

SPECIAL MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 18, 2023

Chairman Todd Lutz called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with roll call of commissioners Tom Geerts and Devan Laufer also in attendance. Road Superintendent, Elliott Finck, David Crane, State's Attorney, Pat Merriman, Asst. State's Attorney, Sheriff Sarah Warner, Kyle DeMark and Tracy Kruger, Emergency Managers, Heidi Marxen (via Zoom), County Agent were also in attendance from Hettinger County, and from other State Offices via Zoom, attending were Slate Boyer, Dept. of Health, Dr. Ethan Andress, State Vet, Karl Rockman, Dept. of Water Quality, Beth Carlson, Dept. of Animal Health, Amanda Bakken, and Michelle Denhoff.

This special meeting was held for Hettinger County officials involved, to understand the current outbreak of anthrax in the cattle and the position the county should hold and to have proper procedures should a producer call.

From discussion with the state officials, the producer is responsible. At the sign of possible contagion in the deceased animal, they should call their Veterinarian and have the animal's blood tested, then the animal should be buried with the thought that it does have anthrax, this should be done within 36 hours. The producers resources for disposal, if they don't have the means to do the burial themselves is to first contact a neighbor for help. If unavailable, contact your Local Contractor and the final resort would be to get in contact with our Hettinger County Road Supervisor, Elliott Finck This last option must be after all others are unsuccessful. Hettinger County has established a disposal fee of \$500 for the first carcass burial, and \$200/hour thereafter to bury the remaining carcasses.

The remaining herd of cattle exposed should be vaccinated right away and annually.

ATTEST

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Todd Lutz, CHAIRMAN