

HELLO FROM STATE VET: I want to welcome you to STOCK-QUOTES, the quarterly newsletter from Montana's Department of Livestock (MDOL), Division of Animal Health. The goal of the newsletter is to update deputy veterinarians on animal health issues, communicate information on program diseases (TB, Brucellosis, etc...), and share any regulatory developments. In the position of state veterinarian, I'd like to increase communication between this office and practicing veterinarians, and I hope you will find the newsletter useful. We plan to distribute this publication 4 times a year. More timely updates will be done through fax and e-mail, so if we don't have your contact information please share it with us. Please note that the automated fax system we use for urgent disease alerts cannot accommodate dual use phone lines, so you may need to provide an e-mail.

I officially stepped into the position as State Veterinarian on August 27, 2007. I graduated from Butte High School and attended Michigan State University for DVM, and then practiced large animal medicine for several years. After a year working on cattle tuberculosis for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, I moved to North Carolina and focused on disaster and emergency preparedness. I am delighted to return to Montana and consider it a tremendous opportunity and honor to serve the veterinary profession and our community in this capacity.

We have been all concerned with the recent discovery of another case of brucellosis in livestock, the impact of this additional case on the marketability of the state's livestock, and additional costs for brucellosis testing borne by producers. We are making a significant effort to keep current information on these issues on our website. The address is www.liv.mt.gov, and there you will find testing requirements for import to other states, as well as a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document that addresses key issues on brucellosis and the current investigation. Please refer to that website, and feel free to direct your clients there as

well. More on bison and brucellosis later in the newsletter.

Last year, MDOL implemented a trichomoniasis testing and control program, and implemented EVA testing requirements on imported stallions. In the fall of 2007, Montana experienced its first widespread bluetongue outbreak in approximately 40 years. I want to personally thank you for your help in addressing this animal health emergency that affected dozens of sheep producers in southeastern Montana.

I look forward to serving you and the animal owners in this great state. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, suggestions, or complaints at 406/444-0782 or my e-mail at mzaluski@mt.gov.

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IMPORT/EXPORT NOTES: Please remember to call the state of destination for all animals to determine import requirements as rules change quite frequently; particularly in light of Montana's brucellosis status downgrade. The Brucellosis Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) stipulates that sexually intact cattle 18 months of age and over need a brucellosis test within 30 days prior to export, but some states are requesting additional testing. At the time of this writing, CO, ID, KS, NE, ND, SD, WA, and WY had imposed specific brucellosis testing requirements.

This disease outbreak emphasizes the importance of appropriately identifying livestock on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. The certificates should always list complete information. A physical address must be listed for consignor and consignee and all necessary testing must be listed. The veterinarian's legible signature, address and license number are also imperative for this legal document.

RABIES: Rabies continues to be a significant issue in many counties in Montana. In 2007, 544 rabies tests were performed, resulting in 23 positives, 503 negatives and 18 unsuitable samples. Most of the

samples (307) were either canine or feline and originated from family pets that were unvaccinated but linked to human or wildlife exposure.

While only 2 dogs and no cats (9% of terrestrial animal submissions) tested positive for rabies in 2007, rabies tests on dogs and cats represented 57% of all terrestrial animal submissions. This disparity is caused by low rabies vaccination compliance as unvaccinated pets that are bitten by animals of unknown status may be considered exposed to rabies. Therefore an exposed, unvaccinated pet must either be euthanized and tested or placed under a strict 6 month quarantine at the owners' expense. These statistics emphasize the importance of rabies vaccination for cats and dogs and other species to protect public health and reduce the number of pets that are euthanized.

Please also consider that there may be inconsistency between county requirements regarding "current" rabies certificates and labeled vaccine efficacy. A 3-year rabies vaccination given in accordance with the Compendium is protective of that pet for three years, not 2 years as by some county ordinances. This is critical when giving vaccination information to local animal control as well as the state veterinarian's office for the life of the pet.

I encourage MT Deputy Veterinarians to become engaged with the MVMA small animal committee to participate in a state-wide Rabies Task Force. This would facilitate cooperation with MDOL and Department of Public Health & Human Services to create a public awareness for rabies vaccination and prevention.

WEST NILE: Montana finished 2007 with the second highest number of West Nile virus (WNV) cases in horses in the nation. Texas had the most cases with 70, followed by Montana with 36, Colorado with 29 and California with 28. Of Montana's 36 cases, only one horse was known to be vaccinated. Unfortunately, nine horses (25%) had a fatal outcome.

As the numbers show, WNV is a preventable disease, and we can have a tremendous impact on horse health by reducing the number of unvaccinated horses in the state.

Counties with West Nile cases confirmed were Lewis & Clark and Lake (four cases each), Rosebud (three cases each), and Ravalli, Yellowstone, Phillips, Cascade, Big Horn, Blaine, Lincoln, Missoula, Powell, Choteau, Lincoln, Lake, Stillwater, Wheatland, Glacier, Carbon, Liberty, Sanders, Gallatin, Jefferson and Park.

While small animal owners may inquire into the availability of protective vaccinations, the only vaccine available continues to be just for horses. Many of the common sense measures that will protect clients' horses will also work for themselves and their families as well as their pets. Keeping grass and weeds mowed, removing items such as old tires where mosquitoes may hatch, and keeping water from becoming stagnant in water troughs and tubs will help eliminate some of the more common problem areas.

TRICHOMONIASIS: The spring of 2007 saw the implementation of MDOL's new Trichomoniasis program. Based on producer requests, the program focuses on the testing of bulls that meet eligibility criteria: Non-virgin bulls of any age, or bulls reaching their 25th month birth date, whichever comes first.

Bulls being imported must meet Trichomoniasis test requirements prior to entry into the state. Bulls within Montana must be tested prior to change of ownership (sale, loan, lease). Mandatory reporting to the State Veterinarian's Office within 24 hours of positive test results will start the epidemiological investigation and mandatory neighbor notification. Testing of fence line contact bulls may have to be done at owner's expense.

An official test, based on an official order enacted in November, 2007, modifies the acceptable "official test" as either 3 cultures, or one test by PCR. Please use an SV-69 form as the bull's Trich health certificate that can travel with him as he moves throughout the state or nation. One copy is for the veterinarian, one for the owner and one for the state so we may keep track of how many bulls are tested as well as how many are positive.

In 2007, 6,694 tests were run with 6,654 negative, and 40 Positive test results. Those

positives included: Blackfoot Reservation (15), Rocky Boy Reservation (12), Teton County (4), Blaine County (2), Cascade County (1), Northern Cheyenne Reservation (1), 1 each in Park, Pondera, Powder River and Richland counties and 1 from Idaho on import.

In 2008, we have received positive results on 19 bulls as of June 23rd: Big Horn (9), Hill (3), Carbon (2), Glacier (2), Pondera (2) and McCone (1).

Test positive bulls can be either sent directly to slaughter or to licensed Trichomoniasis feedlots within Montana. No bulls testing positive will be allowed to return back into the breeding population. The program has generated a great deal of producer awareness of the importance of disease programs. The department is working side by side with practitioners to assist identifying and preventing this disease.

The SV-69 test forms are available at \$10 per pack, and trich tags are \$26.25 for 25 tags. The tags, which will be orange until August 31, 2008, signify only that a test was conducted rather than test-negative status. Tags and forms are only available to veterinarians; contact the Animal Health Division at 406/444-2043 to place your order.

Veterinarians must complete a Trich Certification session to remain eligible to conduct official trich testing after July 1, 2008. Certification sessions were conducted in various locations outside Helena and will continue to be offered at our quarterly Deputy Veterinarian accreditations. Contact Karen Mann at 406/444-2043 for details.

TUBERCULOSIS: In response to a higher incidence of tuberculosis in rodeo bulls recently in the United States, Montana has implemented, through official order, TB test requirements for the “sporting bovine” classification of animals.

The order implements a six-month negative test prior to entry requirement on rodeo bulls, bull dogging and wrestling steers, and roping calves. The restrictions apply to shipments originating from all states including TB Free states. Shipments originating from any state of a lesser than free status

must meet additional testing placed on that status state.

Currently there are 3 states with tuberculosis that require non-sporting cattle and other animals to have additional TB testing prior to importation into Montana. Michigan and New Mexico have split-state-status that indicate differing levels of disease/risk. Minnesota has been recently downgraded to Modified Accredited (MA). This means that two tests are required in order to export Minnesota cattle. Michigan has 3 different statuses including TB free, Modified Accredited Advanced and MA. Wildlife are proven to be a significant reservoir for transmission in both Michigan and Minnesota.

BISON & BRUCELLOSIS: On the subject that won't go away, we wrapped up disease testing as a follow-up to the brucellosis case from May 2007 and weathered another bison management season. The long winter created some unique challenges for bison management, but all bison were back in the park by the deadline of May 15 with the exception of several dozen left on Horse Butte on private property that were removed on the 29th of May. The goal of the IBMP for spatial or temporal separation between bison and cattle has been maintained.

Unfortunately, on June 9th, we got word from NVSL that *Brucella abortus* biovar 1 was isolated from a suspect animal taken to the Bozeman Animal Health Diagnostic Lab on May 27th. This is Montana's 2nd case of brucellosis within two years, and therefore the state's brucellosis Class Free status will be downgraded to Class A within four to eight weeks; as soon as the change can be made in the Federal Register.

The soonest that Montana can apply to regain Class Free status is one year from the date the last reactor was killed. This is May 27th of 2009 if we don't find any additional positive livestock cases. At that time, APHIS will conduct a review, and hopefully restore our Class Free status. That review process lasts approximately six months, so we should have Class Free status restored by Dec 2009.

The positive herd is located near Pray, Montana in the Paradise Valley, and was enrolled in a voluntary herd plan that included whole herd testing and adult vaccination. Indemnity funds are available for depopulation, and the producer has previously indicated that he will not oppose it, should it become necessary.

As of June 19th, 9 fence line contact herds and 4 animal source herds have been identified and quarantined. Over 500 cattle have been tested with negative results. We have traced animals shipped from this herd in Montana as far as Baker and Chinook as well as shipments to three other states: Wyoming, Idaho and Kansas.

Last week, Wyoming has also diagnosed a case of brucellosis in two cows from one herd in Sublette County. If Wyoming completes the disease investigation and depopulates the infected herd within 60 days, the state will be able to keep their brucellosis Class Free status.

DISEASE OUTBREAK NOTIFICATIONS: If you have not received notifications on bluetongue in the fall of 2007 or a FAX on brucellosis on Jun 9th or 10th from our office, we likely do not have your correct contact information in our database. Enclosed you will find a form to help us update your contact information. Please help us keep you abreast of rapidly developing animal health issues.

Details on this survey will help not only verify our information is the most current, but also help to determine which information is of the most important to you, the practitioner. If you completed and returned this survey during the last go-round of the newsletter, you need not complete and return it yet again. However, if you have any recent changes to your practice including moving to another clinic or area, please return the survey with your updates.

IDENTIFICATION OF CATTLE; OFFICIAL DIRECTIVE: According to USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) memo # 578.11, each animal shall be identified with only ONE official ear tag.

Although it is easier to place an additional tag than read existing official identification, it is necessary that animals be tagged with a single

official ID. With multiple IDs, one animal can be identified by different numbers on different paperwork, thereby making epidemiological tracing difficult, if not impossible.

There are only a few exemptions to this rule.

- *When an animal is vaccinated for brucellosis, the orange brucellosis vaccination steel tag may be applied even if another official tag is present.*
- *By permission from State Veterinarian or USDA AVIC for brucellosis or TB reactors, export shipments, quarantined herds, or research studies.*

When tagged with more than one official tag, none of these existing tags can be removed and all official IDs must be recorded. Thank you for meeting the needs of the livestock industry of Montana.

NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION – TRACEABILITY: I want to encourage you to communicate with your cattle, horses, and other livestock clients to register their premises in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The ability to quickly identify and communicate with farm/ranch owners during a disease outbreak is important to limiting the spread of contagious disease. Likewise, identifying the point of origin, and route of transit of infected animals is the foundation of epidemiological investigations.

Critical Location Points such as laboratories, veterinary clinics, and livestock markets are part of the livestock animal health and marketing system and also should be registered.

Although we can provide much constructive criticism to our federal partners regarding the implementation of NAIS, better traceability of animals during disease emergencies serves the interests of livestock producers. Please contact Sherry Rust at 406/444-9321 or srust@mt.gov if you'd like to register your veterinary clinic, know of producers that would like to register their premises, or have any questions.

EHV-1 MYELOENCEPHALOPATHY: There have been several reports of EHV1-Neurological rhino in horses this year in different locations within the state. Please be aware of this disease on your list of differentials in the ataxic horse, along with Rabies, West Nile Virus, Sleeping sickness or trauma. This is a reportable, quarantinable disease in Montana. Movement restrictions are required to stop transmission of the disease, typically for 3 to 4 weeks after the last neurological signs present.

Fomite transmission of nasal secretions appears to be the highest method with aerosolization being second. Multiple animals in one location with acute onset of neurological signs preceded by fever or nasal discharge appear to be early warning indicators of the disease. As with other communicable diseases, locations with concentrated populations with high movement (boarding stables, race tracks, etc) appear to have higher risk. Information regarding diagnosis and prevention is constantly changing. USDA fact sheet is available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cei/taf/emergingdiseasenotice_files/ehv.pdf and AAEP white paper can be found here:

http://www.aaep.org/images/files/EQUINE%20HERPESVIRUS_white%20paper_nw.pdf

Vaccination in the face of the outbreak appears not to have much indication but limiting movement and isolating the affected animal with good bio-security measures is required to have some containment of the disease.

Treatment is focused on supportive care. Diagnostic tools available are PCR of nasal swabs and blood early in the course of disease for EHV1 with nasal secretions having a higher rate of virus shedding. Virus isolation from CSF may be possible as well.

The only modified live vaccine available in the U.S. market is Rhinimmune and has shown some promise in preventing neurological symptoms in an unpublished study. The two products available to prevent Rhino abortion (Prodigy and Pneumobort K) have also shown some promise and can be used on pregnant mares.

EHV-1 Myeloencephalopathy is a serious concern, but supportive care, isolation, restricted movement and good bio-security measures can aid in limiting the impact of this disease.

VETERINARIAN INFORMATION SURVEY SHEET

Please type or print legibly

DATE: _____

Vet Name: _____ Clinic Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Physical Address: _____ County: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Practice Type (*check all that apply*):

____ Food Animal ____ Small Animal / Exotic ____ Alternative Livestock ____ Equine ____ Research

Do you practice full time, part time, or relief work: _____

Are you interested in participating in any Montana Veterinary Disease / Emergency Response Groups (MVERT)? Y N

What is the best way to communicate breaking veterinary disease news to you? (*email or fax only*)
If you don't have a dedicated fax line, please chose email for most reliable communication

Do you have any particular subject you would like to see more information on?
(*please note not all recommendations can be addressed*)

**please note the email address provided is for Internal Office Use ONLY and will not be disclosed*

Please return the survey to:

Montana Department of Livestock
Animal Health Division
ATTN: Evaleen Starkel
PO Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001

Or fax to: 406/444-1929 *attn Evaleen