



ANNUAL REPORT

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK - Animal Health Division

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



FISCAL YEAR

July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

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LOOKING BACK/HIGHLIGHTS

Summary Highlights

Marty Zaluski, DVM

This report covers the state fiscal year spanning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. It describes efforts the Animal Health Division has made to control disease, monitor animal imports, and educate animal owners and veterinarians about animal health regulations that minimize the impact of animal diseases on public health and agriculture.

The Animal Health Division has continued our focus on brucellosis to ensure that Montana's livestock are highly desirable in interstate and international markets. We responded to a threat of tuberculosis subsequent to a diagnosis of the disease in a neighboring state. In addition to these challenges, our team continues to manage routine functions such as outreach, monitoring animal imports, and providing certification for disease testing. The Division strives to provide these services in a professional, timely and efficient manner.



Figure 1. Marty Zaluski

Our division continues to convert to electronic records, and are finally starting to see the gains of efficiency and reduction of paperwork. For several years, this transition actually created an additional workload with staff needing to become fluent in various electronic formats, while still keeping up with a voluminous amount of paper forms. However, paper documentation has finally reduced to a sufficient level where we anticipate a small reduction in import staff personnel in the upcoming year.

I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the hard work of Animal Health Division staff, and the strong partnership we've made with Montana citizens.

Kind regards,

Marty Zaluski, 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 Division, he has oversight over animal health programs including brucellosis, trichomoniasis, traceability, animal imports and food safety. Much of his time is committed to brucellosis and bison management around Yellowstone National Park as required by Montana Code Annotated. Marty Zaluski is married to Heather Zaluski, MD and has three children, Kate (12), Evan (16), and Maia (19). In his off-duty time, Zaluski enjoys brewing beer, riding dirt bikes, hunting, and boating.

Tahnee Szmanski, 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. As the assistant state veterinarian, Tahnee Szymanski works on trichomoniasis; traceability; rabies; biologics; disease reporting; public health issues; as well as other cattle, equine, and poultry disease programs. Tahnee is married to Seth Szymanski and has one child, Campbell (5). In her off-duty time, Szymanski enjoys hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, and quilting.

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 spends quality time with his two daughters, 11 and 14.

Emily Kaleczyc, DVM moved to Montana after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2013 and worked as a mixed animal veterinarian for 2.5 years. She joined the Animal Health Division of the Department of Livestock as the Brucellosis Compliance Specialist in February 2016. In addition to working in the brucellosis program, Emily is working on emergency planning for the department and assisting with alternative livestock and other disease programs. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Montana. Emily lives in Helena with her husband, John, and her son, Henry.

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 fiancé, raising pigs, riding horses, and enjoying her dogs, and cats. 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 training and the other in business management - graduating from Rocky Mountain College in Billings in 2013. Brooke joined the department March 2017 as a license and permit technician and manages the exotics, annual equine, and poultry programs. Brooke pals around with her Corgi and enjoys training reining 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 rides horses, spends time with her grandchildren, raises chickens, and has a few pygmy goats.

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 practice veterinary clinic as a vet technician. Sara joined the Animal Health Division 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.

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 his 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 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. He is married and has a son (17), a senior in high school, and a daughter (10) in the 4th grade. Off-duty Travis likes to rope with his kids and work in his shop.

Bridger Cunningham grew up in Emigrant Montana graduating from high school in 2005. Bridger hired on with the Department of Livestock in 2008 managing bison in and around Gardiner and Yellowstone National Park—a position he holds today. Off-duty he runs 60 head of cattle in Paradise Valley, Montana and is an elk hunting guide in the fall.

Jeff Mount grew up in Livingston Montana attended Montana State University, Bozeman. Jeff hired on with the Department of Livestock in January 2008 and monitors the Yellowstone National Park bison mitigating contact with domestic livestock. Married 34 years to his wife, Melody, Jeff has three daughters and two grandsons. Off-duty he enjoys hunting and packing horses in the mountains around Livingston.

Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.

—Unknown

MANAGEMENT/STAFF

The Animal Health Division experienced several staff changes during the reporting period. The modified part-time traceability data entry position was vacated and filled three times. We also hired two new employees in the Import/Export section when those positions became vacant. Animal Health puts great effort into providing continuity of service. We place a priority on excellence in service with cross training, task review, employee feedback, and updates for standard operating procedures. Our new employees have provided many suggestions to streamline existing processes. They question existing standards and policies which stimulates an explanation and review of those standards and policies. This process facilitates continual improvement. Management attended Equal Employment Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, and Harassment Prevention training sessions.

IMPORT/EXPORT STAFF MEETINGS

During FY2017, the import/export staff utilized weekly staff meetings coordinating procedures, discussing records retention, training and job sharing during four personnel changes, revision of specific import permit processing and electronic data processes. We collaborated on retention criteria and worked to develop procedures for storing electronic data which are replacing paper records. We revised the website to keep the import requirement's information current and worked with the answering service to update their reference material. Staff worked together to bring all the electronic data entry current. Staff veterinarians provided subject matter expert information on several diseases, including: trichomoniasis, rabies, and Johne's.

INFORMATION SHARING

The Animal Health Division continued to produce and distribute four quarterly newsletters to approximately 720 deputy state veterinarians. This information is also shared with the western state veterinarians and other stakeholders. The newsletter included updates on diseases such as Johne's, tuberculosis, equine piroplasmiasis, leptospirosis, and trichomoniasis. There is a standard brucellosis update in each issue, an article from the Diagnostic Laboratory, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a Montana OneHealth insert provided by the Department of Public Health & Human Services. The State Veterinarian provides an update in each edition on various current events. The newsletter is sent by email, mail, and posted on the website at <http://liv.mt.gov/Animal-Health/Newsletters>. Prior issues are available on a variety of topics dating back to 2008.

USAHERDS

The annual USAHerds conference was held in Springfield, Missouri this fiscal year. USAHerds is our data entry system that we use to document all livestock movements in and out of Montana. This system allows the department to track potential disease threats and quarantine them until the risk has been mitigated. The conference was beneficial to our goal to streamline data entry, refine our state traceability system and become more efficient in our time management. The conference also encouraged attendees to consult with other states on how they use USAHerds and how these states manage livestock in their state. We were pleased to hear of several updates to the system that will make our data entry time shorter and smoother. USAHerds continues to be an integral part of our livestock tracking and grows along with our programs.

DISEASES

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Animal Health was notified of a H5 high path avian influenza (HPAI) isolate from a wild mallard duck hunter harvested in Fergus County. No domestic poultry were associated with the finding. Department of Livestock (DOL) coordinated with Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), DES, and Department of Public Health and Human Service (DPHHS) on dissemination of information regarding the implications of the finding. DOL sent out approximately 250 letters of information to all known poultry producers in Fergus and surrounding counties informing them of the finding and providing biosecurity reminders.

TRICHOMONIASIS

Following completion of required post-breeding testing of bulls, DOL closed the trichomoniasis investigation of a Yellowstone County affected herd from May of 2016.

DOL continued epidemiological investigation work on a 2016 Custer County trichomoniasis positive herd. This process included a mailing to all 800 producers who sold open cows at market that were purchased by the affected herd. The letter served to notify producers that open cows sold out of their herd were purchased by a rebreed operation that later tested positive for trichomoniasis.

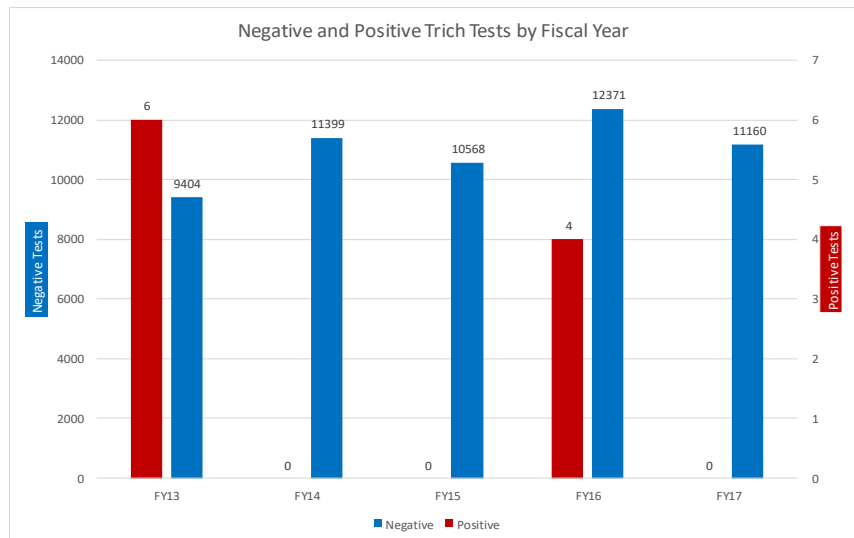


Figure 2. Numbers of negative and positive tests for trichomoniasis in cattle by fiscal year. There were no positives in FY 2017.

It is likely that the source of disease introduction was a positive cow and DOL, therefore, recommended that all trace-in herds consider trichomoniasis testing their own herds.

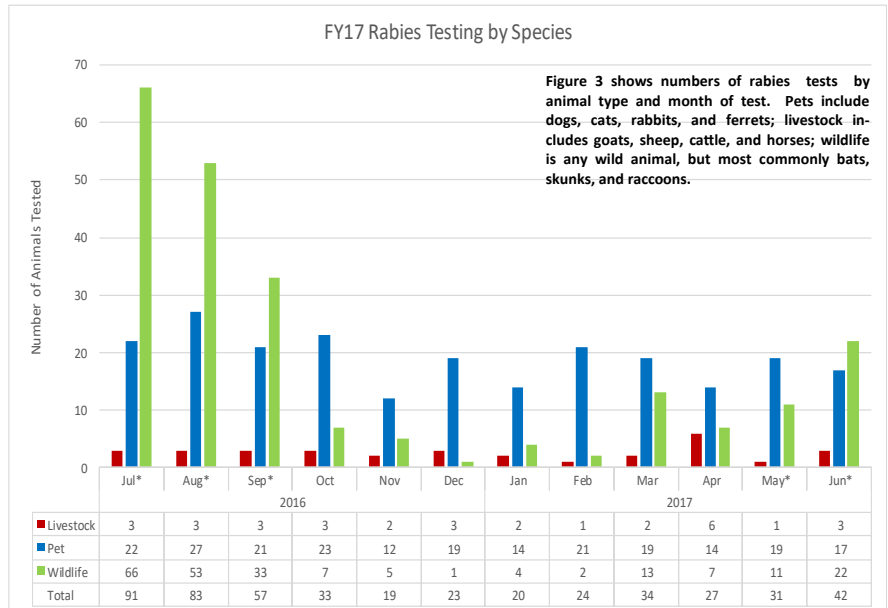
No new positive herds were detected during FY17. The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) reported a single trichomoniasis suspect bull. DOL worked with the producer, the local veterinarian, and Brands Enforcement Division personnel to verify the history of the bull. The bull was recently purchased through a livestock market and was being trichomoniasis tested for export to Wyoming. Wyoming requires two negative PCR tests on imported animals. This bull had a previous negative test from the week prior. The suspect bull and one additional bull that was purchased from the same lot were quarantined. All other bulls were released for movement to Wyoming. A second trichomoniasis sample was collected on the bull and tested negative at the MVDL. Follow up with the ranch of origin confirmed no history of reproductive issues in the herd. The two bulls were released from quarantine with no further action required.

Tahnee Szymanski attended the 5th Annual Rocky Mountain Symposium of the Intertribal Agriculture Council in Polson, Montana to present on trichomoniasis. The presentation included coverage of Montana regulations, disease management practices, and discussion about how to proceed with the possible sun-setting of our four county trichomoniasis epizootic area.

DISEASES

FY17 Montana Rabies Distribution by Species

Tahnee Szymanski and Emily Kaleczyc worked with Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) on a rabies outreach for local jurisdictions. With DPHHS funding, three training sessions were offered and provided continuing education credit for public health nurses. The sessions took place in Missoula, Glasgow, and Billings. Prevention, post exposure management of people, management of animals, and the role of local law enforcement were discussed. There were approximately 45 participants from multiple Western Montana counties at the Missoula session. The Billings and Glasgow sessions had approximately 50 total participants from multiple jurisdictions.



DOL staff also travelled to Great Falls and presented a general overview of the rabies virus and rabies management to the Great Falls Police Department/Animal Control. DOL has been working with the city of Great Falls as they draft a new rabies ordinance.

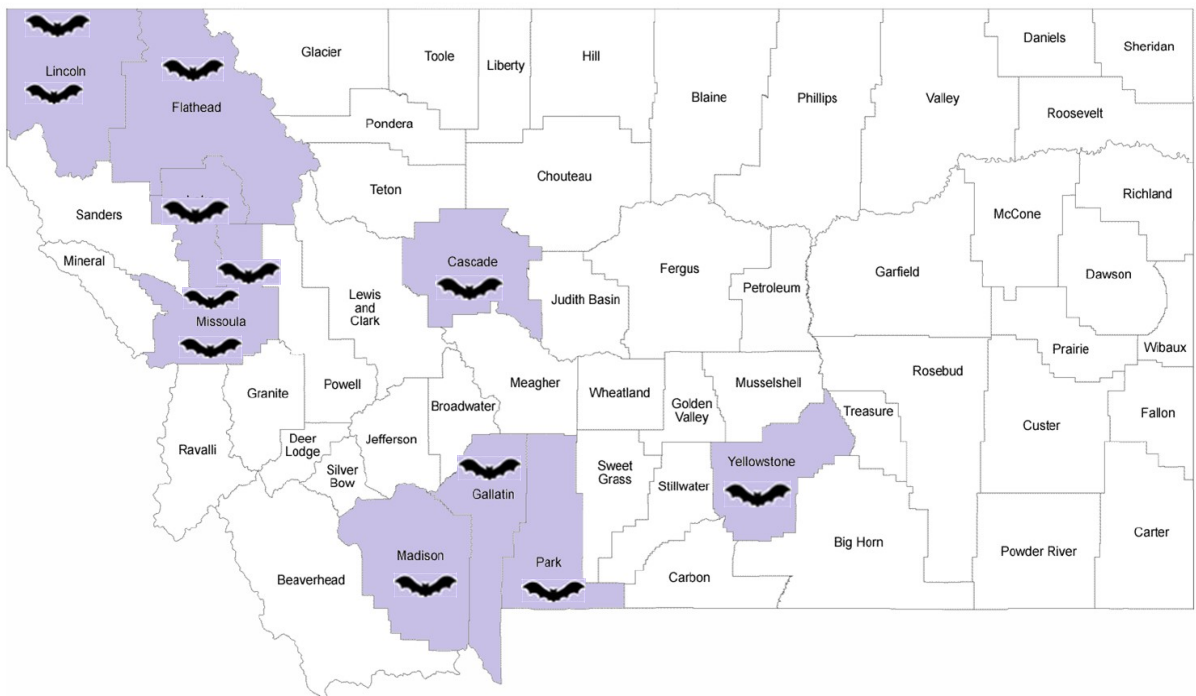


Figure 4. Montana Rabies Distribution by Species and County FY2017

DISEASES

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

The West Nile Virus state total for 2016 was eight horses. One of the positives was a Canadian horse imported into Montana for exhibition. The animal began showing clinical signs of WNV about 24 hours after arrival, suggesting exposure occurred in Canada. DOL coordinated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to coordinate return travel for the affected horse back to Canada. None of the 2016 cases were current vaccinates. This information is shared with Department of Public Health and Human Services for public health outreach purposes.

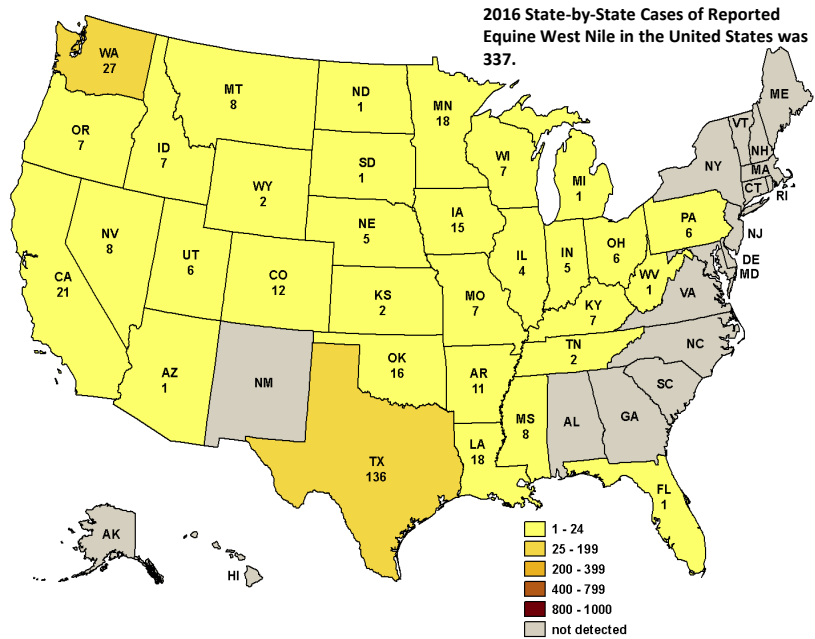


Figure 5. West Nile Map
Source: USDA web site [here](#)

FY17 Positive West Nile Virus

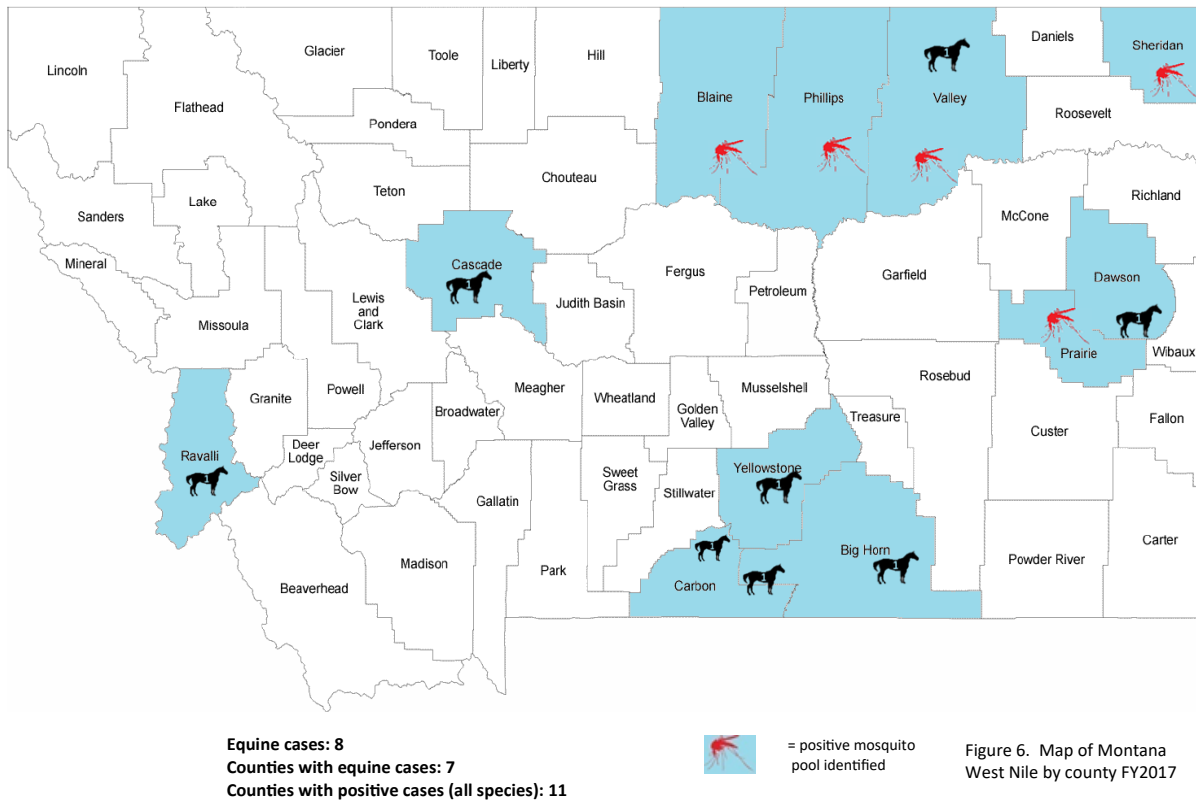


Figure 6. Map of Montana West Nile by county FY2017

D I S E A S E S

Disease Investigations

Tuberculosis

Following the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis in a beef herd in South Dakota (SD), Department of Livestock (DOL) received notice of six trace herds in Montana. Four of these herds required quarantine, whole herd testing, and euthanasia/post mortem inspection of exposed animals. The traces included the following:

- Cattle purchased from a single herd in Montana, through a livestock market, into the affected SD herd prior to diagnosis. The sale was a 2012 dispersion sale for the producer. DOL used brand and Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) records to locate information on where all of the cattle were sold for disease tracing purposes. DOL also compared the inventory of animals on the affected SD premises. None of the Montana origin cattle were animals identified with lesions consistent with tuberculosis and better than 50% of the original shipment was identified in the non-lesioned inventory. MDOL elected not to pursue this trace, due to timing of sale (several years prior to suspected disease introduction) and low risk of source herd.
- A Montana herd that runs cattle adjacent to the affected SD herd for grazing. The herd of approximately 900 head, located in Carter Co., was quarantined and a whole herd test conducted on all animals two years of age and older. The herd has been released from quarantine.
- A Montana herd that purchased two heifers from the affected SD herd through a livestock market. The heifers were added to a group that were fed, spayed, and have since been slaughtered. No additional action was necessary.
- A Montana herd that purchased a single animal from the affected SD premises through a livestock market. We were unable to determine which animal of the group of 34 listed on the CVI was the animal in question. We requested additional information from SD. This trace was lost to follow up.
- A Montana herd that purchased 10 head from a livestock market in SD. These 10 head came from a herd that received animals from the affected SD premises. Based upon brand inspection information, it was determined that four of the ten head had originated from the affected SD premises. The four SD origin animals were tested negative on a caudal fold test (CFT) and submitted to slaughter for post mortem inspection with all animals being no gross lesions (NGL) visible. The remainder of the herd was tested negative and the quarantine released.
- A Montana producer that purchased a lot of 200 bred heifers from a Wyoming heifer development operation. The 200 heifers included 14 head that had originated from the affected SD premises. All animals in the group were test negative. The 14 head were submitted for slaughter and were all NGL. Successful determination of the 14 animals that originated from the SD herd required use of both brands and brucellosis vaccination tags. The herd was released from quarantine.
- A Montana herd that had illegally moved five head to the affected SD premises for several months in 2016 and then brought the animals back home. The entire herd was tested negative and the five exposed animals were removed for slaughter and post mortem inspection. All five animals were NGL and the entire herd was released from quarantine.

Outreach During the 2017 Epi Investigation

- A press release on the TB epidemiological investigation in Montana was sent statewide.
- An update was provided to the legislative agriculture caucus at the 2017 Legislature. Legislators asked about Department of Livestock's import testing requirements for M-branded cattle, and whether additional regulations are necessary. While most of our neighbors' regulations are similar to Montana's, North Dakota also requires a TB test on the 'birth herd' of M-branded cattle.
- An update sent to Farm Bureau members.

D I S E A S E S

Reportable Diseases

Equine Herpes Virus

Department of Livestock received a report of Equine Herpes Virus – 1 (EHV-1) from a local veterinarian in January 2017. A facility had recently received a new animal from out of state. A total of three horses had become febrile, consistent with exposure to EHV-1. No neurological signs were associated with the detection of EHV-1. The facility agreed to voluntarily quarantine pending resolution of clinical signs and no new cases for an additional 21 days.

Vesicular Stomatitis

In FY 2016, state and federal animal health officials completed one Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigation. A veterinarian in northeast Montana reported a horse with oral lesions on suspicion of vesicular stomatitis (VS). The horse was recently imported from Kentucky in a large group of horses. The veterinarian collected a serum sample from the animal and submitted to National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for VS testing with a low priority due to high level of suspicion of another disease process. The animal did not survive. The remaining animals on the premises were held under quarantine pending completion of the testing. The animal was determined to be negative for VS.

Johne's

Marty Zaluski and Tahnee Szymanski gave a presentation at a producer meeting in Roy, Montana on Johne's disease following a report of positive bulls in a herd from a large grazing association. The bulls were recent purchases from a Montana purebred producer and following breeding season; the animals failed to pick up weight. Multiple bulls from the same source were positive.

Johne's is a chronic disease of cattle causing diarrhea and subsequent poor condition in cattle. Calves less than six months of age are susceptible to infection, but animals don't show symptoms until adulthood. There is no treatment, so management focuses on preventing infection and managing impact if herds are already infected. The purpose of the meeting in Roy was to provide education to members of the grazing association and guidance on potential testing programs. Based on interest from producers, the Department of Livestock (DOL) is considering expansion of our state Johne's program to include a herd certification program for herds employing good biosecurity practices and herd surveillance. DOL has been in contact with producer and veterinarian groups to receive feedback on potential interest in the program.

FY17 Johne's Testing Through Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (MVDL)					
Test Type	Number of Herds Testing	Number of Test Accessions	Number of Positive Tests	Number of Positive Herds	Number of Animals Tested
PCR	82	103	51	35	325
ELISA	76	371	70	18	1819

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY

Department of Livestock (DOL) continues to assess Montana's capabilities for Animal Disease Traceability (ADT). Quotas for states for trace performance measures (TPM) are based on livestock numbers and range from a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 10. The department is responsible for completing three TPMs to identify in what state an animal was tagged if the official ID is an 840 tag and 10 TPM for each criteria of the following categories:

- Time to identify the location at which an animal was tagged
- Time to identify the location in a state from which an animal moved interstate
- Time to identify the location in your state in which an animal was imported

TPMs can include both simulated traces initiated by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or other state animal officials, and actual traces such as:

- A trace of four cows purchased by a Montana buyer at a market in South Dakota was conducted by department staff. The animals had originated from Wyoming and had been determined to be from a trich-positive herd. Location of the animals in Montana is still underway, but the risk the animals pose has been determined to be low.
- A slaughter trace from a Kentucky slaughter facility was also conducted by department staff. The cull cow had a Montana bangs tag and a non-negative test for brucellosis at the time of slaughter. DOL and APHIS have traced the animal back to the ranch of origin and will be reaching out to the producer to conduct an interview in order to evaluate if any further action is warranted.

USDA, with support from DOL, held a regional ADT listening session in Billings, Montana. The meeting was an opportunity for producers and industry to provide feedback on the current ADT rule. USDA and the industry agree that we are not yet ready for implementation of ID of feeder cattle at this time, but are hoping to identify intermediate steps to be taken in the short term to improve ADT. A summary of the feedback provided during the regional meetings is available here: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/summary-of-feedback-adt-program.pdf>.

Additionally, DOL staff participated in Emergency Management Response System 2.0 (EMRS2) training with the USDA. EMRS2 is a USDA database that is used for tracking incidents including brucellosis and avian influenza outbreaks. Training was focused on tracking animals during an epidemiological investigation.

Animal Health held a staff meeting to discuss processing of traceability data (health certificates) in the Helena office and to update internal procedures. Staff presented a summary of state and federal traceability requirements.

There is continued work with veterinarians on use of electronic health certificates, including hosting a webinar for veterinarians and staff on the use of the fillable PDF eCVI to demonstrate an electronic option for issuing health certificates. Approximately 20 veterinarians participated in the webinar. Veterinary tech students in Dillon received instruction from department staff on regulatory issues of veterinary medicine to prepare them for future work. Topics covered included traceability, brucellosis, electronic health certificates, and rabies.

BRUCELLOSIS

Designated Surveillance Area (DSA)

Annual DSA Compliance Evaluation

The annual DSA compliance evaluation is an internal audit of compliance with brucellosis testing requirements for movement and travel. Based on feedback from the legislative performance, the FY17 compliance evaluation places extra emphasis on reconciling brucellosis test data with movement and sale data recorded by the Brands Enforcement Division. An additional effort was made this year to identify new/additional DSA producers as well as establish a herd size for all DSA producers to better evaluate compliance status. After a preliminary review, this year's evaluation includes 340 known producers active in the DSA with approximately 84,239 test-eligible animals and 81,610 DSA associated brucellosis tests. These tests include 8,656 tests conducted as part of epidemiologic investigations.

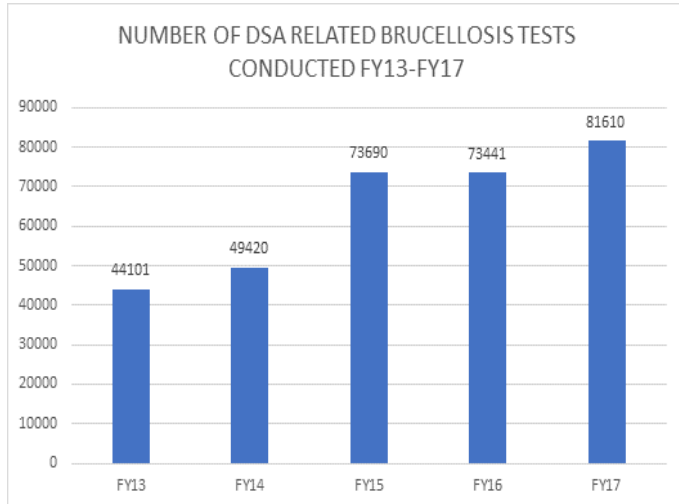


Figure 7. Number of DSA related brucellosis tests conducted in FY13-17. Numbers include animals tested on ranch and at livestock markets.

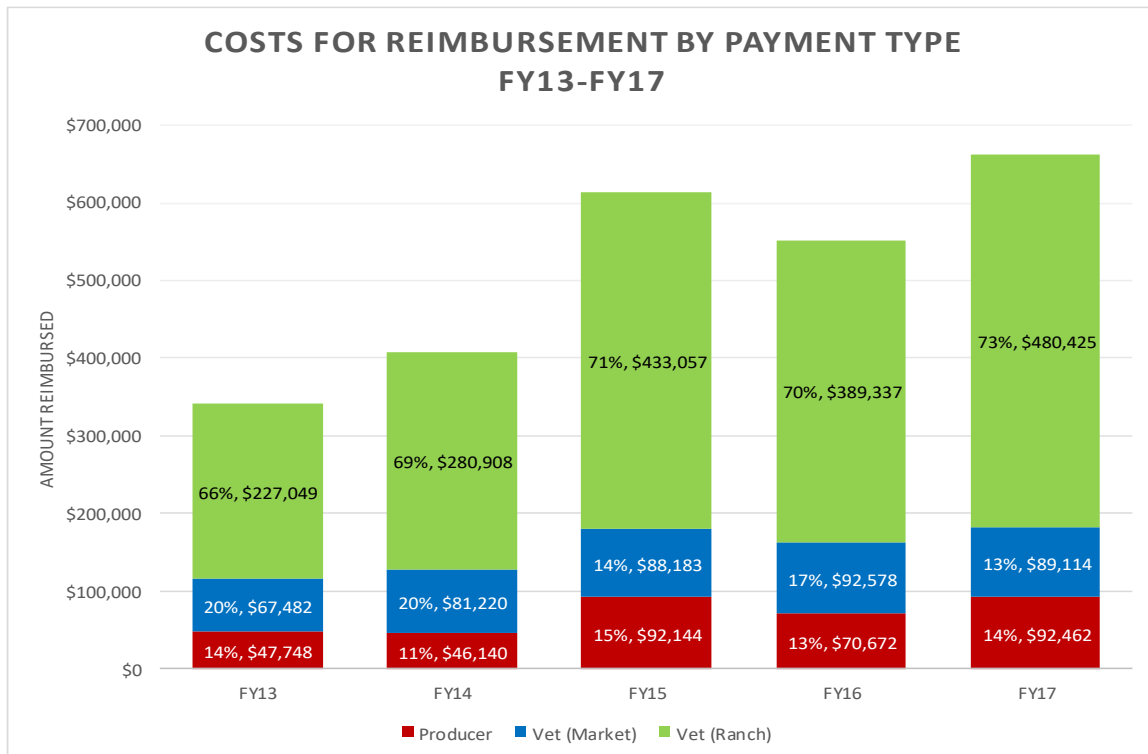


Figure 8. Numbers of DSA related brucellosis tests that were reimbursed in FY13 – FY17. Not all producers and veterinarians request reimbursement for eligible testing. Reimbursements increased in FY17 due to an epidemiologic investigation and more testing conducted on ranches.

BRUCELLOSIS

Epidemiologic Investigations

Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) regulations were placed in late 2010 soon after we regained brucellosis class free status. Since that time, surveillance efforts have been successful in finding eight infected livestock herds.

In November of 2016, two infected bulls, in a Beaverhead County herd, were discovered following a voluntary whole herd test. *Brucella abortus* was cultured from both animals. The herd was placed under quarantine, and an affected herd plan was developed. Following the removal of the two index animals, the initial herd test in December was negative.

A post calving test is scheduled for early September with an assurance test (assuming quarantine release) in December.



Figure 9. United States Geographic Survey (USGS) Fetal Scavenging Project

Genotyping (genetic analysis) of the *B. abortus* cultured from the two animals helped to narrow the likely source to elk in the area. The genotype was nearly identical to that from a culture from an elk fetus found in 2011.

Adjacent testing included a herd of approximately 1,200 cattle and another of approximately 3,000. These herds were placed on herd plans and initial tests on both were completed by the end of December. Assurance tests are scheduled for the fall of 2017.

We investigated two-brucellosis slaughter traces this fiscal year. The first, was from Gibbon Pack in Nebraska. The animal was a cull cow traced back to the ranch of origin in Cascade County. Liska and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducted an interview with the owner. Both agencies agreed that no further action was necessary. However, the owner/manager did ask to complete a whole herd test. This test was negative.

The second slaughter trace was from a packing plant in Montana. The animal originated from a ranch in Garfield County. A producer in Lake County purchased the 51 animals for feeding and eventual slaughter. Eighteen were older and finished and therefore sent directly to slaughter. One bull in the group of eighteen was suspect on the required brucellosis test. The remaining animals were quarantined and tested negative. The ranch of origin has 30 animals that remain under quarantine for testing. The owner plans to voluntarily depopulate the animals and therefore a test would not be required.

B R U C E L L O S I S

Brucellosis Program Legislative Performance Audit

In the six years since the inception of the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA), there have been three USDA reviews in addition to our own annual compliance assessments. In all instances, the program has performed well with high marks for compliance but always with some suggestions for improvement. Regardless, findings and suggestions are always examined and action is taken if necessary or possible.

In 2016, the Montana legislative audit committee required a performance audit of the Montana brucellosis program. At Department of Livestock (DOL), the legislative audit division began their work examining documents that including brucellosis test charts and brand inspections. They analyzed DOL and producer compliance with DSA administrative rules and examined how DOL tracks and enforces compliance; bison management was also addressed. The final performance audit was published in January of 2017 with four recommendations for DOL:

1. Improve oversight of brucellosis testing requirements.
2. Improve the oversight and accountability of DSA herd management plans.
3. Expand documentation of brucellosis vaccination payments.
4. Use the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) adaptive management guidelines when lethally removing bison and clearly document the need for lethal removal.

IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF BRUCELLOSIS TESTING REQUIREMENTS: The audit recommended that DOL better utilize the brand inspection process for enforcement, including education. DOL has always used brand inspections to aid in oversight of the DSA. However, most brand inspections in the DSA are performed by local inspectors who are not law enforcement officers. Only enforcement personnel can issue a ticket (and quarantine if necessary) a producer for not meeting animal health (DSA) regulations. Regardless, DOL is finding ways to better utilize the brand inspection process for enforcement. Methods will include education of brands personnel to help with oversight of DSA regulations.

Also, to address cases of noncompliance, we're developing guidance for our law enforcement personnel that includes citations for animal health violations.

IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF HERD MANAGEMENT PLANS: This recommendation addressed the lack of formal criteria for creating a management agreement (MA) with a producer. We've updated our policy to reflect that DOL is willing to develop an MA with any producer whose animals utilize DSA property and with any producer who may request a variance from DSA requirements. An example of a common variance is to allow a DSA producer to test cattle at home outside of the DSA rather than prior to movement. This variance is generally granted due to a lack of handling facilities at the summer grazing location.

Part of the second audit recommendation was to either review agreements annually, or to change the regulations that require DOL to do so. Currently, the number of agreements makes annual review difficult and in most cases, changes to the agreements are not necessary; therefore, Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 32.3.401 and 32.3.43 were changed by the Board of Livestock to allow for review every five years.

We have also improved our method of documentation for creation, review, and update of management agreements as recommended.

DOCUMENTATION OF PAYMENTS: This finding was likely in response to the DOL transfer of vaccination certificates to the USDA office for data entry and therefore the complete original paper document was not in the DOL office. We now keep a complete copy of the vaccination certificate with the reimbursement request.

BRUCELLOSIS

Brucellosis Program Legislative Performance Audit, continued

BISON MANAGEMENT: The Audit Division also made recommendations to follow Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) guidelines for lethal removals, or document circumstances in which lethal removals deviate from the adaptive management plan. They also emphasized the need for cooperation with Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) by using public hunters for bison removal. While we concurred with these recommendations, they describe DOL's existing practices. The bison program does not deviate from the bison plan which allows for the temporal and spatial separation of Yellowstone National Park bison from cattle. Its success is proven through the lack of a brucellosis transmission to cattle.



Figure 10. Bison

The complete audit with our response to the narrative can be found at: <http://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/Audit/Report/16P-06.pdf>

Market Evaluation for DSA Compliance

Eight Montana livestock auction markets were reviewed. Procedures utilized by Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) market personnel and the market veterinarian to recognize cattle that have brucellosis related requirements (test, vaccination, and/or official individual identification) were evaluated. This review was done to assure the Animal Health Division and our trading partners that DSA livestock are test-negative prior to export. Trading partner assurance is one of the most significant roles of the brucellosis program.

Each market does an exceptional job of recognizing cattle with testing requirements as outlined in Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 32.3.435. High marks for DSA animal testing and follow through can be attributed to the knowledge, experience, and communication among personnel. The electronic market brands system is a powerful tool used to help recognize animals with brucellosis-related requirements which helps determine which animals require a test. Recognition of animals that have not met the four county-wide vaccination requirement (ARM 32.3.436) is satisfactory, but could be improved. Compliance as well as enforcement of the vaccination requirement could likely be improved by simplifying the rule.

Recognition of animals that require official identification (ARM 32.3.434) could also be improved. Specifically, identification of sexually intact DSA origin calves less than 12 months old. This requirement can periodically be forgotten at markets that do not frequently handle DSA origin animals. Markets would like to see calves identified prior to arrival to reduce the need to handle them.

Producer education would help improve compliance. It is the responsibility of the owner to have animals vaccinated or identified (if required) prior to arrival at the market. However, many producers are not aware of this requirement. The use of pamphlets, signs, or other educational material to educate producers that both requirements should be met prior to consignment should improve compliance, and decrease the number of animals that must be handled prior to sale.

BRUCELLOSIS

National Academy of Sciences Revisiting Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA)

The Department of Livestock (DOL) provided information to the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) for their review of brucellosis in the GYA. NAS is a nongovernmental, independently funded institution created by congress in 1863 to advise the nation on science and technology related issues. In 2016 USDA-APHIS requested that NAS review brucellosis related research and information published since the last report in 1998. The 2016 committee was made up of brucellosis experts from across the country including, a State Veterinarian, researchers and academicians. The committee recently published its report, "Revisiting Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area".

A few of the conclusions made by the committee include:

- A reduction of elk numbers and group densities may decrease risk of transmission.
- The risk of brucellosis spread beyond the GYA has increased.
- Calfhood and adult vaccination of high risk livestock should continue.
- To reduce brucellosis prevalence in Yellowstone National Park bison, positive animals should be removed.
- Elk feed grounds are detrimental and should be phased out.
- The Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) has been successful.

To address the conclusions, some of the committee's recommendations included:

- More research is needed to understand the disease in wildlife.
- To address the increased risk of spread: an elk wildlife surveillance program should be established; a standard for expanding DSA boundaries should be developed, and; livestock surveillance should focus on slaughter and market channels for GYA cattle.
- A coordinated effort across many political jurisdictions is needed to manage the disease recognizing that infected wildlife move without regard to political boundaries, and that the current spread, if left unchecked, will have serious implications in the future.

BRUCELLOSIS - Live Elk Capture Study

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks began a five-year live elk capture study in 2011. Much of the funding for this study comes from USDA cooperative agreement dollars provided to DOL. Recapture and testing of positive elk [captured in the final year (2015)] will continue into 2020. Funding has continued to allow for new elk surveillance captures adjacent to the DSA boundary. In 2017 live elk captures returned to the area south of Red Lodge. Additional testing was needed to improve our confidence in seroprevalence along the Montana/Wyoming border. The additional collars will improve movement data as well. Twenty elk were captured. All twenty elk were serologically negative.

Interestingly, through the movement data from the previous year, FWP recognized five different elk populations. These groups have separate core winter ranges with some overlap. Data did show that the positive animals found in 2016 belong to a group called the Clark's Fork population. This group's core winter range is in Wyoming. While this finding is concerning, movement data shows that the Clark's Fork elk are either on public ground (BLM) that does not have a cattle allotment or on the property of a large private ranch that performs brucellosis surveillance testing.



Figure 11. Collared Elk

TRAINING / EDUCATION

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

There are currently five NPIP certified flocks in Montana. The department continues to implement a state NPIP program. Department of Livestock's work includes:

- Work with a local veterinarian in Sweet Grass County to perform avian influenza and salmonella monitoring for an NPIP certified flock.
- Annual NPIP testing for a flock located in Jefferson County.
- Coordinating with a Montana quail raiser not currently participating in the NPIP program to coordinate a shipment of quail to Colorado. The quail raiser obtains all birds from an NPIP certified flock and operates an all in/all out system. Worked with Colorado to get an NPIP requirement exemption for the movement of these birds.



Figure 12. backyard chickens

Classification Review Committee (CRC)

Tahnee Szymanski sits on the Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Classification Review Committee on behalf of the Department of Livestock (DOL). The CRC evaluates classification status for exotic species in Montana to determine the risk to wildlife, livestock, and public health and provides recommendations to the FWP commission on how a species should be classified based upon determined risk. Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), DOL, and members of private industry met twice during FY2017. Discussion consisted of updating the petition form that individuals must fill out when requesting the committee review an unclassified species. Also reviewed were the taxonomic names of previously classified species to ensure use of most current terminology.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

The VMLRP is a federally funded program designed to help offset the shortage of food animal veterinarians in rural areas by offering student loan forgiveness to veterinarians who practice in identified shortage areas. The DOL completed nominations for six shortage areas in Montana. Veterinarians who serve in these areas are eligible to apply for loan forgiveness through the program. The proposed shortage areas for Montana for 2017 shown in the adjacent table.

PRIORITY	FISCAL YEAR	COUNTY
High	2017	Big Horn, Rosebud, Treasure
Moderate	2017	Powder River, Carter
Critical	2017	Garfield, McConne
Moderate	2017	Phillips, Blaine
High	2017	Daniels, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley
High	2017	Glacier Liberty, Pondera, Toole

Figure 13. FY 2016-17 VMLRP Status for Montana

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Deputy Veterinarian Accreditation

In collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Livestock conducted three veterinarian accreditation training seminars in Helena. One in January, June, and September. Topics that were covered included disease testing and reporting, rabies, health certificates and records management. Our goal through the veterinary accreditations is not only to educate veterinarians on Montana procedures, but to develop a line of communication. This open line of communication is meant to make sure veterinarians know we are here to help and can be called at any time. We are happy to welcome many new veterinarians to our state. During FY17, 34 veterinarians attended accreditation.

Alternative Livestock

A livestock certification training was conducted in Havre, Montana for four new veterinarians. This training was done in partnership with Dr. Rod Meier, USDA, to train participants on proper technique for conducting single cervical TB testing and post-mortem tissue collection for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance.

Emergency Preparedness

National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) – NVS is a reserve supply of equipment and vaccines maintained by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that can be accessed by states in the case of a large-scale animal disease outbreak.

In August 2016 Emily Kaleczyc and Eric Liska observed an NVS exercise in Idaho to learn more about the program and to better understand what is involved with planning and deployment of NVS resources. Emily has written a draft of the Montana NVS plan with input from multiple state agency partners that could be used in a large-scale animal disease outbreak to acquire NVS resources for Montana.

Continuity of business planning is the process to ensure that state government continues to function and provide essential services during an emergency of any type. This type of planning has continued, and the entire department has now completed the initial planning steps. The next phase in the process will be completed this fall after the Department of Administration finishes implementing new planning software.

In October Emily Kaleczyc travelled to Billings to give a presentation to the Montana Indian Nations Tribal Working Group on preparing for animals in disasters. The presentation covered planning for sheltering pet animals in a natural disaster as well as planning for large scale infectious animal disease outbreaks.

The Animal Health Division has also been working on a formal agreement with the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) that would allow the state to request emergency assistance from NARSC member groups. NARSC has a variety of resources including animal search and rescue, large scale animal sheltering, and donations management.

National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)

Mission

To provide the veterinary countermeasures animal vaccines, antivirals, or therapeutic products, supplies, equipment, and response support services that States, Tribes, and Territories need to respond to damaging animal disease outbreaks.

Purpose

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 established the NVS in 2004 to protect the nation's food supply by maintaining sufficient amounts of countermeasures capable of deployment against the most damaging animal diseases within 24 hours. The directive reflected the national concern that terrorists could simultaneously release animal diseases of catastrophic proportions that would quickly deplete available resources within the State, Tribe, or Territory and overwhelm the private sector's ability to support such a disaster.

Goals

Deploy within 24 hours of approval countermeasures against the most damaging animal diseases, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Exotic Newcastle Disease, and Classical Swine Fever.
Assist States, Tribes, and Territories plan, train, and exercise for the rapid request, receipt, processing, and distribution of NVS countermeasures during an event.

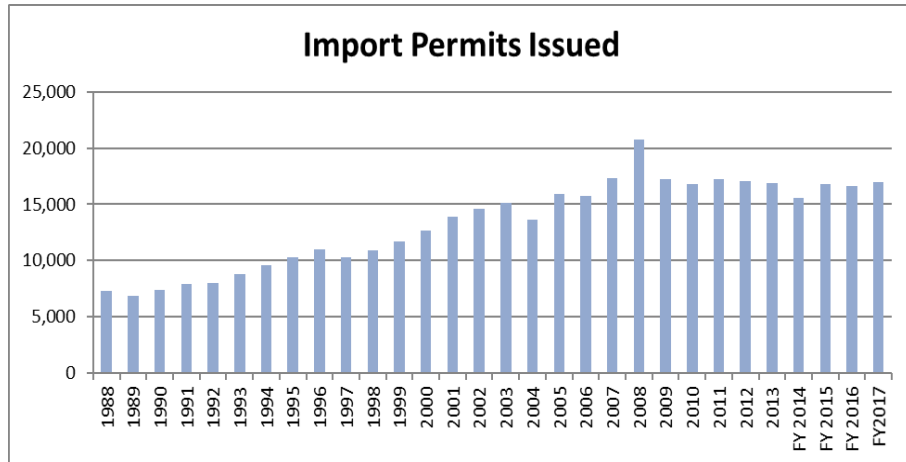
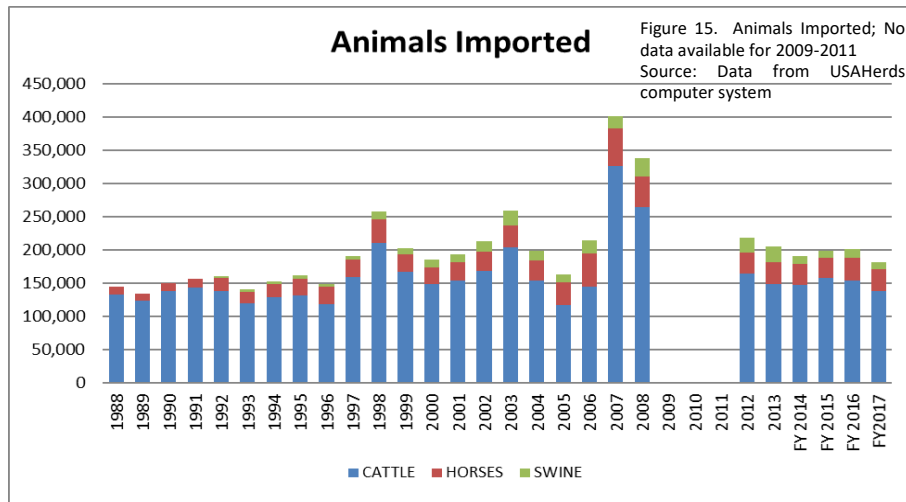
Figure 14. NVS Mission
Source: USDA web site [here](#)

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Import/Export Export Certificate Data

This section of the Animal Health Division strives to provide excellent customer service through our busy call center, an after-hours answering service, and several web-based online systems. We are currently developing a new web-based online permit system for veterinarians to use that will be free of charge. The application and payment system for specialized permits provides an alternate avenue for customers to use email and their personal computer systems to submit and pay for applications for annual and six-month equine permits, equine and bovine semen permits, poultry shipping permits, biological shipping permits, and a few additional annual permits. We collected a total \$6,846.00 for 431 transactions using this system. The fee for each type of permit are set by rule and must be commensurate with costs to the department. Department of Livestock implemented a new identification policy for imported exotic mammals. Many of these animals are the same species as our native wildlife, so we need the imported animal identified and linked to the import certificate and permit documents.

During the reporting period we issued 15,555 permits for 132,041 cattle; 26,470 horses; 9,383 sheep, and 11,295 pigs to enter or return to Montana.



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Exotic Imports

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



Figure 19. Pine Marten
Source: <httpshambhalamusicfestival.wordpress.com/2012/03/19/site-update-from-martin-the-pine-marten/>

Exotic animals imported for permanent residency in Montana, fur farms, game farms, and sanctuaries	
Animals	Quantity
Arctic Foxes	2
Black Footed Ferrets	18
Bobcat	2
Budorcas	1
Canadian Lynx	4
Eurasian Lynx	1
Fisher	1
Frogs	60
Lizards	1204
Mountain Lions	3
Pet Birds	11
Pine Marten	1
Porcupines	2
Rabbits	2
Raccoons	3
Raptors	20
Red Fox	6
River Otter	3
Skunk	2
Snakes	157
Snow Leopard	1
Turtles	144
Wallaby	1

Figure 18. DOL Table

The Montana Department of Livestock allows various species of exotic animals to be imported into Montana. In order to protect Montana's native wildlife, livestock importation of certain species of exotic animals falls under three categories:

- controlled species,
- noncontrolled species, and
- prohibited.

Some species, such as the exotic monkey, are prohibited and are only allowed to be imported to approved research facilities.

Exotics Imported for Scientific Purposes	Quantity
African Green Primates	28
Cynomolgus Monkeys	86
Egyptian Fruit Bats	12

Figure 17. Imports of exotic animals into Montana

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Special Licenses, Permits, and Veterinarian Forms

FORM	REVENUE FY2016	REVENUE FY2017
SV-7—Large Animal CVI Book	\$ 16,392.00	\$ 15,288.00
SV-7A—CVI Convoy Replica Book	\$ 400.00	\$ 427.00
SV-7B—CVI Continuation Pages Book	\$ 740.00	\$ 777.00
SV-7HP—Six-Month Horse Passport	\$ 55.00	\$ 770.00
SV-7GF—Alternative Livestock CVIs	\$ 105.00	\$ 245.00
SV-7GFC—Alt. Livestock Continuation	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00
GF TAGS—Game Farm Tags	\$ 484.50	\$ 703.32
Trichomoniasis Forms	\$ 185.00	Discontinued
Trichomoniasis Tags	\$ 5,759.85	\$ 8,202.67
TOTAL	\$ 24,136.35	\$ 26,442.99

Figure 20. 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.

Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Program	Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Applications	Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Fees Collected
Annual Equine Import	99	\$ 780.00
Annual Equine Semen Import	36	\$ 300.00
Annual Poultry Import	32	\$ 288.00
B-Ovis	28	\$ 512.00
Biologics	103	\$ 2,510.00
Bovine Semen Domestic	5	\$ 20.00
Bovine Semen Int'l	2	\$ 84.00
Equine Feedlot	1	\$ 1,450.00
Montana Bull Stud	3	\$ 1,050.00
NPIP Test Agent	0	\$ 0.00
Seasonal Grazer	76	\$ 1,521.00
Six-Month Horse passport	604	\$ 3,330.00
Trich Quarantine Feedlot	8	\$ 272.00
TOTAL	997	\$ 12,216.00

Figure 21. 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 Division data is shown to display specific program item revenue.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Administrative Rules of Montana Changes—FY2017



Figure: 22.
Administrative Rules Books
Source: <http://goo.gl/cPAVU>

Fees: The department raised fees commensurate with costs for Animal Health large animal CVI books along with the convoy replica book. This rule change affected approximately 439 large animal veterinarians.

To ensure fees are commensurate with the costs as required by 81-1-102(2), MCA, the department amended Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 32.2.401 to align the price of trich tags with the distributor's price increase.

Brucellosis: The department removed unnecessary language in ARM 32.3.401. Other changes made the language consistent with the current name of a "Management Agreement" and reflect that variances may be granted to requirements other than testing alone.

In response to the Legislative Audit Division's recommendation to change the requirement for annual renewal, the department struck the word "annually" in sections of ARM 32.3.401 and added language accordingly. Annual renewal of a Management Agreement is seldom necessary because management practices as outlined rarely change from year to year and can be difficult for the department to accomplish in a timely manner that is also convenient for the producer. Renewal of agreements at the request of the herd owner (or their representative), or the Department of Livestock due to changes in management practices, risk, epidemiologic investigations, or regulation is a more reasonable approach.

The department amended ARM 32.3.455 to clarify that only brucellosis test results on Montana origin animals must be reported within seven days. Test results from the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory are reported electronically in the Vetstar Animal Disease Diagnostic System (VADDS). Electronic or paper reporting of testing performed at an out-of-state laboratory would also be acceptable. A positive brucellosis result on any animal including an out-of-state animal performed in Montana is required to be reported per 81-2-107, MCA and ARM 32.3.104. Negative test results on out-of-state origin animals would not need to be reported.

ARM 32.3.435 was amended to make the language consistent with the definition in ARM 32.3.401(7).

Rabies: Many small animal veterinarians in Montana are not federally accredited. The department replaced "deputy state veterinarian" with "licensed veterinarian" in ARM 32.3.1203. This change recognizes the significant work that nonaccredited small animal veterinarians do for rabies management in Montana.

The department revised management of animals exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal to be consistent with the recently released 2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. These changes in ARM 32.3.1205 reflect current science showing the response to vaccination of an animal past due for rabies vaccination, as well as better data about the incubation period of the disease.

Biologics: The department added biologics, conditional, up to two years; and biologics, permanent, five years to the exceptions list in (2) pursuant to ARM 32.3.2301, which authorizes the department to issue long-term biologics permits upon request.

Sheep: The department amended the age of breeding rams be specified to provide consistency between the regulations of our state *B. ovis* program and our import requirements for *B. ovis* testing. Additional language regarding animal identification and placement of the documentation of the last *B. ovis* herd test is added to conform to ARM 32.3.1308.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Alternative Livestock Statistics

Figure 24 below shows the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks licenses for alternative livestock ranches. Department of Livestock regulates and tracks all the animals located on each ranch. These numbers include all licenses that were active during any part of the reporting period. This table shows the continued decrease of licensed facilities in the industry; in 2001 there were over 4500 alternative livestock animals on 78 licensed ranches.

An annual review of all alternative livestock herds for inventory, deaths, and CWD testing is compiled and reported to USDA-APHIS-VS Cervid Health Center Team. This report is part of the application for renewal of Montana's CWD Herd Certification approved state review. Including Montana, there are 29 states with approved CWD Herd Certification Programs (HCP).

HCP status is required to allow producers to export cervid animals from their state with-



Figure 23. Elk calf

Figure 24. Alternative Livestock Statistics	Fish, Wildlife and Parks Licensed Facilities	Department of Livestock 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

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Alternative Livestock, continued Exports from Montana Alternative Ranches

State	Bighorn Sheep	Elk	Mule Deer	Whitetail Deer	Grand Total
Idaho	0	30	0	0	30
Illinois	0	0	0	1	1
Kansas	4	0	8	16	28
Missouri	0	0	5	0	5
Nebraska	1	0	0	0	1
Ohio	0	0	2	0	2
Oklahoma	0	5	0	0	5
Pennsylvania	0	0	3	0	3
Total	5	35	18	17	75

Figure 25. Montana Alternative Livestock ranches exported 75 animals to 8 states during FY2017

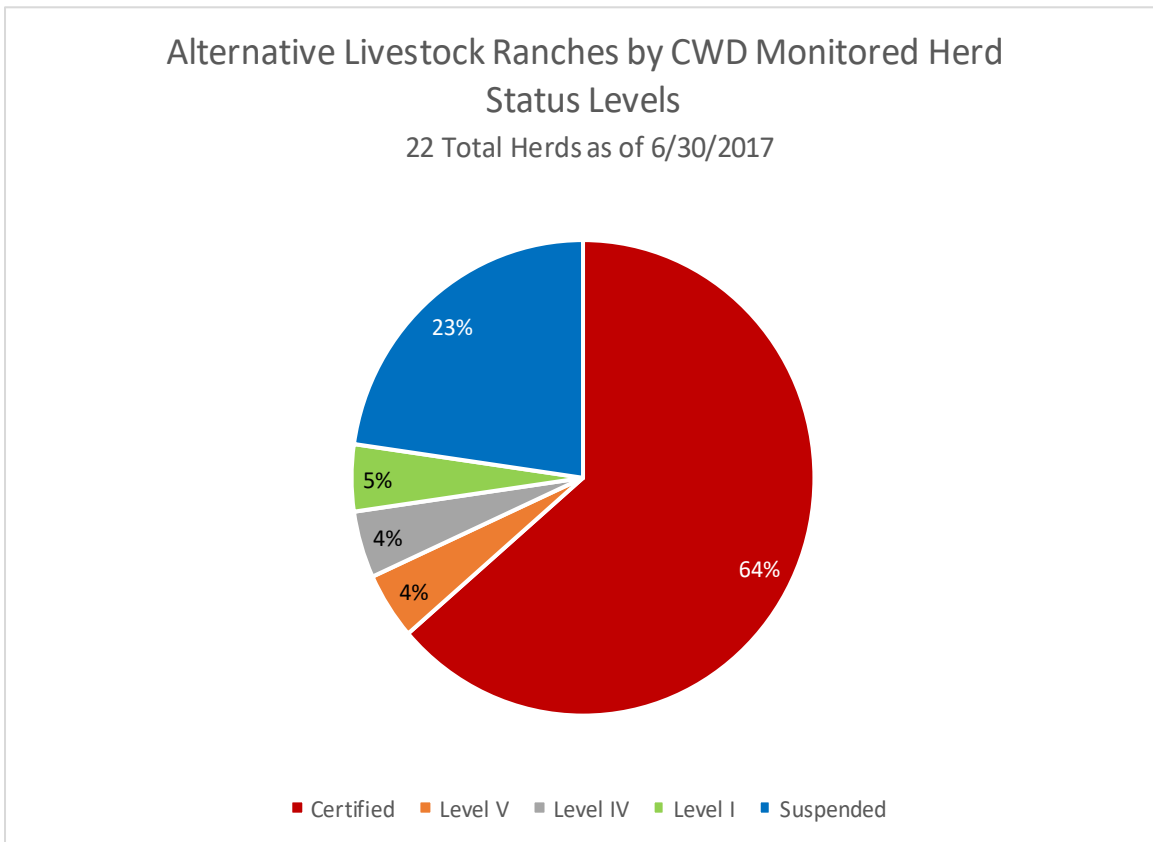


Figure 26. Increasing levels (I-V) correspond with increasing compliance with federal and state CWD surveillance activities in a herd; Certified is the highest level and is the status required to export animals to another state

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Tyler Thomas, Assistant Administrator of Brands Enforcement Division



Fort Supply: Thomas directed some enhancements to Fort Supply as well as conducted market training on the program with various markets and inspectors. The enhancements that were made to the software simplified data organization within the database, created a market compliance audit feature to improve consistency and accuracy of the data, added more forms for reporting additional inspection types and violation information, as well as an audit feature which should be completed in August of 2017. Fort Supply contract was renewed and research was expanded to analogous brands and inspection software that different states and Canadian Provinces use—findings were presented to the Board of Livestock.

Markets: Job descriptions were updated for base-level market inspectors for the Department of Administration. Help was offered in Lewistown and Great Falls when the offices were shorthanded. Market visits were conducted throughout the state with Thomas, Travis Elings, Eric Liska, and Emily Kaleczyc. During those visits, staff checked to see how work was going, what their protocol was for Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) animals being sold, if staffing was adequate, and gauged employee morale in the markets.

Northern International Livestock Exposition (The NILE) in Billings was worked by Department of Livestock staff as well.

Employees: Interviews to hire various positions within the department were conducted: Billings District Investigator, Market inspectors in Miles City, Market Supervisor in Glasgow, back up brand recorder, Billings Market supervisor, Billings market inspector, Miles City Market supervisor, Glendive District investigator, Missoula District Investigator, and Great Falls Market inspector.

Qualifications: Fall and spring firearm qualifications were organized with Ted Wall and Dan Bugni.

Investigations: There were a number of investigations in the FY17; one of which Thomas worked with the USDA Packer and Stockyards on a complaint of a cattle buyer breaking contracts.

Randy Poser, District investigator in Lewistown, Thomas, and most of the Eastern area investigators, as well as some market personnel, helped with a search warrant in Judith Basin County. The search warrant took four days to complete with around 1200 animals identified.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Tyler Thomas, continued



Meetings/Training: International Livestock Identification Association met in Fargo, ND. The topics covered at this conference included: Animal Disease Disasters with a table top exercise, tour of North Dakota State University campus and research facilities, leadership-style workshop, livestock industry policy and trade updates, traceability of the Costco meat plant, and a case study with an investigator from Nevada. The Western States Livestock Investigator Association was held in Reno, Nevada with DOL staff attending. Conference agenda items included Cognitive Interviews, Security in Livestock Production, Performance Leadership and Liability, Working with the Native Nations (BIA), Evidence presentation in the interview room, and tracking.

The annual District Investigator spring meeting held in Helena was organized by Tyler Thomas and Leslie Doely. A P.O.S.T. (Public Officer Standards and Training) certified training on defensive tactics was organized for that meeting.

Affiliations: Tyler joined the Montana Sheriff and Peace Officer Association with the goal of building a good working relationship with the local law enforcement agencies in our state.



Figure 27. Tyler Thomas

Field Report Metric FY2017	
Miles Driven	21,955
Cattle Inspections	1,412
Horse Life-time Inspections	1
Horse Annual Trip Inspections	23
	1

Figure 28. Field Report

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Western Area—Ernie McCaffree, Area Manager



Illegal Entry: Six different cattle and horse illegal entry cases were investigated during FY17.

Quarantines: Several quarantines were issued, CVIs written, and testing was performed. There was follow up on along with warning citations.

Brand Enforcement Division - Personnel field changes in Western Montana: In District 10, Missoula, started with one employee resigning in November 2016. The Department of Livestock (DOL) hired another employee in December who quit in January and DOL rehired in April with current employee Dustin Datisman for District 10. In District 15, Wes Seward came over from the Great Falls brand office to fill that District position vacated by Tom Harmon who retired in October 2015.

Alternative Livestock Enforcement: Ernie McCaffree dealt with an Alternative Livestock owner going out of business and depopulating his game ranch of elk who failed to get inspections and CWD testing completed. Notice to Appear (NTA) citations were issued with bond forfeiture.

International Equine Exports: Quarterly inspections of the Bouvry Exports horse feed lot in Shelby were completed for compliance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bouvry and DOL.

Animal Reports: During FY17, six dead animal reports were inspected, most were dumping violations; one was criminal in nature.

Employee duties: McCaffree assisted new employees by phone and in the field with other Department of Livestock employees doing Field Training Officer (FTO) training also and he also consulted with other field men around the state on issues going on in their areas.

Felony Investigations: Schwer v. Robinson, case M-16-6 dogs killing sheep, was concluded with \$8,642.00 in restitution awarded to Mrs. Robinson for killed sheep. Department of Livestock put this case together with DNA samples of the dog hair.

Special Sales: McCaffree worked the Rocky Mountain Classic held at the Majestic Valley arena in Kalispell Montana.

Western Area Field Report Metric FY2017	
Notice to Appear Citations	5
Warning Citations	19
Truck Stop Checks	12
Strays	72
Special Horse Sales	1
Cattle Inspected	1004 head
Lifetime Horse Inspections	279
Annual Horse Inspections	276
Rodeo Permits	3
Grazing Permits	2

Figure 29. Field Report



Figure 30. Stray potbellied pig; no owner found

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Eastern Area—Travis Elings, Area Manager



Employees: FY17 saw a high rate of employee turnover and vacancies within the department. Tom Plant is the new market inspector in Miles City and RJ Hubbard is the new market supervisor in Glasgow. While waiting for many positions to be filled, Elings reported how the brands employees pulled together to get the work done. Investigators took on their coworkers' areas, and the market inspectors stepped up and helped within the districts. Because of the vacancies and turnover, Elings has been more closely involved in many district activities, including calls for containment issues, ownership disputes, requests for assistance on animal welfare issues as well as the recruitment, interview and training of new investigators.

Theft: Randy Poser, Lewistown District Investigator, put together a major criminal investigation that involves theft, fraud, and deceptive business practice. Randy brought in twelve Department of Livestock (DOL) employees to do a full inventory of brands and other identification of over a thousand head of cattle as part of a search warrant for this case. Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Highway Patrol, and the Sheriff's Office were involved in security while the search warrant was being issued. This investigation will continue into FY18.

Meetings/Conferences: In March, Travis Elings attended the Western States Livestock Investigators meeting in Reno Nevada. While there, he attended classes on interrogation, tribal jurisdiction, and officer awareness. Travis was voted onto the board and will be the president within approximately five years.

In April, Elings and other DOL staff attended a veterinary conference in New Mexico. They toured the largest Mexican cattle border crossing. The crossing brings over 430,000 head of cattle into the United States every year. Most of these bovine are feeder cattle, while only 25,000 of these are roping steers. There are no sexually intact cattle allowed across the line into the United States. All of the cattle are tested for TB, run through a dipping vat for ticks and are then scratch tested for ticks and lesions. This tour dispelled some of the stereotypes of Mexican cattle. The cattle were all in good shape; the facility was very well run and in excellent shape.



Figure 31. Mexican Border Crossing

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Eastern Area—Travis Elings, Area Manager, continued



Animal Neglect: Department of Livestock (DOL) staff assisted Carbon County Sheriff's Office with an animal neglect case in a horse rescue operation. The owners had twenty-four horses, ten sheep, one calf, five chickens and three dogs that came in to the state without paperwork. The horses were all seized by the Sheriff's Office and the owners were charged with one hundred fourteen DOL violations. The people packed up and left for Oregon. A trial date is pending.

Diseases: The TB affected herd in South Dakota resulted in extensive testing in this state. Don Selle was a major part of the testing; he attended public meetings and met with ranchers, the producers, and federal veterinarians. Elings and Selle helped on further investigations where people had hauled cattle into the hot zone of the TB area in South Dakota without inspections or health requirements.

Pat Murphy, investigator in the Miles City area, worked on a large trichomoniasis investigation in Miles City. Pat worked hard on hundreds of cattle resulting in a released quarantine. The working relationship between Animal Health Division and Brands Enforcement Division is going smoothly.

Quarantines: One Montana producer pastured cattle in Wyoming and the cattle returned home without health certificates or proper testing. Unfortunately, the cattle were then spread out in three different areas. The owner was given two NTAs; the cattle were gathered and processed to meet our import requirements post entry.

Animal Surveillance: DOL staff looked into the possibility of using drones for assistance with non-enforcement activities within the department (such as locating and counting bison or stray cattle). The department will continue to pursue the use of drones as they would have the potential to significantly reduce cost and manpower needed for certain activities.

Eastern Area Field Report Metric FY2017	
Neglect cases	4
Animal Health Investigations	12
Truck Stops	58
Brand Investigations	8
Warnings	4
Notice to Appear Citations	12

Figure 32. Field Report

LOOKING FORWARD

Long-Term Outlook Martin Zaluski, DVM

We're united by a clear mission to 'protect, promote, and foster' livestock health which is critical for a safe and healthy population and abundant, affordable food supply. We're proud of our successes in disease mitigation, addressing the challenges of brucellosis in wildlife, and embracing technology.

One of the reasons we enjoy our work is variety, the challenge, and the ability to make a positive difference for the state of Montana. We appreciate communications from veterinarians and animal owners throughout the state so we can continue to improve and serve you better.



Marty Zaluski, DVM
Montana State Veterinarian
Animal Health Division Administrator



Figure 33: Elk