

**Agency Purpose**

The mission of the Board of Animal Health (Board) is to protect the health of the state’s domestic animals and carry out the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 35. In carrying out its mission, the Board is part of a network of state agencies that protect public health, provide an abundant and wholesome food supply to Minnesota consumers, and enable orderly commerce in animal agriculture.

**At a Glance**

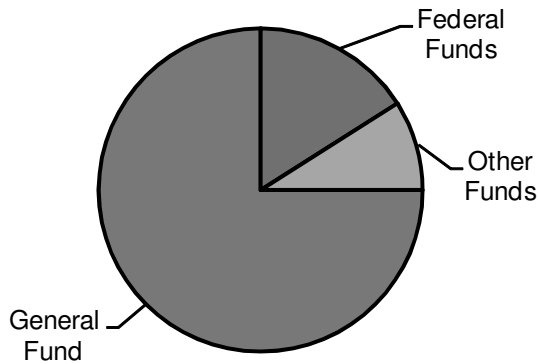
**Animal Health Programs**

- Decreased incidence of Johne’s disease in the nearly 2,000 participating herds.
- Over 60,000 birds were tested for Avian Influenza, eight farms had positive results with over one million turkeys managed to prevent spread of the disease
- Collaborated with swine producers to educate the public about the H1N1 virus and safety of pork products.

**Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication**

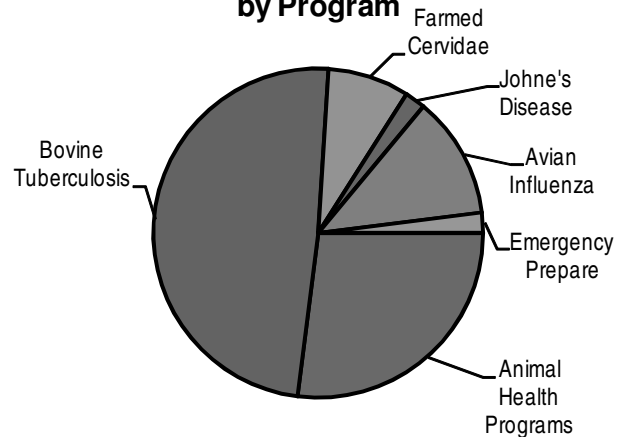
- Conducted statewide surveillance on approximately 1,900 cattle herds.
- Implemented sweeping controls to eradicate TB, including: a split state status to prevent the spread of disease from the affected area, a voluntary cattle herd buyout, and fencing installation.
- No infected cattle have been found in the state in nearly two years.

**Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement.

**Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Program**



Source: MAPS

**Strategies**

The Board has four primary strategies:

- Set standards for entry of domestic animals into Minnesota in an effort to protect the domestic animal population.
- Monitor the movement of livestock and poultry into, out of and within the boundaries of Minnesota, so animals can be traced during a disease outbreak.
- Detect, control and eradicate certain domestic animal diseases to maintain a healthy domestic animal population and keep the livestock and poultry industries competitive.
- Respond to emerging and foreign animal diseases, such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, which could devastate the livestock population.

**Operations**

Based upon the direction provided by a five member citizen board, programs are led by an executive director and three assistant directors. The agency has 31 full-time staff members based at the Board’s main office located in St. Paul. Activities, such as animal testing and on-site inspections, are conducted by a statewide field workforce consisting of nine veterinarians and 11 other staff. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, located on the St. Paul campus, is the official laboratory of the Board. The Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory, located in Willmar, is a joint venture between the University of Minnesota and the Board and serves as a vital testing resource for the state’s poultry industry.

The Board's primary customers are Minnesota livestock and poultry producers, veterinarians and pet owners. The agency administers many national disease eradication programs cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture. Some diseases affect wild animals, people and domestic animals, which makes it imperative that efforts be coordinated with the Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources and Health. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Board have a very close relationship in providing an abundant and wholesome food supply to Minnesota consumers.

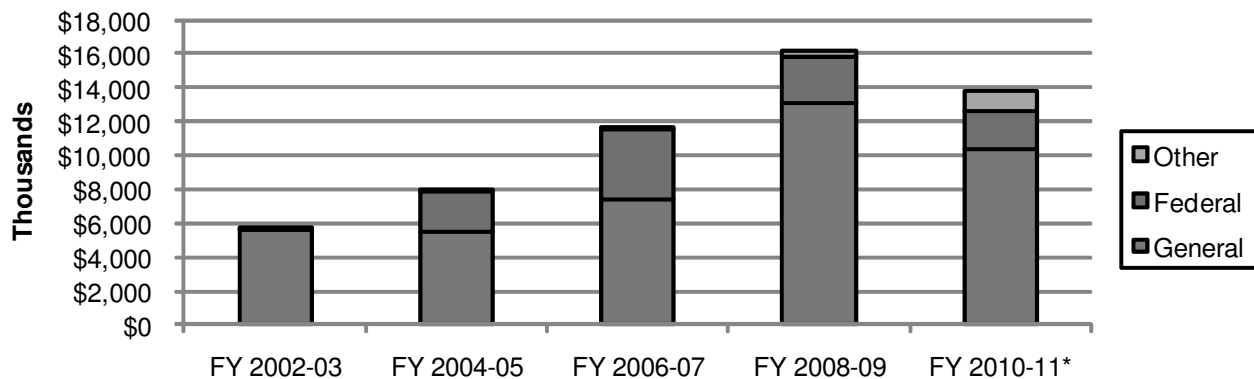
Standards for entry of domestic animals into Minnesota are defined in statute, rules and policy. Standards are adjusted based on the current disease situation in other countries and within the United States. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, import permits, import testing and vaccinating are methods used to protect Minnesota's domestic animals.

Animal identification and tracking is necessary to locate the source and extent of disease spread in an outbreak. This is accomplished by educating livestock and poultry producers on the importance of identifying their animals and keeping records of purchases and sales. Beyond the farm, official identification and record keeping are required for livestock auction markets, livestock dealers and processing plants.

When there is a disease outbreak in Minnesota, it is the Board's role to detect it early, control its spread and eventually eradicate it, if practical. This includes diseases, such as Bovine Tuberculosis, that are endemic in the country and Foot and Mouth Disease, which is not present in the United States. The relationship with the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory provides the Board with a mechanism for early detection, since the laboratory receives diagnostic samples from Minnesota farms on a daily basis. The response by the Board to an outbreak could include: quarantining animals, testing animals, vaccinating animals, establishing a disease control zone and implementing animal movement controls.

**Budget Trends**

**Total Expenditures by Fund**



*Note: The increase in federal funding starting in FY 2005 and the increase in state funding starting in FY 2006 were the result of a major effort to contain an outbreak of Bovine Tuberculosis.*

*\* FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 08/27/10.*

The main outside variable impacting the Board of Animal Health is disease outbreaks. As part of its core functions, the Board conducts regular surveillance for diseases and is prepared to respond if something is discovered. Recent examples include the detection of tuberculosis in cattle and the subsequent drop in state status in the federal classification system. During the response to this outbreak three quarters of a million animals have been tested, 12 infected herds have been depopulated, 46 herds have been bought out and 73,000 linear feet of fencing has been constructed. Other examples are: avian influenza that affected more than a million turkeys, H1N1 pandemic influenza in pigs, and piroplasmiosis in race track horses.

**Contact**

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