



StockQuotes: Animal Health Newsletter

<http://liv.mt.gov/ah/newsletter>

Dec 2013

Volume 6, Issue 4

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

State Veterinarian Notes	1
Brucellosis	2
Diagnostic Laboratory Facility	3
Administrative Rules: Past and Future	4
ADT: Practical Guide	5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Young Ag Leadership Conference: Jan 8-11, Helena

Board of Livestock:
January 13-14, Helena

Montana Veterinary Medical Association:
Jan 23-25, Bozeman

Deputy Veterinarian Trainings:
Jan 30, Helena
Jun 26, Helena

State Veterinarian Notes

Updating old technologies is the theme of this issue.

In the traceability (ADT) column Dr. Tahnee Szymanski discusses an upcoming iPad app for health certificates that complements the PDF eCVI that a number of you have tried recently. The iPad app will be free of charge, have the capability to work 'off-line', and automatically submit completed health certificates to the source and destination states. Also in the ADT column, Dr. Szymanski covers situations where it's legal to remove official identification, or even double tag animals.

We're also set for a major upgrade of our laboratory diagnostic software. Within a year, you should be able to submit your sample paperwork online, check the status of submitted samples, and automatically receive results by email when available. This upgrade to the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, the physical laboratory facilities are not as easily fixed. See the laboratory column for a description of some of the challenges that are created by housing the lab in an outdated facility.

The Brands Enforcement Division is also moving full steam ahead into new technologies. In early December, the division released a free app on Android, Apple iOS, and Windows Mobile platforms that allows searching of all recorded brands in the state. This adds to the existing options which include printed brand books for \$30 per county, or a computer CD purchased for \$15. These latter options are quickly outdated as new brands are being continually recorded while the app will receive regular updates. Search for "Montana Brands" in either the iOS app store or Android Play Store to get the app. The Brands Enforcement Division also offers several web services including market, sheep, and bison permits.

Changing gears, we continue to receive large stacks of unapproved health certificates issued for Montana cattle moving to other

states. Specifically, please keep in mind that Nebraska requires a DSA/non-DSA statement. This certification statement does not require additional testing. Several other states also require a trichomoniasis certification statement regarding breeding activity or pregnancy status.

Lastly, please take a quick look at the administrative rules column. It describes rules that the DOL has published in the last year, and gives you a foreshadowing of what's next. While I'm fully aware that rule review and comment is typically unexciting, revising outdated laws is the only way that we can stay current with the changing needs of the livestock and veterinary community. A rule proposal you might take special interest in is the proposal to increase fees for paper forms and establish fees for some special programs. Fees for forms have not increased since 2003 and forms now cost significantly more than what our office is charging. The difference is made up with per capita fees.

A proposal for a fee increase on some 'special' permits and programs will also be published in the near future. Standard 10-day permits will continue to be offered free of charge, but programs such as seasonal grazer, trichomoniasis feedlot, and 6-month horse passport will likely cost a fee. These programs have been developed based on requests from veterinarians and animal owners over the years and take additional staff time to generate and follow up. Please see the administrative rule column for more details. ✉ mz

WHAT'S NEW:

1. Market trip permit revised for DSA (p2).
2. Brucellosis Vaccination on Arrival (OCV) policy updated (p2).
3. Administrative rules will be proposed for fee changes (p4).
4. Health certificates coming for iPad (p5).

Brucellosis Update



AFFECTED HERD EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION: The epidemiological investigation of the brucellosis affected cattle herds is nearly complete. As part of the Park County investigation, four adjacent herds with a total of 829 cattle were tested. The affected herd has already completed the first negative whole herd test. Because the adjacent cattle herds tested negative, cattle-to-cattle transmission is not a likely source of infection for this herd. Genotyping of the *Brucella* isolate indicates that it is closely related (genetically) to other isolates recovered from both wild elk and domestic livestock from Park County, suggesting a wildlife source for the infection.

The Madison County herd testing has also progressed rapidly. Nine adjacent herds were identified with 2,716 cattle. Fortunately, comprehensive testing in the DSA (Designated Surveillance Area) allowed us to limit the focus of the investigation to pastures that the affected animals occupied since a negative test in summer of 2012. Herds that were adjacent to the positive cattle prior to summer of 2012 continue to be subject to standing DSA testing requirements. Like Park County, the adjacent herds are negative for brucellosis so cattle-to-cattle transmission is unlikely. Genotyping of the isolate indicates it is closely related to other *Brucella* isolates recovered from wildlife and domestic livestock from Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison counties, suggesting a wildlife source for the infection.

BRUCELLOSIS VACCINATION TATTOOS: At an annual meeting last October, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) adopted a non binding resolution to recognize orange bangs tags OR a vaccination tattoo as proof of official calthood vaccination for brucellosis. As it stands right now many states (including Montana) require that a 'readable shield' vaccination tattoo is present in female calves prior to them being imported into Montana. This resolution recommends that either an orange tag (or a tattoo) should suffice as proof of vaccination. It can be found here: <http://goo.gl/5I8VOE>

The requirement for a tattoo originates from the use of Strain 19 vaccine that caused seroconversion which was impossible to differentiate from truly infected animals. However, with RB51 being a DIVA vaccine and the only approved brucellosis vaccine for livestock

since 1997, this is no longer an issue and, therefore, differentiating between vaccinated and non vaccinated animals is not as critical.

The USAHA consists of members of industry and animal health officials who consider disease response and regulatory needs, however, it has no rulemaking authority. Rulemaking (and on occasion congressional action) is often needed before USAHA recommendations can be implemented.

For now, Montana's import requirements regarding proof of vaccination remain unchanged.

BRANDS ENFORCEMENT MARKET PERMIT: Ranchers taking their cattle to a livestock market can defer the ownership brand inspection until they arrive at the market if they travel on a "market permit". The form, BE#15, is getting updated to include a DSA/Non-DSA checkbox to alert market staff that brucellosis testing may be required. The online version will also be updated; an email to the sale barn brand office and the market veterinarian will be generated for DSA cattle.

These changes to the paper and electronic BE#15 complement the existing brands computer system where ownership brands can be flagged in case of theft, or animal health requirements. Dr. Eric Liska has worked with the Brands Enforcement Division to make this change to further reduce the chance that any DSA cattle needing testing will be missed.

VACCINATION IMPORT QUARANTINES: The state of Montana requires that sexually intact female cattle imported into the state be vaccinated for brucellosis. With some frequency, we get requests to import unvaccinated cattle under quarantine to be vaccinated on arrival. We've had highly variable success with ensuring that the vaccination is completed in a timely manner, and are introducing some adjustments to the current policy. When an out-of-state veterinarian calls our office to request a permit and Vaccination on Arrival (VOA), our office will require a copy of the health certificate, and a phone call from the importer prior to issuing this exemption. This will help ensure that all the paperwork is in order, and that the Montana owner is fully aware that additional requirements exist on this shipment of intact female calves. ✂ mz



Status of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

By: Christian Mackay, Executive Officer of Board of Livestock

The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) provides essential diagnostic and regulatory services to livestock producers, the general public, and consumers for both domestic and wildlife animal populations. The MVDL is one of five divisions within the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL).

Funds for Montana's first animal lab were appropriated by the Montana Legislature to the Animal Sanitary Board in 1917. This lab was in the basement of the Live Stock building south east of the capitol, which was the first agency headquarters building on the capitol complex.

The Montana Veterinary Research Laboratory, at Montana State College in Bozeman, was organized in 1929, as a cooperative effort of the Montana Livestock Sanitary Board, the Montana Experiment Station, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, and the Montana Wool Growers Association. The laboratory was established to investigate diseases of range cattle and sheep.

The needs of the livestock industry exceeded the space allowed for the lab and a new space was built. The existing facility, named after State Veterinarian Hadleigh Marsh, was constructed in 1961 and jointly financed by USDA/APHIS, DOL, and Montana State University (MSU) at a cost of \$1million. The building was enlarged and renovated in 1996 by adding a new necropsy facility and additional office space. The Marsh Laboratory is shared with various MSU department faculty and the Montana Seed Laboratory.

Fifty years have passed since the lab was initially built and it's showing its age. In 2007, an accreditation panel concluded that the building did not meet the standards for a modern veterinary diagnostic laboratory. In 2008, the Montana Legislature ordered a study to evaluate the needs of all state laboratories and any commonality these laboratories may share. A copy of this report can be reviewed here: <http://goo.gl/DFKblp>.

This study determined that the laboratories of the MVDL and the Wildlife Laboratory of Fish, Wildlife and Parks are inadequate, antiquated, and potentially unsafe for staff. The study recommended that these two agencies share a facility that could meet both agencies needs and common missions.

This year, MSU Facilities Services conducted a Facilities Condition Inventory of the Marsh Laboratory. The inventory addresses deficiencies in the following seven categories: safety; damage/wear-out; codes/standards; environmental improvements; energy conservation; aesthetics; and building enhancements. Deficiencies in the Marsh Laboratory in all categories increased from 29.8% in 2010 to 34.2% in 2013. In categories for safety and damage/wear-out alone, Marsh Laboratory deficiencies are 25.7% compared to the average MSU state building of 6.9% and Marsh Laboratory is assessed by MSU to be in "very poor overall shape." Of even greater concern is that the evaluation doesn't account for the use of the building as a veterinary diagnostic laboratory that routinely handles biohazards and zoonotic agents.

Funds for a new laboratory were included in the bonding bill during the 2011 legislative session. However, that bill failed to pass by one vote. DOL is now working with MSU to develop plans for a new facility on the Innovation Campus just north of the current location. Funding options include: private investment, long-range planning appropriated by the legislature, or a combination of both.

Montana's veterinary diagnostic laboratory provides technical and case consultation in multiple diagnostic disciplines during business hours and on an on-call basis. It receives a significant portion of the state's diagnostic samples which allows the state veterinarian to review surveillance data and rapidly respond to disease incidents. Having a local laboratory also allows for more rapid sample results by avoiding long shipping delays. In cases where same day service is needed, veterinary staff or owners have couriered samples to the laboratory. Therefore, loss of accreditation and loss of the lab is an unacceptable option.

Support from the laboratory's customers, private veterinarians, veterinary clinics, ranchers, sportsmen, and the general public is vital to securing the future of the MVDL.

With the growing consequences that disease has on livestock market ability, and the continuing need for surveillance in wildlife diseases, the MVDL holds a vital place in Montana's future. ☒ CM



Department of Livestock, Marsh Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. December 2013



Workstation showing aging laboratory facilities

Administrative Rules—Past and Future

With what seems like a steady stream of rule changes in the Animal Health Division, we thought it would be of value to provide a quick summary of recently published regulations and an idea of what's on the horizon.

THE FOLLOWING RULES WERE PUBLISHED IN 2013:

Testing within the DSA – Prior to sale or movement out of the DSA, a negative test is required on all cattle and domestic bison regardless of age if the animal is intended to be used for breeding. The rule also clarified that DSA cattle have to be tested even if going to slaughter.

Alternative Livestock – Changes to the program include identification requirements, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing, and transportation of alternative livestock. Many of these changes were required for Montana to participate in the federal Herd Certification Program (HCP) for CWD.

Tuberculosis Testing for Import – Dairy steers no longer require a negative test if originating from a tuberculosis accredited free zone.

Trichomoniasis – Clarified management of affected herds, disposition of exposed females, and quarantine release. Set guidelines for completion of testing. Required testing of adjacent herds. Expanded penalties to include violations of any trich regulations.

Brucellosis Testing of Goats – Provided an exemption for exhibition animals not originating from a brucellosis management area.

PENDING RULE CHANGES INCLUDE:

Deputy Veterinarian – Update for the federal Category I or II accreditation and referring to online deputy handbook for policies and procedures.

Tuberculosis Testing of Imported Bison – TB testing of imported bison was inadvertently omitted during recent TB rule revision.

Fees – As I briefly discussed in the June newsletter, DOL will be proposing rule changes that will establish fees for a number of special programs, as well as increase fees for printed forms that have not been updated for a decade.

Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 81-2-102 (1) (c) provides the authority for DOL to “impose and collect fees” for “services.” “In fixing these fees, the department shall take into

consideration the costs, both direct and indirect....”

The Animal Health Division distributes health certificates, testing forms, and trichomoniasis ear tags to veterinarians. Costs charged by DOL for health books, including health certificates have not been adjusted for rising expenses since 2003.

We will continue to support electronic forms to streamline data capture, reduce data entry errors, and provide more efficient service to animal owners.

Part (g) of MCA 81-2-102 (1) allows the DOL to adopt rules that govern the “importation, sale, and method of using a biologic remedy”. Review of applications by pharmaceutical companies for the sale and distribution of vaccines can be a time-consuming process; however, none of the DOL personnel time currently spent on administration of the program is being recouped and therefore, per capita fees are used to pay that staff time. Therefore, the sale of biologics will constitute one of these new proposed fees.

Additionally, the Animal Health Division has developed a variety of “special” permits and licenses in response to veterinarian or animal owner requests over the years. Special permits, including the Annual Equine Import Permit, Seasonal Grazer, Trichomoniasis Feedlot, and numerous others, often provide added flexibility and extended dates for animal movement. While the most frequently used standard permits will continue to be offered free of charge, “special” permits will likely be assessed a fee commensurate with the additional workload they take to provide and process.

IN THE QUEUE:

Anthrax – Currently, rules on anthrax specify a 42-day quarantine on affected premises. This coincides with the meat withhold on vaccinated animals, but otherwise has little epidemiological value. Likewise, the existing rule states that animals dying from anthrax must be covered by quick lime; although this has recently been shown to increase sporulation of the bacteria that may cause increased risk of recurrence in a given area. Neither rule has been updated since publication in 1972. ✕

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM and mz



Dr. Ryan Clarke, USDA-APHIS-VS testing bison



Anthrax vaccine from Colorado Serum Company

Traceability

In this issue's traceability column, I cover three common inquiries received by our office: 1) When can you apply a second official tag if one exists already? 2) When is it legal to remove an official tag? 3) How can you get free (or discounted tags) for your clients?

I also discuss the upcoming iPad health certificate app that should be ready at the end of first quarter of next year.

DOUBLE TAGGING: It is permissible to apply a second form of official identification when:

1. A brucellosis vaccination (OCV—bangs) tag may be applied at the time of vaccination to animals that have existing official identification. For example, if heifers have a metal brite tag or an RFID tag that has previously been applied, you can add a metal OCV orange tag to the animal. Therefore, applying the brucellosis tag is optional for animals that are already individually officially identified. However, if a second tag is applied, BOTH tags must be recorded on the vaccination certificate.
2. An 840 tag (RFID or visual) may be applied to animals with existing metal bangs or brite tags. This is routinely done in Montana's DSA in herds that are conducting regular brucellosis testing and are moving towards electronic data capture. As in the first scenario, both tags must be recorded.
3. A second tag may be applied to any animal provided it bears the same official identification number of any existing ID. Some programs make use of paired 840 tags (one RFID, one visual) to assist with animal management.
4. In special cases when the need to maintain the identity of an animal is intensified (e.g., animals for export, herds under quarantine, or experiments) double tagging may be approved by a state or federal animal health official.

TAG REMOVAL: While official identification is intended to be permanent, there are a few instances in which you can remove existing official ID. These include:

1. Infection or deterioration of the ID such that loss seems inevitable or the tag number can no longer be read.

2. Malfunction of the electronic component of a RFID tag.
3. Incompatibility or inoperability of the electronic component of an RFID device with a management system.

A record must be kept for 5 years when official ID is replaced that should include the date, location, ID number of device that has been removed, the reason, and the newly applied ID number.

DISTRIBUTION OF TAGS: Since 2009 DOL has purchased 50,000+ RFID tags for distribution to producers at no cost. Additionally, DOL has received another 20,000+ tags from USDA at no expense. These tags have been used for ongoing brucellosis surveillance, official calfhood vaccination, international export, epidemiological investigations, interstate movement, and age/source verification.

Each year, we see an increased interest and demand for the RFID tags and would like to continue to provide tags to producers. At this time, DOL is limiting tag distribution to official calfhood vaccination, brucellosis surveillance, and epidemiological investigations. In order to continue tag distribution and to maximize adoption of RFID, DOL is considering a cost-sharing program. The tag distribution program was intended to introduce producers to the new tag technology and to educate producers about the value of electronic tags and records. After five years of providing tags at no cost to Montana producers, DOL feels that the value of these tags has been well recognized by many in the livestock industry but does not wish to discontinue tag distribution. We see cost-sharing as a middle-of-the-road approach. Any feedback that you may have on future cost-sharing of tags would be greatly appreciated.

iPad eCVI APP: Hopefully everyone is aware of the availability of the free Adobe-based eCVI from our office. It is a fillable PDF that does not require an internet connection. Once the form has been completed and electronically signed, the document is locked and cannot be further edited except to add permit information. Completed CVIs must then be emailed to our office.



RFID calfhood vaccination (OCV—bangs) tags



Screen capture from iPad app showing Animal Import screen that allows upload of animals from a spreadsheet. Courtesy of the State of Colorado.

Please see the newsletter in PDF format on the DOL website for a higher resolution picture at <http://goo.gl/DpivZ3>.

(Continued on page 6)

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

Traceability *(cont'd)*

(ADT continued from page 5)

The developers of the eCVI are currently working on an iPad app that has similar functionality. DOL veterinarians were able to preview the

app at USAHA in October and we are all excited about the possibilities, especially the ability to upload official ID data. The upload capability will be a tremendous time-saver for the end user and will also help cut down on transcription errors!

The application is currently being tested in Colorado where they are receiving feedback and working out bugs. The working group that is responsible for the app is projecting that it will be available for widespread use early next year. The app would be available in the App Store at no cost to veterinarians.

Both of these formats provide traceability data to state animal health offices that can be extracted and directly uploaded into animal health systems thus eliminating the need for time consuming and expensive data entry. ☒

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Animal Health Contact Information:

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

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Assistant State Veterinarian
(406) 444-5214
tszymanski@mt.gov

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

Evaleen Starkel
Alternative Livestock
(406) 444-9525
estarkel@mt.gov

Import Permit Office
(406) 444-2976

The screenshot shows the eCVI app interface on an iPad. The top bar displays 'CVI' and 'Print' options. The main content area is divided into sections: 'General' (Entry Permit #, Certificate #, Inspection Date, Shipment Date, Default Species), 'Disease Certification Statements' (a text box for statements), 'Herd/Flock Accredited Free For' (a table with columns for Tuberculosis, John's, NP/P, Brucellosis, Scrapie, Other, CWD, and PRV), and 'Current State/Area Status' (a table with columns for Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Other). The bottom navigation bar includes 'Back', 'Home', and 'iCVI' icons.

Screen capture from iPad app showing disease certification statements, herd and state status. Screen capture courtesy of the State of Colorado.

Please see the newsletter in PDF format on the DOL website for a higher resolution picture at <http://goo.gl/DpjuZ3>.