

# **OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY**

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May 24, 2011

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## **“Horse Shows Will Go On”**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK- The Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association Redbud Spectacular, is slated to begin May 31, 2011 at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City, OK where they are expecting over 800 horses for a 12 day period. The Expo Square facility in Tulsa is also getting geared up for the Pinto World Championship Show June 7-18, 2011 and looking to host over 1200 horses representing over 35 states. Many horse owners are aware of the recent cases of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) that have occurred in several states after the National Cutting Horse Association’s Western Nationals in Ogden, UT. Several of these owners are taking additional precautionary steps before heading down the road to compete.

Horse owners should be cognizant of the situation but also be aware of the facts regarding the virus. The EHV outbreak has only affected horses attending two events and horses directly exposed to that group upon returning home. The two events are the NCHA Western National Championship in Utah and the Kern County Cutting Horse Event in California. Affected and exposed horses in all states are under state quarantine or movement restrictions.

Acting State Veterinarian, Dr. Michael Herrin recommends horse owners and event managers remain at a heightened level of awareness, consider the current facts of the situation, and make an informed decision based upon actual risk. Events in Oklahoma that host horses of an unrelated type have no increased risk of disease exposure now than before this incident began. There have been no changes in import regulations and no recommended event cancellations issued by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF).

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry encourages horse owners to implement and practice proper preventative measures. ODAFF also encourages horse owners to consult their local veterinarian for review and advice on an appropriate vaccination schedules for EHV.