September 9, 2020

TO:   Dr. Ryan Scholtz, Oregon Acting State Veterinarian
FROM:  Dr. Brian Joseph, State Veterinarian
SUBJECT:  Animal Health Import Requirements Waiver

The Washington State Veterinarian’s Office is waiving import requirements on livestock from Oregon, allowing these animals a temporary stay in Washington state, provided they do not change ownership and return to Oregon within 30 days.

This temporary waiver comes as evacuations due to wildfires in Oregon have placed a significant strain in the state on available stalls and pastures for sheltering horses and other livestock.

Facilities that house evacuated animals are asked to maintain records of any animals they take in as part of this waiver. Records should include the species of animal, number of animals, owner’s name and address, date the animal came to the facility, and the date the animal returned to Oregon.

It is important to practice good biosecurity to protect both Washington and Oregon animals from diseases in these situations. The Washington State Veterinarian’s Office recommends housing Oregon animals separate from Washington animals.