**One Health News Bits**

**April 16, 2011**

[**Genes of old viruses may cause present-day diseases**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRxbBXzCwNBZbdogCicOlzCicNzxpz?format=standard)

The human genome is littered with the genetic remains of ancient viruses that once infected people but now lie dormant. Until recently, scientists didn't believe they played a role in modern disease. New research is causing many scientists to think again. Recent studies suggest these old virus shards may play a role in Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases.

[**Study: The search for probiotics to control salmonella in poultry flocks**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRxbBXzCwNBZbdojCicOlzCicNOekC?format=standard)

Combined research between American and Argentinean institutions looked at the effects of using probiotics/direct fed microbials for salmonella control in poultry. In the paper published following trials, the researchers summarize the safety and efficacy of individual monocultures for prophylactic and/or therapeutic efficacy against Salmonella infections under both laboratory and field conditions.

[**Report: Some species still in need nearly a year after BP oil spill**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRxbBXzCwNBZbdolCicOlzCicNeQfq?format=standard)

As the one-year anniversary of the BP oil spill approaches, a report says some wildlife species are recovering nicely while others are likely to need long-term help. The study from the National Wildlife Federation also says animals in the area were suffering as storms and river channeling eroded their habitats even before the oil spill, and calls for a massive coastal restoration to avoid future damage.

[**Minnesota to consider ban on undercover farm filming**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRxbBXzCwNBZbdouCicOlzCicNJUMO?format=standard)

Lawmakers in Minnesota introduced bills in the House and Senate last week, joining states that will consider banning the creation and distribution of audio and video recordings made at farms without the owners' permission. The bills, which also cover a host of animal facilities including hatcheries, research facilities and kennels, are part of a reaction by agricultural interests to a recent spate of undercover videos shot by activists and used to show alleged abuse.

[**19th Century 'One Health' pioneer Sir John McFadyean: The Dangers of Milk from Cows with TB' and much more**](http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/may11/110501u.asp)

Robert Koch, the German doctor who gave the first description of the tubercle bacillus in 1882, surprisingly had stated that no precautions were needed to be taken against milk or flesh from cattle afflicted with tuberculosis because bovine TB differed from the infection found in humans. Dr. McFadyean had been invited to speak two days later on the danger milk from cattle with TB posed to humans. And he did, vociferously, against a man he respected and gained much knowledge from in his own studies of tuberculosis. Though controversial, Dr. McFadyean stood by his principles and was vindicated 10 years later after continuous experimentation and investigation by the British Royal Commission.

[**How the air we breathe can cause heart disease and diabetes and contribute to the problems of obesity.**](http://cvm.msu.edu/about-the-college/news-and-events/news/hold-your-breath-air-pollution-plays-role-in-cardiac-metabolic-diseases)

Heavy industry, all those cars and trucks, and coal-fired power plants all contribute to air pollution in our nation’s midsection. If you ask researchers like veterinarian Jack Harkema, the [health effects of these pollutants](http://www.avmanet.org/t/26576/1423147/17476/0/?u=aHR0cDovL2N2bS5tc3UuZWR1L2Fib3V0LXRoZS1jb2xsZWdlL25ld3MtYW5kLWV2ZW50cy9uZXdzL2hvbGQteW91ci1icmVhdGgtYWlyLXBvbGx1dGlvbi1wbGF5cy1yb2xlLWluLWNhcmRpYWMtbWV0YWJvbGljLWRpc2Vhc2Vz&x=635d755f) are complex and understudied. That’s one reason why Harkema, with the help of an $8 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is studying how the air we breathe can cause heart disease and diabetes and contribute to the problems of obesity. Harkema, a distinguished professor at the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, is studying the role air pollutants have on what is called cardiometabolic syndrome, a collection of related risk factors that lead to cardiovascular and metabolic diseases that affect about one-third of adult Americans. For more information, contact Jason Cody at [517-432-0924](tel:517-432-0924) or [Jason.Cody@ur.msu.edu](mailto:Jason.Cody@ur.msu.edu).

[**White-nose syndrome identified in Kentucky for the first time**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRAnBXzCwNBZbvoJCicOlzCicNnTiX?format=standard)

Officials have identified the presence of white-nose syndrome in a little brown bat from a cave in Trigg County, Ky., the first confirmed case in the state. The discovery of WNS in Kentucky brings to 16 the number of U.S. states were bats have been confirmed as being afflicted with the fatal fungal illness.

[**Fungal disease persisted in N.Y. over the winter:**](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42566465/ns/us_news-environment/)

White-nose syndrome continued to wipe out some hibernating bat species in upstate New York this past winter, with the endangered Indiana bat species among those being affected, according to a state biologist.

[**Report: Ridding 6 countries of H5N1 avian flu may take more than a decade**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cRAnBXzCwNBZbvoPCicOlzCicNLptG?format=standard)

Apr 13, 2011 (CIDRAP News) – Because of deep-rooted barriers, there is little chance that H5N1 avian influenza can be expelled within the next 10 years from the six countries where it remains entrenched, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says in a new report.

[**New Mexico confirms plague cases in pets**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cSbMBXzCwNBZbLpWCicOlzCicNPyow?format=standard)

Lab tests have confirmed the presence of plague in two dogs and a cat in New Mexico's Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties, state health officials have warned. No human cases of the bacterial illness, which can be passed on to people through the bites of affected fleas or by direct contact with infected pets, have been confirmed