



Stock Quotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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Quarterly Newsletter from the Animal Health Bureau of the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

Volume 12, Issue 1

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State Veterinarian Notes

Legislature: We’re well into the second half of the 66th legislative session, and we’re pleased with the progress on a number of issues.

House Bill 2 (HB2) and HB3 that include the Department of Livestock (DOL) budget are on track for passage and include the DOL requested increases for brucellosis testing costs and salary adjustments needed to bring pay rates for field employees (primarily in Brands Enforcement Division) to market rate. HB5 includes \$100K for architectural rendering designs for a new veterinary diagnostic laboratory building. And while funding for a new lab still remains elusive, HB586 provides additional options for securing private investment into construction of a new building.

Three bills (HB490, HB516, HB521) legalizing the sale of raw (unpasteurized) milk died in committee or the House floor. An additional bill requiring labeling of raw milk also died in the Senate (SB230) because it required a warning for a product that is not legal to be offered for sale.

Brucellosis: We are pleased with the results of the latest round of the elk capture project conducted by the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) in cooperation with the DOL. This spring’s efforts found no seropositive elk in either the Bangtails (north of Livingston), or the Tendoy Mountains (southwest of Dillon). After having to expand the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) last year due to finding positive wildlife south of Dillon, we’re relieved that all samples from the newly studied areas came back negative.

Reportable Diseases: On Page 3 of this issue, you can read about our efforts to update the list of reportable diseases. The requirement for reporting applies to everyone (not just veterinarians or owners), and is a critical component of surveillance and early response to emerging diseases. Revising the list is a complex undertaking be-

cause the existing list includes diseases that are in administrative rule, as well as diseases added through the existing authority of the state veterinarian’s office. An insert if provided to accompany the information found later in the newsletter.

Johne’s Disease: The impact of Johne’s disease on Montana’s producers and the reputation of the state’s seedstock industry continues to be of concern. An analysis of animal movements from Johne’s infected herds, and the additional capacity provided by newly hired, Dr. Anna Forseth has convinced us to offer a voluntary certification program for the disease.

The program will: 1) help producers reduce prevalence and eradicate Johne’s from their the herds, 2) facilitate a better understanding of the risk of purchased cattle. 3) maintain the confidence in Montana’s seedstock market. The expected implementation of the program will be prior to fall cattle work. See page 2 for additional details, and expect subsequent communications from the DOL.

Extended Equine Health Certificate (EECVI): The EECVI has officially replaced the 6 Month Horse Passport for interstate travel between western states. While horse owners maintain the ability to travel on a standard health certificate for 30 days following a veterinary inspection, the EECVI program allows up to six months of interstate travel to cooperating states. The EECVI is only offered digitally, costs \$4.50 to the issuing veterinary clinic, and requires a veterinarian and client account through GVL. You can find more information on the GVL web page <https://goo.gl/gFbvck>, or by contacting our office. ✉ mz

- CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- Board of Livestock Meeting—May 14, 2019
 - Montana Stockgrowers Association, Midyear Meeting, June 13-15, 2019, Miles City
 - MVMA Summer Meeting June 21, 2019, Fairmont Hot Springs ,

- WHAT’S NEW:**
1. Reportable Diseases in Montana (page 3)
 2. Brucellosis (page 4)
 3. eCVI Update (page 5)

Bovine Johne's Disease

The DOL is working on the development of a Montana specific Bovine Johne's Disease voluntary control program. As a reminder, BJD is caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *Paratuberculosis* (MAP). The development of a state program is primarily in response to the increasing number of reported cases along with reports of movement and sale of animals later found to be infected. In these cases, there is often strong epidemiological information supporting that the animals were infected prior to sale or movement from the Montana premises of origin.

Each operation presents unique circumstances for the spread of MAP. While we cannot assume that all cattle from herds with test-positive cases have BJD, single negative test results offer low confidence that the animal is truly negative.

Even if test-negative at the time of sale, cattle may begin shedding MAP over the next few years. Resident cattle at the new premises may then be infected with MAP and take years before they begin shedding and show clinical signs.

This places seedstock producers at higher risk of spreading MAP. Cattle that go to feedlot channels present less risk for spread of MAP based on the finite time these cattle spend in the feedlot and minimal contact with seedstock. The challenge with feedlot cattle is assuring that they do not become cow-calf herd additions and potentiate the spread of MAP.

Based upon the epidemiology of BJD, the control program will be one of long term commitment. The levels of certification are drafted from 1 to 5 with increasing assurance that cattle sourced from higher level herds are less likely to be infected with MAP. The starting point of the program will be the same for all operations, establishing a herd management plan, testing, and removing test-positive and clinical cases from high risk cattle. The goals of these steps are to limit the spread and eliminate the source of MAP within herds.

What can you do now? Open the conversation with producers about protecting the long-term health of their cattle and keep an eye out for the finalized control program for Montana. We look forward to working with you to control Bovine Johne's Disease. Montana cattle are known for their excellent genetics; let us help them also be known for their excellent health. Please contact Dr. Szymanski at (406) 444- 5214 or tszymanski@mt.gov with questions or comments.

✉ By *Jamie Clark, DVM Candidate Class of 2019, Washington State University*

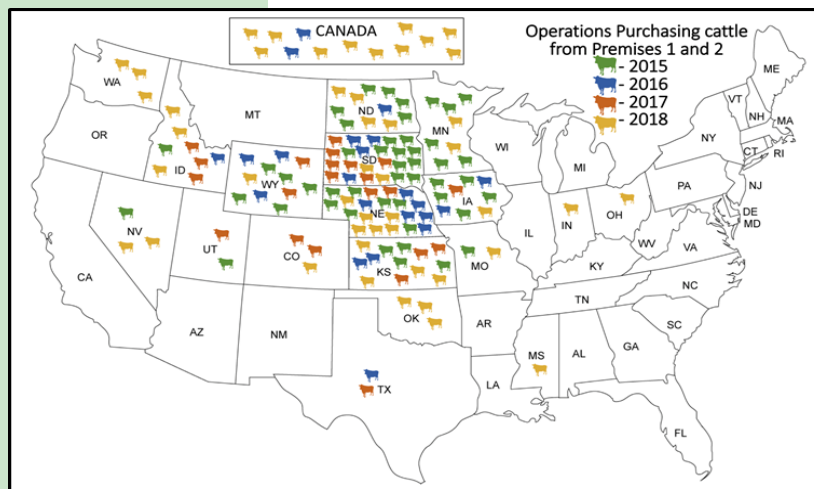


Figure 1. 138 separate out-of-state operations purchased cattle from Premises 1 & Premises 2 from 2015 to May 2018.

Check the DOL website for full color graphic.

While the impacts of Johne's within a herd have been reasonably well characterized, the spread and distribution of Johne's from a positive source herd is something that DOL has significant concern over.

In order to better understand the potential spread of MAP from infected herds, two herds in Montana with known test-positive animals were selected for a trace-out investigation. Data was gathered from interstate movement records and brand inspections for primary sales from each operation. The number of operations sold to may be an underestimate as primary sales data do not account for further distribution by cattle buyers. All identifying data from these herds was removed during analysis. Between January 2015 and May of 2018, Premises 1 sold 1795 cattle to 225 separate operations. Of those, 139 were in-state spanning 27 different Montana counties. During that same time frame, Premises 2 sold 3513 cattle to 76 different operations. Of those operations, 23 were in-state to 12 different counties.

Reportable Diseases

The Department of Livestock is reviewing Montana's reportable disease list to ensure diseases that are important to the health, welfare and economy of Montana's animal industries are included. The reportable disease list allows for more rapid response to diseases, lowering their impact on livestock and public health. The primary criteria used to evaluate the list include:

1. Reportable to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
2. Reportable to the USDA, National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS)
3. Diseases or vectors which MDOL has interest in surveying for and/or managing.

Further, when gauging the possible impact of a disease, consideration is also given to its zoonotic potential.

As part of this review, DOL is recommending an update to Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) to include all diseases on Montana's reportable disease list. The current list has diseases not included in ARM based upon authority provided to the state veterinarian. Therefore, the proposed changes to the reportable disease list (see draft insert) and the proposed changes to ARM do not directly coincide. A summary is included below.

DOL recommends the following diseases which are reportable to NAHRS and/or OIE be added to the state's reportable disease list.

- Epizootic hemorrhagic disease
- Salmonid alphavirus
- Akabane
- Melioidosis
- Hendra
- Pigeon fever
- Strangles

For diseases currently on Montana's reportable disease list, DOL recommends that the following diseases which are not reportable to either OIR or NAHRS be removed:

- Swine erysipelas
- Cattle fever tick (*Boophilus annulatus*, *B. microplus*)
- Campylobacter
- Cryptosporidium
- Bovine cysticercosis Dermatophilosis (*Dermatophilus congolensis*)
- Epizootic lymphangitis
- Horse mange
- Horse pox
- Potomac horse fever
- Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis
- Atrophic rhinitis of swine
- Duck viral hepatitis
- Contagious foot rot
- Ovine pediculosis
- Leptospirosis
- Listeriosis
- Equine rhinopneumonitis
- Fowl cholera
- Marek's disease
- *Oncorhynchus masou* virus

Brucella canis, Swine Influenza, Heartworm and Plague, while not reportable to OIE or NAHRS, are ones that DOL has an interest in monitoring and therefore recommend these diseases remain on the list. For information about reporting requirements (immediate vs. within 30 days) and quarantine, please refer to the draft insert.

Other changes include the addition of Seneca Valley virus (SVV), Delta Corona virus (DCoV), and the Long Horned Tick. SVV and DCoV mimic other reportable diseases and the Long Horned Tick is spreading into new states and is a competent vector for many diseases of concern.

The proposed revisions will be presented to the Board of Livestock in May and, pending Board approval, will then be available for public comment. You will be notified when the public comment period is open.

If you have questions, concerns, or recommendations before or during the comment period, please contact Dr. Anna Forseth by phone at 406-444-2939 or email anna.forseth@mt.gov.

✉ By Anna Forseth, DVM

Brucellosis

2019 Elk surveillance

The targeted elk brucellosis surveillance project, initiated in 2011, is a collaborative effort between Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL). The project was designed to improve our understanding of the disease in elk and determine the extent of brucellosis in wildlife on the landscape.

Each year, FWP and DOL officials determine priority elk populations for surveillance based on information indicating potential movement of brucellosis exposed elk outside of the DSA boundary. Such movements could put livestock at risk.

The 2019 capture occurred in January and targeted two elk populations. One in the Tendency Mountains southwest of Dillon (HD 302 and 328) and the other in the Bangtail Mountains near Livingston (Figure 2).

The Tendency Mountains were also included in 2018 elk surveillance efforts. One hundred elk were sampled, primarily in the Southern Tendency, and 30 were fitted with GPS radiocollars which record a location every hour for 65 weeks when an automatic release mechanism causes the collars to drop-off for retrieval.

One brucellosis exposed elk was discovered resulting in an adjustment to the DSA boundary to include the area where the elk was found.

This year, an additional 99 elk were tested in the Northern Tendency and 30 more fitted with GPS radiocollars. None of the 2019 sampled elk tested positive for exposure to brucellosis.

The other elk population tested this year was in the Bangtail Mountains where 49 elk were captured for sampling and 15 fitted with radiocollars. Additionally, seven samples from elk harvested during a shoulder season hunt were tested. All 56 samples were negative.

Information from this project allows DOL to make informed decisions on DSA boundary changes to ensure that livestock at risk of exposure to brucellosis are part of our state's surveillance program. Following the 2019 elk capture test results, DOL determined no further boundary adjustment would be recommended.

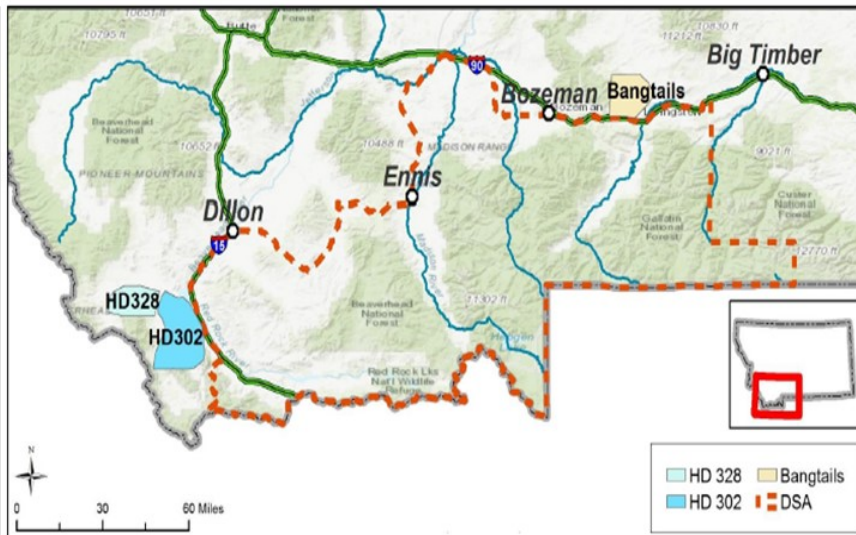


Figure 2. MT-FWP capture locations
Source: FWP

Brucellosis Vaccination We want to remind veterinarians and producers of the brucellosis vaccination requirement that became effective in October of 2018. Brucellosis vaccination of all sexually intact female cattle and domestic bison 12 months of age or older is required in Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Park, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass Counties. This regulation is intended to maximize livestock resistance to the disease in counties adjacent to areas where brucellosis infected wildlife exist. Each of the counties named in the rule contain or border on a Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) or Wyoming's Brucellosis Area of Concern (Big Horn County, WY).

Enforcement of the vaccination requirement on young stock born in 2018 has started. If producers are selling yearling females out of the ten counties or bringing them into one of the counties for feeding, grazing or as replacements, those heifers are required to be vaccinated. ✂ *By Eric Liska, DVM*

eCVI option for electronic health certificates

As previously announced, the Department of Livestock (DOL) is committed to the advancement of electronic health certificates. As a reminder, effective January 1, 2020, we will no longer be printing paper CVI booklets for distribution to veterinarians and effective January 1, 2021 will no longer accept paper CVIs (with provisions for use in special circumstances only). In the last newsletter, we presented a broad summary of currently available electronic options. In this and future editions, we will be providing a detailed summary of each of the available options. This month features the eCVI or what we frequently call the *entry level electronic health certificate*. The benefits to using electronic health certificates include rapid submission and decreased data handling.

In 2014, Colorado created a fillable PDF health certificate called the eCVI that was adapted for release to Montana veterinarians. The eCVI fillable PDF is available free of charge to Montana veterinarians. The required Adobe Reader software is available free of charge at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>. The eCVI is a simple, yet effective, option for large or small animals and requires no Internet connection at the time a CVI is issued. You will need to connect to internet to submit completed CVIs to our office via email. This format performs well for small shipments of animals, such as for purebred sales, or for large uniform groups. The eCVI is not the best choice for large numbers of diverse official ID numbers.

The eCVI has a new release (Version 3.2) with updated benefits and ease of issuance as its primary focus. The new eCVI version has a submit button that automatically generates an email window with the DOL's submission email and attached eCVI PDF. This button allows the issuing veterinarian to submit the eCVI more efficiently to our office, meeting all reporting requirements. DOL will then forward the electronic health on to the state of destination.

For long-time users, eCVI v 3.2 also no longer requires the issuing veterinarian to sign and save a CVI twice. The issue in the past was necessary to generate a CVI number, resulting in many incomplete health certificates and veterinarians having to completely reissue health certificates. The new release generates

a health certificate number immediately after the eCVI is signed.

To read over the instructions to see if the eCVI may be a good fit for your practice, or to obtain the eCVI User Agreement, please visit our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y4lw4klb>. Once our office receives the signed user agreement, we will email the master copy of the eCVI and all instructions. DOL recommends that all veterinarians consider signing up for this option. Even if the eCVI is not the optimal solution for your practice model, the simplicity and ease of access lends itself towards being a good option to have on hand. *For questions, please call or email Sara Starkey at 406 444-1587, SStarkey@mt.gov.* ✉ By Sara Starkey

Dr. Linfield's Retirement

The staff at Animal Health Bureau recently celebrated the retirement Dr. Thomas Linfield from USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services. He last held the position of Area Veterinarian in Charge, the federal counterpart to the Montana state veterinarian.

Dr. Linfield brought a practical approach honed by his years in private mixed animal practice (predominantly beef cattle practices) in Belt, Bridger, Livingston, and Drummond, and administrative smarts gained as the Montana State Veterinarian in 2003-06.

As a federal partner for the last decade, Dr. Linfield provided valuable assistance during the inception of Montana's brucellosis program in response to the cases of brucellosis in cattle in 2007 and 2008. Under his direction, the State of Montana has greatly benefited from the additional resources in the field that make regulatory testing easier for Montana producers. Much credit for Montana's strong working relationship and progress on numerous animal health issues belongs to Dr. Linfield.

In retirement, Dr. Linfield will be able to spend more time with family and chase his passion of fishing and other outdoor activities. We wish him luck, happiness, and look forward to keeping in touch. ✉ mz



Figure 3. Dr. Tom Linfield
Source: DOL

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

The Montana Department of Livestock has received many inquiries recently about the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

What is NPIP? NPIP was established in the U.S. in the 1930s and was originally initiated to eliminate Pullorum Disease (*Salmonella pullorum*) in young poultry. Today's NPIP program covers many diseases, including *Salmonella typhoid*, *Salmonella enteritis*, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae*, *Mycoplasma meleagridis*, and Avian Influenza. NPIP is a cooperative program between state and federal agencies as well as the poultry industry.

Who is eligible? The program is not exclusive to commercial poultry producers. Operations raising waterfowl, exhibition poultry, backyard poultry or game birds can also become certified.

Benefits of NPIP to the producer: The benefits of certification for Montana poultry producers include annual flock health testing, meeting import requirements for many states, and having the ability to sell poultry to other NPIP flocks.

Testing required for enrollment: The initial requirement for certification includes testing all birds within a flock for *S. pullorum*. Following confirmation of negative pullorum testing, the owner will be issued a VS Form 9-3 booklet. These forms are required to accompany poultry when imported or exported from the state. The MDOL offers flock testing free of charge if the owner is also willing to test their birds for Avian Influenza as part of the state's surveillance program.

To maintain certification, all birds in a flock (or a percentage if the flock size exceeds 300) need to be tested on an annual basis for *S. pullorum*. All birds added to a certified flock must originate from a NPIP participating flock or be accompanied by a CVI and import permit. All birds sold or transferred out of a flock must be accompanied by a 9-3 form or a CVI. Lastly, all flock records must be maintained for 3 years. Veterinarians interested in conducting *S. pullorum* testing are encouraged to contact DOL.

For questions, please call or email Dr. Anna Forseth at anna.forseth@mt.gov, 406-444-2939, or *By Anna Forseth, DVM*

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