



Jun 2011

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| State Veterinarian Update | 1 |
| EHV Outbreak | 1 |
| Brucellosis Update | 2 |
| Rabies | 3 |
| Traceability | 3 |
| Q-Fever Investigation | 4 |
| USDA Update | 5 |
| Staff Corner | 6 |
| Laboratory News | 6 |

Calendar of Events:

Public Comment closes on DSA Administrative Rule; July 25

Veterinarian Deputy & Accreditation Seminar; September 22

Trichomoniasis Tag color changes to WHITE; September 1

StockQuotes Animal Health Newsletter

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

Volume 4, Issue 2

State Veterinarian Update

Hopefully, we're wrapping up the season of flood and pestilence. This quarter, we learned much about Equine Herpes Virus when an unprecedented multi-state outbreak of the disease caused illness of several dozen horses and forced the cancellation of numerous equine events. Nearly a month into the incident, Montana diagnosed its first test-positive horse. Fortunately, the horse was held separate from other horses following travel, and as of this writing, remains healthy. More on this event in the next section.

A number of administrative rule drafts will be published in the next several weeks or months including: 1) DSA brucellosis regulations. These changes will affect the DSA boundary and identification requirements. The draft rule was published June 23 and MDOL will take public comment through July 25. 2) The Board of Livestock has directed Animal Health to develop a pullo-rum-typhoid Authorized Testing Agent (ATA) program whereby individuals can test poultry to qualify for interstate shipment or participation in some events. 3) As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, the trichomoniasis program will be undergoing some significant changes as we transition from a statewide approach to focusing on counties where the disease seems to occur most frequently. 4) Lastly, we will be "converting" some of our long standing official orders into administrative rule consistent with House Bill 54 passed by the 61st legislature. According to this bill, an official order may last no more than five years. Therefore, a number of long standing orders pertaining to scrapie and tuberculosis need to be promulgated into rule.

I hope you received the numerous email updates in May and June on the status of EHV. If you'd like to be added to this email distribution list, please let us know. Electronic communication is the most effective method for timely delivery of information on disease alerts and other time sensitive information. In addition to these email updates that are specifically tar-

(Continued on page 3)

USDA Declares EHV-1 Outbreak Contained

Following the National Cutting Horse Association, Western National Championship event held in Ogden, Utah April 29 through May 8, the equine industry experienced a multistate outbreak of EHV-1 and consequent Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM).

The initial notification of a possible disease outbreak was made on May 13. A total of 90 confirmed EHV-1 or EHM cases were reported in 10 states (AZ, CA, CO, ID, NM, NV, OK, OR, UT, WA) throughout the months of May and June. 54 cases were horses that were at the Ogden event, with the remainder being secondary or tertiary exposures. Exposed horses experienced a wide range of symptoms ranging from a complete lack of clinical signs to fever, nasal discharge or more serious neurological symptoms characteristic of EHM. Incoordination, hind-end weakness, lethargy, urine dribbling and diminished tail tone are frequent signs of EHM. Acute paralytic syndrome is another possible consequence, which results in high mortality. Thirteen horses associated with this incident died or were euthanized.

Late in the incident, Montana diagnosed its first test-positive horse associated with the event. The horse, a 15-year-old gelding in Gallatin County, was stabled separate from other horses on the premises after attending the Utah event. The gelding was monitored for fever for most of May and into June. He did not have an elevated temperature or any other clinical signs, however he was tested because of his exposure history.

Although the gelding had a PCR negative nasal swab taken May 16, a second nasal swab taken three weeks later on June 7 was positive. The horse did not meet the case definition of an EHV-1 positive animal because of the lack of clinical signs and was categorized as a "non-clinical EHV-1 positive". The horse and premises were quarantined until June 24 when MDOL re-

(Continued on page 4)

Brucellosis Updates



Designated Surveillance Area (DSA): The draft rule on brucellosis regulations was published on June 23, and will be open for public comment through July 25. There are two main changes in the proposed rule. 1) We are proposing to adjust the boundary of the DSA south of Alder heading westward to Dillon on Sweetwater Rd and then moving back in a southeasterly direction on Blacktail Rd. This adjustment increases the DSA by 617 square miles to 4% of the state. It's necessary to conduct livestock surveillance in this area because results of the live capture elk study done by Montana Department Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) in the Ruby range of the Gravelly's last January revealed a significant exposure rate of brucellosis in elk. Few things would erode the confidence in Montana's brucellosis program as rapidly as exporting a brucellosis positive animal from outside our DSA. 2) We are also proposing to require any sexually intact cattle leaving the DSA to be permanently and officially identified. This proposed change is in response to several states enacting identification requirements on cattle being exported from Montana, Idaho or Wyoming's DSA. These ID requirements are similar, but not identical, and therefore create confusion for Montana's cattle industry. For example, Nebraska requires that a health certificate written for cattle from any part of Montana must state whether the animals originate from the DSA (or not).

agency representatives and tribal members to undertake a comprehensive rewrite of tuberculosis and brucellosis rules. Currently, the brucellosis program still includes regulations based on vaccine technologies used prior to 1996. Likewise, the tuberculosis program has struggled with a risk from imported cattle, particularly roping steers from Mexico. Both programs are challenged by decreasing federal funding and disease reservoirs in wildlife. This is likely the most significant revision of federal rules ever undertaken since the inception of the eradication efforts of brucella and tuberculosis in livestock. Comments (through July 5) can be submitted by following links at the USDA website at <http://goo.gl/2Qj2C>.

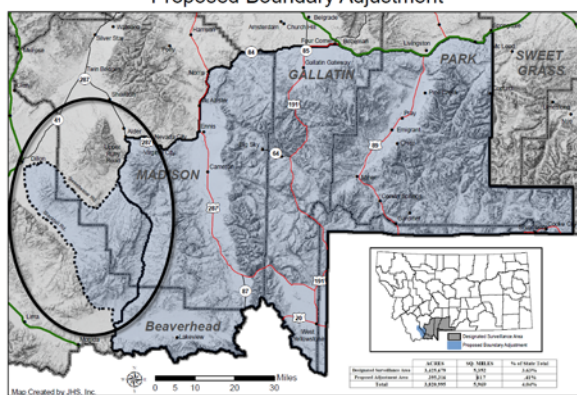
Genotyping: Following the diagnosis of a brucellosis positive animal, MDOL has been requesting DNA analysis of the isolated Brucella organisms. There are a couple of interesting findings from the most recent analyses.

B. abortus isolates obtained from two positive animals in the 2010 affected domestic bison herd are not an exact genetic match. On the one hand, this gives us some confidence that intra-herd transmission did not occur (because the strains differ) and that the disease was rapidly diagnosed following infection. On the other hand, there is a possibility that two separate infections from wildlife took place.

The most recent analyses also gives us some additional insight into the 2007 affected cattle herd. As you may recall, this herd was based in Carbon County, but the positive animal was moved (as part of the family business partnership) to Park County following weaning where she was raised and bred. The genotyping report states that brucella isolates from wildlife recently submitted show a "rather close kinship, by Brucella genotyping standards" to the 2007 isolate. Therefore, while not entirely eliminating the concern over more widely distributed wildlife brucellosis, this new information supports MDOL's prior conclusion that exposure took place in the Greater Yellowstone Area. ☒

mz

Designated Surveillance Area
Proposed Boundary Adjustment



Proposed DSA boundary adjustment (in oval)

South Dakota, while not requiring that individual IDs listed, does require that the range of IDs that includes the cattle on the shipment be written on the health certificate. The goal of a Montana requirement, therefore, is to provide consistency for the state's producers of livestock and prevent additional requirements for identification being placed by other states. MDOL would be very interested in your comments on these proposals.

TB/Brucella Working Group: For a number of months, USDA has been spearheading a work group of animal health officials, wildlife

Rabies Update

The Montana “rabies season” is well underway for 2011. While rabies should remain on your differential list year round, the data for rabies suggest the highest incidence of the disease occurs in the non-winter months. For 2011, we have 8 positive cases in 4 counties (Big Horn, Ravalli, Rosebud, and Yellowstone). The 8 positive cases include 5 skunks, 2 cows, and 1 bat. By the time you read this, Yellowstone Co. should be released from quarantine. Both Big Horn and Rosebud Counties will remain under quarantine through the middle of August. The most current listing of rabies county quarantines is found at <http://goo.gl/3cbEi>.

MDOL currently has seven animals under strict 180-day quarantine for exposure to either a known positive animal or to a wild animal that was not available or unsuitable for testing. Per the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets exposed to a rabid animal are to be either euthanized or placed under 180-day strict isolation quarantine. This can be done in a shelter, veterinary clinic or at home. Home quarantine requires approval from MDOL and typically includes periodic inspection of the premises by enforcement personnel.

Aside from the animals that successfully complete the quarantine, many non-vaccinated animals are euthanized because of costs or practical challenges of the 180-day confinement following rabies exposure. MDOL encourages all veterinarians to emphasize the importance of rabies vaccination to their clients. While there is no state law requiring vaccination of domestic animals, most counties and many cities have rabies vaccination requirements. ✕

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

(State vet update continued from page 1)

geted to Montana veterinarians, MDOL is also offering a newsletter for livestock producers and the general public called The Fencepost. You can subscribe to The Fencepost on our homepage at www.liv.mt.gov.

Additionally, we’re actively updating our Facebook page (Montana Department of Livestock) and our Twitter (MontanaDOL) feed. ✕
mz

Traceability

Congress recently restored traceability funding and the publication of the federal proposed rule on traceability is imminent. MDOL is working towards further improving traceability in Montana.

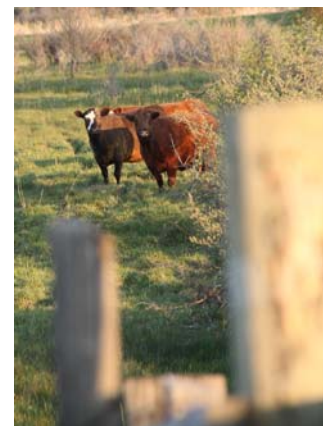
Traceability can be inexpensively and significantly improved simply by identifying animals. Recently Montana developed a protocol for the distribution of metal Brite (clip) tags directly to producers. This is likely to be particularly helpful for DSA producers who are subject to increased ID requirements prior to exporting animals to Colorado, Nebraska or South Dakota. If you have producers who are interested in receiving tags directly from the USDA, please direct them to the MDOL Animal Health or the USDA office.

Additionally MDOL is working to procure additional RFID tags to be made available to producers involved in program diseases (typically brucellosis and tuberculosis) . Look for more information on these tags in the months to come.

Tracing animals moving through livestock markets is still a laborious process using paper-based brand inspection records. While we are able to identify the movement of cattle, it can take many hours to track just one animal. A more efficient process is needed to comply with the upcoming traceability rule and MDOL is exploring the installation of an electronic brands data system in our markets that will allow more efficient searching of the origin of animals coming into the market and their ultimate dispersal from the market.

We expect this new “Shipper/Owner” system to be in place in some markets by the end of the calendar year with full implementation in all Montana markets within two years. Look for more information in the coming months! ✕

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM



Q-Fever Investigation



Source: USDA-APHIS ARS

In later breaking news, the Montana Department of Livestock, in conjunction with the state Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS), USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is investigating an outbreak of Q fever in animals and people in the state.

At least three known premises in the state have received goats from a positive herd in Washington. Two of those premises, in Cascade and Teton counties, had goats that tested positive for the disease, while a third, located in Yellowstone County, is currently being tested by MDOL and USDA-APHIS.

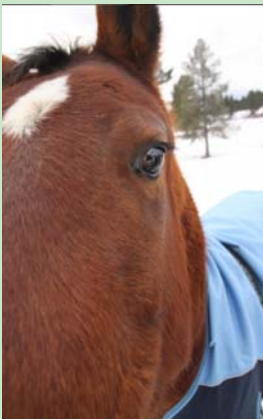
A zoonotic disease, Q fever is caused by *Coxiella Burnetti*. Infected animals can experience infertility, late term abortions, stillbirth, and retained placentas. The bacteria is shed in birthing residues, feces, milk and urine. Humans can become infected by breathing barnyard dust particles contaminated by the bacteria.

The link between the human cases in Montana and the infected animals imported from Washington state has not been definitively established, but is considered likely.

Complicating management of this outbreak is the high prevalence of Q fever in healthy livestock populations including sheep, goats and cattle. In fact, some studies have found that 94% of bulk tank milk samples around the country are positive by PCR for *C. burnetti*. In one area of California, 18-55% of sheep had antibodies to *C. Burnetti**.

*Source: *Emerging and Exotic Diseases of Animals (4th ed)*, edited by A.R Spickler, et al, *The Center for Food Security and Public Health*. ☒

By Steve Merritt with mz



EHV-1 (continued)

ceived negative results from a third PCR nasal swab.

Management of non-clinical EHV-1 test-positive animals can be somewhat ambiguous. MDOL and the attending veterinarian ultimately decided to treat the gelding as a positive until a negative PCR showed otherwise. What we know about the shedding period in infected animals is that it is more prolonged with more severe clinical signs. A horse that is neurologic can be expected to shed for up to 28 days beyond the resolution of clinical signs. Using the 28-day shedding window and the 14-day observation period for exposed horses, there is no additional risk to Montana horses following the release of the quarantine of the affected stable on June 24.

The source of the outbreak is not likely to be conclusively identified. Several Canadian horses attended the Ogden event following a Canadian EHV-1 and EHM incident at a cutting event there in early May. However, the variable nature of the disease may have led to U.S. horses shedding the virus as well.

This incident highlights a number of points. 1) Any public event where animals come into contact always carries some degree of risk. Horse owners are able to reduce the risk of communicable disease by taking a handful of practical measures including; keeping traveling horses away from resident populations, not sharing tack, and working with higher risk or sick horses last. 2) Because there are so many unknowns with this virus, interpretation of test results is difficult at best. MDOL recommends testing only animals that have shown clinical signs such as fever, respiratory disease, or neurologic symptoms. 3) As suspected, non symptomatic horses can transmit the virus. In at least one case, horses showed severe clinical signs of EHV following exposure to an apparently healthy horse that attended the Ogden event. 4) Veterinarians continue to be the source of credible and timely information on disease outbreaks. Thank you for your continued efforts in this regard. ☒

By mz with Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

USDA Electronic Health Certificate System and Accreditation

The previous issue discussed Global-VetLink (GVL), a service that offers online health certificates and some electronic laboratory forms. The Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) is an alternative to GVL.

USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services developed the system to offer a single point of access to electronic forms, applications and certification processes required for interstate movement of animals and animal products. This web-based system includes an Interstate Module for electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) and supporting documents.

Electronic CVI's significantly enhance the traceability of animals moved interstate and provide easy to read and searchable documentation. VSPS offers accredited veterinarians the opportunity to create on-line certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) as well as on-line equine infectious anemia (EIA) testing forms. VSPS is available at no charge to accredited veterinarians, NVSL-approved laboratories or state animal health officials.

CVIs and EIA testing forms and certificates generated through VSPS online system are used in all 50 states. The VSPS system is internet-based, so there is no software to download and the system can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection. Owner and animal information only needs to be entered once, and may be reused. It may also be shared among practice members. VSPS also replaces hand drawn markings on horses with color digital photos that may be uploaded and saved to the system for easy re-use. Electronic certificates increase efficiency of veterinary paperwork by making issued certificates and EIA testing forms available online, in real-time, to state animal health officials of both the state of origin and destination.

Getting started with VSPS:

- 1) Get Level Two eAuthenticated (eAuth) at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>
- 2) Take your driver's license or another form of ID to a Local Registration Authority to get authenticated. If you have problems with eAuthentication,

contact their help desk at: eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov or call 800-457-3642.

- 3) Using your eAuth user name and password, log on to VSPS at: <https://vsps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/public/Login.do>
- 4) Fill out your personal profile
- 5) Request the role of an accredited veterinarian.

VSPS Training: Take advantage of taped webinars and custom job aids that are available by contacting the VSPS help desk (contact information below). If you already have access to the interstate module (have an approved role in VSPS) you can click on the VSPS Interstate link then the VSPS Interstate Library Link to download the training materials for free.

Learn more about VSPS: <https://vsps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/> or contact the USDA-APHIS-VS Montana Area Office at 406-449-2220.

National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) - Web Modules Now Available

The first four APHIS Approved Supplemental Training (AAST) modules are now available. "NVAP Modules" provides a brief description of these modules. Current plans are for six new modules to be offered in September, 2011, four new modules by March 2012, and four new modules by September 2012. Availability of these modules will be announced here.

To comply with the new regulations, accredited veterinarians have been assigned initial accreditation renewal dates ranging from early 2013 to 2015. The AAST will need to be completed by the assigned renewal date. Accredited Veterinarians were also assigned a six digit National Accreditation Number (NAN) which will be needed to complete web-based training. For more information, please visit the following web site: <http://goo.gl/DU1Q8> or contact the USDA-APHIS-VS Montana Area Office at 406-449-2220. ☐

By Tom Linfield, DVM

Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA-APHIS-VS

Montana Department of Livestock

Animal Health Division
P.O. Box 202001
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

Staff Corner



I am one of the import specialists at Animal Health. I have worked in the medical profession for many years and have been at MDOL for the last three.

I really enjoy working with everyone here in the office and out in Montana's communities, helping to keep our animal industry healthy.

I am from Charleston, South Carolina, and settled in Helena in 1990 with my husband, Brad. I have two children. My daughter and her husband and my two beautiful granddaughters live here in Helena. My son and daughter-in-law travel between Nebraska and Washington DC for their jobs. I also have a mutt named Katieroo and two cats.

My family enjoys fishing and camping and the guys like to hunt. Good thing we live in Montana. By Barb Ferguson

Laboratory News

Veterinary laboratories that perform Equine Infectious Anemia serologic testing are required to review the official EIA submission form (VS10-11) to assure that all required information is provided. Web based reporting systems are available for client and laboratory convenience that assure that forms are complete and allow for the use of digital photos for animal identification.

The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory now utilizes both USDA VSPS and GlobalVetLink EIA submission and reporting systems. While not offering specific endorsement of either system, we encourage the use of electronic documentation.

By Bill Layton, DVM,
Director, MDVL

MDOL Contact Information:

Marty Zaluski, DVM
State Veterinarian, Administrator
(406) 444-2043
mzaluski@mt.gov

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Staff and Traceability Veterinarian
(406) 444-5214
tszymanski@mt.gov

Eric Liska, DVM
Brucellosis Program Veterinarian
(406) 444-3374
eliska@mt.gov

Margie Kelley
Alternative Livestock
(406) 444-5200
makelley@mt.gov

Import Permit Office
(406) 444-2976