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# STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

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### Montana Department of Livestock to Help Pork Producers Prepare for Animal Health Emergency

**Helena, Mont.-** The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) has announced three educational meetings to help pork producers better prepare for a disease outbreak, such as African Swine Fever (ASF). These meetings will focus on the ways producers can continue business amidst restrictions placed on animal movement to control the spread of a disease.

Recently, several regions throughout the world have become affected by ASF in wild and domestic pig populations including countries in Asia and Europe. ASF is an extremely contagious virus causing significant illness that is fatal to pigs, for which there is no vaccine making it difficult to control. ASF does not affect people and is not a food safety concern.

An outbreak of ASF in the U.S. would cause major economic losses due to lost markets and restrictions on movement of animals and products. To lessen the impact on Montana producers, MDOL will be introducing a program at the meetings called Secure Pork Supply (SPS). Producers will learn about animal traceability, biosecurity, records management, and disease surveillance.

“Animal agriculture depends on the uninterrupted movement of livestock,” said State Veterinarian Marty Zaluski, “This program will teach producers how they can document that their herd is low risk and will help them move animals quicker during a disease event.”

At each meeting, MDOL will walk through the Secure Pork Supply requirements and discuss available resources with producers and meeting attendees.

Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-noon Great Falls. Montana Expo Park, Fine Arts Building.

Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-noon Great Falls. Montana Expo Park, Fine Arts Building.

Tuesday July 30<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-noon Lewistown, Lewistown Elks 456.

To RSVP, contact Sara Starkey at 406-444-1587, [sstarkey@mt.gov](mailto:sstarkey@mt.gov).

The mission of the Montana Department of Livestock is to control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals. For more information on the Montana Department of Livestock, visit [www.liv.mt.gov](http://www.liv.mt.gov).