



June 2010

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Calendar of Events:

- **Montana Veterinary Medical Association Summer Conference & Trade Show: Helena**
June 27 - 29, 2010
- **Board of Livestock:**
July 26 & 27, 2010
- **Deputy Veterinarian Training and Trichomoniasis Certification: Helena**
Oct 4th, 2010
- **Deadline for Selection of Federal Accreditation Category to Maintain Accreditation:**
August 2, 2010

StockQuotes Animal Health Newsletter

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

Volume 3, Issue 2

State Veterinarian Update

I'd like to thank you for the feedback on a variety of issues over the last three years. Most recently, comments we received on the Official Calhoun Vaccination (OCV) proposal and the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) were critical in shaping policy and allowed regulations to be the best possible.

Likewise, veterinarian and producer feedback were critical in the decision to rescind mandatory identification of all imported livestock (brand inspection number on some classes of animals is now accepted) as well as the import test requirement on stallions for EVA (equine viral arteritis). Currently, there is an inconsistency between EVA requirements for imported stallions versus shipped semen, and I will be addressing this prior to next year's breeding season.

I continue to depend on your comments, phone calls and e-mails to help shape regulations that strike a balance between disease control and ease of commerce. Please let me know if we're hitting the target on a particular policy, or missing the target entirely.

In the brucellosis world, Yellowstone National Park announced the eagerly anticipated publication of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for in-park vaccination of bison against brucellosis.

Also in this newsletter, please look for a summary on the EIA case investigation as well as actions taken by the Board of Livestock at the May meeting.

For those who have been following the veterinary medical loan repayment program (VMLRP), applications are now being accepted. More info here: <http://tinyurl.com/2dxkhd3>.

In closing, please keep in mind that you will receive the most timely updates if we have your e-mail address as it is impossible for the quarterly newsletter to always be timely with rapidly developing issues. ✉ mz

EIA Case Update

In April, two Gallatin County horses from a single premises tested positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). The index animal was tested as a requirement prior to interstate travel, and the second positive was found through follow-up testing. A third horse on the same premises was tested negative. All three horses on the premises were quarantined and removed from the proximity of any other equids in the area.

The two positive animals were transported to National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA, where they will join a small herd of positive animals that are used for proficiency certification for EIA testing laboratories. The remaining animal from the index farm remains quarantined for an additional 45 days, at which time a final negative EIA test will be required.

Per USDA guidelines, the epidemiological investigation focused on adjacent premises within 200 yards of the index premises that had horses. Thirty-nine animals on six premises were quarantined and tested negative. Numerous other horses were also voluntarily tested. Fortunately, no additional positives have been identified at this time.

Our epidemiological investigation revealed that the index animal had a negative Coggins test in the spring of 2009 immediately prior to an out-of-state trip. The horse was then used extensively in Gallatin County during trail rides and trail clearing trips. The second positive animal was used on one trail ride in the summer of 2009 and had no prior test history. In addition to adjacent premises, the focus of the EIA epidemiological investigation includes horses that have come into contact with the positive animal(s) within six months of the positive test. Because the risk of transmission in Montana in the six months prior to the positive test is minimal, we are limiting (barring new information) our investigation to include the one trail ride that both posi-

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Brucellosis

Interagency Bison Management Plan: The National Park Service (NPS) has published an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on in-park vaccination of bison for brucellosis. Remote vaccination of bison within Yellowstone National Park was envisioned when the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) was signed in the year 2000. Initiation of the vaccination program is necessary for the IBMP to advance to step three.

Three alternatives are evaluated in the Draft EIS. The no action alternative (A) describes the current hand vaccination program that is sporadically implemented at the Stephens Creek capture facility when hazing of bison becomes ineffective at maintaining spatial separation from private properties north of the park boundary. Since the implementation of the IBMP in 2000, the NPS has only implemented hand vaccination at the Stephens Creek capture facility in 2004 (112 yearling and calves) and 2008 (24 yearling and bison calves).

The second alternative (B) includes a combination of the existing program at Stephens Creek and a remote delivery vaccination strategy that would focus exclusively on young, non-pregnant bison (both sexes). This alternative expands the vaccination program to the whole park but continues targeting the young bison. Remote delivery vaccination would not involve capture and handling of individual animals. The most feasible technology currently available for remote delivery of vaccine to animals without individually handling them is through the use of a compressed air powered rifle that delivers an absorbable projectile with freeze dried or photopolymerized vaccine encapsulated in the payload compartment.

The third alternative (C) is similar to the second alternative, but also includes the vaccination of adult females. Vaccination of adult females provides two benefits not available under Alternative B. This action intends to increase population-level immunity by more quickly providing vaccine to a larger pool of candidates eligible for vaccination.

The above section was abridged from the executive summary provided in the pub-

lished EIS available here: <http://tinyurl.com/275wz3y>

Modeling done by YNP predicts that alternatives A, B and C would result in a subsequent reduction of brucellosis prevalence in bison to 35%, 28% and 16% respectively in 30 years.

If you have an interest in this topic, I strongly encourage you to review the draft EIS and submit written comments prior to the deadline on July 26, 2010.

DSA: Reimbursement for Testing. Based on numerous conversations with veterinarians and producers, MDOL will be adjusting the reimbursement rate for field brucellosis testing starting July 1st. Currently, \$12 is reimbursed to the veterinarian conducting testing required by the DSA Official Order. With the start of the next fiscal year, reimbursement to veterinarians will be \$10 per head, while \$2 will be allocated to the producer for labor, shrink on cattle, and any wear on facilities. Thanks for your efforts to make Montana's brucellosis program a success.

Brucellosis Reactors from Canada: (British Columbia—BC): Three Canada-origin brucellosis reactors were recently detected through post-slaughter testing performed in the United States. USDA subsequently placed a brucellosis testing requirement on some classes of animals from British Columbia while the epidemiological investigation was being conducted. Follow-up testing by Canadian animal health authorities found no evidence of brucellosis and USDA lifted the testing requirements on June 15th. While the detection of reactors (serum) is interesting, the confirmatory test for brucellosis is tissue culture. Canada's last brucellosis case was in 1989. ☒ mz

Board of Livestock Actions

Based on feedback we received at public meetings and in writing, the Board of Livestock (BOL) decided against an OCV (official calfhood vaccination) rule that would be applied to replacement calves at change of ownership as previously proposed. Our public meetings revealed general agree-

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Roosevelt Arch at Yellowstone National Park entrance

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/2fm4vdd>



Diagnostic Laboratory

Shipping Veterinary Diagnostic Samples:

An article published in the April 15, 2010 JAVMA News, reports that a veterinarian in Illinois may face thousands of dollars in fines after an Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) audit found her hazardous shipping procedures and training to be deficient. Most of the packages received by the veterinary diagnostic laboratory meet packing requirements but there are occasional mishaps that often can be attributed to improperly trained personnel. The AVMA specifically addresses this issue from the veterinary practice perspective here: <http://tinyurl.com/266chpw>

Real time Tritrichomonas PCR (qPCR) and sample pooling:

Real time PCR (qPCR) offers several advantages over traditional (gel) PCR including greater sensitivity, quantitative results, and labor savings. We hope to transition to qPCR within the next two months. The heavy volume of testing has hampered us from completing in house validation procedures, however, the pilot tests are very encouraging.

We also hope to be a part of a multi-laboratory study aimed at the testing of pooled samples by qPCR. Pooling samples would considerably cut down the cost of testing fees but there are some experimental studies that report a significant number of false negatives occurred when samples of 5 were pooled. Most laboratory managers understand the importance of reducing costs for producers but before pooling becomes adopted more information is needed.

Expired InPouches :

InPouches have a printed expiration date on the front. The company that produces the pouches will not stand by their product if used past the printed expiration date. The MVDL policy is that Tritrichomonas testing will not be performed on outdated InPouches because of compromise to both quality assurance standards and our PCR and culture protocols that require incubation. Please, make certain that the pouches you use are not outdated so that you can avoid repeat sampling of the animal. ☘

By Bill Layton, DVM

Trichomoniasis

The trich program has greatly benefited from close cooperation with the Blackfeet Indian Nation. The Blackfeet Tribal Council has incorporated many components of the Montana Administrative Trichomoniasis Rule and now includes annual testing of all non-virgin resident and imported bulls onto the reservation. This testing must be done prior to turn out on June 1st with a \$500 fine per bull for non compliance. MDOL appreciates the efforts by private veterinarians to complete required testing, educate clients, and provide management advice for positive herds.

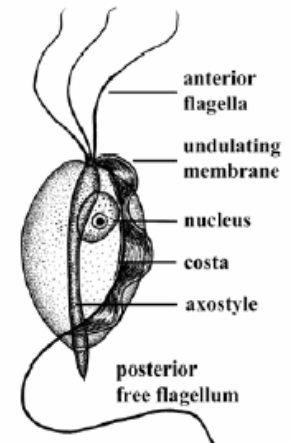
The current testing requirement that includes bulls from multiple sources grazing in common will generate much needed statewide surveillance data. To date, 7093 bulls have been tested, with more than 4000 tests run by PCR. Culture testing in clinics is still allowed for herd health or surveillance testing with all negative tests needing to be reported within one week. This reporting allows a more accurate determination of county prevalence.

As of the first of June, 28 positive bulls in eighteen 18 herds tested positive with the majority having exposure at the Blackfeet Indian Nation. One herd in Big Horn County is still under investigation. Positive tests include Glacier County (21 cases), Cascade (4), Pondera (2) and Big Horn (1).

Testing will slow down after breeding season begins and will increase again this fall as positive herds have a post breeding test requirement. Tags and forms are available from the office and the tag color will change to green on September 1, 2010. Current year's tests and testing numbers and case totals can be found on our web site at <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/ah/diseases/trich/data.asp>.

Thank you for all of your efforts with the Trichomoniasis program. ☘

By Jeanne Rankin, DVM



Tritrichomonas foetus

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/3xl4rev>



InPouch Trichomoniasis Transport Media

Source: Geoffrey Scholl Photography

Traceability: Performance Standards

A national traceability working group comprised of federal, state and tribal animal health representatives meets on a weekly basis to help shape the future of the traceability program. One of the first missions of the working group is to develop "performance standards" which state traceability programs would need to meet. Under this framework, states would have significant flexibility over how to ensure traceability as long as they meet these performance standards. Currently proposed standards include:

1. Time to notify the State/Tribe where a reference animal was officially identified:

This will be done by the State that received the reference animal with the proposed time frame of 1 business day.

2. Time to notify the State/Tribe from which the animals were shipped:

The state that receives the reference animal will need to notify the shipping state. This may be different than the state where the animals were initially identified if the animal is involved in multiple interstate movements. The proposed standard is 7 business days.

3. Time to identify the traceability unit (group, premises, county, etc..) where the reference animal was officially identified:

This will be done by the State in which the animal was officially identified. States can define their own traceability unit by geography or type of group. The proposed standard for identification of the traceability unit is 5 business days.

4. Time to identify the traceability unit from which the reference animal was shipped:

This will be done by the State where the interstate movement originated and the proposed standard is 5 business days.

MDOL is eager to proceed with the evaluation and development of our state's program, ahead of the publication of a national rule. To involve industry in the development, MDOL will be holding a public meeting in Helena in the coming months. Any interested individuals are encouraged to attend and engage in discussions about the current

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Rabies

We recently had a diagnosis of rabies in a horse in Yellowstone County. The horse had been sick for several days, had unilateral facial paralysis, head tilt and prominent salivation accompanied by depression. The veterinarian euthanized the horse, and astutely submitted the brain for rabies testing. However, several individuals were exposed to the horse during the clinical stage of the disease. We also received a report of a positive bat in Treasure County.

The most common questions we get regarding rabies quarantines are those involving domestic animals that bite humans. Typically the animal will need to be quarantined away from people and animals for 10 days, but please contact your local public health office for guidance in these situations. Do NOT vaccinate inside this 10 day period. If euthanasia is requested in place of quarantine then the brain tissue must be sent to the lab for testing. Please contact the lab at (406)994-4885 to determine the correct sampling and shipping technique as many samples they receive are unsuitable for testing. This becomes problematic if there has been human or animal exposure.

The next most common question we receive is regarding animals exposed to or bitten by wildlife that are unavailable for testing. If the pet is current on vaccination, then a 45 day quarantine will be placed on them by the department, usually within the home. In cases when the animal is not current on vaccination, then a 180 day quarantine is placed that is usually outside the home in a facility approved by the department. Both of these quarantines require an immediate booster of rabies vaccination with the initial veterinary exam, and a release exam at the end of the quarantine period. There are monthly exams required for the 180 day quarantine, as well. ☞

By Jeanne Rankin, DVM



Source: <http://tinyurl.com/2fufdg9>



Source: <http://tinyurl.com/29yoyxv>

USDA Corner:

Canadian Import Restrictions, New Tuberculin Packaging, Veterinary Accreditation Program

VS in Arizona—Import Restrictions to Canada: Due to confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis in horses in Arizona, Canada has imposed movement restrictions on U.S. equines which are in effect until further notice.

Effective immediately, APHIS will not endorse any export health certificates for US origin equines to Canada if the animals have been in the State of Arizona within the previous 21 days. Canadian-origin equines from the State of Arizona can be exported to Canada with an import permit issued by CFIA and additional certification statements and VSV testing.

Please contact the USDA-APHIS-VS Helena office (406-449-2220) for updates on the vesicular stomatitis situation or if you have any questions regarding issuing Health Certificates for animals destined to Canada.

Bovine Tuberculin (PPD Bovis):

To maintain the high quality and availability of Bovine Tuberculin (PPD Bovis) and to ensure consistent and accurate tuberculosis (TB) testing, PPD Bovis is now available in the following three vial sizes: 1.0 ml, 5.0

ml, and 10.0 ml vials that are sufficient to test 10, 50 and 100 animals respectively.

Please evaluate your PPD Bovis needs for scheduled or anticipated TB testing and take into consideration the availability of the three different PPD vial volumes – order PPD Bovis from MDOL (406) 444-2043 based on the vial volume best suited for the scheduled or anticipated testing.

Reminder regarding changes to National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP):

The NVAP has undergone significant changes and now requires accreditation renewal every 3 years, supplemental training, and category selection.

New graduates and currently accredited veterinarians need to submit new Application For Veterinary Accreditation (VS Form 1-36A) to declare an accreditation category (Category I – performing accredited duties only for companion animals; or Category II – performing accredited duties for all species) by August 2nd.

Please contact the USDA-APHIS-VS Helena office (406-449-2220) with questions. ✕

By Tom Linfield, DVM



(BOL Actions continued from page 2)

ment that Montana's breeding herd should be vaccinated, therefore the BOL directed me to develop a proposal that focuses on adult breeding cattle. Such a program would reduce the number of unvaccinated adult females entering Montana's breeding herd, would be phased in over several years, and would include a significant educational component. A summary of comments is now available on our web site. Thank you for all your input on this topic!

The BOL also approved changes to requirements for tuberculosis testing for import. Based on recent federal rule changes, beef cattle from California and New Mexico will no longer be required to have a TB test prior to import (just like TB free states). The order also incorporates a section on sporting bovines and can be found on our web site, www.liv.mt.gov. ✕ mz

(EIA continued from page 1)

tive animals attended (30 contact animals) and another trail ride that took place during the peak of vector season (350 contact animals).

The current incidence of EIA among animals tested is less than 0.01%. In the United States, over 2 million animals are tested annually. Since 1974, the state of Montana has seen more than 200 positive animals.

In addition to the two horses found this year in Gallatin County, 17 other positive were found in the last 10 years; 1 in 2007 (Cascade Co), 2 in 2003 (Park Co), 2 in 2002 (Ravalli Co), 3 in 2001 (Richland and Silver Bow Counties), and 9 in 2000 (Silver Bow and Yellowstone Counties). ✕

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Montana Department of Livestock

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Helena, MT, 59620-2001
Return Service Requested
Phone: 406-444-2043
Import line: 406-444-2976
Fax: 406-444-1929



We're on the Web:
www.liv.mt.gov

Traceability (cont'd)

(Traceability continued from page 4)
program's strengths and weaknesses and how best to proceed.

Additionally, MDOL is looking to facilitate the use of electronic forms by accredited veterinarians in Montana and is currently evaluating the ability to generate brucellosis vaccination certificates on-line, certificates of veterinary inspections, and 6 month horse passports.

Please look for additional information in the coming months! If you are interested in learning more, feel free to contact Tahnee Szymanski, DVM at tszymanski@mt.gov or (406) 202-0690. ☞

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

About This Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter is intended to provide information to the Montana veterinary community on regulatory issues.

It has an obvious focus on livestock issues, however we will be making an effort to cover pertinent topics relating to companion and small animals; particularly ones that address public health and zoonotic issues.

Please don't hesitate to contact the state veterinarian's office for suggestions for topics to include in upcoming issues, or just to provide feedback to the office.

Best wishes for a great summer! ☞

mz

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