MRLS update from the Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center.

This is a follow-up to the May 13th, 2009 correspondence from the LDDC which notified of two cases of Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome abortion. Between May 5th and June 15th, 2009, the LDDC diagnosed 13 abortion cases as being consistent with MRLS. Seven of these cases were late term abortions and 6 were early fetal loses. Prior to May 5th no case of MRLS abortion was diagnosed and there have been no additional cases since June 15th.

Of the 13 cases, seven were Thoroughbreds and there was one case each of an American Saddlebred, Standardbred, Rocky Mountain Horse, Oldenburg, Gotland, and one mixed breed fetus. Four of the cases were from Woodford County, 2 each from Jessamine and Scott, and there were single cases from Bourbon, Boyle, Fayette, Oldham, and Rockcastle counties. Although an investigation was not conducted, several of the involved farms reported high numbers of caterpillars. Compared to recent years, this represents a slight increase in number of cases and corresponds to the increase in eastern tent caterpillar population this spring. Based on our findings, it is believed that the risk to horses posed by eastern tent caterpillars this season has passed.

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