



# StockQuotes Animal Health Newsletter

Dec 2010

Quarterly Newsletter from the Animal Health Division of the Montana Department of Livestock

Volume 3, Issue 4

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### Calendar of Events:

- **62nd MT Legislature**  
January 3, 2011
- **Board of Livestock**  
Jan 18-19, 2011
- **Deputy Veterinarian Training and Trichomoniasis Certification: Helena**  
Jan 27, 2011  
Jun 23, 2011  
Sep 22, 2011
- **MVMA 2011 Winter Meeting**  
January 28 & 29

## State Veterinarian Update

One of the things I find most gratifying about my role with the state of Montana is the ability to affect positive change on animal health issues affecting Montanans. Recent changes or modifications to DOL programs include the 45 day quarantine period for rabies vaccinates, brucellosis issues, equine semen import requirements, and traceability. Updates on this newsletter and the computer animal health system also follow in this section.

**Rabies:** Following exposure of a vaccinated pet by a rabid animal, MDOL has been requiring immediate revaccination in addition to quarantine of the vaccinate for 45 days. However, the compendium on rabies prevention suggests that these animals be "observed for 45 days", and MDOL will, therefore, no longer be issuing 45 day quarantines, but rather educate the owner to observe the animal for any signs of illness or irregular behavior.

**Designated Surveillance Area:** Montana's strong brucellosis program builds confidence in the disease-free status of exported animals, and makes it less likely for other states to restrict imports. Montana's program, which is currently enforced by official order (10-01-D), is in the process of being codified into administrative rule. More on this in the brucellosis section.

**Equine Semen Imports:** Another proposed rule change removes the requirement for Coggins testing, Equine Viral Arteritis testing, and health certificates on stallions providing semen to Montana. While these requirements provide thorough health screening, the net effect has been a dramatically low compliance for these shipments. This is exacerbated by the fact that Montana's current requirements are more stringent than even the largest equine industry states including California, Kentucky, Texas, and Florida.

I believe that better compliance, and therefore better information of where semen is delivered within the state of Montana has greater benefit than tests run on the few

compliant shipments. Public comments received by the MDOL on this issue support this position.

The proposed Draft rule requires an import permit number issued by MDOL staff prior to shipment.

**Newsletter Changes:** Please take a moment to review the Staff Section which will be a regular feature in the newsletter. Many of you have talked to our highly capable staff on the phone for years without being able to meet them in person. Future issues will highlight an individual from the MDOL with greater depth.

**Computer System Upgrade:** I've mentioned in a previous issue that we're upgrading our Animal Health computer system. This upgrade moves us from a DOS fixed screen system to a web based windows system called USAHerds. This system is already deployed in several states with Montana and Kansas being the most recent additions.

This system will help us better administer animal health programs including imports, quarantines and licensing programs. Electronic health certificates (CVI) issued by GlobalVetLink will be regularly imported into the system, which has tremendous benefits in staff time, traceability and accuracy of data.

While the new system has many advantages, it will require the initial re-entry of all consignor and consignee information, as well as out of state veterinarians. Montana Deputy veterinarian data will be migrated to the new system.

We are set to "go-live" with USAHerds on January 11th. I expect that it will take slightly longer to issue an import permit while we transition to the new system, and I appreciate your patience. ☺

mz



## Laboratory Corner: Abortion Workup

Winter months are when most cattle livestock abortions are recognized in Montana because of the animal's gestational stage and closer observation because of winter feeding. Abortion diagnostic work-ups can be frustrating for all parties because often a definitive cause is not identified. That is typical across the nation. Abortions can be due to a wide variety of factors and a short list includes severe changes in weather and stress, nutritional deficiencies, infectious agents, ingestion of certain plants, maternal illness and fetal/placental maldevelopment.

Most but not all infectious processes will leave microscopic "footprints" in tissues from the fetus and placenta that allow for a cause to be determined. Some examples of infectious agents that leave distinct "footprints" are protozoa abortion in cattle and sheep, IBR abortion in cattle and *Campylobacter* (*Vibrio*) abortions in sheep. There are some of the "easy" diagnoses for the pathologist that can be made from examination of the tissues or routine cultures.

However, determination of the cause of many abortions also requires knowing the reproductive history of the herd and field observations made by the rancher or the ranch veterinarian. Complete herd reproductive histories are helpful in the diagnosis of certain infectious abortions such as leptospirosis or BVD. Abortions due to nutritional deficiencies or the ingestion of plants, such as pine needles, cannot typically be determined by evaluation of fetal tissues alone and these diagnoses are often made from on-site information. Therefore, the best chance of obtaining a diagnosis as to the cause of an abortion depends on providing the pathologist with information regarding herd and animal history, field assessments and management practices in addition to the diagnostic evaluation of a wide assortment of samples from the fetus and cow.

To assist, the MVDL provides abortion screen kits that include instructions on what samples are needed, submission and history forms, containers for fresh and fixed tissues, tubes for maternal blood or fetal fluids and the shipping container. I highly

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## Brucellosis Update:

### Tuberculosis / Brucellosis Working Group and Interim Rule on Brucellosis:

While the USDA is proposing a substantial rewrite of federal tuberculosis and brucellosis rules, this process is likely to take several years. In the meantime, an interim rule on brucellosis should be published by the time you receive this newsletter. This interim rule is likely to: 1) remove mandatory depopulation of affected herds, 2) remove mandatory class status downgrade for states with two or more affected herds within 24 months, and 3) require states with a wildlife brucellosis reservoir to establish a Disease Management Area. These updates are much needed, and while USDA has been operating with these changes in mind, formal federal rulemaking has been lacking.

### Designated Surveillance Area (DSA):

Montana, Wyoming and Idaho each has a DSA for brucellosis. Montana's DSA is a state managed program that can be adjusted by MDOL based on new information, feedback, and other circumstances. It builds confidence in the disease-free status of exported animals, and makes it less likely for other states to implement brucellosis import requirements. This helps DSA producers and non-DSA producers market cattle by eliminating a need to comply with a patchwork of differing testing requirements from different states.

MDOL held two meetings, and has one more scheduled for Jan, 4 in Twin Bridges, on the Draft Administrative Rule that will replace the official order currently in place. The Draft rule is similar to the current order and can be viewed here: <http://liv.mt.gov>. We are still seeking comments on this Draft with a likely date of adoption in late January. If you have suggestions, or simply support DSA regulations for the benefit of Montana livestock industry, we'd like to hear from you at [dsa-comments@mt.gov](mailto:dsa-comments@mt.gov) or USPS mail.

### Reimbursement for Brucellosis Testing:

Those of you conducting brucellosis testing are aware that the veterinarian reimbursement rate for market testing is \$7.50/head. For cattle tested in the field the re-

(Continued on page 4)



## Traceability

The proposed rule on traceability is expected to be published in the first half of 2011. At this time, we have a reasonable idea of the content of the rule. The proposed regulations will require livestock moved interstate to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI). There will be exemptions to the regulations that primarily affect cattle less than 18 months of age which will be phased in over several years.

Montana will be responsible for tracing of Montana origin cattle and cattle currently residing within Montana. To prepare for these anticipated changes, MDOL has been working on identifying what will be needed to meet the proposed regulations.

Identified problems or gaps in our current traceability system that have been identified include:

- Confidentiality of data
- Authority to enforce traceability regulations
- Distribution, application, and record keeping of official identification
- Verification of interstate movements
- Use of low cost technology
- Ease of use and ability to query traceability data
- Funding for personnel
- Education and outreach to accredited veterinarians, industry, and livestock producers
- Industry support

The USDA intends to distribute metal brite tags directly to producers for animals intended for interstate movement. This should effectively increase the number of animals officially identified, but, it poses a challenge for animal health officials responsible for reading and recording official identification numbers. While the metal brite tag is cost effective on the front end, the labor, facilities, risk of injury, and the likelihood of transcription errors must be balanced against the initial low cost of the metal brite tag. MDOL is advocating the use of electronic identification and records

whenever possible and would like to capitalize on the capabilities of our new animal health import system, USAHerds; the use of electronic ICVIs by accredited veterinarians; and Montana producer's current participation in age and source verification programs.

MDOL intends to continue to facilitate and increase the use of available technologies by accredited veterinarians. All of these activities however require personnel and operations expenses. The level of funding of Montana's traceability system with federal monies is uncertain at this time and must be addressed by both USDA and MDOL before the program can be fully implemented.

MDOL continues to hold meetings of the Montana traceability working group to ensure that we are receiving feedback and direction from industry. Any veterinarian interested in participating is welcome to join, please contact Dr. Tahnee Szymanski at 406-465-4051 or [tszymanski@mt.gov](mailto:tszymanski@mt.gov) for additional information.

As we see an increase in the use of the RFID tags for official identification of animals in Montana, I often get questions from veterinarians regarding tag application! For cows that are involved in official disease work, the tags have been applied to the right ear of the animal adjacent to the location of the cow's metal Bangs tag, if present. This is one instance where double tagging is allowed!!! If the animal no longer has any form of metal tag in her ear, it is not necessary to place a new metal clip in her ear! The RFID tag is sufficient. Be sure and watch out for those OCV tattoos and be careful to not apply the tag on too thick a portion of the ear. We have seen some problems with pressure necrosis.

If the RFID tags are being applied to animals that will enter feeding or market channels, the ideal location of the tag is in the left ear, middle rib, closer to the head than any existing ranch tags. ☘

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM



## Import Office

### Need to Know

**Imports:** The import permit line at the Helena office is available from 8 AM–4:45 PM every day except weekends and state holidays. During non business hours, we use an off-site answering service that can provide most permits. However, if you are working with producers to import roping cattle, animals to be quarantined on arrival, camelids, goats, wild animals, have incomplete documentation, or need seasonal grazing permits you can only obtain an import permit by speaking to one of our staff during business hours.

**Exports:** Here are some requirements for CVI'S from other states that, if not met, will result in a denied permit for Montana veterinarians.

There are a number of states that require 911 addresses for both consignor and consignee. They will return health certificates with PO BOX numbers as unacceptable and denied. Washington, North Carolina and Wisconsin to name a few.

Washington state requires an Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) test on stallions 6 months of age and older. Idaho requires one of three EVA statements depending on the test status of the stallion.

Iowa requires a statement on the health for feeder heifers 6-17 mo of age. Iowa also requires a brucellosis test or a statement for bovine from livestock markets.

Oregon's after hours permit line only issues temporary numbers. You have to call back during business hours to complete the entry permit, otherwise Oregon will return the health as unacceptable.

Oregon and California require a new Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) every 6 months while Wisconsin requires an EIA that is current within the calendar year.

Colorado requires trich testing on any bull 12 months of age and older. Nebraska requires at least one of several different trich statements for female cattle. Please check their website at [www.agr.state.ne.us/regulate/bai/tilac.htm](http://www.agr.state.ne.us/regulate/bai/tilac.htm) or call their permit line at 402-471-2351.

Always call the state of destination prior to completing the health certificate.☞

By Barb Ferguson

*(Laboratory Update continued from page 2)*

recommend using these kits if the specimens are to be collected in the field. The kits can be obtained by calling the laboratory at 406-994-4885 or by downloading the order form from our website at <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/Lab/forms.asp>. The instructions for field collections are also available at the same web site. If one wishes, sending the entire fetus and placenta to the laboratory with a complete history is very acceptable.

Remember that the laboratory staff is available to provide information and assistance. Asking questions before hand is always encouraged and often saves time and money. ☞

By Bill Layton, DVM, Director,  
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

*(Brucellosis Update continued from page 2)*

reimbursement rate is \$10/head to the veterinarian and \$2/head to the producer for associated costs of the procedure. Based on feedback that we received, and the desire to find the best market rate, we're adjusting the reimbursement based on a sliding scale of animals tested. Starting January 1, the reimbursement rate for ranch testing will increase to \$12/head for 1-10 animals tested, remain the same at \$10/head for 11-50 animals tested, and decrease to \$7.50 for over 50 animals tested. Market testing and the \$2/head producer reimbursement for ranch testing will stay the same regardless of the quantity of animals tested.

### Affected Herd Investigation:

DNA fingerprinting done on the *Brucella* isolated from positive bison from the affected herd was an exact match to the organism isolated from a Montana elk hunter harvested in 2009. As this fingerprint can vary even in different tissues from the same animal, this match is highly significant. A retest of the breeding herd has been completed without finding additional suspects, and the majority of adjacent herds will be tested by the first week of January. ☞

mz



## USDA Corner: Feeder Cattle and Small Animal Health Certificates

### Port Endorsement of Health Certificates for Montana Feeder Cattle Exported to Canada:

To facilitate the movement of feeder cattle from Montana to Canada, effective December 8, 2010 and until further notice, in addition to Health Certificate (HC) endorsement services provided by the USDA-APHIS-VS-Montana Area Office in Helena, USDA-APHIS-VS-Montana will also provide the HC endorsement service at the land border Ports of Sweetgrass and Raymond – by appointment only.

This service will be subject to the following conditions:

HC endorsements at Montana border ports will only be conducted on shipments of feeder cattle originating in Montana and HC issued by Montana-accredited veterinarians;

HC endorsements will be by appointment only;

HC endorsements will only be performed Mondays thru Fridays during regular work hours (8:00 am – 4:30 pm), unless otherwise approved and scheduled by the USDA-APHIS-VS Port Veterinarians;

HC endorsements will not be conducted on Federal Holidays (or days Federal Holidays are observed);

HC endorsements will be subject to User Fees – which must be collected at the time of endorsement;

\$49.00 per Certificate (and additional over-time charges will apply if unforeseen circumstances result in endorsements outside of the regular work hours described above).

Please contact the Port Veterinarian in advance regarding payment options for User Fees.

HC endorsements at one or both of the described Montana border ports may be discontinued by the Montana Area Veterinarian in Charge at any time, with due cause.

Please schedule appointments by contacting:

#### Port of Sweetgrass, Montana

Dr. James Becker  
(406) 335-2142  
(406) 335-2144 (FAX)  
James.L.Becker@aphis.usda.gov

and

#### Port of Raymond, Montana

Dr. Kenneth Lee  
(406) 487-5955  
Kenneth.C.Lee@aphis.usda.gov

Please note – Telephone requests for scheduling appointments are preferred. Requests for scheduling appointments via FAX (Sweetgrass) or via email (Sweetgrass or Raymond) will not be considered scheduled until confirmed with an affirmative reply by the Port Veterinarian receiving the request.

### Small Animal Health Certificate Forms 7001:

USDA is no longer printing the small animal health certificate forms #7001. These have been replaced by the electronic PDF forms that must be filled out by the veterinarian on the computer and **MUST** be printed with a color printer. These can be found here: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/APHIS7001.pdf>

This electronic form was updated in November 2010 to be a single page health certificate. All other electronic APHIS Form 7001's are obsolete, however the carbon-copy forms will be accepted.

For additional questions on how to use this form, please contact USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services in Helena, MT, (406) 449-2220 or email Montana VS:  
VSPS\_MT@aphis.usda.gov. ☐

By Thomas Linfield, DVM  
AVIC, USDA-APHIS-VS



## Montana Department of Livestock

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Return Service Requested  
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Import line: 406-444-2976  
Fax: 406-444-1929



We're on the Web:  
[www.liv.mt.gov](http://www.liv.mt.gov)

### Meet the Animal Health Staff

The Animal Health Division staff is proud of the work we do for animal health, public health, and the state of Montana. One of our primary missions is to monitor imports to prevent the introduction of infectious and communicable diseases.

Montana law requires an import permit prior to import of all animals (except pets accompanied by their owner). In addition, we address existing or newly occurring animal health disease issues by issuing quarantines, tracking testing, and working with out of state and Montana deputy veterinarians.



When you call our office, you are likely to speak with one of our highly skilled office staff that do much of the administration of these programs. In the photo, from left to right, are: Barbara Ferguson (import permits, seasonal grazer, and *b. ovis*, programs), Lindsey Mulcare (import permits, trichomoniasis program), Kathleen Van Drunen (import permits), Eva-leen Starke (office manager, assistant to state vet and import permits), Margie Kelley (alternative livestock program, import permits), and Amy Dault (brucellosis program). ☒

#### MDOL Contact Information:

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