

Wyoming Livestock Board
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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Public meeting on EHM to be held at Cam-Plex Facility in Gillette

A public informative meeting on Equine Herpes Virus Meyeloencephalopathy (EHM) and the recent cases in Campbell County will be hosted by the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB), in conjunction with Cam-Plex management, at 6:30 pm on Friday, Feb. 9. It will be held in the Energy Building at the Cam-Plex Facility, located at 1635 Reata Dr. in Gillette.

The meeting will include a brief overview of EHM, followed by a question-and-answer period. It is open to all who want to attend.

The number of suspected and confirmed cases of EHM in the Gillette area is currently four. WLSB veterinary staff was notified on Friday, Feb. 2 of a horse in the Gillette area that had been seen by a local practitioner for rapidly progressive neurologic signs. Nasal swabs taken from the horse were positive for EHM. Upon referral, the horse was ultimately euthanized. Necropsy results and blood tests confirmed the EHM diagnosis, and the premise of origin was placed under quarantine. Another horse on this premise subsequently started showing mild neurologic signs. Samples have been collected, and test results are currently pending.

A second horse in the Gillette area was reported to state veterinarians on Monday, Feb. 5 as having a sudden onset of neurologic signs, and a third horse – this one in the Wright area – was admitted to a veterinary clinic with signs on Tuesday, Feb. 6. Test results from the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory confirmed these horses were also positive for EHM. Both of the premises from which the horses came are currently under quarantine.

All three quarantined premises are instituting biosecurity practices, checking temperatures at least twice daily, and cooperating fully with state animal health officials.

WLSB veterinary staff is currently conducting an epidemiological investigation in an effort to determine a common source of infection for all the affected horses so as to alert the public and mitigate further spread. All four of the horses exhibiting signs do have a history of competing at barrel racing events.

More information on Equine Herpes Virus can be obtained by contacting the Wyoming Livestock Board Field Office at 307-857-4140.