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STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & MARKETS  
10B AIRLINE DRIVE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12235  
<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us>

Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor

Darrel J. Aubertine  
Commissioner

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Patty Ritchie  
NYS Senate  
Room 815, LOB  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Ritchie:

Thank you for your letter of August 15<sup>th</sup> and for copying my office on your August 31<sup>st</sup> letter to Dr. Shah at the NYS Department of Health concerning Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

The Department of Agriculture and Markets recognizes the seriousness of EEE and for that reason, my Division of Animal Industry and the NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory work to keep the NYS Dept. of Health informed about potential cases in horses. Our State Veterinarian, Dr. David Smith, provides regular reminders to practicing veterinarians, horse owners, and Cornell Cooperative Extension educators about the threat of EEE and the availability of excellent vaccines to protect horses from the infection.

The loss of horses to EEE is a double tragedy, because owners can take very simple and effective measures to protect their horses. Vaccines to protect horses from EEE are readily available and are very effective. It's worth noting that every known EEE case in horses this year occurred in a horse that was either unvaccinated or was of unknown vaccination status.

In your letter, you ask "to what extent has spraying been undertaken to prevent the spread of mosquitoes in St. Lawrence County?" The spraying for mosquitoes is not under my jurisdiction. This procedure is performed by the local Health Department, in consultation with the NYS Department of Health.

The Department and I will continue to work with the NYS Department of Health, the local health departments, and your office to help address the control of EEE. I am especially grateful for your offer of assistance and I welcome all suggestions you and your staff might have to improve our outreach to our citizens and neighbors on how to guard against EEE.

Sincerely,

  
Darrel J. Aubertine  
Commissioner