



Animal Health Notes

October 6, 2021

Emergency Authorization for the Medgene RHDV Vaccine

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is a highly contagious, fatal disease in rabbits and is currently classified as a reportable, foreign animal disease that has been spreading in many areas of the United States. RHDV2 affects both domestic and wild rabbits.

USDA's Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) has granted emergency use authorization for Medgene's experimental Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus vaccine. This product is an inactivated recombinant subunit vaccine that builds immunity to RHDV-2 specific antigenic proteins. The vaccine is administered as a subcutaneous injection and is a 2-dose regimen, with the booster dose being delivered 21 days after the initial dose has been given.

CVB has granted Medgene Labs reasonable expectation of efficacy for this product. Approval has been granted for distribution of the vaccine to veterinarians in South Dakota. For additional information please contact:

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Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2 (RHDV2)

The only case of RHDV2 in wild or domestic rabbits in South Dakota was diagnosed in a show/exhibition breeding herd in late May 2021. The herd became infected when rabbits from an affected area in Colorado were added. The herd was quarantined, followed strict biosecurity measures, including thorough cleaning and disinfection of the facilities.

Additional information:

[SD Animal Industry Board RHDV2](#)

[USDA APHIS Veterinary Services](#)

[ISU CVM The Center for Food Security and Public Health](#)

The Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) administers the VMLRP, a program which will pay up to \$75,000 in qualifying veterinary student loan debt to successful recipients. The purpose of the program is to attract veterinarians to provide service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations. NIFA has once again allotted South Dakota 6 nominations for these shortage situations. Veterinary practitioner input into these shortage situation nominations is appreciated and encouraged. The submission deadline for nominations is November 8, 2021. Contact Todd Tedrow, DVM at the AIB office 605-773-3321 or todd.tedrow@state.sd.us if you would like to provide input for South Dakota's nominations.

Visit NIFA's website for more information about the VMLRP: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>

RFID Official Tags for Brucellosis Vaccination

Official RFID eartags may be placed in either ear - whether the tags are applied for official calhhood vaccination for brucellosis or for other official identification purposes. Official RFID tags placed for brucellosis vaccination purposes can be of any color - orange, white, or yellow. As always, the official brucellosis vaccination tattoo must be applied in the heifer's right ear.