



BOARD OF LIVESTOCK MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 2013

Board Conference Room 319

301 N Roberts

Helena, MT 59620

1:00 p.m. Monday, November 18, 2013

Call to Order

Board Members Present

Jan French, Chair, cattle producer
John Lehfeldt, sheep producer
John Scully, cattle producer
Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer

Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Linda Nielsen, cattle producer
Ed Waldner, swine producer

Staff Present

Christian Mackay, Executive Officer
Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian
Dr Bill Layton, Veterinary Diag. Lab.
George Harris, Centralized Services
George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board
Sherry Rust, Executive Secretary

Dan Turcotte, Milk & Egg Bureau
Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Steve Merritt, Public Information
Dr Eric Liska, Animal Health
Cinda Young-Eichenfels, Animal Health

Public Present

Dr Tom Linfield, AVIC, APHIS, VS
John Youngberg, Farm Bureau
Les Graham, Montana Livestock Markets
Roger Lloyd, Legislative Fiscal Div.

Quentin Kujala, Fish Wildlife & Parks
Errol Rice, Montana Stockgrowers
Dr Cammy Johnson, VS APHIS

Remarks from the Board

- Linda Nielsen
 - long harvest this fall
 - had the largest sale ever at Glasgow Market recently (upwards of 4,000 head)
 - way ahead of last year's numbers
 - prices are holding
- Jan French
 - had a good fall, grasses greened up
 - looks good in our country
- Ed Waldner
 - corn prices are dropping, barley will follow
 - everything looks good, hay is up, harvest is done
- John Scully
 - studying the brucellosis issue
- John Lehfeldt
 - sheep industry, predation continues to be a big issue
 - good fall, nice moisture



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- Brett DeBruycker
 - July and August haying and harvesting, weaning calves
 - good moisture
- Jeff Lewis
 - things are good
 - major life changes, sold milk cows and quota
 - still developing dairy heifers
 - milk prices are up, feed prices are going down

Approval of Board of Livestock Minutes:

John Scully moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Chairperson Interim Authorizations and Activities:

No interim actions.

Approval of Executive Officer Reports:

Jeff Lewis moved to approve the executive officer reports as presented. Ed Waldner seconded. The motions carried unanimously.

Animal Health Division:

Action Item #1 Proposed ARM amendment re: Deputy Veterinarians, Dr Tahnee Szymanski

- Updating 2010 brucellosis and animal health rules to be consistent with new federal definitions

Brett DeBruycker moved to authorize publication of changes as presented. Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried unanimously

- Current revenue is approximately \$15,000 cost for forms, and tags.
- purpose is to recoup costs presently coming out of per capita funds for specialized services and items over and above what is currently charged

The board tabled the item until Tuesday to allow time for further study.

Action Item #3 Proposed ARM amendments for Domestic Bison, Dr Szymanski

- proposed rule changes to TB testing of domestic bison, and updating import requirements for cattle to exclude domestic bison

John Lehfeldt moved to authorize publication for comment. John Scully seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



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Action Item #4 CAN Branded Cattle into Montana

- Montana requires hot iron CAN branding as of 2008 by official order on Canadian cattle imported into Montana
 - Animal Health recently received a request to import a Canadian bull to be allowed to enter Montana for show only with only the tattoo, not hot iron branded.
 - the bull was born in the US and went to Canada, owners not want to show and breed the bull in the US under an exemption to the hot iron brand
 - second issue is the question should the hot iron policy continue since there have been no BSE cases in Canada recently

The board declined action on the issue. Dr Zaluski is charged with reply to the request.

Brucellosis Testing of Montana Exported Cattle, Dr Zaluski

- not much chance of changing the mindset of the Texas commission regarding their recent rules on Montana cattle
 - believes there is a 50/50 chance of the rules being rescinded within the next six month or longer

Action Item #2 Proposed ARM Fees for Special Permits and Programs, Dr Zaluski

- The proposed fees for forms and specialized services would be commensurate with the costs incurred by the Animal Health Division.
 - current revenue is approximately \$15,000 for forms previously and tags
 - purpose is to recoup costs for specialized services and items over and above what is currently charge

The board tabled the item until Tuesday to allow time for further study.

Action Item #3 Proposed ARM amendments for Domestic Bison, Dr Szymanski

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John Lehfeltdt moved to authorize publication for comment. John Scully seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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○ the bull was born in the US and went to Canada, owners not want to show and breed the bull in the US under an exemption to the hot iron brand

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Brucellosis Testing of Montana Exported Cattle, Dr Zaluski

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3:00 p.m. Recess

3:20 p.m. Reconvene

USDA Wildlife Services, Kraig Glazier

- fox, cat and even wolf depredation was down this year
- coyote and raven damage was up
- bears denned up now

Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Dr Bill Layton

- AAVLD Accreditation
 - retaining provisional accreditation continue to February 2014
 - four corrective actions requested (no major issues)
 - then we will either be granted accreditation from one to three years, or
 - lose our accreditation and can either reapply or look for accreditation elsewhere
- Incinerator issues
 - losing chunks off the refractor
 - received quote from the manufacturer, came in and fixed it

 - will be getting a maintenance contract
 - quote for repairs was \$10,000

Brett DeBruycker moved to authorize payment when the bill comes in. Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried.

Producer Organization Updates

Montana Farm Bureau Federation, John Youngberg

- just finished their annual convention



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- big issues:
 - do not want buffalo out of Yellowstone
 - sage grouse keep them from being listed

Montana Stockgrowers Association, Errol Rice

- annual convention is December 12 through 14, everyone is invited

4:55 p.m. Adjournment

8:00 a.m. Tuesday Call to Order

Action Item #2 deferred to this morning regarding new fees for special permits and programs that are not covered by per capita fees.

John Scully moved to authorize publication of the proposed new fees for comment. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried.

Centralized Services, George Harris

- reviewed brand division revenue
- updates on FY 2014 State Special Revenue Collections
- 2014 Budget Status Report and State Special Revenue Update
- Livestock Loss Board, George Edwards
 - used social media to help with investigations during the federal furlough
 - viewing increased 2,000 percent
 - attending Woolgrowers and Stockgrowers conventions
 - pushing loss prevention federal grants that are available through the Livestock Loss Board
 - one for wolves and the other for grizzly
- Information Technology Update, Jim Newhall
 - working on RFP for new LIMS grant money
 - new web page is ready and will be up soon
 - Andy and Conrad working on a variety of new applications; brand lookups, verification fee app, etc.

10:30 a.m. Recess

10:45 a.m. Reconvene



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Brands Enforcement, John Grainger

- provided a draft copy of proposed ARM regarding horse owner amnesty
 - still very much in the drafting stage
- Action Item # 6 Proposed ARM miscellaneous changes and additions
 - a variety of housekeeping changes in wording and moving fees from subchapters to the fee section in chapter 2, removal of cites from within the rule

Ed Waldner moved to authorize publication of proposed changes as presented. John Lehfeldt seconded. The motion carried.

- PRCA exception request regarding steer branding
 - Mike Gallagher called in to explain how PRCA protocol conflicts with present brand laws
 - could allow exemption with conditions

The board charged John Grainger to move forward with drafting an ARM addressing this issue.

- Brand requests:
 - brand owner request to remove a scatter brand

Board consensus was they cannot make an exception when other requests have been refused.

- Request from Danielle Stiegelmier to obtain a Montana brand that coincides with her South Dakota and Wyoming brands
 - the requested brand is no longer issued per protocol
 - purchasing a Wyoming ranch and branded cattle, ranch owner does not want to sell the brand
 - they do currently own a Montana brand

Board deferred the request to the January meeting as an action item.

- Action Item #7 District boundary realignment
 - proposed making minor boundary changes to make them more equitable

John Lehfeldt moved to authorize changes as presented. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried.

- Pay Analysis
 - still a work in progress
 - surveyed all western brands states
 - Montana is second lowest in starting wage for market inspectors and the lightest staffed
 - Nevada has four inspectors for two markets working approximately 63,000 head
 - California has 29 markets handling two million head with each inspector responsible for inspecting 73,000 head



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- the issue is not just starting wage but more with filling upper level positions
- experienced staff not wanting to move into market supervisor position citing dependency on spouse 's income, can't afford to move
- estimate it will take \$250,000 to get the entire brand division up to 2012 norm
- Mike Hayes request for waiver to reside outside his district
 - moved from Helena to take over District 5
 - cites lack of affordable homes within his district due to the oil boom
 - owns cabin just outside Essex and has been living there
 - provided data to show that 80% of his calls are in Glacier and Pondera Counties
 - Liberty County sheriff does all the cattle in his area
 - could park the department truck in East Glacier to avoid fuel issues
 - John Grainger stated Mike is the most qualified person for this district due to his complete familiarity with the area

John Lehfeldt moved to grant a variance in housing as present with a reevaluation in six months. Linda seconded. The motion carried.

Meat Inspection, Gary Hamel

- completed annual self-assessment
- federal auditors will be in Montana next May and June
 - first they do a walk-through of plants
 - then hit the books to assure we are in compliance
- hired three positions and now are fully staffed

Milk & Egg, Dan Turcotte

- as of yesterday back to full staff as Rosemary is back from surgery
- Montana Egg decided to go back to four days requiring a new contract
- filled new half time position who will be attending training in Washington in January
- raw milk incident in Yellowstone County
 - notified by county health department of a none month old with E. coli from raw milk
 - no milk sample or evidence
 - Mother said she had given the child raw milk then declined to name the dairy
 - appears to be a dairy the department sent three raw milk letters to
- raw milk issue in general
 - South Dakota just passed raw milk rules, this issue is not going away
 -



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- need to look at drafting raw milk rules for Montana to forestall action in the next legislature

Public Comment

Next Board Meeting January 13 & 14, 2014

12:00 p.m. Adjournment

Jan French, Chair