

Dear Local Health Departments and Other Interested Parties:

West Virginia participates in the Oral Rabies Vaccination Project (ORV) funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), APHIS, Wildlife Services. The purpose of this project is to stop the westward expansion of raccoon strain rabies (RSR).

The 2010 Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Program for the Appalachian ridge barrier will begin **in late August** with hand baiting in the Northern Panhandle. **Aerial baiting will begin September 1 and run through September 5**, unless weather delays occur. Portions of West Virginia will continue receiving the vaccine-containing baits through mid-to-late September. Attached is a map provided by the USDA, Wildlife Services detailing the areas in West Virginia that will receive the baits.

Counties involved in the drop may include: Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Greenbrier, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Monongalia, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Summers, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel and Wyoming.

Most counties that were hand-baited during previous bait seasons will again be hand-baited this year. USDA personnel will distribute these baits. Questions regarding distribution of hand baits in your area should be directed to USDA-APHIS-WS representative or Sam Mills at: 304-636-1785.

Attached is a copy of the "West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccine Contact Report." These are to be filled out by local health departments if citizens report contact with the ORV baits to you. Forward completed forms to Susan Stowers, WVDHHR, 350 Capitol St., Rm. 125, Charleston, WV 25301. They may also be emailed or faxed to Susan.

For more information on ORV/RSR active surveillance, and rabies, visit the DIDE rabies webpage:  
<http://www.wvdep.org/AZIndexofInfectiousDiseases/RabiesHumanorAnimal/RabiesOralVaccinationProject/tabid/1703/Default.aspx> . Or call 304-558-5358.

You will be apprised if any significant changes are made in the schedule.

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State Epidemiologist