



Stock Quotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

State Veterinarian Notes	1
Issuing eCVIs in the Field	2
Recording Official ID on an eCVI	2
RFID Tag Options, Suppliers, and Application	3
Download Scanned RFID Tags, Printing CVIs, and Documentation	4
Options for Issuing eCVIS	5
Post Entry Qualification	6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 67th Legislative Session—Convenes January 4, 2021 at 12 p.m.

WHAT'S NEW

- Transitioning to eCVIs
- Brands Re-record
- 67th Legislative Session

State Veterinarian Notes

This past quarter has proven to be unique on several fronts. While we are still mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on operations, the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) performed a record number of brucellosis tests and conducted approximately 7,500 tests for chronic wasting disease (CWD). We have also been preparing for the upcoming transition to electronic health certification - as a reminder, beginning January 1st, we are limiting veterinarians to 20 paper health certificates during the 2021 calendar year. The Animal Health Bureau (AHB) has been preparing veterinarians for this deadline for several years, and while we intended to be 100% electronic by 2021, we provided the 20 paper health certificate limit following feedback from the Montana Veterinary Medical Association. The remainder of this newsletter edition is focused on digital CVI options and technologies available for veterinarians. Additionally, we are in the process of creating instructional videos on a variety of electronic topics that will launch in late January.

Two additional items of significance to be aware of in 2021. First, brand re-record will begin on January 1st and ends on December 31, 2021. There is no grace period for those that miss the deadline. Second, we are active in preparation for the upcoming legislative session and have four major priorities.

1. SETTING UP AN INDEMNITY FUND: Currently, there is no state fund available to pay for animals that are affected by brucellosis, or injured or killed during testing for tuberculosis (TB), brucellosis or other regulated diseases. We are proposing a bill to contribute \$10K a year up to a total of \$100K, to cover depopulation, euthanasia, or injury associated with regulatory diseases.

2. PROHIBITING GARBAGE FEEDING TO SWINE: The 2001 outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK was traced to the feeding of airplane waste to swine. We have long recognized this risk and have con-

trols in place that require licensing of garbage feeders and adequately treating garbage materials before feeding.

Currently, there are no licensed garbage feeding operations in the state, and we are requesting the prohibition of this practice.

3. APPROVING DOL'S BUDGET: One of the primary tasks of the legislature is to provide oversight of agencies, and appropriate funds for continued work. For the DOL, this means funding brands enforcement and animal health programs including the Designated Surveillance Area for brucellosis (DSA), meat, milk and egg inspection, and the diagnostic laboratory.

4. A NEW VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY: MVDL is operating in a building that is nearly 60 years old. We have a proposal in this legislative session as part of the LRBP (Long Range Building Program) to construct a \$25M facility adjacent to the current building on the Montana State University (MSU) campus. Benefits of a Montana-based laboratory include: (1) Capturing critical surveillance data. When samples go out of state, our office can't provide you with useful information about the incidence of disease. (2) Sending samples out of state is likely to cost producers more. Many laboratories have surcharges on out-of-state samples. (3) We will suffer a greater impact during emergencies. During a disrupting disease event, the high influx of samples tests the capacity of any laboratory. Having an in-state facility allows us to prioritize our samples for analysis which reduces the extent of harm on Montana families, and businesses. (4) We are building capacity for state response. The MVDL has loaned equipment to public health for COVID testing and was capable of transitioning to providing the test for humans.

In summary, I strongly support maintaining in-state veterinary laboratory capacity and believe you should too.

Best wishes for 2021.

✂ By Martin Zaluski, DVM

Issuing eCVIs in the Field and Recording Official ID on an eCVI

ISSUING ECVIS IN THE FIELD: When internet or cellular service is not available, there are currently two eCVI platforms that allow certificates to be issued without connectivity: the eCVI Fillable PDF and AgMove (formerly AgView).

eCVI Fillable PDF: The eCVI Fillable PDF will work on a laptop. You can therefore, issue the eCVI in the field by taking a picture of the completed form with a phone, or connecting to a printer to generate a hard copy to send with the shipment. Alternately, one could email the completed eCVI to the owner or hauler once you are connected to internet. As a reminder, with the eCVI Fillable PDF, you are responsible for emailing the completed certificate to the Department of Livestock. Reporting is not automatic.

AgMove: For users of AgMove, you also have the option to connect to a printer and print off a completed certificate or enter the email address of the owner or hauler and allow the system to automatically email the certificate once you are back in service or have reconnected to WIFI.

It is acceptable for haulers to travel with electronic copies of health papers, including a photograph of a completed CVI. Since the data from electronic CVIs is transmitted to the Department in near real time, should a truck be stopped before the eCVI has been received electronically, a phone call to our department or to the issuing veterinarian should allow resolution of the matter to prevent delays in shipping and potential penalties.

RECORDING OFFICIAL ID ON AN ECVI: With the proposed federal transition to RFID tags on hold, cattle continue to move interstate with visual official ID. Visual ID can be recorded electronically chute-side or can be handwritten and later entered into a spreadsheet format. RFID tags can be scanned using an electronic RFID reader and then the tag lists can be downloaded from the reader into a spreadsheet format.

The generated list of official ID can be included with the CVI in one of two formats:

1. As an Addendum to the eCVI:

For large groups of cattle with diverse identification, an addendum to an eCVI may be used to transmit information such as official identification numbers, breed, age, sex, and individual test or vaccination information. The addendum will be a separate electronic document that is transmitted with the eCVI. For addendums to be accepted, the following conditions must be followed:

- A. The CVI must reference the number of addendum pages, with the CVI itself being page 1 (1 of 3).
- B. The addendum must be numbered accordingly (2 of 3, 3 of 3, etc.):
 - The CVI number must be documented on each page of the addendum.
 - Addendums should be sent electronically to the department at eCVI@mt.gov as either excel, comma delimited (CSV), or other spreadsheet files with the CVI number as the subject of the email. A picture/scan of a spreadsheet or other handwritten ID list is not acceptable.

2. Upload of Official Identification for direct inclusion on the eCVI:

For users of an eCVI technology (Figure 1) that allows for the upload of official identification directly into the body of the eCVI (see table 1 for examples), official identification and other animal data must first be entered into excel or CSV format. Individual eCVI technologies frequently provide specific templates for you to enter animal data into for upload to the program. Please review guidance specific to the product you are using. The Department is happy to help if you still have questions or need assistance.

The screenshot displays the AgMove CVI web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Dashboard', 'Your Data', 'Admin', 'Manage Profile', and 'Help'. Below this, the user is identified as 'Demo Veterinarian' with 'Demo Clinic Account 2'. The main content area is titled 'Add Animals to CVI' and features a dropdown menu for 'Cattle'. There are two input fields: 'Inspection Date *' with the value 'Dec 29, 2020' and 'Purpose of Movement *' with the value 'Sale'. Below these fields, there are two buttons: 'ADD NEW' and 'IMPORT CSV', along with a 'CSV TEMPLATE' link. The interface also shows a sidebar with 'Dashboard', 'CVI', and 'Directory' options.

Figure 1. . AGMove Sample Source: DOL Staff

RFID Tag Options, Suppliers, and Application

RADIO FREQUENCY TAGS: RFID tags for brucellosis vaccination or other official identification purposes can be obtained directly from tag manufacturers, from most veterinary suppliers, or in limited quantities from USDA at no cost.

USDA has allocated a limited number of no-cost RFID tags to each state based upon cattle inventories. Tags can be ordered from USDA just as you would request metal brucellosis vaccination tags or silver metal NUES tags. The tags are being stocked at the warehouse at no cost to veterinarians. Both orange RFID tags for calfhood vaccination and white RFID tags to replace the silver metal NUES tags are available. Tags are intended to be applied to replacement heifers only. Montana has been allocated approximately 240,000 tags per federal fiscal year (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021). Distribution to veterinarians is limited based upon historical tag orders to ensure that as many people as possible can take advantage of the no-cost RFID tags. Important points include:

1. Distribution is limited to Montana accredited veterinarians.
2. Tags are intended to be used in replacement heifers only. For veterinarians who wish to use RFID tags beyond their allocated numbers or for purposes other than tagging replacement heifers, tags can be obtained from approved manufacturers and most veterinary supply distributors for a fee.
3. Tags can be ordered through the USDA Montana Veterinary Services office (406) 449-2220.
4. Veterinarians are legally required to keep records of any/all official tags for 5 years after application. Because of the lifespan of a bovine, DOL would encourage a 10-year retention time.
5. Producers and other entities must have a PIN or LID prior to tag application.
6. Veterinarians may not sell or redistribute tags without approval from USDA or their state official.

RFID SUPPLIERS:

- MWI <https://www.mwiah.com/>
- CattleTags.com <https://www.cattletags.com/collections/allflex-electronic-identification>
- Valley Vet Supply <https://www.valleyvet.com/c/livestock-supplies/ear-tags/usda-840.html>
- The Livestock Tag Store <https://www.livestocktags.com/products/allflex-usda840fdx-gesm-y-ss>

You will be required to provide your Premises ID Number (PIN) associated with your veterinary practice at the time tags are ordered. If you don't have a premises ID number, you can obtain one online here:

<https://app.mt.gov/accessgov/liv/Forms/Page/liv/d3ce0c15-4640-4b01-8edd-27f0f9b95d63/0/1>.

If you need a previously obtained PIN looked up, please call the Helena office at (406) 444-2976.

TAG APPLICATION: If you are applying RFID tags to cattle, you will likely be applying tags from one of three manufacturers, AllFlex, Datamars, or YTek. Please note, you should use the applicator pin from the same manufacturer as the type of tag you are applying. Failure to do so may impact tag application and retention. The type of applicator used does not seem to impact tag application, so we recommend finding one that is the most comfortable to use. Examples of available taggers include the Datamars Universal Tag Applicator, the AllFlex Total Tagger Applicator, and the AllFlex Retract-O-matic Ultra. Applicator pins should be available from most veterinary distributors or the manufacturers themselves.

RFID tags should be applied in the middle rib of the left ear, just to the inside of the ranch tag. This includes orange RFID tags as well.

RFID READERS: Examples of currently available RFID readers include:

- [AWR300 Stick Reader](#)
- [RS420 Stick Reader](#)
- [LPR Series Pocket Reader](#)
- [XRS2 Stick Reader](#)
- [SRS2 Stick Reader](#)



As a reminder, official ID includes metal brucellosis vaccination tags, silver NUES or brite metal tags, orange 840 RFID tags for brucellosis vaccination, and white or yellow 840 tags for general use. If you encounter 900 series RFID tags in animals from Process Verified Programs (PVP) such as Non-Hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC) or Age and Source Verified. Unless 900 series RFID tags were applied prior to March 11, 2015, they cannot be considered official ID for regulatory purposes.

Figure 2. RFID Tags
Source: DOL Staff

Download Scanned RFID Tags, Printing CVIs, and Documentation

DOWNLOADING SCANNED RFID TAGS FROM A RFID WAND READER: Tags can be downloaded from your RFID reader by one of two methods:

1. RFID Reader Manufacturer Specific Software – This is typically an application or software program that is downloaded onto your desktop or laptop. The RFID reader is then connected to the computer by a provided cable and through the software program, you are able to download and manage scanned tags (delete or create tag alerts). Tags will typically download into an Excel based spreadsheet (Figure 3) for further manipulation or for upload into an eCVI.

2. The AIIFlex RS420, and possibly the AWR 300 wands, come with a USB cable that can be attached to the back of the RFID reader. Once a USB device is inserted into the cable, scanned tags can be downloaded to the USB device. The saved files are Excel based and can be easily transferred to a desktop or laptop for further manipulation or for upload into an eCVI. Please note, the AIIFlex LPR Series reader does not have the capability to store or therefore download scanned tags.

	A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	840 Official Animal ID	Name	Breed	Movement Purpose	Age	Age Units	Sex	Cattle Type
2	840xxxx	Y25	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
3	840xxxx	R07	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
4	840xxxx	Y54	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
5	840xxxx	R0	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
6	840xxxx	R15	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
7	840xxxx	R22	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
8	840xxxx	Y51	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
9	840xxxx	Y02	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF
10	840xxxx	R47	Ang	breeding	2yo		F	BEF

Figure 3 . Excel Spreadsheet Sample Source: DOL

Occasionally, when downloading RFID tags from a reader, you will encounter tags in a single column format with the RFID tag, date, and timestamp all listed in a single cell and separated by a semi-colon. Should you encounter this, Microsoft has easy to follow directions on how to separate the data into three distinct columns located here: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/split-a-cell-f1804d0c-e180-4ed0-a2ae-973a0b7c6a23>.

PRINTING: There are several options for printing in the field. The DOL does not currently have recommendations for specific printers, but offers some points for you to consider when selecting a printer.

- Printers can be either hardwired for attachment to a laptop or some tablets, or may utilize WIFI or Bluetooth technology.
 - * If you are trying to print from your phone or tablet, you will need a printer with WIFI or Bluetooth technology.

- For whatever device you are printing from, you should check device compatibility listings prior to ordering. You do not need to invest in an expensive, ruggedized printer for field use. There are several models less than 100 dollars that can be used in the field.
- The DOL recommends finding a Rubbermaid tote slightly larger than the printer you are using to protect your investment in the field. We have seen veterinarians punch holes in the totes to allow power cables to exit the tote while still providing the printer protection from dust, water, and other exposures.
- Printers should be protected from freezing temperatures whenever possible as this may impact printer cartridge functionality.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT: Tag application should be documented, and records of tag applications must be maintained for five years. Options for record keeping include:

- Paper based system, such as a notebook or daily calendar that records range of tags applied, date, and contact information for the owner of the animal's tags were applied to.
- Electronic forms (Excel based) that can be retained or submitted to the DOL. If you are interested in an electronic template for recording tag application/ distribution, please call the DOL at (406) 444-2043.
- Online through the Animal Identification Number Management System (AINMS) – Veterinarians who wish to report tag application/distribution and not retain in-house records will need to go through the USDA eAuthentication process to be granted access to the AINMS. Once this is complete, veterinarians will be able to log on and document tag distribution/ application to producers based upon PIN information.

Please note that listing ID on health certificates, does not itself, satisfy record keeping requirements unless tag information is searchable through an electronic CVI platform.

Veterinarians are not obligated to report tag distributions/ applications unless they are associated with an official vaccination record, official test chart, or certificate of veterinary inspection. Any official forms should be submitted to the department within seven days of completion.

Records retention requirement for CVIs is two years for poultry and swine and five years for cattle, bison, sheep, goats, cervids, and equines. Again, DOL recommends retention of records of cattle / bison tagged for 10 years.

Available Platforms

Program	Cost	Accessibility	Animal Type	Offline Capability	Other
 <p>AgView *transitioning to AgMove</p>	\$3 per CVI	Wrks with mobile (phone or tablet)	Large or small	Yes	Automatically sends to states of origin and destination. Can upload animal ID info using a CSV file.
 <p>Adobe eCVI</p>	Free	Designed for desktop use only	Large or small	Yes	Requires Adobe Software. Contact the DOL for initial access.
 <p>GVL Global Vet Link</p>	Certificate plan with no monthly subscription fee or Subscription plan with reduced certificate fees	Designed for desktop or mobile use (phone or tablet)	Large or small	No	Automatically sends to states of origin and destination. Online database will save certificates for 7 years. Offers EIA test charts. Clients can access certificates online.
 <p>Vet Sentry Animal Traceability eCVI</p>	\$2.25-\$3 per certificate	Designed for desktop use only	Large or small	No	Automatically sends to states of origin and destination. Can upload excel spreadsheet with animal IDs.
 <p>USDA VSPS</p>	Free	Designed for desktop use only	Large only	No	Automatically sends to states of origin and destination. User required to have level 2 authentication with USDA/APHIS. Also offers EIA test charts.

Table 4. eCVI available formats
Source: DOL Staff

Post Entry Qualification

Animals occasionally enter Montana without meeting the state's animal health import requirements. The following requirements must be met before these animals are considered to be 'in Montana legally':

- Quarantine - animals should be isolated and quarantined pending compliance with import requirements. Depending on the circumstance, quarantines may be issued verbally by you or a Department of Livestock (DOL) District Brands Investigator, or an official quarantine may be issued by our office.
- Brand inspection - animals that enter Montana illegally should be brand inspected to verify ownership of animals and bring animals into compliance with Montana brand laws.
- Disease testing - all required testing must be completed prior to issuance of a post entry permit and release of quarantine.
- Official identification - if required.
- Post entry permit and quarantine release - as an accredited veterinarian in Montana, you may be asked by our office, by a DOL

Livestock District Brands Investigator, or by a client to assist with this process.

In the past, we have asked that veterinarians issue a post-illegal import certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) to capture the necessary information on the movement into Montana. With the transition to electronic CVIs, this practice is quickly becoming obsolete as electronic CVI formats do not allow an out of state location as the origin on a CVI intended for use on Montana origin animals. To replace this practice, we require the accredited veterinarian or a district brand's investigator to obtain a post entry permit from our office. The finalized permit will be provided to the owner of the animals for their records.

✉ By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

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We're on the Web:
www.liv.mt.gov



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**Montana Department
of Livestock**