



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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DATE: April 28, 2005  
TO: Interested Parties  
Washington State Fairs, Horse Shows, Agriculture Industry  
FROM: Dr. Leonard E. Eldridge, State Veterinarian  
RE: EMERGENCY RULE: VESICULAR STOMATITIS (VS) – PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

**WSDA Contact Number: (360) 902-1878**

This is to advise you that effective this date, the Washington State Department Agriculture (WSDA) filed emergency rules relative to Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) and the movement of livestock from affected states which, at this time, is New Mexico. The language of the rule is provided below.

**WAC 16-54-030 (4)**

No livestock (equine, bovine, porcine, caprine or ovine) may enter Washington if, within the last 30 days, Vesicular Stomatitis has been diagnosed within 10 miles of any premise where the livestock has been located. Any livestock entering Washington from a state where Vesicular Stomatitis has been diagnosed within the last 30 days must be accompanied by a valid import permit issued by the department's Animal Health Program and an official interstate health certificate or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection with the following statement written by the accredited veterinarian on the certificate:

"All animals identified on this certificate have been examined and found to be free from Vesicular Stomatitis. During the past 30 days, these animals have not been exposed to Vesicular Stomatitis or located within 10 miles of an area where Vesicular Stomatitis has been diagnosed."

Detailed information regarding VS is available by accessing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) home page at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov). USDA information indicates:

- Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) may produce clinical signs in animals that are similar to foot and mouth disease. VS virus infection occurs in cattle, swine, equines and wild animals. The disease is characterized by a short febrile period and the appearance of papules and vesicles in the mouth, on the udder, in interdigital areas and on the coronary band. Profuse salivation is often a prominent sign. Common complications are secondary bacterial infections, myiasis and mastitis.
- The presence of the VS virus is of concern. Differential diagnosis must be made rapidly because of its resemblance to Foot and Mouth Disease. Spread to dairy cattle herds will cause substantial economic losses.

WSDA's Animal Health Program staff is available to process your requests for import permit numbers. If you are moving livestock into Washington from a state where Vesicular Stomatitis has been diagnosed within the last 30 days, please give us a call at (360) 902-1878.