Missouri joins Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma as a VS-affected state after two horses on a premises in Newton County displayed clinical signs and were positive on testing. Currently, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma are the only states affected by the virus. Hoofed livestock entering Florida from Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma must comply with additional VS entry requirements.

VS can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and a number of other animals. Lesions usually heal in two to three weeks. Because of the contagious nature of VS and its resemblance to other diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), animal health officials urge livestock owners and caretakers to report these symptoms to their veterinarian immediately. Most animals affected by VS recover with supportive care.

**VS REQUIREMENTS:** All livestock, including horses, imported into Florida from a VS affected state must meet additional import requirements of Florida Administrative Code 5C-3.002(5), [https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5C-3](https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5C-3)

Florida VS Requirements:

5C-3.002(5) Vesicular Stomatitis

(a) Certification for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS)

1. All hoofed animals, including horses, ruminants, swine, exotic and wild hoofed animals, originating from non-affected premises and not within 10 miles of an affected premises in a VS affected state, must be accompanied by an OCVI, dated within five (5) days of entry or reentry into Florida. The OCVI must be signed by an Accredited Veterinarian.

2. The following statement must be written on the OCVI by the examining Accredited Veterinarian: “All animals susceptible to Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) identified and included in this OCVI for shipment have been examined and found to be free from clinical signs and vectors of VS and have not been in contact with VS-affected animals and have not been within ten (10) miles of a VS-affected premises within the last thirty (30) days.”
(b) Prior Permission Number. Animals originating from non-affected premises in a VS-affected state will require a prior permission number. The prior permission number must be written on the OCVI. Prior permission numbers can be obtained by calling 850-410-0900 from 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday. Prior permission numbers can also be obtained online, at any time at: https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Livestock/Animal-Movement/Application-for-Animal-Movement-to-Florida-from-VS-Affected-States.

Exemption: Hoofed livestock originating from a USDA Approved Livestock Market in a VS-affected state and consigned to a USDA Approved Slaughter Facility in Florida, are exempt from VS requirements 5C-3.002(5)(a) stated above. A prior permission number is still required and must be listed on the accompanying import documentation.

All Florida origin shipments returning into the state must return with the original Florida OCVI dated within five (5) days of entry or meet the import requirements listed in 5C-3.002(5).

For additional information on VS, please refer to the USDA website at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/cattle-disease-information/vesicular-stomatitis-info.