



House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee Hearing

Commissioner Thom Petersen | February 2, 2022

Minnesota Agriculture: An Economic Cornerstone

Agriculture is a Cornerstone of Minnesota's Economy

- Farmland = 25.4 million acres
- 67,500 farms
 - Average size 376 acres
- Supports 430,000 jobs
- \$16.7 billion in ag marketing
 - \$8.85 billion crop sector
 - \$7.85 billion livestock sector

Minnesota Agriculture: An Economic Cornerstone

National Rankings

1st in turkeys raised, sugar beets

2nd in hogs, dry beans

3rd in oats, soybeans, spring wheat

4th in corn, total value of ag exports

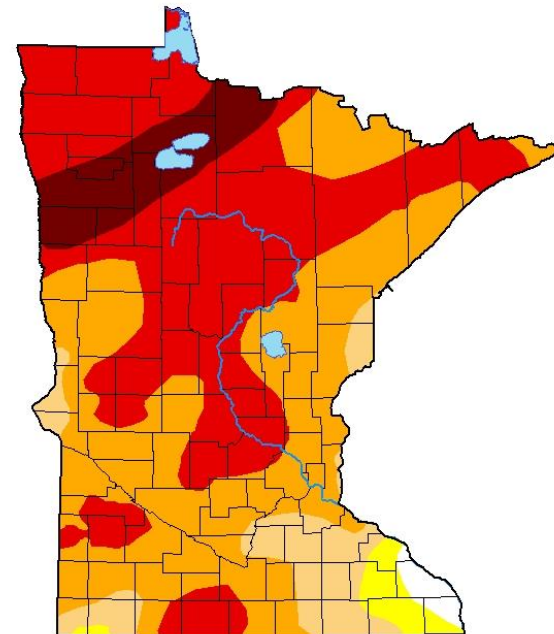
5th in meat animals, crop production, total ag production

6th in livestock production

Monitoring Minnesota's Drought

- Minnesota has been experiencing one of the worst droughts in decades
- In mid-August, nearly 90% of the state was under severe drought conditions
- MDA Response:
 - Connecting livestock producers with those selling hay inside and outside of Minnesota
 - Relaying information and resources from federal partners and other state agencies
 - Providing financial and mental health resources
 - Opening the Rural Finance Authority Disaster Recovery Loan Program

U.S. Drought Monitor Minnesota



August 17, 2021
(Released Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.15	98.85	96.56	88.29	49.77	8.07
Last Week 08-10-2021	1.15	98.85	95.36	77.77	42.20	7.37
3 Months Ago 05-18-2021	45.43	54.57	21.61	0.78	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	1.80	98.40	23.40	0.28	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	54.95	45.05	8.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-18-2020	73.22	26.78	10.51	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Monitoring Today's Challenges

- Input cost
- Labor/Trucking
- COVID-19
- Foreign Animal Diseases



Dicamba Herbicide

- Annual totals for alleged dicamba off-site movement complaints:
 - 2021: 304 reports
 - 2020: 128 reports
 - 2019: 20 reports
 - 2018: 51 reports
 - 2017: 249 reports
- Minnesota-specific 2022 restrictions:
 - **Cutoff date:** Do not apply south of interstate 94 after June 12. Do not apply north of interstate 94 after June 30.
 - **Cutoff Temperature:** Do not apply if the air temperature of the field at the time of application is over 85°F

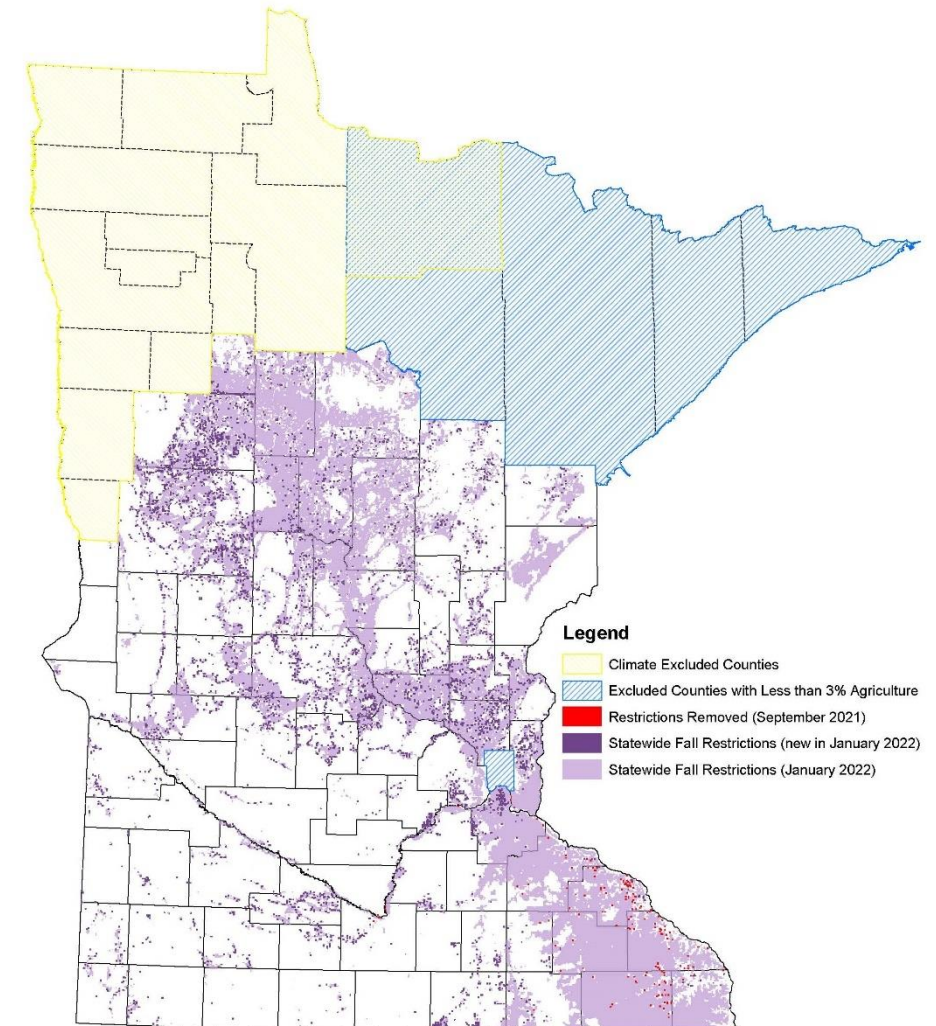
Dicamba Herbicide

- All three registrants have submitted a supplemental label to the EPA for approval
- The MDA has issued conditional product registrations with state-specific restriction. These will take full effect with EPA approval.
- While the EPA conducts its review, The MDA is allowing registrants to sell and distribute their products in Minnesota.

Groundwater Protection Rule Map Update

- The Rule requires publication of a map of fall nitrogen fertilizer restrictions annually on January 15
- Using an updated mapping process, changes have been made that will take effect September 2022:
 - Added 248,433 cropland acres
 - Added 603,654 non-cropland acres
 - Removed 4,659 cropland acres
 - Removed 20,506 non-cropland acres
- The new acres are scattered across the state and are generally adjacent or close to areas that were previously identified as vulnerable

Fall Restrictions Map Updates



Pipeline Foods Bankruptcy

- Pipeline Foods, LLC filed on July 8, 2021, for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- An active investigation continues - just over 30 claims have been received totaling close to \$5.5 million
 - The claim period closed on Jan. 4, 2022
 - The facility, in accordance with the law, held a \$500,000 bond with the MDA
- The facility is still navigating bankruptcy and liquidation. Some producers may be entitled to 100% repayment for loads delivered within 20 days of bankruptcy filing.
- The remainder will likely see less than 2% repayment on all other deliveries

Emergency Preparedness & Response

- A response to a Foreign Animal Disease is complex:
 - Biosecurity and quarantines
 - Wildlife and vector control
 - Health safety and awareness
 - Surveillance and diagnostics
 - Information management
 - Depopulation and disposal
 - Regionalization
 - Communications
 - Preparedness and partnerships



Thank you

Thom Petersen

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2022 Legislative Update

Dr. Beth Thompson | State Veterinarian

The Very Brief Overview of the Board of Animal Health

- Six-member Board. Two current vacancies.
- Oversee livestock and companion animal diseases.
- Work within the One Health approach.
- Permit exhibitions.
- Partner with farmers, industry, veterinarians and academia.
- Plan/prepare, conduct disease surveillance, respond to disease detections.
- More details on what we're up to are in the attached handout.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type 2

- Since 2019 there have been multiple outbreaks of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Type 2 in the U.S.
- Spring 2020 RHDV-2 diagnosed in domestic and wild rabbits in the Southwest U.S.
- Reported in AZ, CA, CO, NV, NM, TX, OR, UT, ID, MT and WY.
- Reported in domestic rabbits in SD, FL, GA, MS and now Minnesota.



Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type 2

- In Minnesota the infected premise was quarantined, depopulated, cleaned and disinfected. Not allowed to have rabbits until quarantine released after 60 days. Quarantine released on November 24, 2021.
- DNR was notified and prepared to investigate any wild rabbit mortality concerns.
- General public, veterinarians, rabbit owners and interest groups were notified.
- The Board will continue foreign animal disease investigations on suspicious cases.
- Produced new biosecurity outreach for rabbit owners.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type 2

- Medgene Laboratory vaccine approved for emergency use.
- Only Minnesota licensed veterinarians may administer it.
- Two doses given three weeks apart.
- Veterinarians partnered with rabbit rescue groups and associations.
- Many vaccination clinics were successfully run statewide.

African Swine Fever

Poland

- Wild boar February 2014
- Domestic swine July 2014
- Commercial operation April 2020

Germany

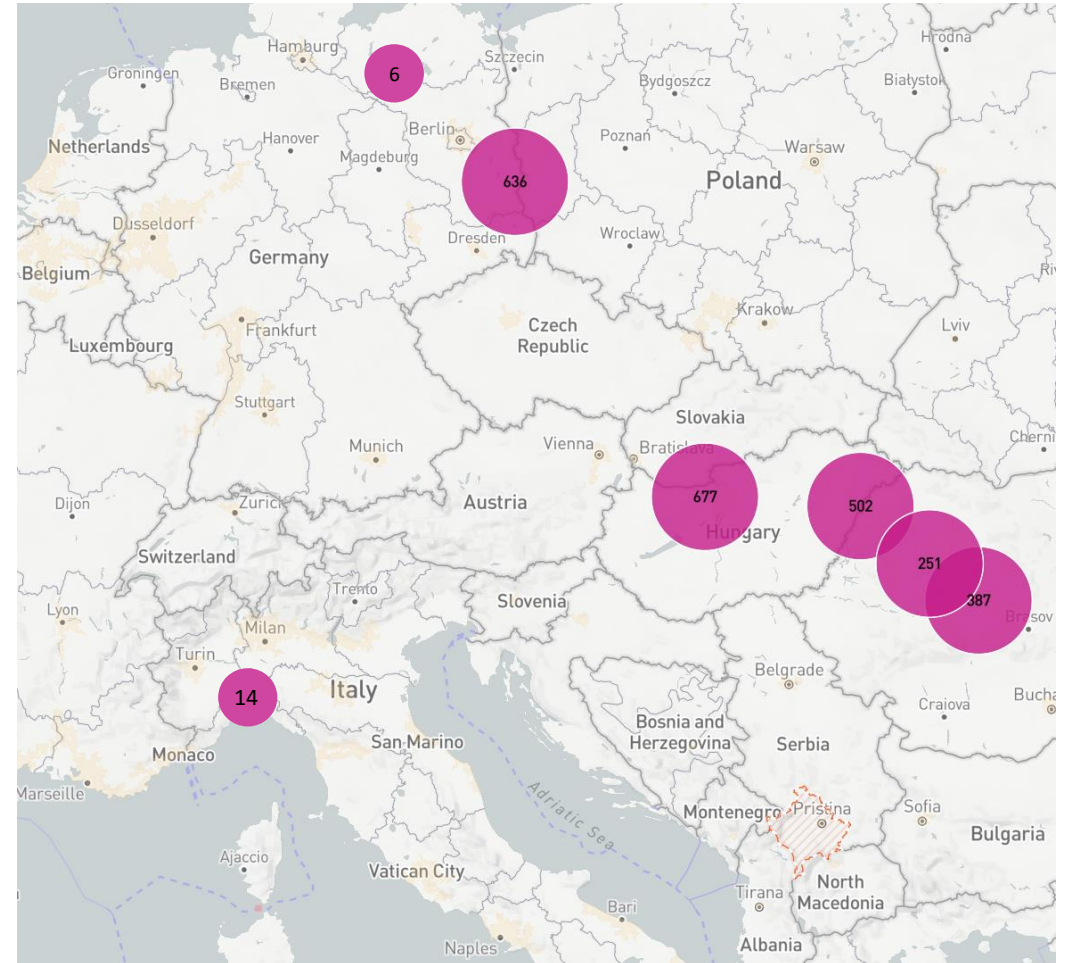
- Wild boar September 2020
- Domestic swine July 2021
- Commercial operation Nov. 2021

Italy

- Wild boar January 2022

Macedonia

- Wild boar January 2022



African Swine Fever

Caribbean

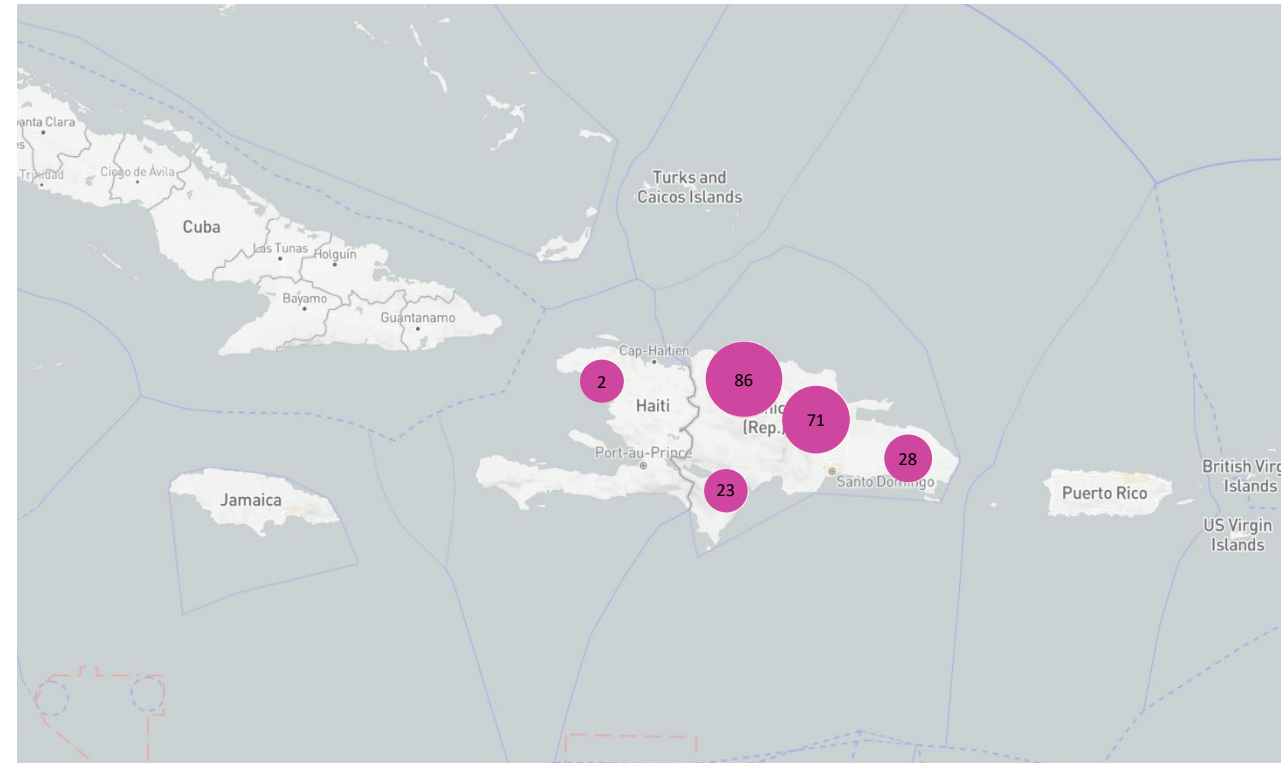
First reported in Dominican Republic
7/28/21

- Subsequently reported in Haiti
9/22/21
- USDA assisting with lab resources

Increased surveillance in Puerto Rico
and U.S. Virgin Islands

- Refuse from ships
- Illegal landings
- Feral swine

Compartmentalization established



Illegal imports

- National ports of entry
- MSP airport
 - All food waste is incinerated
 - Extra detection dogs
 - Leading port for detections



More than 100 pounds of bushmeat seized at MSP



Photo: U.S. Customs and Border Protection. CBP officers in Minnesota say they've seen an uptick in travelers arriving with bushmeat, which can carry disease causing sickness or even death.

APHIS Seizes Nearly a Ton of Illegal Animal Products from China Found in New York City

Published: Jan 13, 2022

Print



Minnesota ASF preparedness

- Emergency Disease Management Committee for Swine subcommittees
 - Communications
 - Surveillance and Diagnostics
 - Information Management
 - Health, Safety, and Welfare
 - Biosecurity and Quarantine/Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - Depopulation and Disposal
 - Wildlife and Vector Control
 - Regionalization
- Minnesota ASF Response Plan
 - Control areas
 - Permitted movement
- Surveillance
 - Cooperative Agreements
 - Certified Swine Sampler Collectors
- U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan



Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza

H6N1 LPAI (Oct 2020 – June 2021)

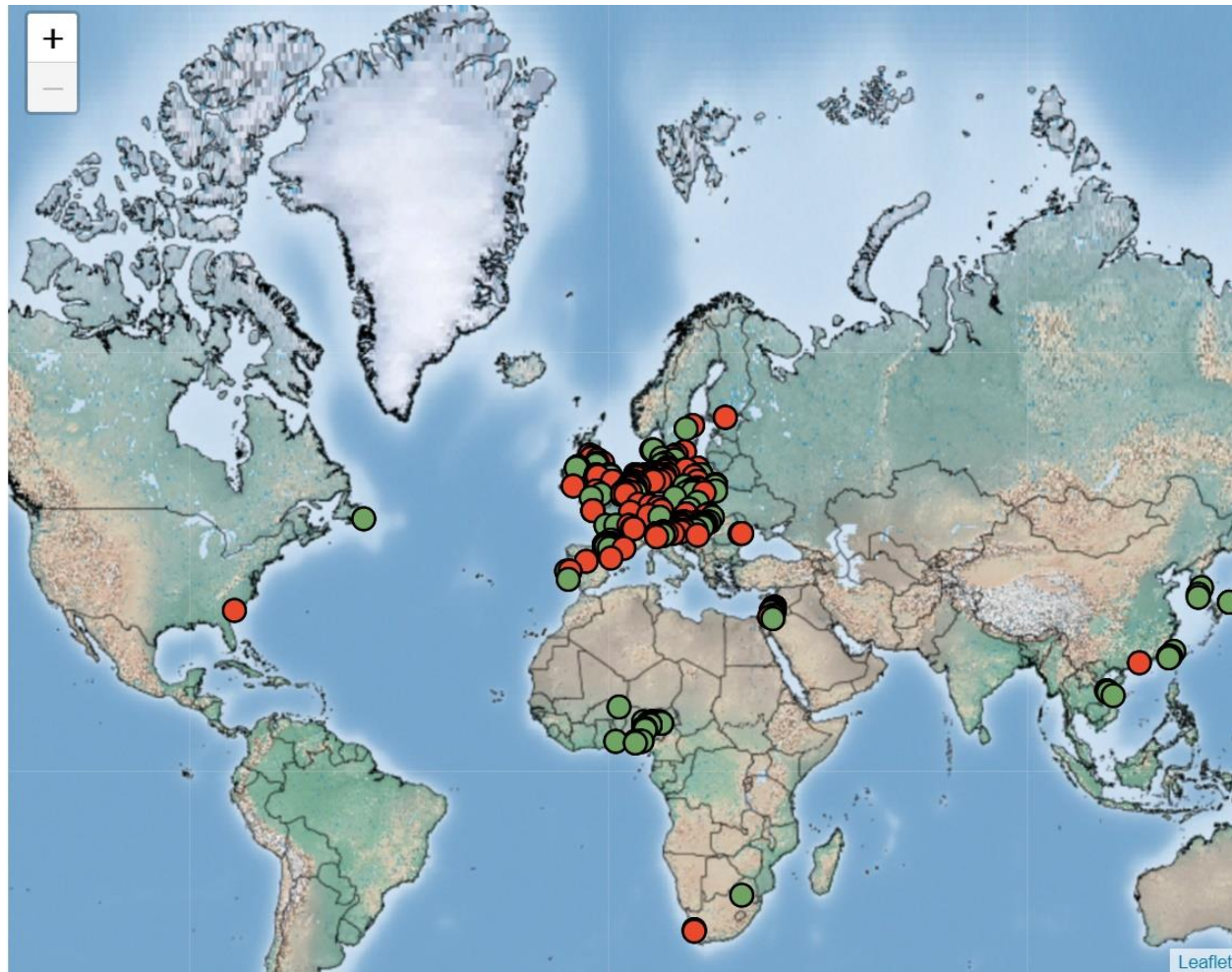
- Industry Response
- 93 commercial turkey flocks on 70 premises in nine MN counties

H5N3 LPAI (Nov 2021 – Dec 2022)

- Board Response
- Two commercial turkey flocks required USDA-funded regulatory action to eradicate and prevent spread of the virus



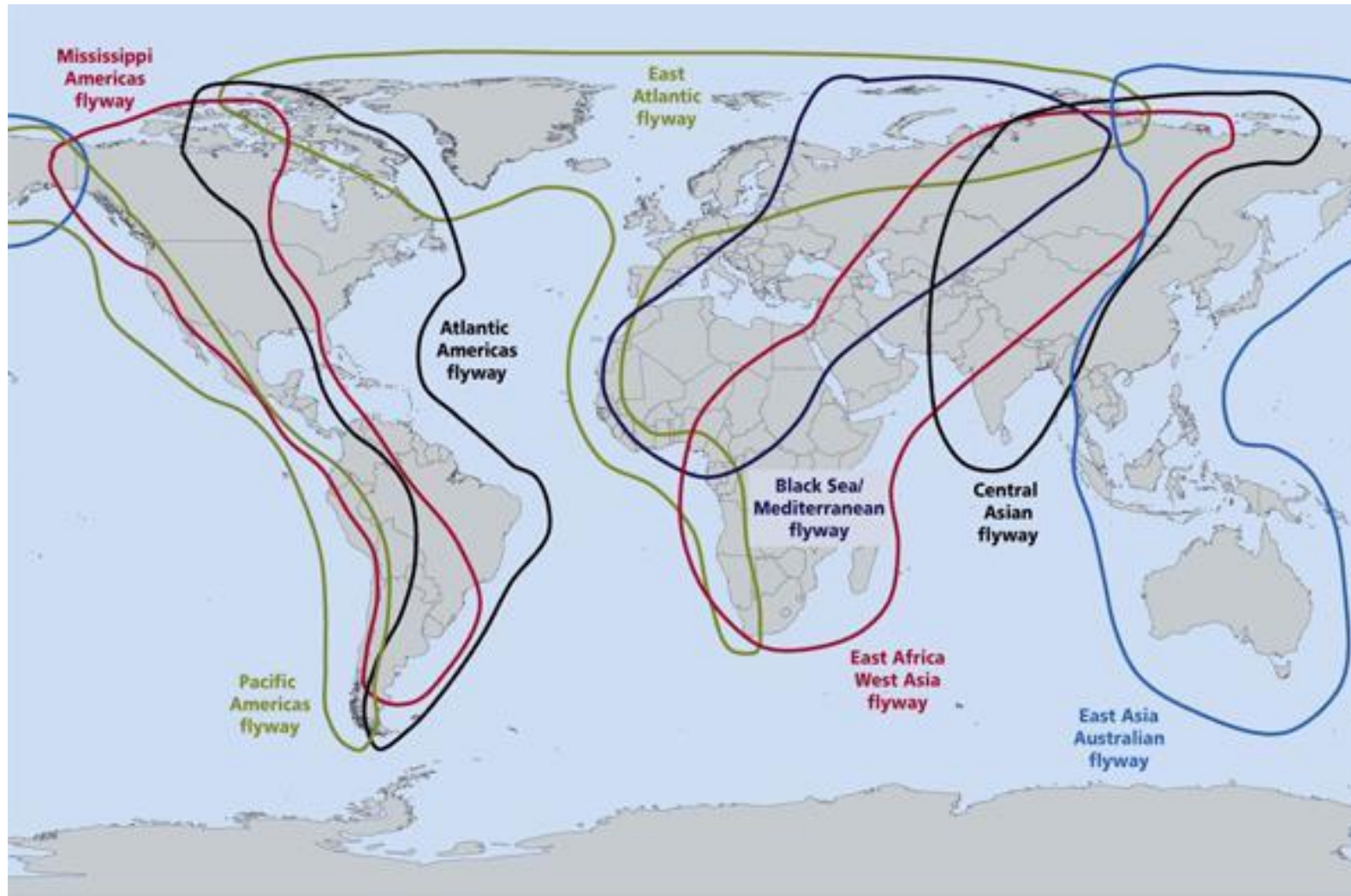
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza



HPAI Globally
(Jan 2021 – Jan 2022)

■ Domestic ■ Wild ■ Captive ■ Mixed
Showing 500 out of 3,198 events [Load more](#)

Global Wild Bird Flyways



HPAI in North America



December 20, 2021:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced a detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.
- Multi-bird species exhibition farm of approximately 400 birds.

BIRD FLU CASE CONFIRMED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

“We’re asking that anyone involved with poultry or egg production, from large farms all the way down to backyard flocks, review their biosecurity practices to assure the health of their birds. So far we have no indication that HPAI has jumped from wild migratory birds to poultry and we’d very much like to keep it that way.”

MICHAEL J. NEAULT

SC STATE VETERINARIAN & DIRECTOR OF CLEMSON LIVESTOCK-POULTRY HEALTH



American Wigeon
Colleton County, SC



Northern Shoveler
Hyde County, NC

Importance of Biosecurity

- Previous outbreaks reveal vulnerabilities.
- Strict enforcement:
 - Perimeter Buffer Area
 - Line of Separation
 - Visitor restrictions
 - Shared equipment restrictions



Attention

DO NOT ENTER

This is a controlled-access disease prevention area.

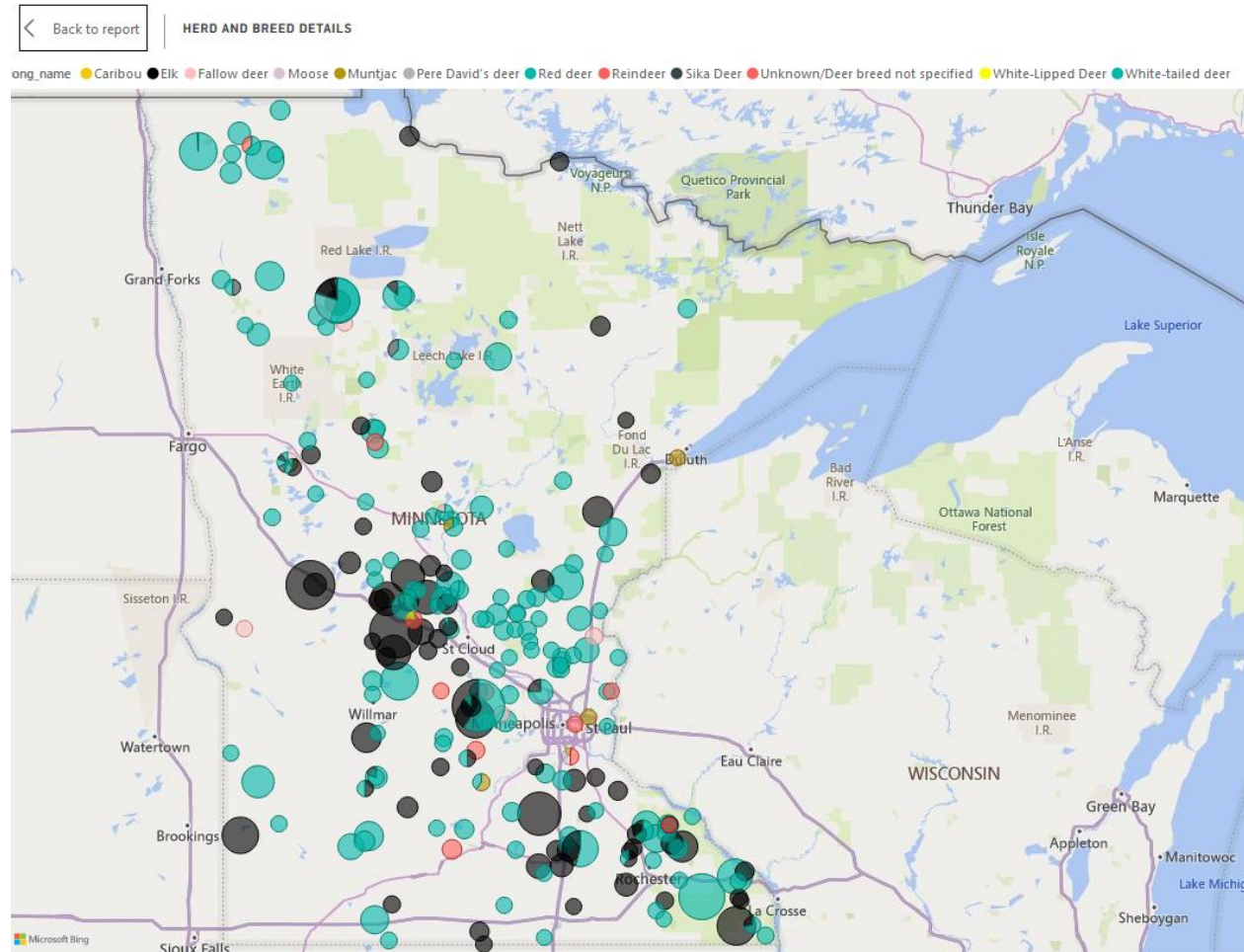
Contact:

In cooperation with:

m MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Farmed Cervid Program

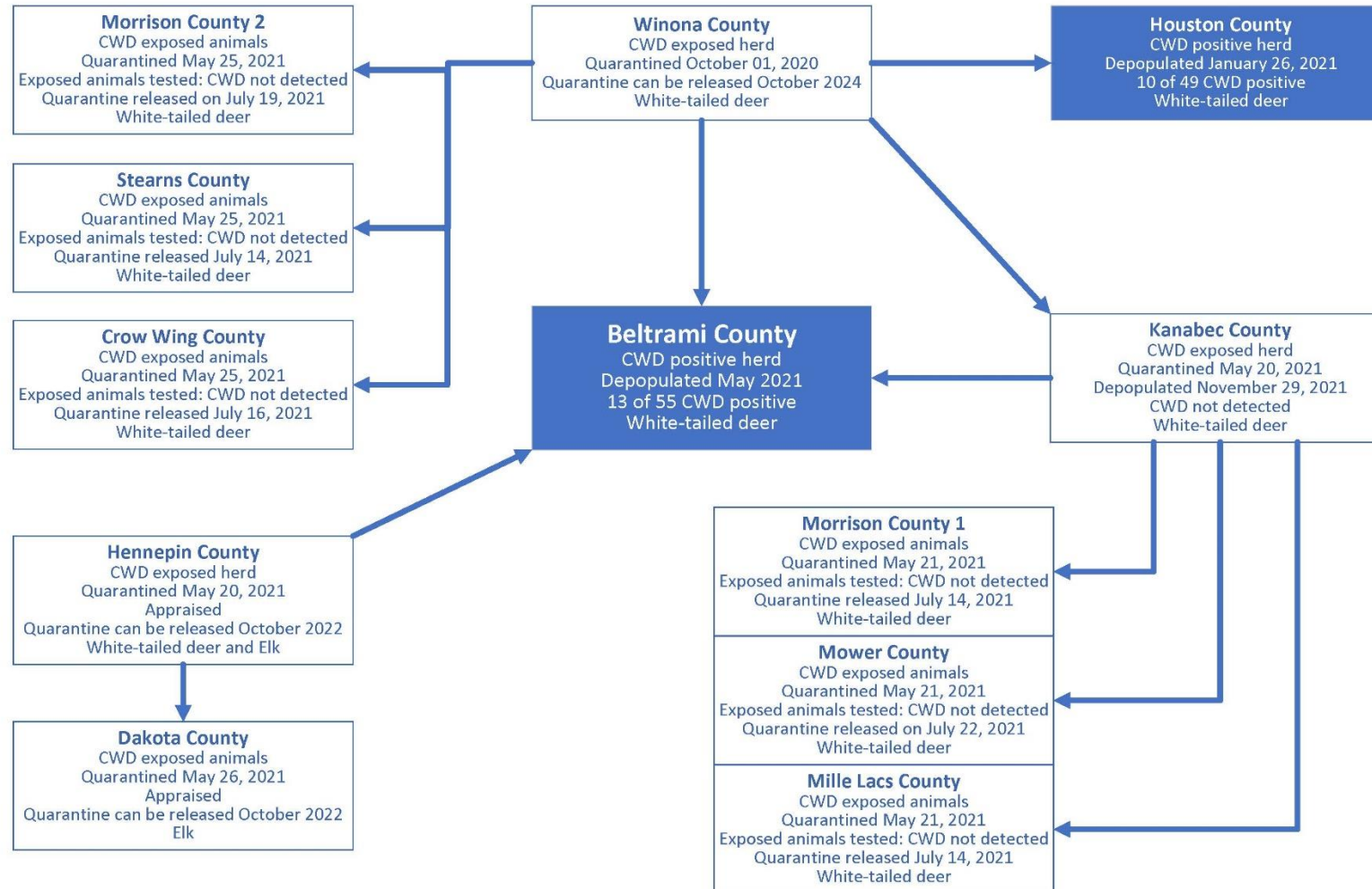
Count of Registered Herds >0 Head		
233		
Breed - long	Count of label	Count of herd_id
White-tailed deer	3546	149
Elk	3141	82
Red deer	162	8
Fallow deer	75	7
Reindeer	68	10
Sika Deer	29	5
Muntjac	21	5
Unknown/Deer breed not specified	8	2
Pere David's deer	5	1
Moose	3	1
Caribou	2	2
White-Lipped Deer	2	2
Total	7062	233



Concurrent Authority

- Concurrent authority enacted by 2021 legislature
 - Effective July 1, 2021
 - Weekly meetings held with BAH and DNR staff to plan and implement concurrent authority
 - DNR purchased database software to store all farmed WTD data on system shared with BAH
 - DNR participated in 50 farmed WTD annual inspections since July 1, 2021
 - BAH staff workload increased to provide information needs from DNR on farmed cervid activities, program training / awareness for DNR staff and the database data migration to new system
 - DNR and BAH staff worked with Alliant Consulting, Inc. to develop report to Legislature

Beltrami County CWD Investigation



Farmed Cervid Program Outreach

- Board staff presented information on farmed cervids at DNR hosted CWD Public Meetings
 - Bemidji - September 28, 2021
 - Kelliher - September 29, 2021.
- Board staff participated in two House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee hearings since the end of the 2021 legislative session
 - September 14, 2021
 - October 17, 2021

DNR Actions on Farmed Cervidae

October 11, 2021

- DNR placed movement ban on farmed white-tailed deer.

Department of Natural Resources

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: Temporary Prohibition on Moving Farmed White-Tailed Deer

6232.0550 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON MOVING FARMED WHITE-TAILED DEER.

Subpart 1. Definition. For purposes of this part, “farmed white-tailed deer” means white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) that are raised for any purpose and are required to be registered in a manner approved by the Board of Animal Health.

Subp. 2. Temporary prohibition on movement. Notwithstanding parts 1721.0400 and 1721.0410, moving farmed white-tailed deer for any reason to another location, except as described in subpart 3, is prohibited. Both importation of farmed white-tailed deer into Minnesota and intrastate movement of farmed white-tailed deer within Minnesota are included in this temporary prohibition.

Subp. 3. Exception. The prohibition in subpart 2 does not apply to:

A. transporting farmed white-tailed deer on a direct route through the state or on a direct route from a facility in Minnesota to an area outside the state if the deer remain inside the trailer or shipping container at all times; or

B. transporting farmed white-tailed deer directly to a slaughtering establishment having state or federal inspection and for the sole purpose of causing the animal to be slaughtered and inspected according to Minnesota Statutes, chapters 31 and 31A. For purposes of this subpart, “slaughtering establishment” does not include a terminal hunt facility.

EFFECTIVE PERIOD. Minnesota Rules, part 6232.0550, expires April 11, 2023.

December 6, 2021

- DNR released movement ban on farmed white-tailed deer

Department of Natural Resources

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rule: Repealing Temporary Prohibition on Moving Farmed White-Tailed Deer

Notice is hereby given that Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR’s) October 11, 2021 rule temporarily restricting the importation of farmed white-tailed deer into Minnesota and the intrastate movement of farmed white-tailed deer within Minnesota is rescinded.

Farmed Cervidae Rulemaking

- The Board plans to resume rulemaking
 - Board's rulemaking would go forward for non white-tailed deer farmed cervids only
- What will this look like?
 - Publish new Request for Comments and new proposed rules draft
 - Rules draft will incorporate the work that's been done on the rulemaking from June 2020 to present
 - Minimum 60-day formal comment period
 - Existing rules for white-tailed deer farms would remain in place

Thank You!

Beth Thompson, JD, DVM

State Veterinarian and Executive Director