

**Department of Livestock
Animal Health Division
2019 Biennium Goals and Objectives**

Guiding Principles:

- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases
- Safeguarding the health of the State's animals and food production capacity of livestock and poultry
- Prevention of the transmission of animal diseases to man (zoonotic disease)
- Education and reporting duties with private practice Deputy Veterinarians
- Law enforcement arm interacting with state and federal regulations

Theme:

- Animal disease management and the protection of public health from zoonotic diseases through education, collaboration and law enforcement.

The Animal Health Division Goals:

- Restrict diseased animals' movement into the state.
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases.
- Aid in reducing the risks associated with rabies and other zoonotic diseases to humans and animals for the protection of public health.
- Maintain veterinary positions for inspection of livestock markets, supervision of import activities, investigate diseases, enforce quarantines.
- Monitor the health status of alternative livestock animals and control and eradicate any disease of these animals in Montana.
- Maintain the marketability of Montana's livestock.

The Animal Health Division Objectives:

- Supervise animal imports as required by Montana statutes.
- Protect the livestock industry with follow-up of quarantine and testing for disease control
- Educate producers in bio-security and agro-terrorism risk management
- Educate consumers regarding human health risks of zoonotic diseases including rabies
- Regulate importation of alternative livestock using disease testing, monitoring compliance with rules and statutes in cooperation with the Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- Rapidly detect and minimize the risk of infections of brucellosis from bison and elk.

Measurements:

- Provide 24 hours a day 7 days a week customer service for import permits
- Quarantine for disease events immediately upon notification or within 48 hours of laboratory diagnosis. Quarantine illegal imports within one week of entry.

- Cooperate with Dept of Public Health and Human Services to monitor zoonotic diseases (especially rabies and brucellosis) and educate local public health officials and veterinarians on required response to positive diagnoses.
- Increase the number of pets vaccinated for rabies and the percentage of suitable samples submitted for laboratory testing.
- Inspect Livestock Markets for state and federal regulation compliance.
- Monitor regulatory activities of deputy veterinarians including compliance with traceability regulations, disease testing and quarantines.
- Enforce compliance of annual herd inventories and mandatory tagging and tattooing of alternative livestock.
- Continue the state and federal partnerships in the Interagency Bison Management Plan to mitigate the risk of brucellosis infected bison transmitting disease to cattle and humans.
- Facilitate compliance with regulations and a high rate of brucellosis testing of cattle and domestic bison in the Designated Surveillance Area for brucellosis.
- Efficiently and accurately process reimbursements to veterinarians and producers for conducting eligible brucellosis related activities (testing and adult vaccination).
- Minimize interstate restrictions on export of Montana livestock.
- Collaborate with Idaho and Wyoming animal health officials to formulate a regional approach to minimize the risk of brucellosis transmission to livestock from infected wildlife, until eradication can occur.