

Dr. Kirk Smith

Dr. Smith grew up on a cattle and grain farm near McHenry, North Dakota. He obtained a B.S. degree in biology from the University of North Dakota in 1982. He then attended Iowa State University, where he obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1990 and an M.S. degree in Veterinary Preventive Medicine in 1991. He obtained a Ph.D. degree in Veterinary Parasitology from the University of Georgia in 1995. During 1996-1998 he served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); he was stationed at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Since 1999 he has been Supervisor of the MDH Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Diseases Unit. Dr. Smith has a deep personal and professional interest in agricultural safety, particularly infectious diseases acquired from animals in agricultural settings. He has extensive experience in surveillance and investigation of infectious diseases, including those that are most pertinent to agricultural populations and settings. Under his leadership, MDH has developed a nationally renowned outbreak investigation system. MDH has documented numerous zoonotic disease outbreaks due to animal contact. Dr. Smith is a long-time member of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Animal Contact Compendium Committee, for which he currently serves as co-chair. Dr. Smith is a past recipient of the CDC James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award (2002), and the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians Food Hygiene Veterinarian of the Year (2009). He has authored or co-authored more than 80 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Selected Peer-reviewed publications

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