

From: Dr. Keith Lehman
Chief Provincial Veterinarian

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**A case of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) has been reported by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
In Thorhild County.**

This horse moved between three counties during the 30 to 45 days prior to being diagnosed; therefore, we are notifying horse owners in the three counties who are registered in the Premises Identification System.

About Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

In Canada, EIA is a federally reportable disease, which means that producers or veterinarians must notify the CFIA of all suspected or confirmed cases. There is **no human health risk** with EIA.

The disease affects horses and other members of the equine family, such as donkeys and mules, and it is potentially fatal. The EIA virus is most commonly transmitted on the mouthparts of horse flies and deer flies. It can also be transmitted by needles, syringes or surgical instruments, or through the semen of an infected stallion. Foals can be infected in utero, and are usually aborted or die within two months of birth. There is no cure or available vaccine for EIA.

Infected animals may show few clinical signs of disease, particularly in the early stages of infection. However, infected animals remain carriers of the virus for life, putting other animals at risk. Infected animals may show some of the following signs:

- loss of coordination*
- anorexia
- depression
- general weakness
- intermittent fever up to 41°C
- jaundice
- bleeding under the tongue and eye
- swelling of the extremities
- weight loss

*Note: loss of coordination may be the only clinical sign observed.

If you suspect your horse may be infected, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. More information about EIA can be found on the CFIA website at bit.ly/29Luv70.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian at 780-427-3448.

You have received this notification as an animal owner who has registered your land location in Alberta's Premises Identification System. It is important your information in the system is accurate and up-to-date for effective and timely notification. To check if your information (e.g. contact information, location, species at the location) is current or to make a change, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/register-with-the-animal-premises-identification-program.aspx> or call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276).