



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

[Arkansas Department of Agriculture](https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov)

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Contact: Amy Lyman, (501) 410-4616

amy.lyman@agriculture.arkansas.gov

U. S. Department of Agriculture Retracts Notification of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease in Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has contacted the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to report a significant error at their Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory on a previously reported finding of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease in Arkansas.

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

The Department has received notification from the NVSL-FADDL that ancillary testing and review of other diagnostic cases revealed an error which led to the previously reported positive finding. The Department is currently working to notify the appropriate rabbit and veterinarian communities.

A copy of the notification from APHIS can be found <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/USDA-Letter-of-Retracton-of-RHD-Positive-Finding-in-Arkansas.pdf>.

More information on Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is available at https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/200614_4CP-Rabbit-Hemorrhagic-Disease-Brochure.pdf.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [agriculture.arkansas.gov/](https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/). The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.