
2011 Annual Report

Montana Department
of Livestock
Animal Health Division

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Administrator



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So, there...

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Personnel
 - In March, Dr. Jeanne Rankin left MDOL to work with MSU Extension on homeland security and agricultural preparedness issues. Dr. Tahnee Szymanski was selected to fill the vacancy.
 - Also during the spring, Shane Grube, who worked on bison operations in West Yellowstone, left MDOL to take a job with the fire department. Bridger Cunningham (who was previously working part-time) was selected to fill the vacant position.
 - In August, Lindsey Mulcare left MDOL to pursue college courses at MSU Bozeman. Leslie Doely, who was working as a temporary employee on brands re-record, was selected to fill the vacancy.
 - Screened, hired, and trained three temporary employees.
- USAHerds Implementation
 - In January 2011, MDOL implemented new animal health management software. This software allows animal health staff to issue import permits and manage both the brucellosis and alternative livestock programs among others. It has significant advantages over the previous outdated software in that we can retrieve critical information to monitor imports and other data. The software is currently used by 11 states around the nation.
 - A user group of participating states was organized with Zaluski serving as chair for the first year. The user group helps set the direction for software development, allows states to see how other states are using the software, and also shares the development costs of software enhancements.
 - MDOL worked with Montana Interactive (that developed a number of online brands programs) to create an online permitting program for imported equines. Based on the success of this program, functionality for other imports (dog, cat, biologics) may be added. The program officially rolled out on January 3rd, 2012.
- Legislative session
 - MDOL supported legislation to require confidentiality of laboratory testing data of livestock. This legislation, 81-2-115, promotes greater producer participation in animal health programs and is similar to legislation that already protects livestock data in the majority of surrounding states. MDOL has the ability to disclose information as necessary for animal and public health reasons or when “the owner gives written permission to disclose the information.”
 - 81-2-102 (2) (b) limits the duration that an official order can be in place without being put into rule. Consequently, the MDOL tuberculosis official order is currently being drafted into rule.
- Hosted WSLHA in Helena in March
 - Animal Health hosted the Western States Livestock Health Association in Helena in March. State animal health officials and state meat inspection officials gathered from the 19 western states to discuss pertinent issues.
- Deputy Veterinarian Trainings
 - Three group seminars were conducted
 - January: 4 veterinarians were accredited
 - June: 20 veterinarians were accredited
 - September: 6 veterinarians were accredited
 - Two individual sessions were also conducted
- Miscellaneous
 - Held seven Animal Health Division staff meetings in January, February, March, May, August, October, and November.
 - Compiled and distributed four quarterly newsletters.

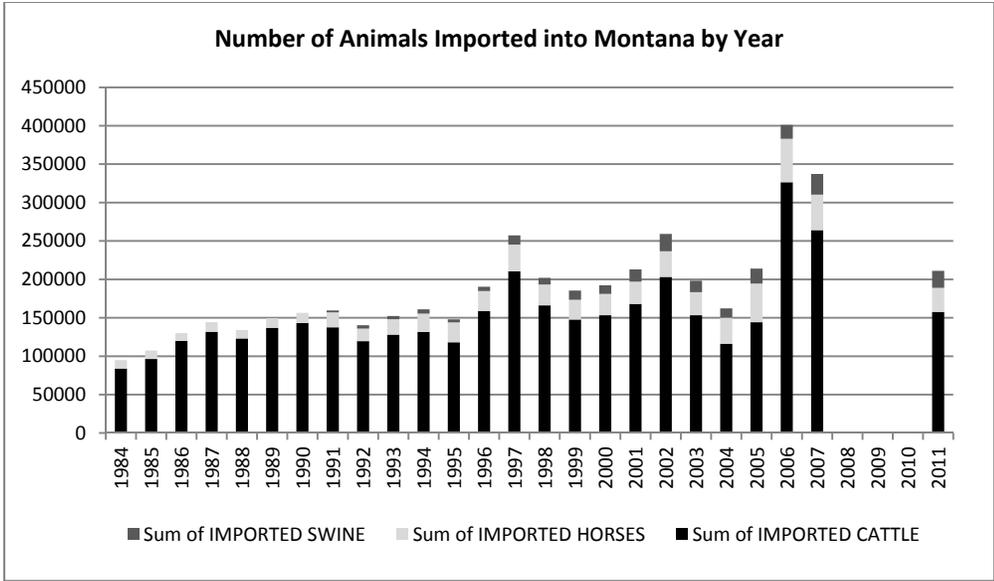
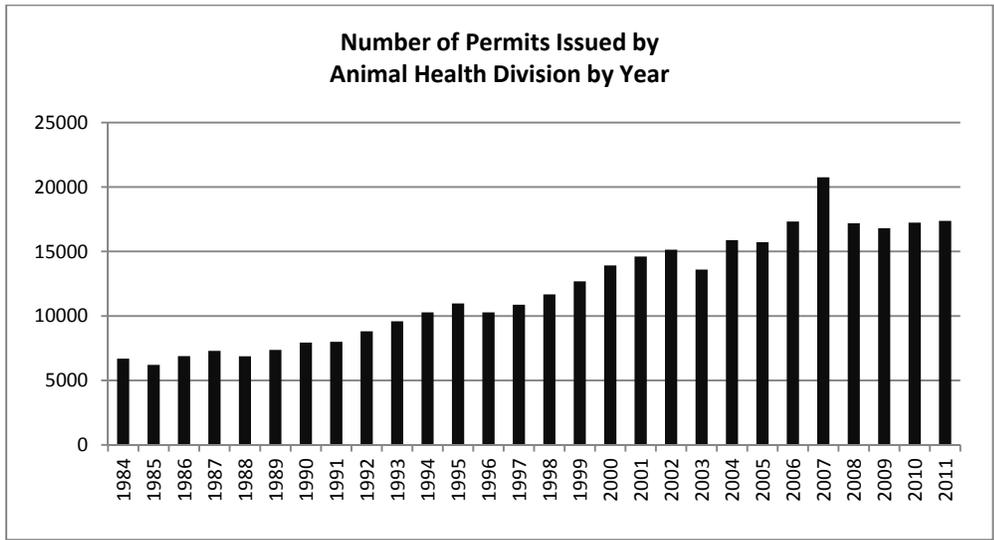
IMPORT/EXPORT SECTION

- Import Requirements Now Online
 - Animal Health previously used a handbook that listed animal health requirements. This handbook needed to be updated with any rule and policy changes. Therefore, the handbook was tedious to update and was often not current. In 2011, Animal Health began using the web site exclusively to list import requirements. This allows the public to access the most current requirements in a timely fashion.
 - Adjusted import requirement policy to process import permits for adult vaccinated cattle.

- Numerical Data for Imports
 - 1,447 permit calls were received per month on average with the busiest month being June with 2,564 calls and the slowest December with 532.
 - 2,056 permits issued by the Answering Service were uploaded and reviewed.
 - 4,244 records from Global Vet Link, an online Certificate of Veterinary inspection service, were uploaded. These are then linked to permits that were previously entered into the computer system.
 - 30 rabies quarantines, 35 trichomoniasis quarantines, and 18 other disease quarantines were tracked and 116 import quarantines were processed.

- Numerical Data for Implementation of USAHerds software
 - 228 DSA producer records were entered (names, addresses, locations and contact info)
 - 38 Alternative Livestock producer records were entered and inventory of 2,123 cervidae animals was manipulated.
 - 28 sheep producer records were entered into Brucella ovis certified free flock program.
 - 29 Trichomoniasis approved feedlot records were entered.
 - 645 Montana Deputy Accredited veterinarians' information reviewed, edited, and/or added.
 - Trained field personnel, including those at 6 market brand offices, to use the new computer system to look up producer information for those who participate in MDOL programs and import information.

- USAHerds System
 - The staff worked to learn the new computer system and did extensive data entry to build the data base. They worked through numerous issues, reporting and resolving them with in-house IT personnel, the Dept. of Administration, and Computer Aid Inc., the design agent.
 - Began sending monthly import reports to the County Assessor offices throughout Montana for per capita fee information. This is the first time since 2008 that we have been able to produce and send this valuable information to the counties. Reports for January through May have been completed and sent.



Note: 2008-2010 data is missing due to limitations of the old permit system.

EQUINE HEALTH

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA – Coggins)

On September 14th the Diagnostic Laboratory reported a positive EIA on a 32 year old mule in Carbon County. The mule was retired from a pack string and was tested for pending out-of-state movement. The owner of the animal had the mule for 25 years during which time the animal was used for guiding and packing. For 2 years prior to the positive test, the animal had resided at the affected premises. Per the owner, the animal had never had a previous EIA test.

The premises was quarantined with two other animals that pastured with the mule. At the time of sampling, both animals were negative. The owner elected to euthanize the mule on September 30th. The remaining two animals were quarantined for an additional 45 days following removal of the affected mule from the property. The two animals (Quarter horse M/C) retested negative on November 22nd and the quarantine on the affected premises was released.

Per the EIA Uniform Methods and Rules, all animals within 200 yards of the affected animal are considered to be exposed and are subject to testing requirements. Using cadastral mapping and onsite investigation, it was determined that there were no other equids within 200 yards of the affected mule so no additional testing of animals was necessary.

Equine Herpes Virus -1 (EHV-1)

Following a cutting horse show in Ogden, UT during the first part of May, several horses developed clinical signs consistent with the neurologic form of EHV-1. One week after the close of the show, state animal health officials were notified that EHV-1 had been confirmed. There were 30+ Montana horses that attended the event and, upon receiving word of the disease outbreak, they were voluntarily isolated and monitored upon returning to Montana.

A single gelding in Gallatin Co. tested positive on a nasal swab taken as part of routine monitoring. Although the animal did not meet the national definition of a positive EHV-1 case, MDOL chose to manage the gelding as a positive case to ensure the safety of all equines at the affected premises and surrounding areas. The gelding and premises were quarantined for 28 days from the day of veterinary inspection (the point at which we know there were no clinical neurologic or febrile clinical signs associated with the disease). A horse that is neurologic can be expected to shed for 28 days beyond the resolution of clinical signs. Nationally, the show in Ogden resulted in nearly 2000 horses being exposed to the EHV-1 virus. Of those 2000 horses, 90 developed clinical signs of the disease and 12 animals died or were euthanized.

In a second incident, MDOL received notice from USDA APHIS VS of an EHV-1 positive animal in Montana in November. The positive animal was a broodmare on a cutting horse facility. Coincidentally, this facility had show horses at the cutting even in Ogden, UT that was the source of the 2011 multi-state EHV-1 outbreak, but this case is believed to have no relation to the Ogden event.

The mare presented with hind limb paresis consistent with EHV-1 two weeks after her 2011 foal was weaned. It is believed that the stress of weaning may have resulted in recrudescence of the disease. MDOL quarantined all exposed horses in that location which included 5 other broodmares and 11 weanlings and yearlings held in an adjacent pasture.

The mare was unable to stand and on November 28, and the owners elected to euthanize the animal. Animals that were in training or were currently showing were held at a completely separate on the premises. The facility remained quarantined for 28 days beyond the date of euthanasia of the affected animal. During this time no other animals were febrile or developed clinical signs consistent with EHV-1. The quarantine of the affected facility was officially lifted on January 9, 2012.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

National Pork Board FMD Table Top Exercise

In January, MDOL co-sponsored a table top exercise in conjunction with the Montana Pork Producers Council (MPPC). The exercise was held during the MPPC annual meeting in Great Falls, MT. Attendees from MDOL included several Board of Livestock members and representatives from Animal Health, Brands, and Meat Inspection. The primary attendees were Montana pork producers. The tabletop walked the audience through a scenario where FMD was diagnosed on a premises in MT. The exercise was an excellent opportunity for producers and emergency response planners to discuss jurisdictional, logistical, and planning scenarios in order to better understand how such a disaster would unfold, and what we as animal health officials in the state need to do to be better prepared to serve the livestock industry.

In November, Montana State University Extension co-sponsored the same table top exercise with MPPC. The attendees at the November session were representatives from state, county, and local emergency response agencies as well as a significant number of accredited veterinarians. Discussion focused more heavily on the execution of the diagnosis, handling of affected animals and premises, and euthanasia and disposal of the animals. The two very diverse sessions of this exercise demonstrated how each of us has a different interest in how a large-scale disease outbreak would unfold in Montana while emphasizing the need to work together to achieve minimal disruption to our industry.

TRICHOMONIASIS

2011 brought significant changes to the trich program in MT. Following a 60 day comment period, the statewide testing requirement was scaled back to a focused surveillance effort including the 4 counties with the highest historical risk of disease exposure: Glacier, Pondera, Yellowstone, and Big Horn. Animals originating from, or being sold within one of these four counties are required to have a negative trich test or will be restricted to slaughter channels only. Additionally, animals grazing in common and animals imported into Montana will be required to have an official negative trich test as well. The identification requirements for bulls tested for trich were revised to require that either a MT trich tag be used or another form of official individual identification be used.

In 2011, Montana had 58 bulls test positive for trichomoniasis out of over 10,000 animals tested. These animals were from 17 different premises. The source of exposure for 44 of the bulls was determined to be one of the 4 epizootic area counties. 5 bulls were exposed to open cows whose origin could not be traced and the source of exposure for the remaining 9 bulls is part of an ongoing disease investigation.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Q Fever

In May of 2010, multiple human cases of Q fever were diagnosed in Teton and Cascade Counties. Public Health notified MDOL of these cases and a likely association with animals. The two families involved in the positive human cases were owners of goats and had both received animals from a premises in Washington State that had recently experienced significant reproductive losses in their goat herd due to Q fever. This multi-state outbreak resulted in a cooperative investigation that involved USDA APHIS VS, CDC, MDOL, and State and Local Public Health Officials. It was determined that there were three herds in Montana that received goats from the affected premises in Washington State. All of the animals from the exposed premises were tested. A premises in Yellowstone Co. was tested and found to be free of Q fever. A premises in Cascade Co. was tested and only two animals that had originated in Washington State were found to be infected. The third premises in Teton Co. was found to be heavily infected with Q fever and had sustained significant reproductive losses in both their sheep and goat herds.

MDOL has continued to work with CDC on surveillance in the Teton County herd. Because of the high infection rate in these animals, CDC is interested in determining if there are any unique qualities to the strain of Q fever that have resulted in such a high infection rate, high reproductive losses, and high rate of human infection.

In response to the multi-state outbreak and the interest that it generated, the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians has put together a working group that will write a consensus statement on Q fever to provide recommendations for handling future outbreaks in the United States. I am participating in the working group as a co-chairperson and a representative of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials.

Animal Exhibits Mailing

In preparation for the 2011 fair season, MDOL communicated with 7 fair planning committees in Montana. These fairs were selected due to their proximity to urban areas and the expectation that these fairs would produce the largest number of interactions between non-rural residents and animal exhibits. MDOL provided fair planning committees with references to utilize when planning the location of animal exhibits to ensure fair attendee safety. MDOL was contacted by one of the fair planning committees and worked closely with them to ensure that animal exhibits could proceed while ensuring the safety of participants by providing hand-washing stations, education information, and large signage informing participants of proper hand-washing and other biosecurity techniques.

BRUCELLOSIS PROGRAM

Federal Brucellosis regulations

- The United States Department of Agriculture –Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Service (USDA-APHIS-VS) published an interim rule in late 2010:
 - Removed mandatory downgrade of state class status if a brucellosis affected herd is found. It also removed depopulation as a mandatory requirement for brucellosis affected herds if the herd can be managed under quarantine;
 - Required that states with a brucellosis reservoir in wildlife or those states that have not been class free for more than five years create a brucellosis Management Area (Montana’s Designated Surveillance Area). Montana completed the application, submitted it, and received approval in 2011.
- A Brucellosis/Tuberculosis working group was created to rewrite the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Brucellosis and tuberculosis will be combined in the new regulations due to the similarities of these two programs.
 - A public input meeting was held in Bozeman, MT by USDA-APHIS to gather input and comment on changes to the National brucellosis and tuberculosis rules. Drs. Zaluski and Liska attended and provided input.

IBMP - Interagency Bison Management Plan

- Operations: during spring of 2011, a large number of bison (up to 362 on one occasion) occupied the northern management area. IBMP partners’ ability to maintain the Zone 2 boundaries was exceeded on numerous occasions. Additionally, bison occupied pastures with cattle more than a dozen times. As a result, additional fencing was constructed on the two properties where cattle are grazed during the spring/summer.
- Adaptive management changes were signed in the spring to take advantage of the topographical features of the Gardiner basin. When implemented, tested (when possible) bison would be allowed in the Gardiner basin during the tolerance period from November 15 through April 30.
- Partially as a result of the items above, the state of Montana, including MDOL, FWP and the Gov.'s office, was named as a defendant in litigation brought forward by Park County and Park County Stockgrowers. The chief complaints include: a) public safety, nuisance and property damage caused by bison, b) inadequate public participation in decision-making, c) inadequate environmental analysis, and d) MDOL not meeting its statutory authority for disease control.

- The state attorneys successfully disqualified the Park County Stock Growers attorney (John Bloomquist) based on a conflict of interest because of his work for the state of Montana during IBMP litigation in the late 1990s.
 - A hearing is scheduled for early March 2012 on the relevant issues of the case.
- To promote stakeholder input, IBMP partners supported the formation of the citizens working group (CWG). Unfortunately, the group of approximately 30 participants included only three ranchers who attended all the meetings. The recommendations from the CWG were presented to the IBMP at the December meeting (also shared at the January 2012 Board meeting) and these are being considered.

Two herds found to be affected

- With the publication of the USDA-APHIS interim rule and the establishment of a brucellosis management area, Montana did not lose state class free status following the discovery of three brucellosis affected herds in the state within a 24 month period.
 - The first, a Gallatin County DSA domestic bison herd found in late 2010; the second, a Park County DSA cattle herd was found in September of 2011; the third, a Madison County DSA domestic bison herd was found in November of 2011.
- The November 2010 Gallatin County affected herd epidemiologic investigation and herd testing continued into early 2011. The initial testing of all adjacent herds was completed by February of 2011. All but one ranch will have completed their assurance test. The last herd is scheduled to be complete its assurance test in mid February.
- The initial herd tests of adjacent herds in both 2011 investigations were completed by the end of the year.
- All three affected herds were detected within Montana's DSA. The Park county epidemiologic investigation involved 11 ranches and approximately 2000 cattle. The Madison County epidemiologic investigation involves 7 ranches and approximately 8000 cattle and domestic bison.

DSA Economic Impact Statement

- MDOL completed an Economic Impact Statement on the DSA in March of 2011. The analysis showed that the creation of the DSA in Montana saved the producers of the state \$5.5 to 11.5 million annually by preventing statewide testing requirements and by reimbursement of focused testing and surveillance costs.

Montana's DSA Regulations

- The Board of Livestock approved several changes to the brucellosis program following identification requirements placed by other states and wildlife elk survey results.
 - Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), with funding from USDA-APHIS and in cooperation with MDOL, completed a live elk capture study in the Ruby Range just outside of the DSA boundary in which 12 of 100 elk captured tested positive for exposure to *Brucella*. Based on these results, the DSA boundary was adjusted to include the area in which these elk are known to range. Multiple meetings were held in and around the DSA and the proposed new adjustment area.
 - Because of the unknown risk of brucellosis transmission outside the current DSA boundary, the vaccination requirement for the four counties in which the DSA is located was adjusted to include all sexually intact female cattle and domestic bison that are four months of age or older as of January 1 of any year .
 - In response to variable identification requirements being imposed by three of Montana's largest cattle export states, an identification requirement was implemented requiring all sexually intact cattle and domestic bison [regardless of age] leaving the DSA to be identified with official individual identification.

USAHA resolutions

- The USAHA committee on brucellosis passed multiple resolutions in 2011.
 - A recommendation for the use of a validated testing protocol for use on elk.
 - A request for assistance from the centers for epidemiology and animal health in the development of a herd depopulation matrix.
 - A request to USDA to increase the acceptable upper age limit for official calfhood vaccination of bison to twenty-four months of age.
 - To improve State, tribal and USDA reporting of follow-up on trace investigations from suspect animals.
- USAHA committee resolutions can be found at: <http://www.usaha.org/Reference/USAHAResolutions.aspx>

USDA revised Adult Vaccination (AV) and Tattoo policy

- Within the GYA, USDA-APHIS no longer requires a herd brucellosis test or that an adult vaccination tattoo is placed at the time of AV. AV animals must still have an official individual identification listed on the vaccination form.
- The State Veterinarian's office now allows AV by an accredited deputy state veterinarian without prior written permission. The vaccination form must be completed and returned to the State Veterinarian's office.
 - At the time of AV it is recommended that a tattoo is placed in the ear of an animal that does not currently have a brucellosis (usually calfhood) vaccination tattoo.
- This change in policy reflects the fact that RB51 vaccine does not cross react with blood tests like Strain 19 vaccine.

The Board of Livestock (BOL) adjusted the policy for import of "official [brucellosis] vaccinates"

- It has been the policy of the BOL to not allow the import of adult female cattle that are not Official Calfhood Vaccinates (OCV). In the past, AV cattle may enter the state only if a written request had been submitted and special permission granted by the BOL.
- In 2011, the BOL changed its policy to reflect the Administrative Rule (ARM) as written. The ARM has always allowed the import of "official vaccinates". An AV animal, if vaccinated with an approved vaccine at the approved dosage by a veterinarian, is an official vaccinate.

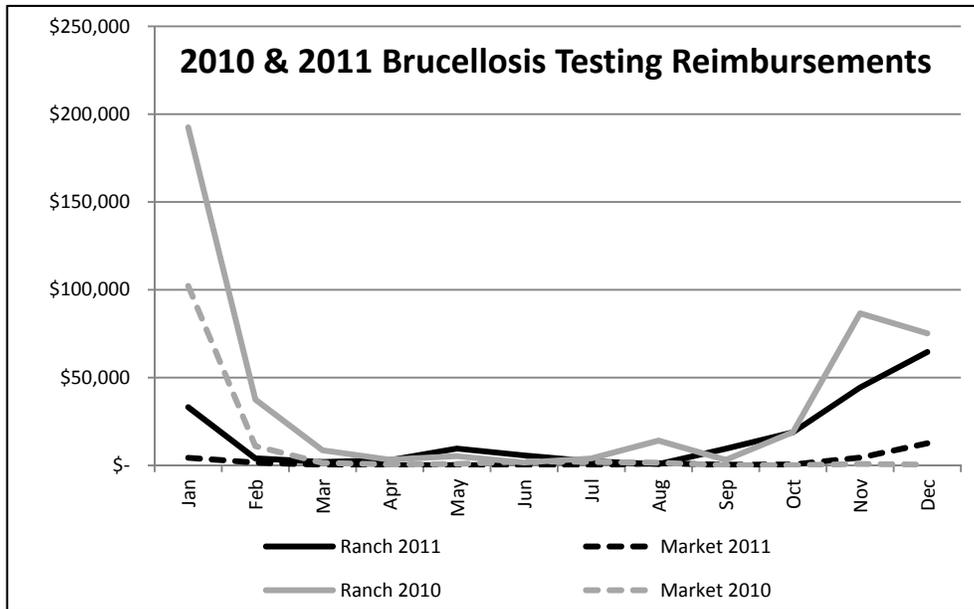
Reimbursements

- A total of \$239,929.00 was reimbursed for DSA related testing and adult vaccinations within the calendar year
 - 24,557 animals were tested for a total reimbursement of \$223,397.50
 - 3,859 animals were adult vaccinated for a total reimbursement of \$16,531.50
 - \$573,401.35 was reimbursed in 2010. The reimbursement amount in January 2010 was high because it included testing done as far back as July 1, 2008. The older testing was reimbursed because funding was still available after the Brucellosis Action Plan ended.
- Reimbursement numbers increased throughout the year due to the expansion of the DSA boundaries (effective in August 2011), as well as more testing required as a part of the epidemiologic investigations involving the two additional affected herds discovered in the fall.

2011 DSA Brucellosis Testing Reimbursements

| Month | Ranch (hd) | Ranch \$ | Market (hd) | Market \$ |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Jan | 2446 | \$ 33,172.00 | 563 | \$ 4,294.50 |
| Feb | 428 | \$ 3,933.00 | 203 | \$ 1,590.50 |
| Mar | 102 | \$ 1,885.50 | 42 | \$ 357.00 |
| Apr | 292 | \$ 2,962.50 | 3 | \$ 25.50 |
| May | 1052 | \$ 9,610.00 | 22 | \$ 187.00 |
| Jun | 704 | \$ 5,643.00 | 13 | \$ 110.50 |
| Jul | 182 | \$ 2,316.00 | 9 | \$ 76.50 |
| Aug | 58 | \$ 696.00 | 148 | \$ 1,258.00 |
| Sep | 1110 | \$ 9,524.00 | 45 | \$ 382.50 |
| Oct | 2119 | \$ 18,800.00 | 61 | \$ 518.50 |
| Nov | 5645 | \$ 44,380.50 | 523 | \$ 4,445.50 |
| Dec | 7303 | \$ 64,615.00 | 1484 | \$ 12,614.00 |
| Total | 21441 | \$ 197,537.50 | 3116 | \$ 25,860.00 |

*This table reflects numbers and amounts *processed* during the reported month. The actual testing dates range from August 2010 - December 2011 and were reimbursed from funding secured through House Bill 2.



Note: Jan 2010 processed testing includes testing done as far back as July 1, 2008; at the end of the BAP (mid Jan 2010), reimbursements sent in after the June 30, 2009, deadline that had been held until that time were reimbursed because funding was still available.

ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

- Received 11 requests – from Idaho, North Dakota, and Utah – for five-year herd histories on 6 Montana elk producers.
- Issued 113 Annual Equine Semen permits (58 premises) and 3 Annual Bull Semen permits.
- Entered data into USAHerds – migrated animal info from the Alternative Livestock DOS system, input missing data (animals), and set-up Montana cervid producers in the system.
- Collaborated with Dr. Zaluski and Evaleen to implement a three part correspondence training course for veterinarians to become CWD certified:
 - The first phase involves sending the interested veterinarian an Alternative Livestock binder containing state and federal game farm regulations (Montana Code Annotated Chapter 87, regarding FWP regulations for Alternative Livestock ranches; MDOL Administrative Rules of Montana Chapter 4 regarding game farm regulations, tattooing and tagging), brucellosis and tuberculosis testing info, pertinent contact numbers, etc. Also sent is a DVD entitled “CWD Surveillance Program for Veterinarians” and a written test corresponding with both the DVD and the material in the binder.
 - The second phase is the tuberculosis certification training by a federal (APHIS) veterinarian.
 - The third phase is the CWD “wet lab” given by Dr. Layton at the State Diagnostic Lab in Bozeman. The accredited veterinarian wishing to go through the TB and “wet lab” portions of the training are responsible for contacting both Dr. Linfield at APHIS and Dr. Layton at the lab to arrange a time to receive the training.
 - Two veterinarians successfully completed the CWD correspondence testing: Dr. Amanda Oedekoven in Kalispell and Dr. Ben Abbey in Dillon
- Compiled monthly import reports using USAHerds and emailed the respective report to each county’s contact person(s). The January through May reports were successfully completed, but June through September were not completed due to staff absences.
- Received several phone calls for “odd” situations: a man in Missoula had over 200 white rats living in his house; a tortoise in the Billings area “escaped” from his pen and neighborhood dogs were chasing him; a man and his 60 year old Mohave tortoise had been living in Seeley Lake for a few years and neighbors thought this was an illegal animal to own; an out-of-state caller wanted to know why he could not bring kangaroos into Montana; another caller wanted to know how he could get a currently non-classified animal classified so he could import it to Montana.

FIELD REPORTS

Western District: Ernie McCaffree LS543, Supervisor

- A large animal sanctuary in Sanders County went broke. 1600 large animals had to be dispersed out to new owners. Animal cruelty charges are pending in Sanders County.
- Arrested a suspect in Lake County on a \$59,000 felony bad check charge for cattle purchases in Cascade County. The suspect appeared in Cascade County Court and made the payment on the cattle but remains on one year probation for felony.
- Pulled a Sanders County local inspector's books and stripped him of his inspection duties for wearing a gun and intimidating a producer while inspecting cattle.
- A producer in Lake County forfeited 100 hogs to MDOL in lieu of citations for garbage feeding and ongoing containment issues. MDOL transported the hogs to PAYS in Billings. In Lake County Justice Court, at MDOL's request, the owner was ordered to refund MDOL \$500 for fuel cost. \$500 was paid back to MDOL in full.
- MDOL seized a grey bucking horse stud, originating from North Dakota, in Flathead County due to a dispute over ownership. The stud had two different ownership brands, but there was no bill of sale from one owner to the other. \$1000 was paid to one party and the stud was returned to the other.
- Dairy cattle originating from Wisconsin were under quarantine in Lake County for adult brucellosis vaccination in MT. The owner called to report numerous cattle dying. Called Drs. Zaluski and Liska, they responded and performed a necropsy on a euthanized cow. The owner ended up going broke and sold out. Approximately 100 head of Jersey cattle died from complications due to pneumonia and questionable management.
- Larry Elings and I traveled to Nevada to recover 60 head of stolen cattle for a Glacier County producer. We were assisted by the Nevada Dept of Agriculture Investigators. The cattle had been found in Nevada and were subsequently sold at a Nevada market for the Montana producer with proceeds going to him. MDOL was reimbursed for the investigation and expenses by the Montana producer. Nevada criminal charges are pending.
- Final legal outcome was reached in an illegal branding case in Beaverhead County. The defendant reimbursed approximately \$85,000 to the victim, forfeited 25 pair and three bred cows that had been seized with an MDOL search warrant, must pay a \$5000 fine suspended pending probation, and is on probation for three years for felony charges. Also given 416 hours of community service, all suspended but 40 hours, and had to reimburse MDOL investigative costs of \$3,146.98.
- Quarantined an illegal shipment of 100 female bison from Oregon to a ranch in Glacier County. The quarantine was issued and OCV status is being verified. Still listed as an active case.

Eastern District: Travis Elings, Supervisor

Horse neglect

- Approximately 830 head of horses belonging to a Yellowstone County owner were gathered and sold due to neglect and loss of his ranch and leases. Numerous agencies worked on this project including the BIA, Crow Tribe, Yellowstone county sheriff's office and the MDOL.

- Over 40 horses were found starving in Fallon County. The owner had hay but would not feed or water the horses. The sheriff's office is still working on this case into 2012.
- 60 head of horses were found starving in Carbon County. The Carbon county sheriff's office and the MDOL worked on this together to get the horses taken care of and the owners charged.

Illegal import

- Worked on 43 illegal imports.
- Investigated a report of dogs being brought in to Montana without proper health work. There were about 55 dogs brought in from North Dakota without any paperwork at all. The dogs were then adopted out all over Montana.
- An animal shelter in Yellowstone County was bringing in dogs from numerous states. These dogs came in with no paperwork. I worked with the vet and the shelter to get all the dogs legal. Since then, the shelter has been getting the appropriate work done prior to importing animals.
- Cattle were being brought into Montana from Wyoming without inspections or health papers. I worked with an investigator and an inspector from Wyoming to find the suspects and issue NTA's for non-compliance.

Testing

- Helped the state veterinarians test numerous goats and cattle in Yellowstone and Carbon Counties for Q fever.
- Met with an owner who was concerned about our procedure for EIA positive horses. This person had a positive animal and was concerned about having to put the animal down. I worked with the owner and made sure the other animals on his property were tested and that the infected animal was put down.

Quarantines

- I checked on twenty two overdue quarantines throughout the state.

Education

- I gave two different talks on livestock laws and regulations. One was to a 4H club and another was to a local saddle club.
- Notices To Appear: 18
- Warning tickets: 27
- Field quarantines: 2
- Truck stops: 18

Other Brands activities were reported to the Brands Administrator.