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Mission:

The mission of the Board of Animal Health (Board) is to protect the health of the state's domestic animals. In carrying out its mission, the Board is part of the team that protects public health, assures an abundant and wholesome food supply to Minnesota consumers, and enables orderly commerce in animal agriculture.

Statewide Outcome(s):

Board of Animal health supports the following statewide outcome(s).

A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities.

Minnesotans are healthy.

Context:

The Board primarily serves livestock and poultry producers, veterinarians and pet owners. The Board works with its customers, the federal government, other state and local agencies to control animal diseases. Priority is given to animal diseases that cause illness in people, negatively affect livestock productivity or impact trade. Activities at the Board are funded by the general fund, the federal government and fees.

Strategies:

The Board of Animal Health:

- Sets standards for entry of domestic animals into Minnesota to protect the health of the domestic animal population.
- Monitors the movement of livestock and poultry into, out of and within the boundaries of Minnesota, so animals can be traced during a disease outbreak.
- Has regular, on-site presence at farms, livestock markets and kennels to be sure requirements are being met.
- Detects, controls and eradicates domestic animal diseases to maintain a healthy domestic animal population.
- Investigates reports of emerging and foreign animal diseases.
- Develops and exercises plans to respond to diseases that could devastate the livestock population and have a negative impact on our economy.
- Seeks the support of stakeholders when determining effective, common-sense approaches to preventing, controlling and eradicating animal diseases.
- Maintains disease free status for herds and the state so that Minnesota businesses are able to export animals and animal products.

Results:

The Board measures success by:

- The number of disease-free statuses the Board maintains.
- Being prepared to quickly trace cattle during a disease investigation. This requires that the Board take steps to improve and multiply animal identification records.
- Maintaining a good working relationship with the major livestock and agriculture groups in Minnesota while managing disease control programs and enforcing state laws.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
Statewide Cattle Tuberculosis Status 1	MAA Status	TB-Free	Improving
Animal Identification Information in Database	182,263 records	538,244 records	Improving
Cattle Import Permits	0 permits	2,338 permits	Improving

Performance Measures Notes:

In all cases previous applies to the last biennium (FY 2010 and 2011). Current applies to the current biennium (FY 2012 and 2013).

1. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a five-tier system for assigning each state a bovine Tuberculosis status. TB-Free is the best status to have as it saves cattle farmers time and money when exporting animals. Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) is one step below TB-Free and often requires testing of animals prior to exporting to other states. Minnesota regained TB-Free status in October 2011 after being at lower status for four years.
2. During disease investigations, tracing of animals is greatly expedited when the Board has the involved animals' identification numbers in our database. In the last few years, the Board has significantly increased the number of individual animal ID numbers recorded in the database.
3. In August 2011, the Board began requiring import permits for breeding cattle coming into Minnesota. This allows the Board advanced information on breeding cattle being imported into Minnesota and knowledge of their destinations within Minnesota.