



Stock Quotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

State Fair—Great Falls
July 26—Aug. 3, 2019

Board of Livestock
Meeting—Helena
August TBD

Deputy Veterinarian
Accreditation—Helena
September 18, 2019

Northern International Live-
stock Exposition—Billings -
NILE
October 12-19, 2019

State Veterinarian Notes

With the legislative session over, the department is focusing on a number of long-established priorities.

JOHNE'S VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:

We are excited to offer cattle producers the opportunity to manage the risk of Johne's and provide added confidence to buyers of their cattle. After numerous herd infections have been linked to the purchase of purebred bulls, we have received requests from buyers of breeding stock for herds that are testing for the disease and managing the risk. The voluntary certification program, to be rolled out in the next couple months, will describe management practices and testing protocols that will provide a roadmap for being verified low risk of the disease. Our hope is that buyers of high quality cattle will seek out operations that are enrolled in the program, and this will add value to program participants. Therefore, the program may be a sound investment, while simultaneously contributing to reducing the spread of this costly disease.

ELECTRONIC ID AND ELECTRONIC HEALTH CERTIFICATES:

As the MDOL has been transitioning to electronic health certificates to make disease tracing more efficient and successful, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has published a timeline for transitioning to all electronic identification by January 2023 for cattle moving interstate. The requirement will only apply to cattle that are already required to be identified (dairy, exhibition, and sexually intact beef cattle over 18 months of age). With electronic IDs being readily scanned and imported into a spreadsheet, this change should make the adoption of electronic health certificates easier. See more info on these changes on Page 6.

TUBERCULOSIS INVESTIGATIONS:

Hundreds of hours of producers' and government veterinarians' time have been committed to testing cattle as part of three separate investigations linked to tuberculosis

(TB) infected cattle found at slaughter. Fortunately, none of the herds tested so far have been found to be positive, but the down side is that many producers have had to be significantly inconvenienced without us yet finding the source of the diseased animals. More on the TB investigation on page 4.

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY:

Please see the MVDL column to see the latest happenings from the veterinary diagnostic laboratory. We will soon have the capability to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The test will be available to the Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks for wildlife surveillance as well as to the general public that would like to test their hunter harvested deer or elk out of an abundance of caution. Numerous other changes are on the horizon to streamline the sample submittal process, and further continue to improve services. See page 5 for more information.

NEW USDA AREA VETERINARIAN IN CHARGE (AVIC) COMING IN JULY:

As you likely know, Dr. Tom Linfield retired from USDA in early January and I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Scott Beutelschies has been selected as Montana's next AVIC. Dr. Beutelschies' most recent experience in emergency preparedness will be a strong asset as we seek to be better positioned to respond to African Swine Fever and other emergency events. He will start in his new role in July. ☘ By *Marty Zaluski, DVM*

WHAT'S NEW

- ⇒ Bovine—Johne's Disease, p. 2
- ⇒ New Lab Director, p. 5

Johne's Certification Program

The Department of Livestock (DOL) will be rolling out a state Johne's disease control program this August. In the coming months, watch for additional information regarding the program, your role as a veterinarian and opportunities for training and education. Veterinarians interested in previewing the draft program documents should reach out to Dr. Anna Forseth (anna.forseth@mt.gov).

The program will be available for producers who wish to manage the risk of Johne's. In recent months, the DOL has received inquiries from individuals seeking breeding cattle from herds that are engaged in Johne's management. Producers who choose to move into higher levels of the program can use their status when marketing animals.

The Johne's disease control program will be comprised of 5 levels (0-4), with all herds in Montana being classified at Level 0 upon industry acceptance of the program. Level 0 constitutes herds with unmanaged risk, or herds that have taken no action to mitigate the spread of Johne's disease. A shift in mindset is necessary to understand that while a herd may have diagnosed cases of Johne's disease, if they are managing for disease risk, they are lower risk than a herd of unknown status that has done nothing to detect or manage the disease.

Herds that elect to participate in the program begin as Level 1 herds, classified as having an evaluated risk of disease. A herd plan will be developed with their local veterinarian, and best management practices are to be implemented. This includes the removal or isolation of clinical and test positive animals. Testing of high-risk cattle is optional for Level 1 herds. Official identification will be required for animals undergoing Johne's disease testing.

Movement into higher levels within the program requires the completion of all elements of lower/previous levels. Level 2, or managed risk herds, includes testing of all cattle two years of age and older with removal of clinical and test positive cases.

Level 3 herds have achieved assurance status within the program by completing annual testing on all cattle two years of age and older with no clinical or test positive cases for the previous two years. Finally, for herds to

reach Level 4, five years with no clinical or test positive cases is required. This assures that any young animals on the premises at the time that the last positives animals were present have reached adulthood and been subjected to several years of testing.

In addition to the language that defines the levels of participation, the program also includes:

- Provisions for addition of new animals to a herd
- A process for challenging the test positive status of animals
- A summary of available tests and testing strategies
- Disposition of test positive and clinical animals
- Standards of training for veterinarians

Similar to the implementation of Montana's trichomoniasis program, there will be additional training standards for veterinarians who wish to serve in Montana's Johne's program. The Department is planning to offer a webinar for veterinarians in the coming months. The webinar will be offered multiple times to accommodate busy schedules. In addition, Johne's content will be added to Montana's veterinary accreditation session for new veterinarians. We look forward to your feedback on this new program!

✂ By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Best Management Practices

1. Individual animal identification
2. Keep maternity & calving areas free of manure
3. Purchase replacement animals from low risk sources
4. Minimize exposure of cattle to other susceptible species
5. Feed calves colostrum from test-negative cows or a quality colostrum replacer
6. Minimize manure contamination of feed and water
7. Segregate, test, and remove clinical animals

USDA's Transition to Electronic Identification

As you are hopefully aware, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a timeline for transition from the use of metal tags for official identification of cattle and domestic bison to electronic RFID tags. This transition includes silver metal tags as well as orange metal brucellosis vaccination tags. The timeline is as follows:

Transition Timeline		
12/31/19	USDA will discontinue providing free metal tags	Approved venders will still be permitted to produce and sell official metal tags for one additional year.
1/1/21	Application and sale of metal tags is no longer permitted	Unused tag stores cannot be used after this time – PLAN AHEAD!
1/1/23	RFID tags will be required for all animals moving across state lines that are required to be officially identified in 9 CFR 86	Animals that require official individual RFID tags include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexually intact beef cattle and bison that are 18 months or older • Rodeo, recreation, and exhibition animals • Dairy cattle

According to USDA, the plan to phase out metal tags is an effort to strengthen and modernize our national traceability system. Please note while metal tags will no longer be available for official disease work or interstate movement, feeder cattle are not required to be identified.

The [USDA Factsheet](#) on achieving electronic identification in cattle and bison states:

- A premises identification number will be required to purchase official ID tags.
- Tags should be applied at the time of birth or before the animal moves off the farm in interstate commerce.
- Tag technology can be either low or ultra-high frequency.
- Tag types must be approved, meet standards for performance, be tamper proof, contain unique ID, and display the official US ear tag shield.

Recognizing the large change that must occur to modernize our animal disease traceability system, USDA is committed to a cost sharing program during the transition from metal to RFID tags. The preliminary guidance we have received indicates that the veterinarian or the producer will contact our office to receive an

electronic coupon. The coupon will include information such as a premises identification number (PIN), the selected tag manufacturer, and the number of tags requested.

The coupon is then provided to the tag manufacturer at the time that tags are ordered so that the manufacturer can bill USDA for a portion cost of the tags. It is expected that coupons will reduce the cost per tag by approximately fifty cents.

USDA intends to allocate funding based on cattle numbers in a state and hopes to have the cost share program online in the next several months. This will help to reduce the cost that producers pay for RFID tags. Montana will be allowed to set policy for the number of tags available to producers and the class of cattle eligible to receive tags under the cost sharing program. As an example, tags will not be available for steers in process verified programs such as age and source verified or non-hormone treated as these animals are not required to be identified under USDA traceability standards.

Despite the multi-year timeline, we encourage veterinarians to consider transitioning to electronic tags as soon as possible. This is important for the following reasons:

- Incorporating RFID tags into brucellosis vaccination activities will ensure that our young cow herd is appropriately identified by January 1, 2023.
- The early adoption of RFID technology will prevent a large impact at livestock markets as many of the animals entering markets will already be officially identified with RFID tags.
- USDA has not indicated how long they intend to offer cost-sharing for RFID tags. Early participating will better ensure producers the best price for RFID tags.
- RFID information can easily be uploaded to electronic health certificates which will be required as of 1/1/2021.

Based upon several requests the Department will be offering opportunities for veterinarians to receive additional training on the use of RFID technology and electronic health certificates.

For help getting started, please contact Sara Starkey at (406) 444-1587 or sstarkey@mt.gov. ✉ By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Bovine Tuberculosis Investigations

The Department of Livestock (DOL) is working on three national epidemiological investigations associated with tuberculosis (TB). These investigations have resulted in the testing of thousands of animals throughout the state. This article will summarize the investigations and discuss the difference in testing protocols when the positive animal is from an unknown source herd vs. a known source herd.

The primary method of surveillance for tuberculosis in the U.S. is carcass evaluation at packing plants. These evaluations are conducted at all state and federally inspected facilities. Additional opportunities for detection include testing of animals associated with a trace, pre-movement testing, and testing for accredited free herd status.

INVESTIGATION I: June 2018, a steer slaughtered at a South Dakota packing plant tested positive for TB. Epidemiologists identified 99 potential sources from five states, 17 which were in Montana. Two of the 17 are yet to be tested this fall. No positive animals have been identified.

INVESTIGATION II: In December 2018, a second steer slaughtered at a South Dakota packing plant tested positive for TB. This epidemiological investigation identified three potential source herds that contributed to the feedlot pen the positive animal was from. One of the three herds under investigation is in Montana. This herd remains under quarantine, pending whole-herd testing.

The above two traces involve TB infection in feeder steers. Cattle moving for feeding purposes are not required to be individually identified. Further, brand information is not recorded at slaughter and brands are not recognized in all states receiving Montana cattle. For these reasons, the source herds for both steers are considered unknown, and as a result, the epidemiological investigation requires a large net be cast to identify where the infected animal(s) originated.

INVESTIGATION III: DOL has also been working on a trace from March 2019 involving a cow slaughtered at a Nebraska plant that tested positive for TB. In comparison to the previous traces described, this cow was individually identified with a MT brucellosis vac-

ination tag which was collected at the packing plant when gross lesions were identified during carcass evaluation. The Brucellosis vaccination tag number was traced to the ranch of origin using vaccination records, CVIs and brands sales records. This herd has complete two of the three required herd tests, described below. No positive animals were identified during the first two herd tests.

Testing completed on herds associated with an unknown source (June, December 2018 trace examples) require a whole herd test on animals two years of age and older using the CFT/CCT testing protocol. Quarantine may or may not be issued.

In contrast, when the source herd is identified (March 2019 example), the herd is placed under quarantine and a whole herd test is required to be completed on animals two months of age and older. All animals that respond to the caudal fold test (CFT) are considered reactors and are removed from the herd for further testing. Comparative cervical tests (CCT) are not completed on CFT suspects during this first herd test. A second herd test is conducted on all animals two years of age and older 60 days following the first herd test. This second test is completed using the standard CFT/CCT protocol. If TB is not identified following the second herd test, the quarantine is released. A third herd test is then completed 6-12 months following the second herd test, on all animals two years of age and older, using the standard CFT/CCT testing protocol.

In summary, TB testing completed on herds associated with traces differ based on whether the herd of origin is known or unknown. It is important that veterinarians are aware of the variation in testing requirements, to better assure a consistent message is being delivered to producers. ✂ By Anna Forseth, DVM



Figure 1. DOL employee performing a TB test (CCT) on a bovine TB suspect. Source: DOL Staff

Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Update

The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (MVDL) is excited to announce the arrival of Gregory Juda, Ph.D. as Lab Director on April 29, 2019 (<http://liv.mt.gov/Newsroom/montana-department-of-livestock-welcomes-director-for-veterinary-laboratory-52019>). Greg's prior experience as a manager and leader in healthcare research and development make him a great fit in this new role as the MVDL looks to improve customer service and expand diagnostic capabilities. Greg is a graduate of MSU-Bozeman where he earned a doctorate degree in biochemistry, and currently resides in Bozeman with his wife and three children.

In response to client feedback, the MVDL has made several changes to its sample submission forms and report format with more changes expected throughout 2019 to improve ease of use for our customers. The single-sample submission form has been converted to a fillable PDF file now linked to the website that is available for download. We also received requests to add the "date of sample collection" to our lab reports and alternate sample IDs to certain tests and we've gladly made those changes. Currently we are working on an online submission portal that will allow clients to electronically submit test sample information prior to shipping samples. The portal will auto-populate the client's contact information each time you log in and will allow for copying and pasting a large number of sample IDs from a spreadsheet into the online submission form for those capturing sample IDs electronically.

In an effort to help prepare for an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the U.S., the MVDL is working toward certification to perform this testing as a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). ASF is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs that has drawn recent international attention due to its spread across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

The NAHLN supports U.S. animal agriculture by developing the test capabilities and providing surge capacity of a national veterinary diagnostic laboratory network to support early detection, rapid response, and appropriate recovery from high-consequence animal diseases.

As part of the NAHLN, the MVDL receives annual support to help expand its testing capacity and diagnostic capabilities related to the detection of animal diseases of interest to the USDA. For FY2019 and 2020, the MVDL has committed a

large portion of this funding for equipment required for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. The MVDL expects to have the capability to perform both screening and confirmatory test methods in the coming months.

The MVDL is currently looking to hire two additional veterinarian specialists that will boost our overall expertise in diagnostic testing and provide additional resources for client consultation. Let us know how we can better assist you and support the broader mission of the Department of Livestock heading into FY2020 and beyond. ✉ By Gregory Juda, Ph.D. and Marty Zaluski, DVM

Figure 2. Piglets



Source: <https://www.agriculture.com/livestock/pork-powerhouses/pork-powerhouses-2017-expansion-spells-trouble>.

AgView (Previously mCVI)

As previously announced, effective January 1, 2020, we will no longer be printing Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) books for distribution to veterinarians. Effective January 1, 2021 will no longer accept paper CVIs. Please remember that for veterinarians who have adopted electronic options, the Department will accept paper certificates in those instances where electronic systems fail.

This article is the third in a series outlining available options for electronic CVIs. This month's featured product is AgView. AgView was initially developed as a free application for iPads (iCVI), then expanded to Android devices (mCVI). The current version of AgView, is owned by the National Pork Board, and is no-longer available free of charge. AgView was introduced in the fall of 2018 and in January 2019, the program began charging veterinarians \$3 per certificate issued through the program.

Veterinarians can use this electronic CVI on any iOS device, Android device, or desktop. AgView is able to issue CVIs for both small and large animals. The mobile AgView app does not require internet to issue a CVI. When the device is back in service or connected to WiFi certifi-

cates will automatically email to the state of origin and destination. The desktop/web-based application requires internet to issue CVIs and has similar automatic reporting features. Certificates issued on one device are visible across devices.

For veterinarians working with large numbers of animals that are officially identified, AgView can import CSV files to generate animal data on your CVI. Additionally, you can save frequently used statements and addresses.

Staff and technicians can be given access to create CVIs and then veterinarians can log in under their accounts to verify and sign finished documents.

For more information please visit our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y4lw4klb>. To sign up to use AgView, veterinarians can go to <https://agview.com>. Please contact Sara Starkey with questions. 406-444-1587 SStarkey@mt.gov.
By Sara Starkey

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