



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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EVA

Vaccination and Testing Guidelines for Equine Viral Arteritis

- Equine Arteritis Virus is a cause of respiratory and reproductive disease in horses. It is rare in the United States, but there have been recent outbreaks involving breeding herds in New Mexico and Utah.
- Whereas mares and geldings typically clear the disease, stallions may become carriers, as the virus is capable of persisting in the secondary sex glands.
- An avirulent live virus vaccine is available from Fort Dodge Animal Health (Arvac). The vaccine provides protection for up to 1 year.
- Vaccinated horses will develop a blood serum titer that is indistinguishable from active infection. Therefore, it is important to have **laboratory documentation that the horse was seronegative prior to vaccination**. It is recommended that the vaccine be administered to the horse within a 10 day period following the test.
- Horses that are vaccinated for the first time may temporarily shed the modified form of the virus, which may be transferred to other naïve horses, causing them to produce antibodies that are indistinguishable from natural infection. It is therefore important to **isolate new vaccinates for 21 days after vaccination**.
- A vaccinated horse may not be eligible for export to another country, state, or breeding facility without **proof of negative EVA status prior to vaccination**.
- Equine Viral Arteritis is a reportable disease! Carrier stallions can be managed for breeding purposes. If a stallion is identified as a carrier, contact the Animal Industry Board for guidelines regarding documentation and testing procedures prior to breeding.

Recommendations for Vaccinating Breeding Studs against EVA

- Veterinarians should collect a blood sample and submit to an approved lab for EVA testing (SDSU does not currently offer this test, but will forward to NVSL).
- Vaccinate studs within 10 days following negative test results. Studs should be isolated during this period. All new vaccinates should be isolated from naïve horses for 21 days following vaccination.
- Attached is a sample SDAIB EVA Vaccination Certificate. If you are interested in using this certificate in your practice, please contact the SD Animal Industry Board to request the official form.