**One Health News Bits**

**May 20th 2011**

[**Study: Ebola virus strain in pigs can jump to other animals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogyCidalECicNGQsv?format=standard)

Canadian researchers have found that domestic pigs exposed to Zaire Ebola virus, a highly infectious strain affecting humans, not only can develop disease, but also can transmit that disease to other animals. Pigs with no previous exposure to the virus but were cohabiting with the infected animals also contracted the virus, researchers reported in the Journal of Infectious Diseases. [Medindia.net (India)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogyCidalECicNGQsv?format=standard) (5/15)

[**Researcher calls for new rules on agricultural chemicals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogzCidalECicNHADO?format=standard)

The runoff from fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals has been linked to deformities and early embryonic deaths in a host of other species, says veterinarian Matt Landos. Landos, who is studying the effects of low-level exposure on the breeding abilities of native fish, has called for a complete overhaul of regulations governing the use of agrichemicals, in light of the new science. [ninemsn (Australia)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogzCidalECicNHADO?format=standard) (5/16)

[**Crop losses feared as large numbers of Wis. bats are killed by wind turbines**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogACidalECicNJFlP?format=standard)

Wind turbine industry reports filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin indicate that a significant number of bats fall victim to the turbine blades every night, which could mean crop losses. The study, conducted by Boston University's biology department, estimated that insect-eating bats save the agricultural industry at least $3 billion a year. Each turbine in the state kills about 41 bats each year, according to estimates compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Green Bay Press-Gazette (Wis.) (5/15)

[**States issue rabies warnings, cautions to pet owners**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogDCidalECicNYmgS?format=standard)

Some 132 animals, mostly raccoons, have been reported to have contracted rabies in Pennsylvania since January, and officials are urging owners to have their animals vaccinated against the illness. Similarly, health officials in Rhode Island are warning residents to avoid coming into contact with wild felines after a stray cat in Providence tested positive for rabies. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogDCidalECicNYmgS?format=standard) (5/14), [WPRI-TV (Providence, R.I.)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogECidalECicNfUMV?format=standard) (5/14)

[**Veterinarians see increase in tick-borne disease in beef cattle**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUkpBXzCwNBZsogKCidalECicNNeyk?format=standard)

An increase in the tick-transmitted disease anaplasmosis was seen in Iowa and across the country in 2010. The increase in Iowa was seen in late August and was brought on by an increase in cattle moving into the feedlot regions from the South. Molecular biologist Susan Noh, of the Agricultural Research Service's Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, Wash., and her colleagues at Washington State University have identified important proteins to include in a potential vaccine. Some of the more promising vaccines being tested have protected 80 to 90 percent of the animals from clinical disease and have prevented infection in up to 40 percent of the animals. High Plains Journal (Dodge City, Kan.) (5/16)

[**Australian researchers create Hendra virus vaccine for horses**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUnoBXzCwNBZsCxOCidalECicNugOu?format=standard)

Australian experts say they have formulated a vaccine that can protect horses from Hendra virus, which can be passed on to people with a 50% fatality rate. The virus has already killed at least 30 horses and four people since it was first detected in 1994. The vaccine proved effective in initial trials, and may be made available to veterinarians and equine owners early next year, experts said. [The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Australia)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUnoBXzCwNBZsCxOCidalECicNugOu?format=standard) (5/17)

[**Australia sees rise in salmonella cases tied to reptiles**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUnoBXzCwNBZsCxSCidalECicNFoxc?format=standard)

As reptiles become increasingly popular as pets in Australia -- roughly 50,000 people there are reptile owners -- there has been a corresponding uptick in salmonella poisonings, says reptile specialist Robert Johnson. Johnson advises owners to practice good hygiene such as hand-washing after handling the animals to avoid the risk of salmonella infection. [The Canberra Times (Australia)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUnoBXzCwNBZsCxSCidalECicNFoxc?format=standard) (free registration) (5/16)

[**Debate lingers on antibiotic use in livestock**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUnoBXzCwNBZsCxTCidalECicNLCCR?format=standard)

An FDA report saying that most antibiotics provided to U.S. livestock were given to them through their feed has some groups concerned that indiscriminately giving doses of the drugs to farm animals can accelerate antibiotic resistance in humans. Livestock groups disagree with such assertions. [The Wall Street Journal (tiered subscription model)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUnoBXzCwNBZsCxTCidalECicNLCCR?format=standard) (5/13)

[**Federal agency introduces national plan to fight fatal bat fungus**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUtDBXzCwNBZtIvpCidalECicNHfrk?format=standard)

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Tuesday unveiled a national plan to provide researchers and at least 100 tribal, state and federal agencies with a framework for addressing white-nose syndrome, which threatens to wipe out bat populations. Since 2007, the Interior Department has spent about $11 million in the fight against the fatal fungus, including $3 million for efforts seeking ways to cure or control the illness. [The Star-Ledger (Newark, N.J.)/The Associated Press](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUtDBXzCwNBZtIvpCidalECicNHfrk?format=standard) (5/18)

[**FAZD unveils animal health initiative**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUtDBXzCwNBZtIvqCidalECicNLYZL?format=standard)

The National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense has rolled out the Animal Health Network to connect state veterinarians with noncommercial livestock and poultry operations, which are often associated with outbreaks of animal diseases. Small backyard operators "are a difficult but vital audience to reach for protection of our food and agricultural infrastructure from both accidental or terrorist introduction of animal diseases," one expert said. [CattleNetwork.com/Bovine Veterinarian Magazine](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cUtDBXzCwNBZtIvqCidalECicNLYZL?format=standard) (5/18)