works (not the current one) and I said the sidewalks are on different east west trajectories, where do you want the jog? He came out, in a nice suit, looked at the situation and said the sidewalk behind the vet office had to be torn out and moved closer to the street. I replied while biting my tongue, probably caustically, that the existing sidewalk was not getting moved. I said we put the sidewalk where we were told, (by the city) when we built the building in the 90's, the plans were submitted and approved, and that a 3-foot jog wasn't going to matter to anyone. He said a jog was not acceptable. I was told that either I did it or the city would do it and bill me.

Two days later the director came back, still pompous, and said that evidently the city had plotted the street from both directions, and the street (and the fire hydrant) were in the wrong place. His comment was that we would just have to put a jog in the sidewalk. Really? Frustrating.



## Congrats to Dr. Mary and Dr. Wade!

We celebrated the marriage of Dr. Mary and Dr. Wade this month. Pictured above are some of the doctors who made it to the wedding celebration. From left are Jeff, Emma, Molly, Mark S., Mary and Wade, Monty, Al and Ralph.