

United States Free of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)

March 8, 2016

The United States is now considered free of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) after the last positive premises, in Colorado, was released from quarantine last week. The Colorado premise was released after livestock had been free of clinical signs of VS for 14 days. No additional suspect cases are pending.

Florida has lifted the VS requirements on live stock entering the state since the last VS affected premises has been released from quarantine in Colorado.

Vesicular Stomatitis is a viral disease that affects horses, cattle, swine and occasionally sheep, goats and deer. The virus is usually spread by biting insects but can also be spread by direct contact with infected animals. In addition, the virus can cause flu-like symptoms in people, who contract the virus when working with infected animals.

Animals that contract the VS virus can show signs that include blister-like lesions in the mouth, on the tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves and teats. While the virus is rarely fatal, it does result in significant weight loss and milk production loss. It is also difficult to distinguish between this virus and foot and mouth disease, a devastating livestock disease found outside the United States. Unaffected states and other countries often impose movement restrictions on animals from Vesicular Stomatitis affected areas.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry has placed increased import restrictions on all livestock imported from VS affected states. All hooved livestock originating from an affected state are required to comply with additional VS import requirements as stated below. These requirements are in addition to the routine requirements for livestock importing into Florida.

VS REQUIREMENTS: All livestock, including horses, imported into Florida from an affected state must meet the requirements of 5C-3.002(5),

5C-3.002(5) Vesicular Stomatitis.

(a) Certification for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS).

1. All hoofed animals, including horses, ruminants, swine, exotic and wild hoofed animals, originating from non-affected premises and not within 10 miles of an affected premises in a VS affected state, must be accompanied by an OCVI, dated within five (5) days of entry or reentry into Florida. The OCVI must be signed by an Accredited Veterinarian.

2. The following statement must be written on the OCVI by the examining Accredited Veterinarian: "All animals susceptible to Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) identified and included in this OCVI for shipment have been examined and found to be free from clinical signs and vectors of VS and have not been in contact with VS-affected animals and have not been within ten (10) miles of a VS-affected premises within the last thirty (30) days."

(b) Prior Permission Number. Animals originating from non-affected premises in a VS-affected state will require a prior permission number. The prior permission number must be written on the OCVI. Prior permission numbers can be obtained by calling 850-410-0900.

The complete list of Florida import requirements are stated in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Rule 5C-3. To view Rule 5C-3, click on the following Web site link:

[https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5C-3.](https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5C-3)

For additional information on Vesicular Stomatitis, please refer to the following USDA Web site at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth?1dmy&urile=wc m%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_equine_health%2Fsa_vesicular_stomatitis%2Fct_vesicular_stomatitis