



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Washington, DC
20250

Dr. Randolph Chick
Arkansas State Veterinarian
Arkansas Department of Agriculture
1 Natural Resources Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72205

April 9, 2021

Dear Dr. Chick:

On March 30, 2021, the Animal and Plant Health Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services' (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (NVSL-FADDL) reported a detection of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type 2 (RHDV2) in one domestic rabbit in Poinsett County, Arkansas. NVSL-FADDL notified the Arkansas State Animal Health Official and Department of Agriculture, which initiated appropriate disease response activities.

On April 7, 2021, ancillary testing and review of other diagnostic cases revealed a significant laboratory error, resulting in the Arkansas case being incorrectly reported as positive. VS leadership immediately notified the Arkansas State Animal Health Official that the case was negative, and corrective action reports were initiated. APHIS-VS NVSL terribly regrets this error and has taken corrective action to ensure this does not happen again in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Burke L. Healey".

Burke L. Healey, DVM
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service