

Kentucky Reports Four Horses in Marshall County to be EIA Positive - September 11, 2015

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) is reporting today that during the past two weeks, four (4) horses in Western Kentucky's Marshall County have tested positive for detection of equine infectious anemia (EIA). These are the first Kentucky horses found positive for the viral disease since 2007. The initial horse was found positive as a result of testing performed by a private veterinarian, with the remaining three (3) cases discovered through testing conducted as part of the KDA investigation. Each of the horses were confirmed positive by additional testing and have since been humanely destroyed and buried. Seven (7) additional 'cohorts' tested negative on the initial testing. These seven remain under quarantine and will be periodically sampled during the next 60 days.

Though the route of transmission cannot be definitively determined, iatronic transmission has not been ruled out. The fact that one group of seven horses were commingled in a confined location the past 10 months with no evidence of transmission, minimizes chance of natural transmission having occurred.

The horses testing positive are described to be pleasure riding horses that have resided on one of two farms for several years and range in age from six to twenty-one years of age. When the positive horses were evaluated by KDA, they were found to be asymptomatic and in good body condition. The older horses were all reported to have been purchased through livestock markets, and as such would have been tested negative at the time of purchase. These pleasure horses have not regularly participated in practices that required they be routinely tested, and are defined as representing the 'untested population'.