



ANNUAL REPORT

Montana Department of Livestock

ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

Mission Statement

To control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals.

Serving Montana Since 1885



Figure 1. Mountain Goats
Source: DOL Staff

FISCAL YEAR

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

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LOOKING BACK

Summary Highlights Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

This annual report covers the state fiscal year spanning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (FY19), describing the work done by the Animal Health Bureau to carry out our mission of safeguarding the health and food production capacity of our state's livestock and poultry industry and preventing the transmission of animal disease to man. Our mission is accomplished with four major areas of activity: import/export regulations, disease control, alternative livestock, and field operations. As part of this work, the Animal Health Bureau provides education to animal owners, livestock producers, and veterinarians.



Figure 2. Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Source: Personal Photo

FY19 saw a continued focus on tuberculosis as the Animal Health Bureau worked on three separate bovine tuberculosis epidemiological investigations. Brucellosis management in Montana remains a top priority, even in the absence of new cases. This past year brought a boundary adjustment in response to the presence of seropositive elk outside of Montana's Designated Surveillance Area in southern Beaverhead County. The Bureau added a new veterinary position that has facilitated our work on emergency preparedness, zoonotic disease education and outreach, and management of our state poultry programs. Alongside all these efforts, the Bureau remains committed to monitoring animal imports, education and outreach for our accredited veterinarians, and providing timely and professional service to Montana's livestock industry.

Disease traceability remains central to all the Bureau's efforts and we continue to move towards electronic records to improve efficiency, reduce handling of paper, and eliminate human transcription errors.

The following report documents the hard work and efforts of the Animal Health Bureau staff. Their accomplishments are significant, and I am extremely grateful for their dedication to the work that they do. Our staff is truly invested in the success and health of Montana's livestock industry.

Sincerely,
Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

ANIMAL HEALTH STAFF

Marty Zaluski, DVM grew up in Butte Montana and graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. He joined the Department of Livestock in 2007. As the state veterinarian and the administrator of the Animal Health & Food Safety Division, he is focused on the mission of protecting animal and public health. He oversees the bureaus of Animal Health, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Meat & Poultry Inspection, and Milk & Egg. He has been highly involved in Montana's brucellosis program, trichomoniasis, traceability, animal imports and food safety. Marty Zaluski is married to Heather Zaluski, MD and has three children, Kate (13), Evan (17), and Maia (20). In his off-duty time, Zaluski enjoys brewing beer, riding dirt bikes, hunting, and boating.

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM is a Helena native and a 2004 graduate from Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She joined the Department of Livestock in 2008 after several years in large animal ambulatory practice. As the Assistant State Veterinarian and Animal Health Bureau Chief, Dr. Szymanski is responsible for the import office, Montana's state traceability program, animal health enforcement field staff, the alternative livestock program, and several disease programs. These include trichomoniasis, tuberculosis, as well as other cattle, equine, and small ruminant disease programs. In her off-duty time, Tahnee enjoys hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, and other outdoor adventures with her seven year-old daughter, Campbell. Tahnee is also an avid reader and loves making quilts from repurposed materials.

Eric Liska, DVM grew up on the family Angus ranch in Nebraska, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in science and a minor in agriculture. Following his graduation from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1998, he practiced and owned his own large animal veterinary practice in Helena for 11 years. Eric came on board with the department as the Brucellosis Program Veterinarian in June of 2009. He enjoys pheasant hunting and quality time with his wife Eleana, and daughters, Stella (15) and Grace (12).

Samantha Novak grew up in Elliston Montana and attended Helena Community College receiving a certificate in medical assisting. Samantha was hired by the Department of Livestock in October 2016 and is now a License Permit Technician. Samantha manages the *B-ovis* Certified Free Flock Program, Alternative Livestock, and Six-Month Passport Programs. She lives in the Helena Valley with her husband. Samantha likes to spend her free time with her family moving cows, haying, and helping out when needed.

Brooke Ruffier grew up in Butte Montana. She holds two bachelor degrees: one in equitation and training and one in business management-graduating from Rocky Mountain College in Billings in 2013. Brooke joined the department in March 2017. She manages the import office and the alternative livestock program. Brooke pals around with her corgi and enjoys training horses.

Cinda Young-Eichenfels grew up in Three Forks Montana and graduated from Carroll College with a Bachelor's Degree in English Writing/History in 1996. She furthered her education with a Paralegal Certification. Cinda joined the Department of Livestock in May 2012 and is the department's Administrative Rules Specialist and is editor of our monthly and annual reports. On her hobby ranch, Cinda raises a few chickens, attends to her horses, and looks for adventures in travel whenever possible!

Sara Morell grew up as a child of an army dad mostly in Louisiana and Germany, but has been in Montana since 1991. In 2006, Sara graduated with a Computer Science Degree and entered the healthcare industry until January 2017, when she began working for the Department of Livestock. Sara has three hard working boys (16, 20, and 25) that live in Lake County that are super busy on the spud farm and guest ranch. When not working with book authors in her off time, she enjoys hunting, fishing, kayaking, hiking, and time with friends and family.

ANIMAL HEALTH STAFF

Sara Starkey grew up in Southern California and earned an Associate's Degree in Equine Health from the University of Montana Western. She then spent four years working at a mixed animal veterinary clinic as a vet technician. Sara joined the Animal Health Bureau of the Department of Livestock in May 2016. She is our program specialist and manages seasonal grazer and biologics programs, coordinates the veterinary accreditation seminars, oversees electronic health certificate management and manages import quarantines. In her free time, Sara spends time with her husband, four dogs and six horses on their growing ranch.

Kasey Jones grew up in Haslett Michigan where she attended Michigan State University. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in animal science in 2014, she decided to move to Montana to enjoy the western way of life. Kasey joined the Department of Livestock in November 2018 and is now a License Permit Technician and manages the exotics, annual equine, and poultry programs. Kasey enjoys photography, spends most of her time traveling the state playing in softball tournaments, and exploring the beauty of Montana with her Brittany Spaniel, Dixie.

Ernie McCaffree was born and raised on the family cattle and sheep ranch north of the Musselshell in Eastern Montana. He attended Miles Community College in Miles City Montana. Started riding for the Department of Livestock (Brands) circa 1979. Ernie is the Western Montana Animal Health/Brands Law Enforcement Supervisor with specialized training in Animal Health compliance, Yellowstone National Park Bison and Alternative Livestock. Ernie has a small acreage in the Flathead Valley and runs a few cattle and horses. He is married to his wife of 36 years (Wendy) and two sons Zane and Shane - each are married and have a daughter. Ernie spends all the time he can outdoors with family, working livestock and hunting. He has a metal and wood shop where he makes custom-built branding irons and beautiful wood projects.

Tyler Thomas grew up outside of Billings Montana. He graduated from Northeast College in Powell Wyoming with a degree in Agricultural business in 2000. Ty hired on with the Department of Livestock in July 2002 and Tyler now holds the Assistant Administrator's position for Brands Enforcement for the Central Area. Tyler is married to wife Marlo and has two boys Gunnar (11) and Gavin (9). Tyler likes to hunt, fish, help his friends on their ranch, and goes to catfish tournaments around the state and nation. Tyler also coaches and watches his kids in their sport activities!

Travis Elings grew up in Montana and graduated from Browning High School. In 1997, Travis graduated from Dawson Community College in Glendive with an Ag Business Degree. Travis hired on with the Department of Livestock in 1997, first working in Great Falls. Travis is now located in the Billings area and is the Eastern Montana Area Supervisor working animal health and brands investigations. Travis lives in Shepherd Montana, is married, has a son who is a sophomore in college, and a daughter in the 6th grade. Off-duty Travis likes to rope with his kids and work in his shop.

Clay Vines was born and raised in Montana. He grew up and went to high school in Livingston, Montana. He attended Dawson Community college in Glendive, where he graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice; Law enforcement. He stayed competitive on the rodeo team participating in team and calf roping. Clay became a fishing guide in college and Fishing Outfitter in the years to follow. In 2014 he took a job with the Montana Department of Livestock and is now the Bison Program Manager living in the West Yellowstone, Montana area.

Mike Himmelspach was born and raised in Livingston Montana. He has spent most of his life guiding hunters and ranching in Paradise Valley. Mike hired on with the Department of Livestock in January of 2019 with the Bison Management Program. Mike enjoys hunting, riding horses in the mountains, and camping. Mike lives in Paradise Valley with his wife Alison.

D I S E A S E S

Brucellosis—Compliance Assessment of the DSA

The annual Designated Surveillance Area, (DSA) compliance assessment is an internal audit of compliance with brucellosis testing requirements for movement and change of ownership. The data for the assessment is not complete until the end of each fiscal year. Therefore, the FY18 assessment was completed in FY19.

The FY18 evaluation included test, sale and movement records of 358 producers active in the DSA, approximately 86,352 animals, and nearly 88,000 DSA associated brucellosis tests. These tests include approximately 7,000 tests conducted as part of epidemiologic investigations conducted that year. In addition to testing requirements, DSA cattle and domestic bison are also subject to additional identification and vaccination regulations.

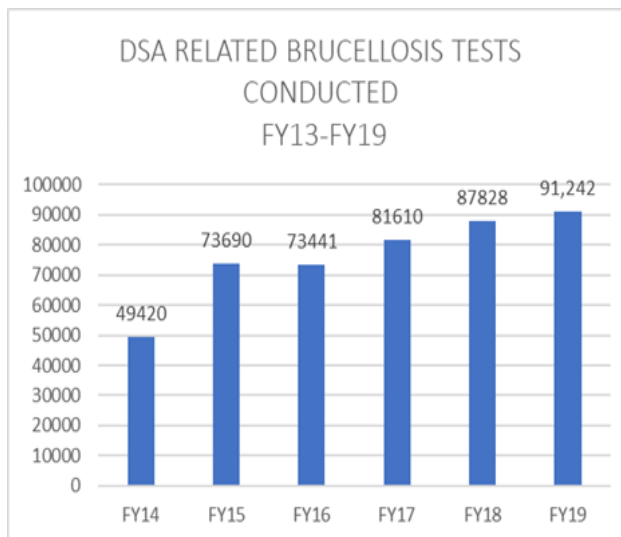


Figure 3. Test Chart
Source: DOL Staff

The compliance assessment found that only four of Montana’s 358 DSA producers were out of compliance with DSA testing requirements for one or more movements, sale, or both. To complete the assessment, the Animal Health Bureau contacted each of the producers thought to be non-compliant to obtain follow-up information and provide education. The final compliance rate for FY18 was 99%.

The high compliance rate is something that DSA producers, veterinarians and enforcement personnel should be proud of. High compliance instills trading partner confidence which in turn maintains the marketability of Montana’s livestock.

Although it can take months for the data to be accumulated and evaluated from the previous year to complete the compliance assessment, we do have some data for FY19. Due to the relatively small expansion of the DSA in Beaverhead County, we had more than 370 producers who utilized the ground within the DSA. DSA related tests conducted over the years (including FY19) are reflected in Figure 3. The dollar amounts reimbursed are reflected in Figure 4.

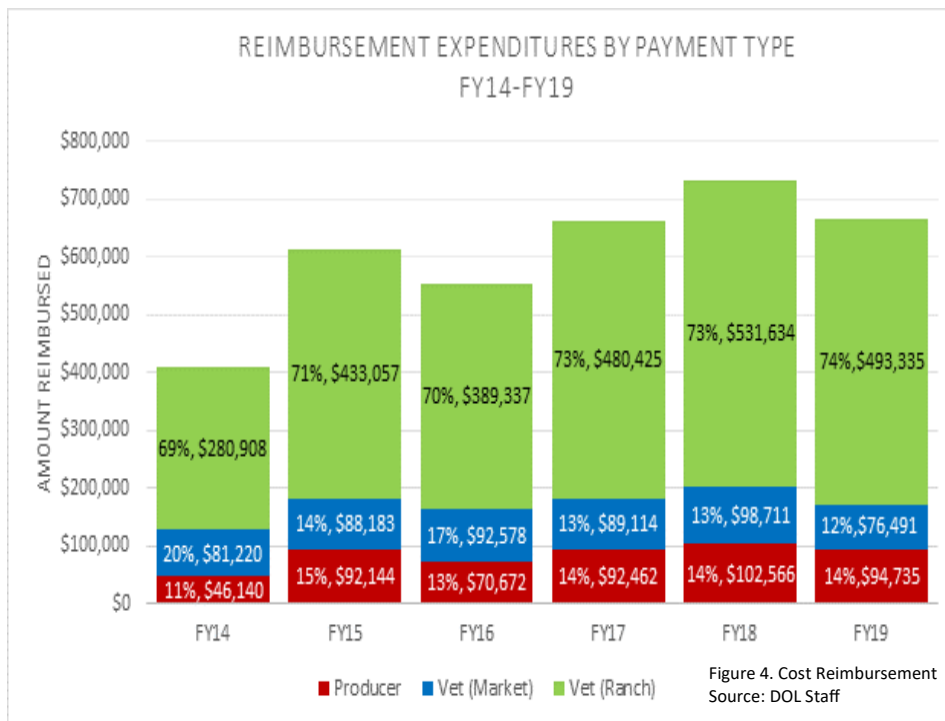


Figure 4. Cost Reimbursement
Source: DOL Staff

DISEASES

Brucellosis – DSA Boundary Adjustment and Targeted Elk Surveillance

At the beginning of FY19, the Animal Health Bureau (AHB) proposed a Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) boundary adjustment in southern Beaverhead County southwest of Lima (Figure 5). The proposed change to the boundary followed the detection of seropositive elk outside of the current DSA during the 2018 (FY18) targeted elk capture conducted by Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Livestock that utilize this area are at risk of exposure to the disease and are now included in the DSA program regulations.

Most of the producers who utilize the area where the DSA boundary was expanded were proactive and contacted Department of Livestock (DOL) prior to the rule going into effect to develop a plan to make certain that they were in compliance once the rule went into effect. Meetings were held individually, with producer groups, and grazing associations to prepare.

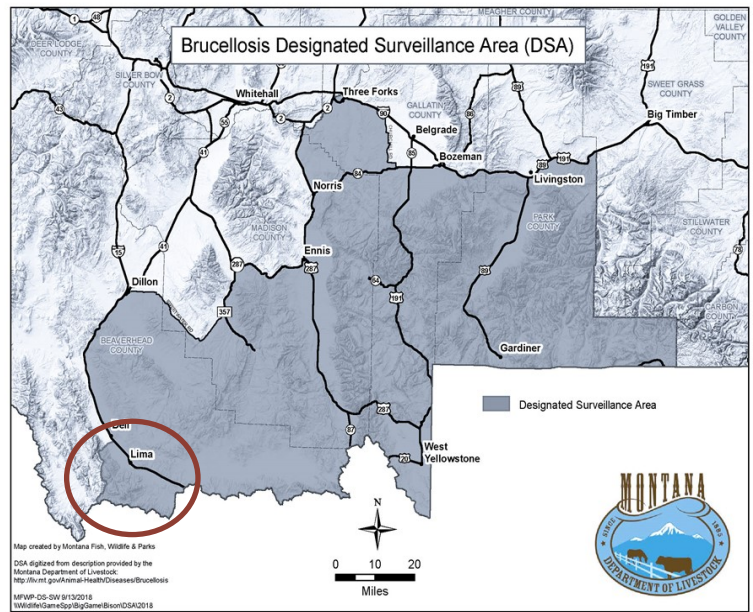


Figure 5. New DSA Surveillance Area
Source: DOL Staff

Nearly 20 producers contacted the department to create individual management agreements outlining their requirements and/or variances after the rule's implementation in October of 2018.

The boundary adjustment accounted for more than 8,000 additional tests to meet DSA requirements in FY19.

In February of 2019 (FY19), elk populations in three different locations along the DSA boundary were targeted. Ninety-nine (99) elk were captured and tested for brucellosis in Hunt District (HD) 302 and HD328 combined and 49 elk were captured and sampled in the Bangtails near Livingston (see Figure 6). No brucellosis exposed elk were found in any of the three locations.

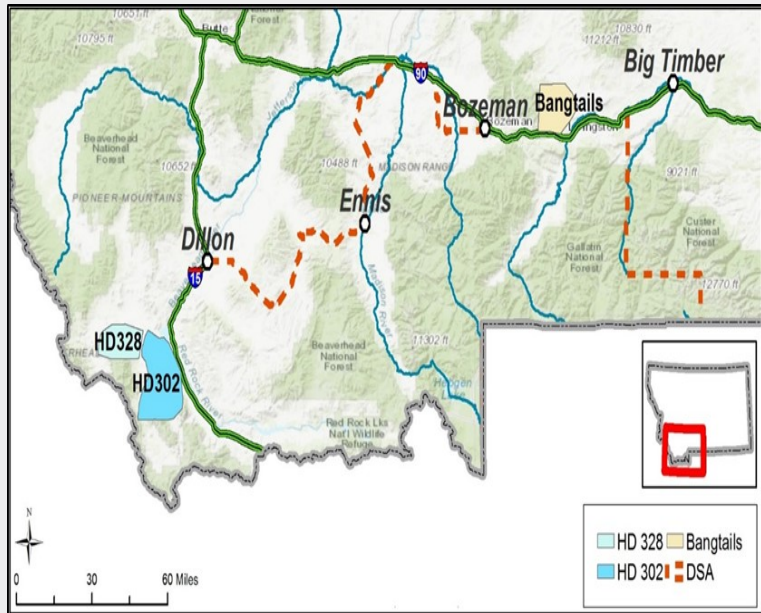


Figure 6. Elk Surveillance Areas
Source: DOL Staff

D I S E A S E S

Brucellosis—Epidemiologic Investigations

Due to Montana’s robust brucellosis surveillance program, we have been able to find positive herds early, prior to intra-herd transmission, and with a low prevalence of the disease. When an affected herd is found, the department conducts a full epidemiologic investigation. Some investigations involve large numbers of livestock and can be lengthy and expensive to both the department and the producers involved. Despite the high level of surveillance, a brucellosis affected herd was not discovered in FY19.

Activity

Annual testing of the affected Gallatin County bison herd was completed as part of ongoing investigation. The herd was found to be positive in 2010. This herd has constant exposure to positive elk during the risk period and therefore continued discovery of exposed bison is expected each year.

An epidemiologic investigation was started after two animals in a Beaverhead County herd tested positive on a brucellosis serologic test. Both animals were euthanized and sampled for culture. The culture revealed that the positive results were due to a cross reaction on the blood test and therefore the investigation was closed.

Epidemiologic work was completed following the tracing of animals purchased from one of Wyoming’s affected cattle herds.

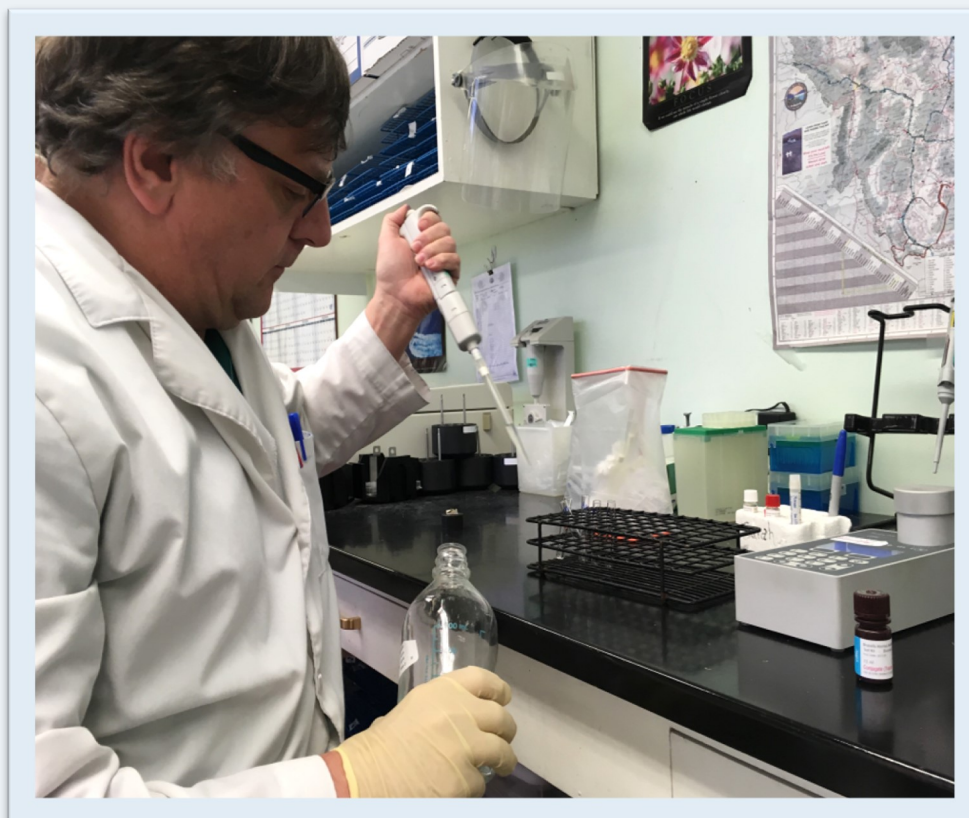


Figure 7. Mr. Knoppe—(USDA) Brucellosis testing
Source: DOL Staff

DISEASES

Brucellosis—Vaccination

The Department of Livestock amended an administrative rule which increased the area (Figure 8) in Montana in which brucellosis vaccination is required to include counties adjacent to areas of risk such as Montana's Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and Wyoming's Brucellosis Area of Concern.

Vaccination of animals outside the boundary of our DSA creates an area of assurance. While DOL and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) work to ensure that the boundary of our DSA reflects the distribution of seropositive wildlife on the landscape, we cannot conduct surveillance on the entire boundary on an annual basis. Therefore, having vaccinated animals on the periphery of the DSA provides protection from changes in wildlife distribution on the landscape.

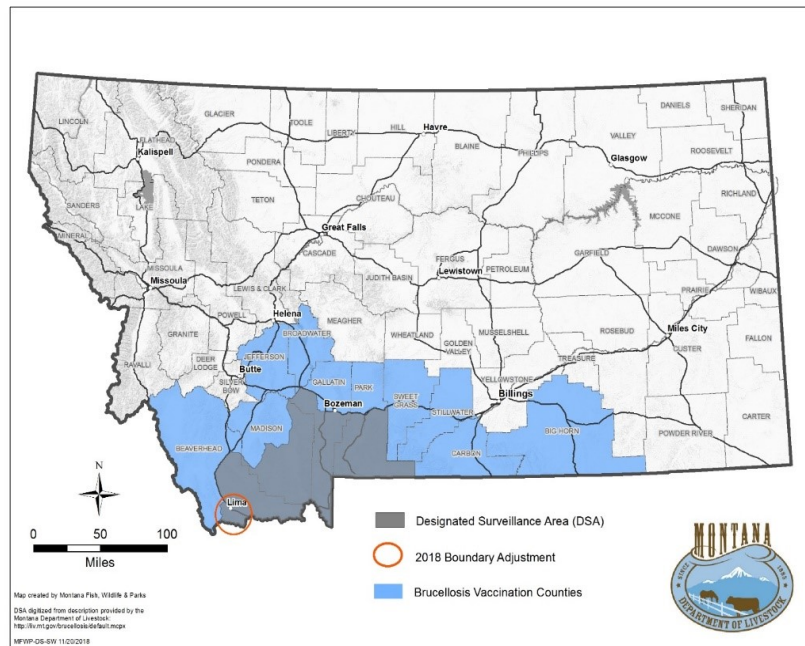


Figure 8. Montana's DSA and ten brucellosis vaccination counties

Source: DOL Staff

The ten counties named in the rule either border or contain an area where seropositive wildlife have been documented.

The rule (ARM 32.3. 436) reads as follows:

- (1) All sexually intact female cattle and domestic bison 12 months of age or older in Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Park, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass Counties must be official vaccinates.
 - (a) Variances or exceptions to requirements will be considered on an individual basis by the administrator.

Because this rule no longer requires that females become official vaccinates by the end of the calendar year, it allows greater flexibility for producers in the management of replacement heifers and new additions to the herd.

The Animal Health Bureau developed an education and outreach plan for veterinarians and producers in the ten vaccination counties. The plan included press releases, mailing individual post cards to all producers in the ten counties, reminder cards that were placed in proceeds checks at markets, and informational posters for display at markets and veterinary clinics. Outreach also includes local producer meetings that will be held during FY20.

Education is a priority and should minimize the need for enforcement for which there is a phased in approach. Enforcement of the vaccination rule began in FY19 on all females born in 2018 or since. These young females must be vaccinated by 12 months of age. Enforcement of the requirement for females born in 2017 or earlier will begin in 2021. Because females should only be vaccinated when not pregnant, this phase-in enforcement allows for two post calving (nor pregnant) opportunities to have vaccination completed.

D I S E A S E S

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

The Department of Livestock (DOL) and United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) personnel completed EIA testing on the 2017 Gallatin County EIA positive equine herd. This testing was post quarantine release testing agreed upon in a herd plan, due to the high initial infection rate in the herd. All of the animals tested negative for EIA. No further action is planned with this herd. DOL recommends continued testing of new introductions to the herd.

Johne's Disease

The Animal Health Bureau (AHB) worked on the development of a state Johne's disease control program that will be available to producers in August 2019. In recent months, the department has received inquiries from individuals seeking breeding stock from cattle herds that are engaged in Johne's management. To date, such a program has not existed in the state. The program will be available to beef and dairy producers who, depending on disease status, wish to manage the disease or prevent the introduction of Johne's within their herd. The Johne's disease control program will be comprised of five levels (0-4) as follows:

- Level 0 constitutes herds with unmanaged risk, or herds that have taken no action to mitigate the spread of Johne's disease.
- Level I herds are classified as having an evaluated risk of disease which includes a herd plan and removal or isolation of clinical and test positive animals.
- Level II, or managed risk herds, includes testing of all cattle with removal of clinical and test positive cases.
- Level III herds have completed annual testing on all cattle, with no clinical or test positive cases for the previous two years and
- Level IV herds have completed five years with no clinical or test positive cases.

A shift in mind-set is necessary to recognize that while a herd may have diagnosed cases of Johne's disease, if producers are managing the disease, there is a lower risk of disease spread than from a herd of unknown status that has done nothing to detect or manage the disease. Producers who choose to participate can use their program status when marketing animals.



Figure 9. Trespassing Cattle
Source: DOL Staff

DISEASES

Rabies

Sixteen cases of rabies were reported in Montana in FY19. All of these cases were bats diagnosed at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The counties with positive submissions included Carbon, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Missoula, Stillwater, and Yellowstone. Both positive and unsuitable rabies submissions are followed up by the Animal Health Bureau (AHB). Management of rabies cases is dependent on the exposed animal's rabies vaccination status and availability of the aggressor (suspect rabid animal) for testing.

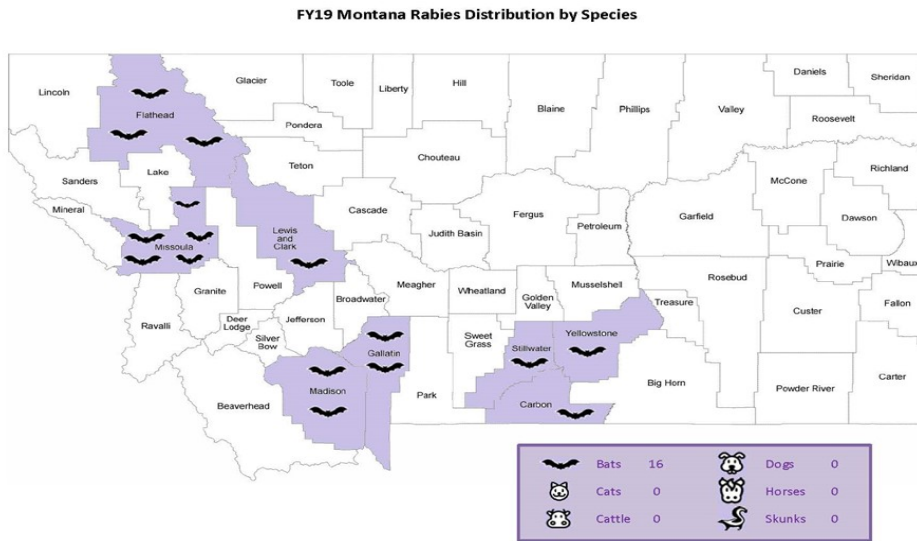


Figure 10. Montana Rabies Distribution by Species and County FY19.
Source: DOL Staff

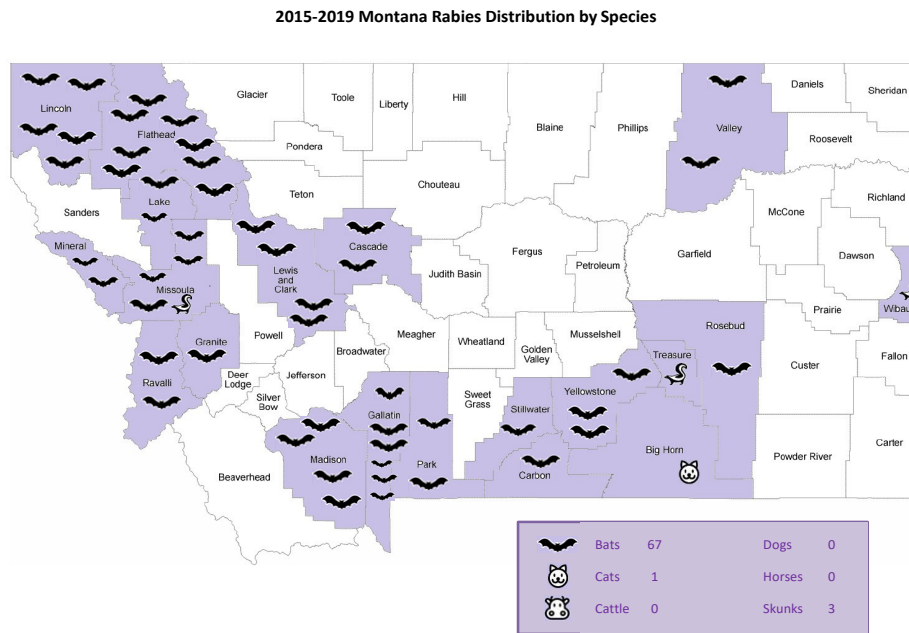


Figure 11. Montana Rabies Distribution by Species and County 2015-2019
Source: DOL Staff

D I S E A S E S

Trichomoniasis

During FY19, Department of Livestock (DOL) worked on three trichomoniasis epidemiological investigations: a new detection of trichomoniasis in Glacier County, a positive herd in Choteau County diagnosed in June 2018, and a positive herd in Carter County diagnosed in the fall of 2017.

The 2017 Carter County herd was a single bull diagnosed when tested for interstate movement. No additional positive animals were found within the herd of origin or the five adjacent herds required to test as part of the investigation. The affected herd completed required post-breeding testing and has been released from affected herd status.

The 2018 Choteau County herd was diagnosed shortly before herds were turning bulls out for breeding. A single bull was found to be positive in the herd. The herd was tested due to low breed up rates the previous fall. The affected producer completed a herd management plan with DOL, all female cattle were classified as low risk after having been removed from bulls for >120 days, the positive bull was sold to slaughter, and all remaining non-virgin bulls completed three negative individual animal tests. The herd also completed required post-breeding testing and was released from affected herd status. Additionally, DOL looked at animal movements from the affected herd to ensure that all potential breeding cattle sold into slaughter channels.



Figure 12. Bull
Source: DOL Staff

Thirteen adjacent herds were identified in Choteau County and required to test. Because of the timing of finding the affected bull, DOL worked with producers who had already turned out bulls, on the timing of testing. Paul Johnson, District Investigator, worked closely with the affected and adjacent herds to provide information about the disease as well the program requirements. All 13 adjacent herds completed required testing and have been released from sale or movement restrictions.

The only newly diagnosed herd in FY19 was a Glacier County herd with a single positive bull. The bull was owned by a tribal producer. Dr. Szymanski and Mike Hayes, District Investigator, worked with the local veterinarian, the producer, and tribal officials on management of the case. The herd had experienced a high open rate in fall of 2018 but had attributed the decrease to the previous winter's weather. The producer's cattle were restricted to slaughter only pending sale of the positive bull to slaughter, three negative whole herd tests of remaining bulls, and completion of a post-season breeding test of bulls. At this time, the producer has sold the positive animal and completed the three required tests of all remaining animals. Four adjacent herds have been notified and have begun testing. The department continues to work with the affected producer to ensure all required testing is complete.

D I S E A S E S

Tuberculosis

Montana was involved in three bovine tuberculosis (TB) epidemiological investigations in FY19. All of these investigations were a result of detections of TB in animals as part of routine post-mortem slaughter inspection in other states.

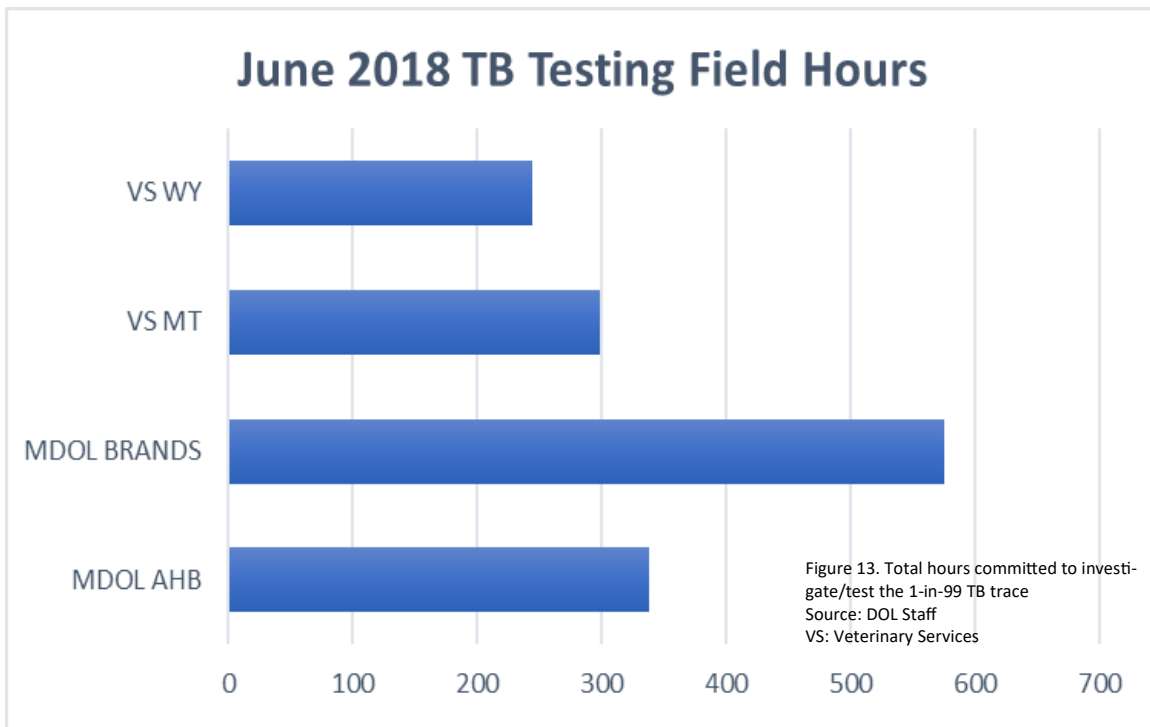
In June 2018, the first TB investigation was associated with the detection of TB in a steer at a slaughter plant in South Dakota. The steer was finished at a terminal feedlot in South Dakota. Feedlot records indicate the entire feedlot pen that contained the steer was purchased as a single lot through a South Dakota livestock market. The lot of approximately 60 animals came out of a group of 405 assembled cattle from a South Dakota buyer. It was determined that there were 99 potential sources from South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Wyoming that contributed to the group of 405 animals. Based upon United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) direction, states were required to conduct whole herd testing on all potential source herds.

Montana had 17 potential source herds of which:

- ◆ 2 had no testing requirements due to either dispersion of source herd with no remaining animals available for testing or color of animal sold. The animal at slaughter was confirmed to have a black hide.
- ◆ 13 have completed all required testing.
- ◆ 2 with cow herds outstanding (testing expected September/October 2019).

To date, 2838 head have been tested as part of this investigation with 35 Caudal Fold Test (CFT) suspects, and 2 Comparative Cervical Test (CCT) suspects that were confirmed negative through indemnification, euthanasia, post-mortem examination, and testing. No additional cases of TB have been detected in any of the involved states. Approximately 2200 head remain to be tested in Montana.

This investigation underscores the importance of an effective traceability system. The absence of official identification or other documentation tying the infected animal to a source herd, resulted in 99 herds subject to testing requirements. In Montana alone, this required collaboration between state and federal resources and a significant number of hours worked and miles traveled as shown in Figures 13 and 14.



D I S E A S E S

Tuberculosis, continued

The second TB investigation was due to a detection in a steer at slaughter in December of 2018. Similar to the June 2018 case, the steer was finished at a South Dakota feedlot. Feedlot records indicated three potential source herds for the steer, two in South Dakota and one in Montana. The Montana source herd in Petroleum County remains under quarantine pending testing of the cow herd. Bulls and heifers were tested in May 2019 with all animals negative. One of the herds in South Dakota has also tested with all animals negative.

The third TB investigation was a beef cow found to be positive at a Nebraska slaughter plant in March of 2019. The cow had spent 110 days on feed in a South Dakota feedlot immediately prior to slaughter. Official identification collected from the animal at slaughter, health certificate data, and brand data from a Montana livestock market identified a Treasure County herd as the source herd for the animal. Because this TB traceback involved a known source herd, the herd of origin was placed under quarantine and required to complete two whole herd tests a minimum of 60 days apart. Eight TB responders were removed from the herd under indemnity, euthanized, and examined and tested post-mortem. All animals were determined to be negative for TB and the herd has since been released from quarantine with a requirement to complete an assurance test in 6-12 months.

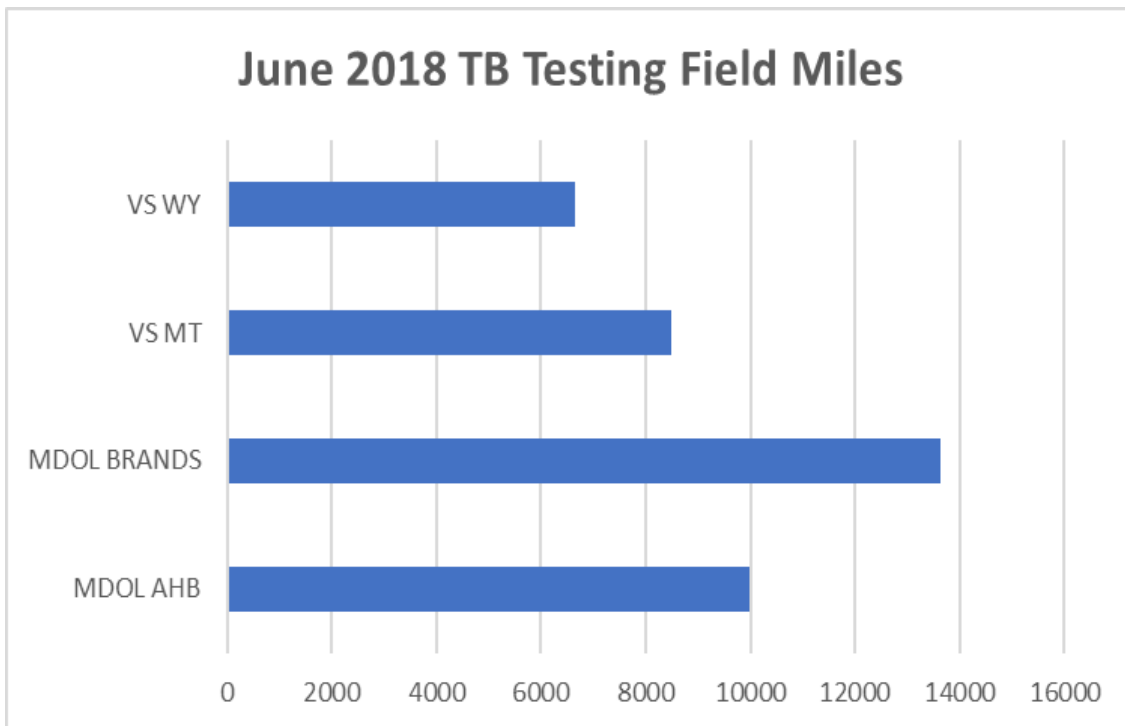


Figure 14. Total miles committed to investigate/test the 1-in-99 TB trace
Source: DOL Staff
VS: Veterinary Services

D I S E A S E S

Tuberculosis, continued

The South Dakota feedlot pen where the tuberculosis-positive cow was fed prior to slaughter contained 161 animals—43 from a livestock market in Montana (including the positive cow) and 118 head from a South Dakota livestock market. At this time, it has not been determined if herds will be required to complete TB testing as potential sources of the disease source.

As part of this investigation, Department of Livestock (DOL) held a public meeting for producers in and around the Treasure County herd. There were approximately 70 attendees. DOL presented information on bovine TB, a summary of the trace, and information on the investigation including source herd testing requirements, trace-ins, trace-outs, and wildlife surveillance.

DOL also notified officials at Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Public Health, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services (WS) regarding the epidemiological investigation. Discussions with FWP and WS included potential framework to conduct wildlife surveillance around a premises should we diagnose bovine TB in Montana. This framework included the development of a survey plan to outline agency responsibilities and the scope of surveillance to be conducted. Additionally, FWP has drafted a TB response plan that DOL has reviewed and provided input on.

Other efforts pertaining to TB testing and surveillance in Montana are as follows:

- Animal Health Bureau (AHB) worked with a Montana livestock producer that had a bull and four heifers tested to go to the Western Stock Show in Denver. The bull was a suspect on the tuberculosis caudal fold test (CFT). The local veterinarian left multiple messages with USDA APHIS VS that were not checked due to the government shutdown and a single message on an DOL cell number that was missed. The ten-day window that the animal was eligible to be injected in elapsed without the comparative cervical test being initiated. This ten-day window is due to changes in the animal's immune system that invalidate test results beyond 10 days post caudal fold test. The animal and all other susceptible species were therefore placed under quarantine pending retest of the animal in 60 days. The animal was negative on the 60-day CFT and the producer was released from quarantine.



Figure 15. TB testing a bovine
Source: DOL Staff

- AHB also worked with USDA, a private veterinarian, and an alternative livestock producer regarding an elk that was classified as a TB reactor following two positive Dual Path Platform (DPP) tests. The producer's premises and all susceptible species were placed under quarantine pending the completion of all TB testing. The animal was indemnified, euthanized, examined and tested post-mortem. Several enlarged and lesioned lymph nodes were detected. Histopathology from National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) indicated that the lesions detected on post-mortem evaluation were due to a non-TB related bacterium or a fungal infection. Culture results were also negative, and the premises was released from quarantine.

D I S E A S E S

West Nile Virus

Fifty-two confirmed cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in 20 Montana counties were reported in 2018. Nineteen of the 52 (36%) confirmed cases were mortalities. Interestingly, two of this year's cases had been vaccinated for WNV earlier in 2018. The first was a recently purchased horse with an unknown vaccination history that received a single WNV vaccine earlier in the year. The second was vaccinated three weeks prior to clinical onset. All other confirmed positive animals had no vaccination history or were greater than one year past due. Positive WNV cases are also reported to public health to inform where positive mosquito pools are located within the state and to help with messaging for WNV prevention in humans.

WNV Cases (2013-2018) by Report Date

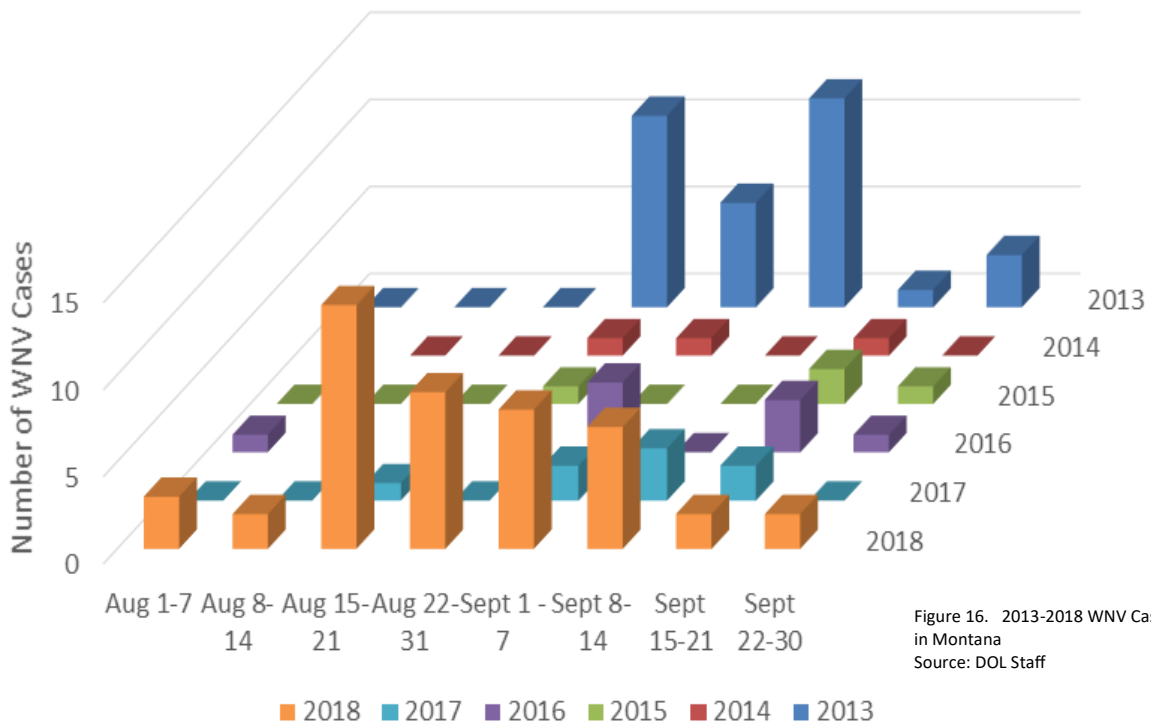


Figure 16. 2013-2018 WNV Cases in Montana
Source: DOL Staff

Other Reportable Diseases

Animal Health Bureau (AHB) consulted with a Ravalli County veterinarian and a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) veterinarian following the sudden death of two horses imported into Montana in a group of 140 destined for adoption. The adoption event was delayed until further diagnostics were conducted. BLM voluntarily elected to hold the animals for 72 hours to evaluate if additional animals become ill. All remaining horses stayed healthy and the voluntary hold order was released in order to proceed with adoption events.

T R A C E A B I L I T Y

The Department of Livestock (DOL) continues to work on improving our state's traceability system to minimize the impact of disease tracing activity on producers. An effective traceability system will reduce the number of animals involved in a disease trace. As part of this effort, the DOL employs one part time data entry position committed to entering export data into our state animal health program, USAHerds. Additionally, DOL announced that beginning January 1, 2020, we will no longer be printing paper Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) booklets and effective January 1, 2021, the department will require that all export CVIs be issued using an available electronic technology. Following feedback from Montana veterinarians, the department will continue to accept paper CVIs in case of electronic CVI technical problems. This discretion will be done on a case-by-case basis and will only be permitted for veterinarians who have adopted electronic options.

This change coincides with the April 2019 announcement from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the phase out of metal National Uniform Ear tagging System (NUES) tags over the next two years. Beginning January 1, 2021, producers and veterinarians will no longer be allowed to apply metal NUES tags to cattle and domestic bison as a form of official identification and in 2023, all animals moving across state lines that are required to be officially identified, must be identified with an RFID tag.

To comply with USDA, animal disease traceability (ADT) cooperative agreement funding requirements, the department completes test trace exercises on an annual basis. These exercises also allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of our state program. The following test traces were conducted in FY19:

- ◆ Animal Health Bureau (AHB) was asked to track the state from which an animal was shipped into Montana. By searching the import records in USAHerds, Animal Health Bureau (AHB) was able to determine the date and CVI number for the shipment of the animal in question. Total time to successfully complete trace was less than 15 minutes.
- ◆ A National Priority Trace was completed and supplied to AHB by National Animal Disease Traceability Staff. AHB was able to successfully locate the premises where the animal was initially identified and the location from which the animal moved out of Montana in less than one hour. A combination of electronic and paper records was used. National Priority Trace exercises are initiated by national staff and are to be treated with the same urgency as an actual disease trace.
- ◆ AHB was not able to successfully complete a second national priority trace as it was a tag applied at the market after the sale. Based upon tagging practices, it is impossible to correlate the tag back to the consignor of the animal without additional information. To successfully correlate a tag applied after the sale of an animal would require correlating the official ID to the back tag applied prior to the sale.
- ◆ AHB completed five additional trace performance measures provided by USDA staff. The Trace Performance Measures (TPMs) are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a state's traceability system and are mandatory associated with the traceability cooperative agreement.

Additionally, to support the adoption of electronic technologies by accredited veterinarians, AHB conducted the following outreach:

- ◆ The department met with a Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) veterinarian and staff regarding the use of MIMS and other electronic data capture systems in the field provided hands on training to staff in preparation for fall cattle work.
- ◆ The department worked with veterinarians on the newly released AgView; a product that allows veterinarian to issue electronic certificates of veterinary inspection on a phone, tablet, or desktop.
- ◆ The department worked with veterinarians using MIMS software in the field for electronic data capture while performing brucellosis testing. Historically, DOL has provided hardware for veterinarians in and around the DSA to use for data capture while performing regulatory work.

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

The Animal Health Bureau (AHB) submitted shortage nominations to National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for the next cycle of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). Last fiscal year, Montana had three successful applications in our designated shortage areas. The VMLRP program will provide up to \$25,000 per year for three years towards student loans of successful candidates.

Montana's shortage nominations are as follows:

2019 Shortage Nomination Area	Priority	Carryover**
Custer, Prairie	High	No
Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, Toole	High	Yes
Garfield, McCone	Critical	Yes
Sanders, Mineral	High	No
Wheatland, Golden Valley, Sweet Grass	High	No
Daniels, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley	High	Yes
Gallatin (Public practice)	Critical	No

Figure 17. VMLRP Table
Source DOL Staff

** Carryover: Designation from the previous year that was not awarded.

Deputy State Veterinarians Training

AHB conducted three joint accreditation sessions for 45 veterinarians new to practice in Montana. The sessions are conducted in partnership with United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service- Veterinary Services (USDA APHIS VS) and provide information to veterinarians on issues specific to Montana, including brucellosis, trichomoniasis, and traceability. In addition to the group session, Department of Livestock (DOL) and USDA staff conducted two one-on-one sessions for veterinarians in unique circumstances whose practice would be significantly impacted by waiting for the next available training.

AHB and public health personnel presented a continuing education session at the 2019 summer Montana Veterinary Medical Association meeting. Topics included: electronic health certificates, tuberculosis investigations and testing protocols, African swine fever, recent changes to brucellosis regulation, multistate outbreak of salmonella linked to pork, and animal cruelty cases.

AHB continues to publish quarterly newsletters and as needed MDOL Update emails with more time sensitive information for Montana deputy state veterinarians.

TRAINING / EDUCATION

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

The NPIP program was initially developed to combat *Salmonella pullorum*, a disease that can cause high mortality in young poultry. The NPIP program focuses on managing disease risk in live birds and hatching eggs. Montana currently has eight certified NPIP flocks which are either backyard poultry or game birds, in Flathead, Glacier, Yellowstone, Ravalli, Sweetgrass, and Pondera counties. To become enrolled in and to maintain NPIP status, annual flock testing is required for *Salmonella pullorum*. In many cases, producers elect to also test their flock for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) surveillance. In FY19, nearly 400 birds were tested for *Salmonella Pullorum* and 250 were tested for avian influenza. The department has two NPIP authorized testing agents and are looking to train more individuals in the future, due to the growing interest in NPIP participation from poultry owners.

In February, Dr. Forseth attended the Live Bird Marketing Systems Working Group meeting in San Diego, California to learn more about the NPIP program. Topics discussed included avian influenza (Low Path and High Path), Initial State Response and Containment Plans (ISRCP), depopulating a large group of birds in response to a health event, Virulent Newcastle Disease including outreach and education, health monitoring for people exposed to avian influenza, and the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS).



Figure 18. Turkey
Source: DOL Staff

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Emergency Preparedness

FY19 was another busy year for emergency preparedness at the Department of Livestock (DOL). The DOL continued to work with the Department of Administration (DOA) to advance continuity of business planning. This planning ensures that the DOL is able to provide services to the public during an event that affects staff or infrastructure. Every bureau has identified and ranked the importance of the processes they conduct, has been assigned a plan manager and all managers have completed the required training. The bureaus within the DOL offer several services critical to the state because of their influence on human and animal health, as well as the livestock industries' contribution to the state economy.

In October, the Animal Health Bureau (AHB) hired a full-time program veterinarian, Dr. Forseth, to work on Montana's animal emergency preparedness and response. In FY19 the department's two-year plan of action for emergency preparedness and response was written in response to information gained during the Agriculture Response Management and Resources (ARMAR) exercise conducted May 2018. The emergency preparedness and response plan discusses specific tasks that address the many components of a response to an animal emergency. These tasks include Incident Command Structure (ICS) training, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) training, depopulation and carcass disposal, surveillance and vaccination, secure food supply plans, National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) lab testing, communication with veterinarians and stakeholders, as well as plans to exercise/practice components of the plan once complete. While much focus is given to preparation for a disease outbreak affecting our livestock industries, many of the preparedness efforts will also apply to other situations such as natural disasters.

In FY19 the department completed ICS training with Disaster Emergency Services (DES) and the AHB also completed multiple Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) trainings with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). AHB met with Brands Enforcement district investigators to describe the use of a penetrating captive bolt gun which will likely be used as a depopulation method during an emergency, when euthanasia is warranted.

The AHB has made strong efforts toward the development and implementation of the Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Plan. The SPS plans will facilitate continuity of business for non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products. The AHB held an educational learning session for producers, veterinarians, extension personnel and others, to learn more about the program. Other preparedness efforts completed in FY19 included draft press releases, draft stop movement orders and draft emergency declarations to help facilitate timely communication with stakeholders and the public. The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is also pursuing certification to test for African Swine Fever (ASF) which is a viral disease that can cause high death loss in swine herds and is currently a foreign animal disease (FAD) of high concern because of a rapid spread in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Last, Dr. Forseth represented the AHB in Manhattan, Kansas at a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) exercise, hosted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. This exercise addressed many of the components in the AHB's response plan including ICS and secure food supply plans. The AHB will be able to utilize many resources from this exercise, while updating Montana's animal emergency preparedness and response plan.



Figure 19. Secure Food Supply Plans Logo
Source: USAHA.org

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Public Health

In FY19, the Department of Livestock (DOL) along with the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), began planning Montana's first annual "One-Health in the 406" Conference to be held at Montana State University, November 2019. Conference attendees will include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, nurses, physicians, epidemiologists, public health personnel and laboratory personnel. This year's topic will focus on disease and occupational risks that could have the highest impact on pregnant women and women of reproductive age. Agenda topics will include epidemiologic investigations, a summary of recent research completed on occupational and zoonotic hazards for the pregnant population, case studies, and a review of quality sample submissions to laboratories.

The ongoing collaboration with our public health partners includes:

- 1) A quarterly publication addressing a specific One Health topic. Topics covered in FY19 included, the Long horned Tick, Leptospirosis, and the One Health in the 406 Conference.
- 2) Contracting with a private veterinarian who traveled across the state, providing education to Montana fair participants about zoonotic issues at the animal-human-environment interface. The private veterinarian was able to travel to 23 counties including Gallatin, Broadwater, Liberty, Hill, Beaverhead, Sanders, Lake, Dawson, Fallon, Flathead, Richland, Big Horn, Toole, Fergus, Lewis and Clark, Custer, Ravalli, Madison, Carter, Yellowstone, Blaine, Cascade, and Prairie.
- 3) AHB offering \$5000 in supplemental funding to counties throughout the state for the rental or purchase of handwashing stations to be used at county fairs. For the 2019 fair season, funding will be provided to Flathead, Lewis and Clark, Ravalli, Madison, Jefferson, Gallatin, Fergus, Choteau, Broadwater and Custer counties. County extension offices throughout the state also received informational materials including posters that focus on proper handwashing, zoonotic diseases, and biosecurity at fairs.
- 4) A press release discussing the risks of Salmonella for poultry owners in the spring of 2019. In addition to the press release, Animal Health Bureau (AHB) and DPHHS sent informational packets to retail locations selling poultry around the state with signs and handouts that focused on the risks of Salmonella associated with handling live poultry.



Figure 20. Public Health Image
Source: cdc.gov

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Import/Export

The Import/Export section of the Animal Health Bureau strives to provide excellent customer service through a busy call center, an after-hours answering service, and several online systems. The online permit system allows for an additional permitting option for out-of-state veterinarians with horses traveling into the state. The application and payment system for specialized permits provide an alternate means for customers to submit and pay for applications for annual equine permits, equine and bovine semen permits, poultry shipping permits, biologic shipping permits and a few additional annual permits. The department collected a total of \$6,808.00 in fee transactions using this system. The fee for each permit is set by rule and must be commensurate with costs to the department. During the reporting period Animal Health Bureau issued 15,289 permits for 155,507 cattle; 28,510 horses; 17,813 pigs to enter or return to Montana. See Figure 21.

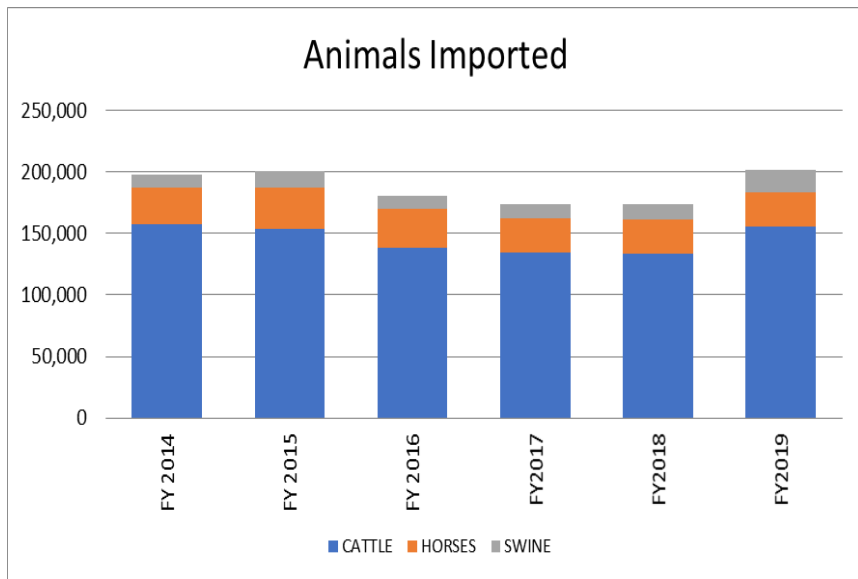


Figure 21. Animals Imported by Species
Source: DOL Staff

The call center processed 22,154 calls between the state vet line and the import line. Both lines receive permit requests, general questions, and transfers within the department. See Figure 22.

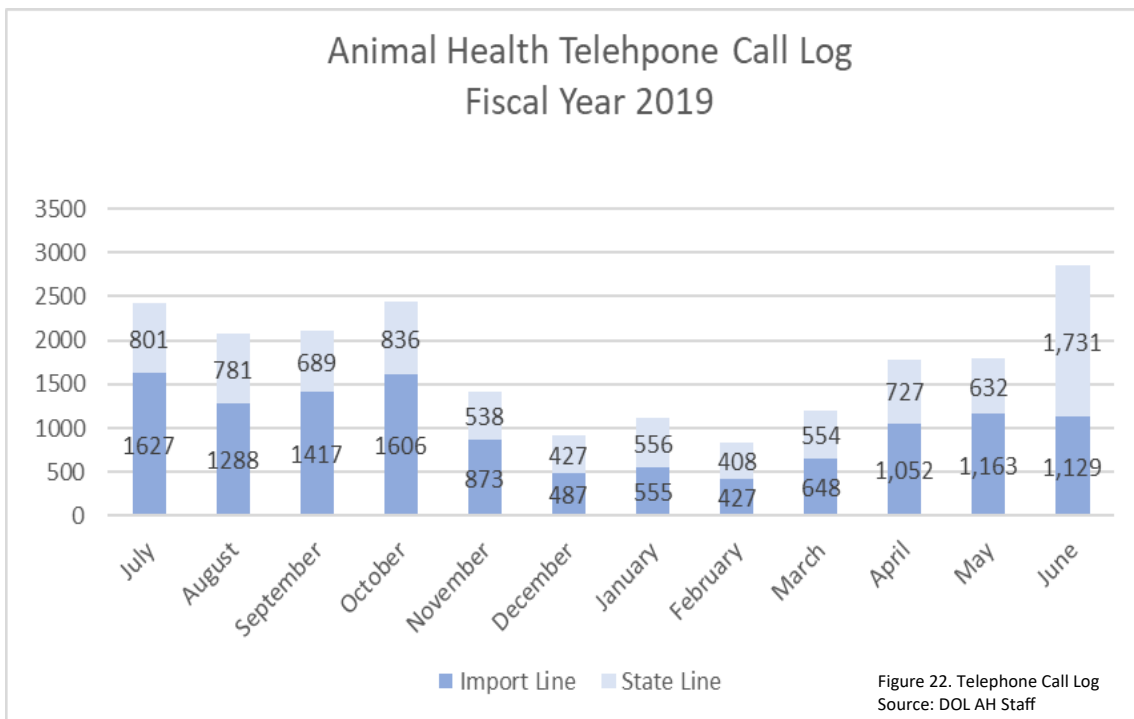


Figure 22. Telephone Call Log
Source: DOL AH Staff

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Import/Export, continued

During the reporting period 1,171,989 cattle were exported from Montana. Cattle and bison certificates and identification numbers are entered into the USAHERDS department database. Electronic certificates for all species are also uploaded into the database. All other species paper certificates are not entered into the database due to staffing restrictions. See Figure 23.

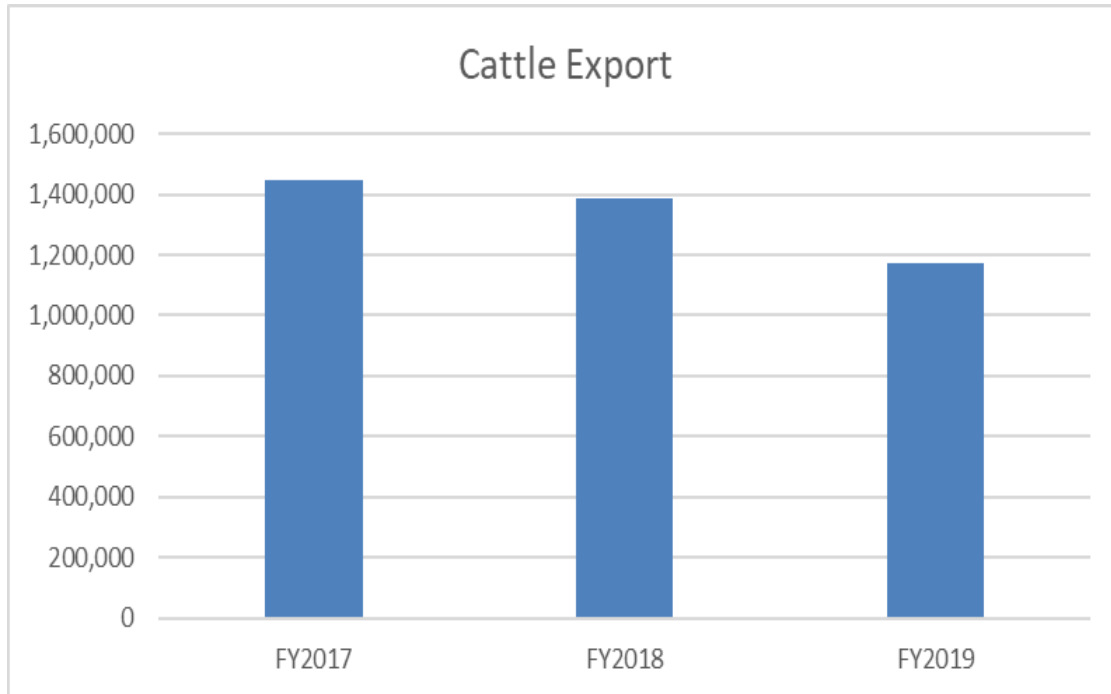


Figure 23. Cattle Exports by number of head
Source: DOL Staff

USAHERDS

USAHERDS is the data entry system used to document all livestock movements in and out of Montana. This system allows the department to track potential disease threats and quarantine animals until the risk has been mitigated. In June 2018, Computer Aid, the vendor for USAHERDS announced that they would no longer be supporting the product. In March 2019, Brooke Ruffier and Tom Shultz attended the annual USAHERDS workshop in Columbia, South Carolina. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss disease program and import/export related functions of the product. A special meeting was held to discuss and vote on the future vendor for USAHERDS; Acclaim Systems Inc. was chosen as the new vendor.

Personnel

The Animal Health Bureau experienced several staffing changes during the fiscal year. Sara Morell left the department to pursue other career options. Brooke Ruffier, the brucellosis compliance specialist, was hired into the Import Office Manager position. Kasey Jones and Keelin Gilkey were hired as license and permit technicians in the import office.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Bison Management

The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) participates in the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), along with the National Park Service, USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Services (APHIS), Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Forest Service and tribal entities. The dual goals of the IBMP are to limit the co-mingling of wild bison and domestic cattle to prevent the spread of brucellosis and to maintain a wild and free roaming bison population in and around Yellowstone National Park.

The bison management program at DOL focuses efforts in two management areas. Tolerance zones within the management areas specify time frames for the tolerance of male and female wild bison.

- ◆ Zone 1 – Yellowstone National Park with year round tolerance for wild bison
- ◆ Zone 2 – The area outside of Yellowstone National Park in Montana with extended tolerance for wild bison due to the absence of cattle
- ◆ Zone 3 – Areas beyond Zones 1 and 2 where wild bison are prohibited

The Northern Management Area includes the Gardiner Basin north of Yellowstone National Park near Gardiner, Montana and along HWY 89 in Park County. In the northern area, wild bull bison are tolerated year round. The cutoff date for cows and calves in Zone 3 in the north is May 1. Animals present in this area beyond the cutoff date are hazed back or if this is not possible, removed from the population. There were no known instances of female bison in Zone 3 in the Northern Management Area during FY19.

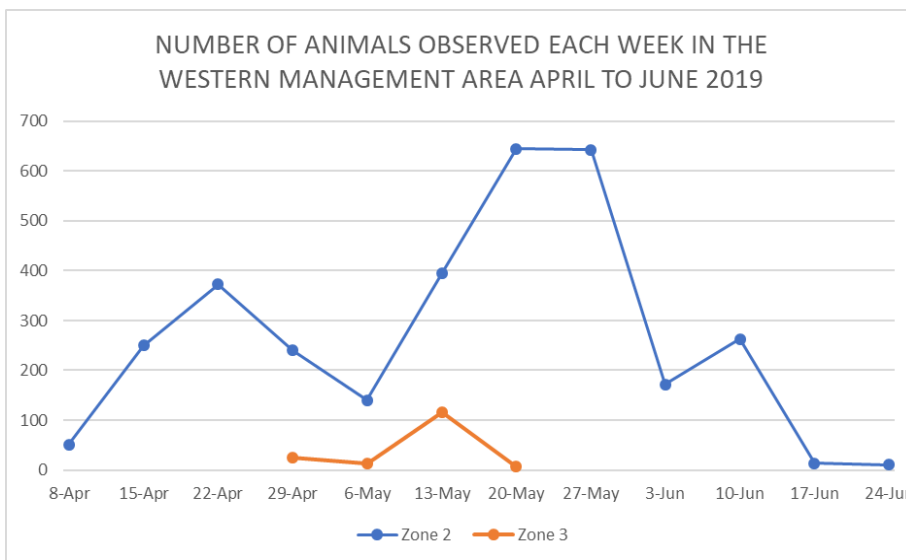


Figure 24. Western Management Area population numbers
Source: DOL Staff

The Western Management Area includes Montana just west of Yellowstone National Park near West Yellowstone, MT and along highways 191 and 287 in Gallatin County. In the Western Management Area, the tolerance for female wild bison and calves is greatest between November 15 and April 15, and most restrictive from May 15 through November 15. Female wild bison present in this area beyond the cutoff dates are hazed back or if this is not possible, removed from the population. There were no lethal removals of bison during FY19. The graph above (Figure 24) shows the number of bison observed in Zones 2 and 3 of the Western Management area from April-June. Animals present in Zone 2 on the graph were subject to haze back activities.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Montana Exotic Imports FY19

Importations of exotic species are verified to not conflict with Fish, Wildlife and Park's prohibited species list, as reviewed by the *Classification Review Committee*.



Figure 25. Red Fox
Source: DOL Staff

ANIMAL	QUANTITY IMPORTED
Badger	1
Bennet Wallaby	1
Black Bear	2
Canadian Lynx	1
Capuchin Monkey Exhibition Only	5
Fisher	2
Grizzly Bear	1
Lion	1
Mountain Lion	4
Patagonian Cavy	1
Peregrine Falcon	1
Raccoon	1
Red Falcon	1
Red Fox	2
Tiger	6

REPTILES	QUANTITY IMPORTED
Lizards	1300
Snakes	300
Turtles	191
Tree Frogs	125

Figure 26 . Statistics
Source: DOL Staff

The Montana Department of Livestock allows various species of exotic animals to be imported into Montana. To protect Montana's native wildlife and livestock, importation of exotic animals are categorized into three groups:

- controlled species,
- noncontrolled species, or
- prohibited.

Prohibited species such as monkeys, are only allowed to be imported to approved research facilities.

Exotics Imported for Scientific Purposes	Quantity Imported
Cynomolgus Monkey	61
Egyptian Fruit Bats	14
Rhesus Monkey	42

Figure 27. Statistics
Source: DOL Staff

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Special Licenses, Permits, and Veterinary Forms

FORM	2018	2019
SV-7—Large Animal CVI Book	\$19,072.00	\$15,392.00
SV-7A—CVI Convoy Replica Book	\$3800.00	\$114.00
SV-7B—CVI Continuation Pages Book	\$111.00	\$0.00
SV-7HP—Six-Month Horse Passport	\$385.00	Discontinued
SV-7GF—Alternative Livestock CVI	\$60.00	\$15.00
SV-7GFC—Alt. Livestock Continuation	\$0.00	\$0.00
GF TAGS—Alternative Livestock Tags	\$347.00	\$306.50
Trichomoniasis Forms	Discontinued	Discontinued
Trichomoniasis Tags	\$8,799.23	\$7,956.90
TOTAL	\$28,812.23	\$23,784.40

Figure 28. Revenue generated from the increased fees for veterinary forms and tags. By Montana Code, fees are commensurate with costs and include employee time, shipping, and handling. The department saw revenues for forms decrease in FY2019 as veterinarians moved towards electronic options. Source: DOL Staff

Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Program	Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Applications	Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Fees Collected
Annual Equine Import	126	\$670.00
Annual Equine Semen Import	44	\$408.00
Annual Poultry Import	66	\$264.00
Brucella-Ovis	45	\$94.00
Biologics	32	\$720.00
Bovine Semen Domestic	2	\$8.00
Bovine Semen International	2	\$84.00
Equine Feedlot	1	\$1,450.00
Montana Bull Stud	3	\$1,050.00
NPIP Test Agent	0	\$0
Seasonal Grazer	62	\$1,210
Six-Month Horse passport	31	\$290.00
Trichomoniasis Quarantine Feedlot	6	\$160.00
TOTAL	420	\$6,808.00

Figure 29. Revenue generated from special licenses and permits. Official Centralized Services (CS) analysis may differ due to actual dates and items that were received and processed. The Animal Health Bureau data is shown to display specific program item revenue. Source: DOL Staff

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Rulemaking—FY19



Administrative Rules Books
Source: <http://goo.gl/cPAVU>

During FY19 the Animal Health Bureau (AHB) amended numerous rules to meet our mission to control and eradicate animal diseases, and to prevent the transmission of disease to humans. The following rule amendments were approved by the Board of Livestock and went through the rule making process of proposal, public comment, prior to adoption.

Equine: The department adopted changes to ARM 32.3.1401 DEFINITIONS in order to better reflect current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements for testing and management of equine infectious anemia (EIA) and to accommodate an expanding body of scientific knowledge about how the disease is transmitted and the performance of different official tests.

The length of time following exposure to an equine infectious anemia (EIA) reactor, before an animal can be cleared through a negative test was updated. This update was necessary to be consistent with USDA standards for conducting an EIA epidemiological investigation and current scientific literature that shows animals may take longer than 45 days to seroconvert and, therefore, show up positive on an official test.

The department also amended language referring to grazing herd plans to be consistent with language in ARM 32.3.212 regarding seasonal grazing permits.

General Disease Control Provisions: The department removed the specification in ARM 32.3.108 QUARANTINE AND RELEASE OF QUARANTINE that quarantines be issued on department-approved quarantine blanks. The department specified what must be included in the designation of a quarantine, but no longer produces quarantine blanks for field use. Additionally, the department updated the Animal Health Division which is now part of the Animal Health and Food Safety Division.

Importation of Animals and Semen into Montana: The department proposed and adopted the term "certificate of veterinary inspection" in Montana's definition of a health certificate to be consistent with federal regulations. To encompass llamas, alpacas, and camelids, the department replaced the term "llama" with "camelid." To address that permits are not always issued in paper format, the department amended the definition of permit. Because the test-eligible age for different diseases is variable, the department also added the word "tuberculosis" to the term "test-eligible bison."

The department revised the required elements of a valid health certificate to be consistent with federal standards, to exclude requiring transporter information and revision of requirements on sending a paper copy of completed health certificates to the department. The USDA standards require that the health certificate reach the state of origin within seven business days and the state of origin must distribute the certificate to the state of destination within an additional seven business days. As states move more towards electronic options for capturing this movement data, fewer certificates are transferred by United States Postal Service mail.

Transporter information was removed as a requirement for obtaining an import permit to be consistent with the proposed revision of the required elements of a valid health certificate in ARM 32.3.206 - which parallel federal standards. The department also removed provisions referencing mailing issued permits because permits are not always issued in paper format.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Rulemaking— FY19, continued



Administrative Rules Books
Source: <http://goo.gl/cPAVlJ>

Cattle and Bison: The department amended import requirements for domestic bison to reflect United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations that treat bison as a program animal with the same disease status classification as domestic cattle. Domestic bison are now subject to the same import requirements as cattle for both brucellosis and tuberculosis. Trichomoniasis regulations were not extended to bison.

Swine: ARM 32.3.2002 was repealed regarding swine identification code/assignment of codes as this practice is no longer performed due to the implementation of premises identification numbers at the national level.

Pseudorabies: Regarding ARM 32.3.307 DEPARTMENT ORDERED PSEUDORABIES TESTING and ARM 32.3.311 PROCEDURE UPON DETECTION OF PSEUDORABIES, the reference to deputy state veterinarians ordering testing for pseudorabies was removed because those responsibilities should not fall on private veterinarians in the field as we would be asking them to do work for which they will not be reimbursed; instead, those orders will be issued by the department.

Brucellosis: The department removed the reference to deputy state veterinarians conducting epidemiological investigations in ARM 32.3.411 PROCEDURE UPON DETECTION OF BRUCELLOSIS because those responsibilities should not fall on private veterinarians in the field as we would be asking them to do work for which they are not getting reimbursed; instead, those orders will be issued by the department.

The department adopted a designated surveillance area boundary change. A recent elk study conducted in the Tendoy Mountains (outside of the current designated surveillance area), by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks revealed a brucellosis-exposed elk indicating a prevalence of the disease in wildlife in the area. Due to the potential of livestock exposure to *Brucella* and to help protect Montana livestock producers and the states trading partners from the introduction of potentially infected livestock, a designated surveillance area boundary change was necessary to include cattle or domestic bison that may utilize ground within the range of these elk. *See the Brucellosis—DSA Boundary Adjustment and Targeted Elk Surveillance section of this report, p. 7.*

The department repealed ARM 32.3.430 as the language in this rule was not consistent with current scientific practice regarding quarantine and retest of suspect animals in a negative herd. Currently the department manages suspect cases in consultation with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service personnel.

Alternative Livestock: The department included deer in the requirement that source herds be free from signs of neurologic disease for 32.4.601 IMPORTATION OF ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK .

Anthrax: In ARM 32.3.1003, CONTAMINATED PREMISES, the reference to deputy state veterinarians supervising, cleaning, and disinfecting anthrax-positive premises was removed because those responsibilities should not fall on private veterinarians in the field as we would be asking them to do work for which they are not getting reimbursed; instead, those orders will be issued by the department.

Miscellaneous: In general, certain sections of various rules were reorganized for clarity, in-text corrections to ARM and Montana Code Annotated (MCA) citations were amended, and authorizing and implementing citations were updated to accurately reflect sources of rulemaking authority and current rule versions.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Alternative Livestock Statistics

During fiscal year 2019, Montana imported 25 elk for slaughter from Idaho, one animal from Idaho for breeding purposes, and six reindeer from Washington for exhibition. Seventy six elk, whitetail deer, and big horn sheep, were exported to Idaho, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Utah. From years 2011-2013, the statistics correspond with the fiscal year.

Year	Fish, Wildlife and Parks Licensed Facilities	Department of Livestock Computer Animal Inventory	Calves/Fawns Born
2011	41	2,061	279
2012	39	1,206	265
2013	39	1,226	252
FY14	35	888	252
FY15	33	875	259
FY16	31	765	258
FY17	31	776	212
FY18	26	809	249
FY19	27	768	189

Figure 30: FY2011-19 Alternative Livestock Facilities and Inventory
Source: DOL Staff



Figure 31. White Tail Deer
Source: DOL Stock Photo

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Alternative Livestock, continued

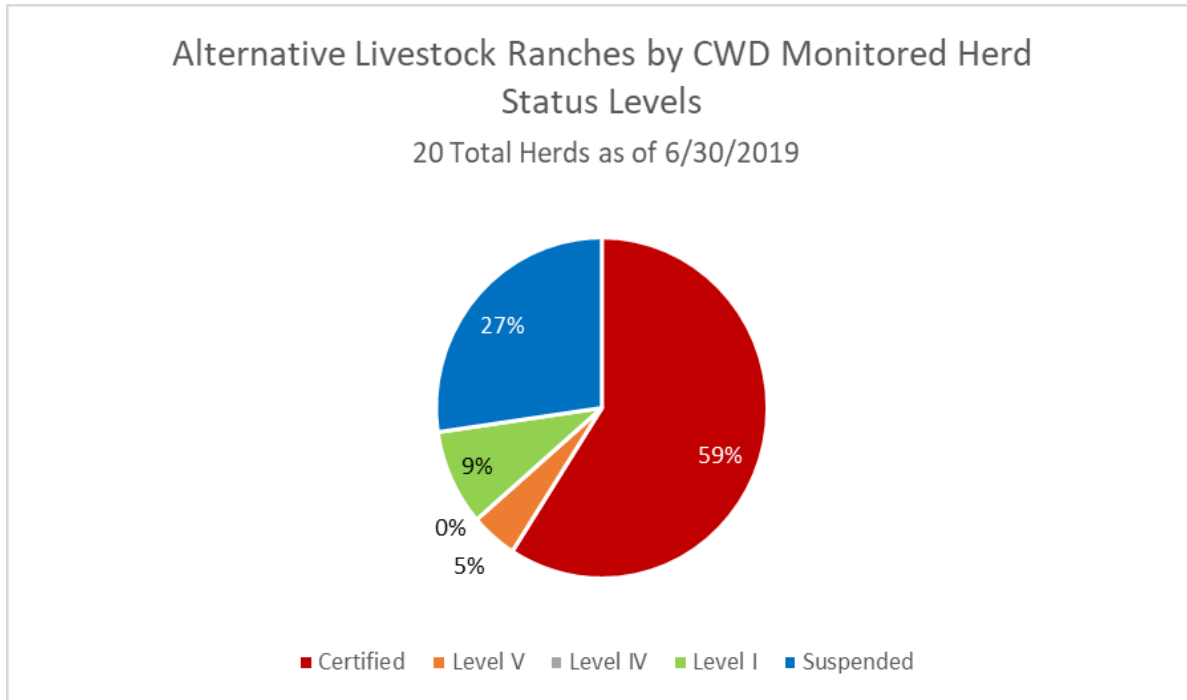


Figure 32. Number of herds with Chronic Wasting Disease Monitored Herd Status. In order to obtain certified status, the producer must participate and complete the required testing each year, for five years.
Source: DOL Staff



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Tyler Thomas, Assistant Administrator of Brands Enforcement Division



This past year was filled with opportunities to help the Department of Livestock meet its goals and objectives and strengthen the agency.

The International Livestock Identification Association annual conference was held in Bend Oregon and was attended by staff. Topics covered were importation of animals into the United States, agricultural economic espionage, several on the electronic logging device rule, handling livestock welfare and group actions, and Mexico's identification system. Also the Western States Rural Livestock Enforcement Association conference was held in Reno, Nevada attended by Thomas, Travis Elings, and Leslie Doely. These conferences help to bring valuable tools and knowledge back to the department on what is going on in agriculture nationally and internationally.

A priority this past year was training our market staff on the Talent Performance Management system to help them with documenting evaluations and their goals. This task involved making numerous trips to the markets to keep morale up and to make sure employees' needs were met. Successful hiring in the markets resulted in our markets fully staffed.

Thomas had the opportunity in the fall to take over as Interim Administrator in Leslie Doely's absence. This new challenge afforded him a look at the total picture of the department, helping with EPP items, the legislative budgeting process, and regular day-to-day office challenges. The department continued to run at optimal efficiency in Doely's absence.

Two firearms qualifications and the annual spring meeting were organized and attended by Thomas, Ted Wall, Dan Bugni, Travis Elings, and Leslie Doely. One important topic spearheaded by Thomas was bringing in speakers to talk on the topic of drugs in rural Montana. These meetings are educational and important for our law enforcement staff.

Thomas became a certified instructor through the Public Officer Standard Training council. Duties include putting together trainings, presentations, and public speaking. This knowledge was used to give two presentations to the Motor Carrier Services Division of the Montana Department of Transportation as well as helping Mike Honeycutt and Leslie Doely with a presentation to the Office of Public Instruction.

The Animal Health Bureau was assisted on multiple occasions testing cattle for tuberculosis, assisting staff on the hiring process for the bison program, and building valuable working relationships in that process. Thomas had numerous discussions with Animal Health staff and will continue to work closely with them on issues that arise that cross both divisions.

Numerous Board of Livestock, and managers' meetings were attended throughout the state this past year. The Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association met in Helena and their conference was in Missoula which promoted needed networking with Sheriffs' offices throughout the state.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Western Area—Ernie McCaffree, Area Manager



The Western Area was kept busy and ended the fiscal year with Ernie McCaffree, a long-time valued employee, retiring. The work below shows the commitment and efficiency of supervision of this area:

Training: Firearms qualifications took place this fiscal year in Boulder and Helena.

Investigations (felonies included): Cases investigated this fiscal year were gates left open, livestock death on railroad tracks, cattle falling through ice at a local slaughter facility, illegal trespassing of horses, guilty plea and court-ordered horse seizures, investigation of employee's bank deposits, stolen livestock, and suspicious cattle deaths.

Animal Testing: Department of Livestock Western Area and United States Department of Agriculture employees testing 95 head of horses in Gallatin County, all testing negative.

Warnings: Verbal warnings issued for fencing codes and trespassing horses.

Quarantine: Quarantines issued for illegal entry from Washington, Arkansas, and Texas.

Alternative Livestock: The western division consulted with Fish, Wildlife and Parks regarding escaped elk from the Kalispell area, retagged elk in Flathead area. Looked into Alternative Livestock ID and records discrepancies; inspected and resolved a complaint regarding an elk ranch.

Inspections: Inspected Las Vegas rodeo bulls , brand inspected over 1600 cattle at a Missoula event. Inspected livestock for outfitters and hunting horses. Completed year-end inspections for Bouvry Exports.

Personnel: McCaffree attended the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) graduation of Clay Vines in Helena and Vines is now employed by DOL in the Bison Program. The Western Division fielded calls out of the Gallatin area District 12 due to a retirement vacancy. Some field investigators stepped up and filled in to help with health violations and brands.

Trespassing: A chronic trespassing issue regarding goats was resolved in Gallatin County.

Strays: Numerous stray livestock of bison, mules, and cattle were investigated and returned to owners.

Events: The Western Division attended three large equine events in Flathead County with twelve hundred head of yearling cattle shipped in. Other events manned were at the Majestic Arena and Rebecca Farms in Kalispell as well as inspections from Columbia Falls to Ponoka Alberta Canada. Fairs, 4-H, rodeos, and the state of Montana were all covered by the Western Area providing health and brand inspections, security, and consultations.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Eastern Area—Travis Elings, Area Manager



Disease Testing: For a good part of the last year, the Eastern Area has been involved in TB testing. The Department of Livestock (DOL) bought a new hydraulic chute and a panel trailer. This new purchase was used all over the eastern half of the state. Brands stepped up and has been a great help with all of the testing. At almost every test site there were at least two to three investigators or market inspectors helping. The investigators in the areas have been making contact with the ranchers bolstering public communications for the department.

Personnel: New personnel evaluation processes are in the second year and with teamwork, all deadlines were met.

DOL had a number of staff changes in the last year. Turnover in the markets remains high.

Reservation: The Cheyenne reservation has put heavy restrictions on the DOL, requesting no involvement from the department including brand inspections. Numerous calls from tribal ranchers were received and would like a DOL presence on the reservation. Communication is ongoing.

Disease prevention: The DOL has a mandatory brucellosis vaccination requirement added to new counties in the Eastern area. Meetings were held with a lot of discussion on enforcement and education at the forefront. Meetings and education with veterinarians continue to implement enforcement.

Training: Ty Thomas and Travis Elings travelled to College Station, Texas for a school on Agra terrorism. Elings is now the vice president for the Western States Rural Enforcement Association.

A necropsy class was taught by Dr. Layton showing the investigators how to cut into an animal and what to look for as the cause of death. Figure 32.

Investigations: Investigations included buffalo running loose which led to the animal being killed and this triggered a review of procedures.

Numerous investigators helped Randy Poser, the investigator in Lewistown, with a court ordered search of cattle in a civil suit. While there, staff took on the task of recording all the marks and brands, along with all dangle and ID tags. A count was obtained of all the cows and calves.



Figure 34. Dr. Layton necropsy demonstration. Source: Staff)

LOOKING FORWARD



Figure 35. Montana Landscape
Source: DOL Staff

The coming year will continue to bring significant change. The Animal Health Bureau will move one step closer to retiring paper health certificates for Montana origin animals. Veterinarians will also begin transitioning from metal official identification tags to electronic RFID tags following the USDA announcement in April of 2019 about the phase out of metal tags. These changes will have significant impacts to daily operations within the Bureau. We look forward to the changes and will adjust course as needed to improve our quality of work and to better serve the public. We are confident these changes will benefit disease traceability to reduce the number of herds and animals involved in disease investigations. We recognize the significant time, labor, and financial investment that these changes entail and are committed to making the process as smooth as possible.

The coming year will also bring with it yet unidentified challenges. Our bureau remains committed to ‘protect, promote, and foster’ livestock health in Montana. Using our successes and lessons learned from the past, we are ready to meet these challenges head on. We look forward to continued commitment with our industry partners to everyone’s betterment.

Thank you for letting us serve you!

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Assistant State Veterinarian
Animal Health Bureau Chief