

# Biological Risk Awareness Education

## NEWSLETTER

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SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED a survey sent to AVMA members from the CDC asking what veterinary clinics are doing regarding infection control procedures in light of the Monkeypox outbreak in 2003. Not sure where to start an infection control plan or unsure if you are at risk? The CFSPH released the Veterinary Clinic Biological Risk Management (BRM) materials at a half day training session to the attendees of American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) in March. The training included how to manage infectious disease spread using control measures focused on routes of transmission. Read more about the Biological

Risk Management material and FREE online database in the section, "Managing Infectious Disease Entry and Spread...on the farm and in your clinic". Visit the website [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM)...there are many helpful handouts to help you educate yourself, your clients and your employees about infection control. We recognize every facility is different and no one plan fits everyone. That is why the BRM program is customizable...before you decide what level of risk you are willing to accept; you need to be aware of what risk exists. BRM can help you do that. ■

### IN THE NEWS

#### MARBURG HEMORRHAGIC FEVER OUTBREAK

As of April 14, 2005, 224 cases of Marburg hemorrhagic fever had been reported in Angola, (SW Africa) with 207 of these cases resulting in death. The outbreak was first reported in Uige, a town of about 200,000, but has spread to seven provinces, all located in the northwestern part of the country. Marburg hemorrhagic fever is closely related to Ebola virus (both are in the family Filoviridae) and clinical signs are indistinguishable. Both viruses cause diarrhea, stomach pains, vomiting, and internal and external bleeding. Very little is known about Marburg hemorrhagic fever, including where the virus hides between outbreaks. The current epidemic is the largest and deadliest

outbreak of Marburg hemorrhagic fever ever recorded. The last epidemic occurred between 1998 and 2000 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and resulted in 123 deaths. The current outbreak represents the first time the deadly virus has been identified in Angola. The CFSPH has a fact sheet on the viral hemorrhagic fevers that covers both Ebola and Marburg and is available at: [http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/viral\\_hemorrhagic\\_fever\\_filovirus.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/viral_hemorrhagic_fever_filovirus.pdf). For continuing updates on this outbreak, visit the WHO website at: [http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/marburg\\_virus\\_disease/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/marburg_virus_disease/en/). The CDC has issued travelers warnings and that information can be obtained at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/marburg.htm>. ■

### MANAGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENTRY AND SPREAD...ON THE FARM AND IN YOUR CLINIC

Have you ever been asked by a client to help establish a biosecurity plan or had to deal with a highly contagious animal in your clinic and need prevention steps now? Ever wish there was something available to step you or your clients through the process? Now there is...the CFSPH has designed a free online Biological Risk Management program to help you minimize infectious disease entry or spread on Beef, Dairy, or Equine operations, or within your Stationary or Mobile Veterinary Clinic.

Biological Risk Management (BRM) was developed based on routes of transmission, rather than specific diseases. An advantage of this approach is that it will also help protect against new or unanticipated infectious agents; something we all need to think about in today's society. BRM helps identify exposure points and provides management recommendations to minimize them.

The BRM toolbox consists of educational materials, an online database

**SEE MANAGING**

### WALL CHARTS/EEDA TEXTBOOKS

Wall charts keep popping up in different areas of the country...The Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Tucson ordered 1,000 posters to be distributed veterinarians and other key diagnosticians in their state. St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Montana recently ordered 500 wall charts. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture ordered an additional 450 *Emerging and Exotic Diseases of Animals* textbooks to be distributed to veterinarians in their state. Thank you for your orders and interest in educating others in your state. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association),**

**July 16, 2005,**

**Minneapolis, MN**

***Protecting Animal Agriculture: Expand Your Differentials and Increase Your Biosecurity***

*This Saturday session will feature Colonel John Hoffman from the Department of Homeland Security who will talk about our nation's efforts to protect agriculture. The rest of the day will be filled with how to use a systems approach to recognize and diagnose foreign animal diseases and associated endemic differentials. For each of the systems discussed, prevention techniques using key components of Biological Risk Management (BRM) will be presented. This day is geared for the private practitioner who wants to learn about when to look for "zebras" and how to prevent them from becoming an outbreak. For more information, stay tuned to our website and [www.AVMA.org](http://www.AVMA.org) for additional details as they transpire. This*

*is not a traditional train-the-trainer session...come for all or part of the day. It is your chance to learn more about the diseases you are training others about in your state.*

**AABP (American Association of Bovine Practitioners)**

**Pre-Conference Seminar,**

**September 21, 2005,**

**Salt Lake City, UT**

*This pre-conference seminar will focus on Biological Risk Management for Beef and Dairy Operations. Bovine practitioners will spend the day learning a systems-based approach for diagnosing ruminant diseases and look at specific prevention methods based on a route of transmission approach. The online BRM database will be demonstrated and attendees will learn how to incorporate it into their practice services. All materials will be provided; cost is \$90 for this pre-conference seminar at the AABP Annual Meeting. Stay tuned to our website and [www.AABP.org](http://www.AABP.org) for more information. ■*

## MANAGING CON'T

containing assessment questions, management recommendations, and resources. Customized final reports can be generated in just minutes that identify risk areas which can then be prioritized as to what needs attention first. The database and all other BRM Toolbox materials can be accessed at: [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM) Registration is required to use the database, but the process takes just minutes. There are numerous materials on the website like disinfectant information, hand washing signs, educational handouts, and a step-by-step tool to perform risk assessments for clinics or livestock operations. We know you are busy, but we also know the importance of disease prevention and awareness. Check it out today! n

## SHE WON'T BITE DOC

Tired of being bitten by your patients? LeMac' Morris, DVM, (CFSPH employee) is conducting a survey of veterinary practitioners to determine the prevalence of animal bite injuries in the workplace, and to assess the risk factors associated with such injuries. By completing this survey, you will be providing information that can then be utilized to determine which daily activities performed by veterinarians are most likely to result in animal bite injuries. The survey will be sent to all e-mail subscribers of this newsletter. If you have been bitten by an animal within the last three years while providing medical or surgical veterinary services to the public, please take time to complete this survey. A summary of the results will be included in the next quarterly edition of this newsletter. Information obtained from the survey will also be utilized in a practicum that Dr. Morris is presenting at the University of Iowa as a requirement for his Master's of Public Health degree. ■

## BT/AT AWARENESS EDUCATION UPDATE

### January '03 – April '05

We have passed the 1 year anniversary of our training seminar in Las Vegas and many of you achieved your goal of 6 presentations given last year...congratulations! Some of you have not reported any presentations yet, so please let us know how you are spreading the word in your area. As always, if you have questions, please let us know. PowerPoint's and fact sheets are continually updated and new ones are added to our website, so be sure the visit [www.cfsph.iastate.edu](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu) to make sure you have the most up to date information. Keep up the good work and sending in your reports!

- Over 33,041 people have attended bioterrorism/agroterrorism awareness education sessions!!!
- 148 presenters have given 830 presentations to colleagues and clients in 47 states plus Puerto Rico, Mexico, Brazil, Grenada, Singapore, and Switzerland.
- Thank you all for your efforts and keep up the good work!! ■