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Margie Kelley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Board of Livestock Meeting

May 29-30

Brands Enforcement Spring Meeting of District & Market Inspectors

May 11-12, Billings

Montana Stockgrowers Mid-Year meeting

June 8-9, Great Falls

Veterinary Accreditation/Deputy Training

June 21, Helena

StockQuotes Animal Health Newsletter

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

Volume 5, Issue 1

State Veterinarian Update

BOARD OF LIVESTOCK SUMMARY: I'm writing this on the heels of a Board of Livestock (BOL) meeting that had a packed agenda of animal health and brands enforcement items. The board spent an hour and a half discussing the recent brucellosis surveillance in elk. This January, Fish Wildlife and Parks live captured elk for the second year of a multi-year study to better define the geographical extent of brucella in wildlife, and again found seropositive animals outside the boundaries of the surveillance area. The BOL also discussed adult vaccinated cattle and modified Montana's import policy to allow greater flexibility. More on these issues in the brucellosis section.

The BOL approved a rule draft on import regulations for tuberculosis (TB). Currently, most of Montana's TB import requirements are in an official order that was initially implemented in 2005, and updated in 2008 and 2010. The draft rule should be out shortly after this newsletter and is similar to the official order it will replace. The majority of changes are wording clarifications. As part of this process, we also updated some current administrative rules on TB. For example, requirements for Mexican origin cattle, alternative livestock and goats have been completely rewritten, but the content remains the same with one exception: the proposed rule lifts the TB requirement on goats imported for exhibition which is something that's been requested by goat owners.

The 62nd legislature (2011) limited the duration of any official order to five years [81-2-102 (2)(b)], and therefore, MDOL will be either rescinding or adopting into rule all other orders that are long in the tooth. This would include orders on CWD, ruminant protein feeding, importation of Canadian animals, and a couple others.

PLANS FOR 2012: Additional rule changes you're likely to see in 2012 are some minor changes to the trichomoniasis regulations and changes to the alternative livestock program. For trichomoniasis, MDOL

may request some additional authority for testing exposed herds. Also, a study was recently completed on pooling of trichomoniasis samples that showed a minimal decrease in sensitivity. Therefore, pooling will be strongly considered for routine surveillance sampling as part of the state trichomoniasis program.

For alternative livestock, producers have requested that MDOL extend the duration of pre-movement health inspection from 72 hours to 10 days to account for weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, producers have requested authority to collect CWD samples (currently limited to veterinarians), and tag their own animals during fall processing. I'm looking forward to your comments on these issues.

As you're probably aware, we welcomed 2011 with the implementation of the new animal health computer system called USAHerds. The system is currently used by 10 additional states and we are starting to see the benefits of this popularity. Through the leadership (and funding) of Colorado and Kansas animal health divisions, the system will offer a web based portal for requesting import permits sometime this summer. This feature will complement the current service we have for imported equines (<https://app.mt.gov/import/>) but may be more broadly adopted because it provides permits for cattle imports and will be free to the user. What this means to you is that when your office requests imports permits to states with USAHerds (CO, KS, OK, MO, PA, IN, KY, MI, VT), electronic permitting may be an additional option (depending on whether the state implements this feature).

2012 will bring new challenges. Please keep in touch and let me know of any significant issues as they come up. If you'd like to have a better understanding of what took up our time in Animal Health Division in 2011, I recommend that you review our annual report available on our website <http://liv.mt.gov/AH/default.mcp.x>. ☺ mz

Trichomoniasis Case Investigation



Angus bull at a Montana market.

MDOL is currently investigating a trichomoniasis outbreak that impacts numerous herds in central Montana. In late December 2011, we received notice of a positive trich test on a herd based out of Musselshell County. Of the 65 bulls tested, 9 were positive for trichomoniasis. Herd records demonstrate that all positive bulls were part of a bull battery used on a single grazing lease in Fergus County.

This investigation prompted a policy change for MDOL regarding adjacent herd testing. Previously MDOL only notified adjacent herds, relying on trich regulations for ongoing surveillance testing. However, with the state program no longer requiring testing at change of ownership in most of the state, MDOL is now requiring that adjacent herds test all potentially exposed bulls in non-epizootic areas.

Through the course of the investigation, we identified 6 premises in Fergus County that are adjacent to the index pasture. These 6 pastures encompassed 12 different herds with 3 subsequently testing positive for trich. The second round of neighbor notification identified an additional 10 herds in the vicinity of the index pasture. Please see the included epi chart below.

In addition, MDOL is investigating the home locations of positive herds not based near the index pasture. The home place of the index herd has four adjacent herds/

premises. Mandatory neighbor testing was not required of adjacent Musselshell County herds because of complete herd management records, previous negative testing, and the young age of the index herd bull battery. Sixteen herds have been identified as adjacent to the two remaining home places.

The sum of the investigation to date includes:

- 40 total herds identified
- 18 herds have completed all testing requirements
- 17 positive bulls in 4 herds
- 175 bulls tested
- 4 bulls sold to slaughter without a test
- 9.7% case incidence

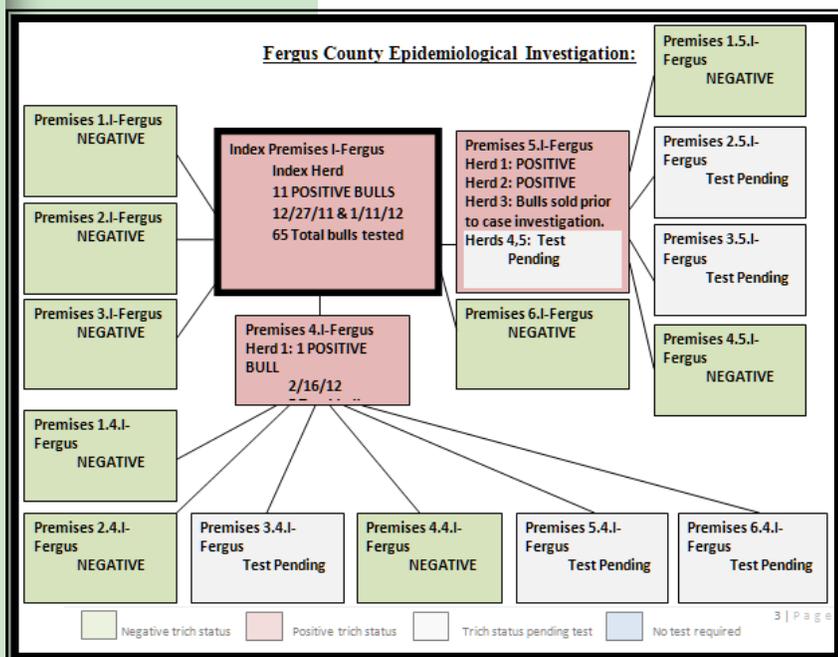
MDOL held two well attended public meetings in Lewistown and Roundup where the disease, current regulations, and the case investigation were discussed. Local veterinary participation was integral to the success of these meetings.

Important take home messages from this investigation and the two public meetings include:

- The reason for testing of the index herd was a management decision in response to a reduced pregnancy rate, not because of current or past trich regulations.
- Grazing in common is a higher risk practice. The continued test requirements for these herds in current regulations seems justified.
- The presence of trich in Fergus and surrounding counties does not mean this area will automatically become a part of Montana's trich epizootic area. The current epizootic area was formed based upon five years of historical data.
- The best assurance that producers in the affected area have to prevent becoming declared an epizootic area is to test bulls and employ management practices that will prevent the disease from becoming more widespread.

The current success of this investigation is based on the engagement of local veterinarians, cooperation of local producers, and the ability of MDOL to successfully identify exposed herds and complete timely neighbor notification. ✉ By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Epi chart from the Fergus County trichomoniasis investigation.



Brucellosis Issue Update

DSA SURVEILLANCE AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT: Results from this year's capture effort of elk in southwest Montana found seropositive elk, just outside Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) boundaries. The warm winter complicated capture efforts because fewer elk were found on their traditional winter range. Therefore, three distinct areas were targeted in Hunting District (HD) 325 and HD 329 to obtain adequate samples. 130 elk were successfully captured, which included 7 seropositive animals recaptured from last year's study.

Southeast HD 325 between Sage Creek and Basin Creek east of Lima was the only area with seropositive animals (5 of 46 sampled). Northwest HD 325 in Clark Canyon (0 of 47 sampled), and HD 329 (0 of 30 sampled) are further west and fortunately yielded only negative samples. The risk to livestock from the Sage Creek seropositive elk is mitigated by the fact that this area is used for seasonal grazing so few if any cattle use this area during the elk abortion season.

Regardless of the low risk to livestock, these findings pose a challenge. Interstate 15 is the closest available boundary line west of the sampled elk. Geographically, this would increase the DSA only slightly (to 4.6% of the state), however, it would add approximately 25,000 additional cattle with a subsequent increased burden on producers and additional testing costs. Montana has been highly successful in preventing additional brucellosis testing restrictions by other states, and in fact is the only DSA that North Dakota recognizes. By not taking action following these findings, we jeopardize this confidence, and therefore, the BOL voted to propose the boundary adjustment. A DRAFT rule will soon be available for comment.

To address the growing elk brucellosis problem, FWP recently formed a public work group to formulate creative solutions. The group is comprised of 12 members of the public and is about evenly represented by livestock and wildlife interests (understandingly, the two overlap).

IMPORTATION OF ADULT VACCINATES: In another brucellosis related action, the BOL adjusted the policy for adult vaccination of imported cattle. Since last year, BOL allowed the importation of non-calfhood vaccinated

(non-OCV) cattle if these animals were adult vaccinated in the state of origin. This allowed the importation of cattle from states that allowed the procedure, but still made cattle from other states like Wisconsin or Canada ineligible for entry. As of the March meeting, the board permitted the state veterinarian to allow non-OCV animals to be adult vaccinated under quarantine on arrival. These will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

GONACON RESEARCH TRIAL: USDA plans to conduct a study on immunocontraception in bison. GonaCon stops the estrus cycle by causing the animal to produce antibodies against GnRH. This technology holds much promise in the Yellowstone National Park (YNP) bison conflict because it simultaneously reduces the growth of the population while abruptly cutting the transmission cycle of the disease (if infected animals are administered the contraceptive). Unlike some contraceptives that allow an animal to continually cycle while rendering her sterile, animals administered GonaCon practically cease estrus. Avoiding repetitive breeding of nonpregnant animals minimizes animal welfare concerns. Unsuccessful breeding that causes useless depletion of herd resources is likewise avoided.

The American Welfare Institute (AWI), and Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have both endorsed immunocontraception for wildlife conflicts.

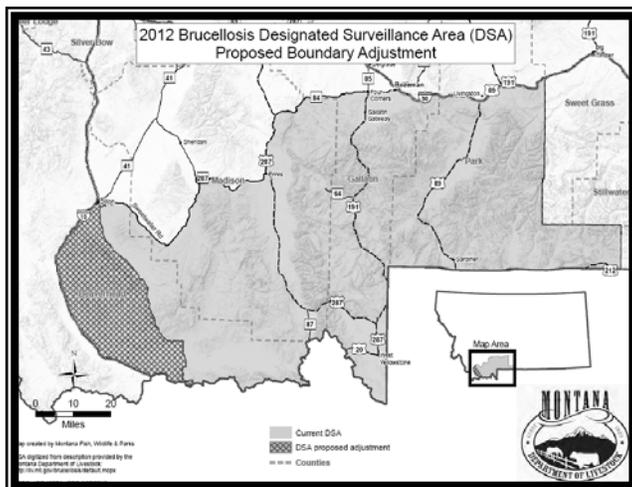
Currently available YNP bison management tools are inadequate: Hunting does not impact disease prevalence because hunters harvest animals irrespective of their sero-status. Brucellosis vaccination with RB51 has also not been effective in reducing the amount of disease in bison due to the low numbers of animals vaccinated under the current management plan.

MDOL recently commented on an environmental assessment on the project. ☒ mz



Dr. Bruce Sorensen drawing blood for brucellosis testing.

DSA boundary including the proposed adjustment. Draft rule will be available for public comment shortly.



Electronic Records

I've previously written about various efforts to "electronify" animal records. This trend is driven by demands from stakeholders for a more efficient way to interact with state government as well as the anticipated demands of the upcoming federal traceability regulations.

MDOL has been embracing this trend. In 2011, the Department implemented animal health and brands management programs. The department also implemented an online brands portal that was critical to a highly successful re-record (56% of brands were re-recorded online!). Earlier this year, the Animal Health Division also rolled out an online permitting system for equine imports and we're in process of

implementing an online permitting system for cattle and other species. In addition to the convenience for veterinarians and their clients, the system will save costs because of reduced reliance on the after-hours service that we use to provide 24/7 permit availability.

Private vendors are also offering a variety of services to veterinarians and their clients. GlobalVetLINK (GVL) offers electronic health certificates and has been especially successful with integrating Coggins testing with interstate healths. Clients can view and print their documentation and the information is also available to animal health officials. See the images to the left to compare the two Coggins charts and you be the judge.

Health certificates for other species are already available from GVL, and will be offered by other vendors in the near future. ☒ mz

Laboratory Update

ON CALL PATHOLOGIST: The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) is providing after-hours consultation. A pathologist is on call to answer question regarding health/disease issues, appropriate handling, mailing and submission of samples and, if deemed necessary, performance of post mortem examinations and other emergency testing. The emergency phone number is 406-581-4172. This service is also referred to on the laboratory answering machine recording when calling the laboratory at 406-994-4885.

TRICH IN-POUCH DATING ISSUE: Tritrichomonas PCR testing is in full swing. Please, pay close attention to the expiration date on the In-Pouches. Samples submitted in expired In-Pouches may compromise testing accuracy. Also, review the dates on all the pouches from new shipments received from the manufacturer or distributor. I have had reports of outdated pouches being received in new orders.

CWD TESTING: Since the beginning of the year, USDA funding for Chronic Wasting Disease testing has been discontinued. Laboratory fees prior to this time were only \$16 and those fees offset our administrative, sample preparation, packaging and mailing costs. The test procedure itself was entirely funded by USDA. Presently, the MVDL has established an agreement with the Wyoming Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to perform all CWD IHC testing on game farm elk and deer from Montana. The cost is a reasonable \$25 and the turn around time has been about 7-10 days. A testing cost of \$41 will be charged to the submitting veterinarian.

BVD TESTING: The MVDL has multiple tests available for Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus (BVDV) and we have recently implemented BVDV PCR. We have validated the test for multiple specimen types including blood, serum, tissue, paraffin embedded formalin fixed tissues and semen. The test is rapid and highly specific and is another testing option for this economically important disease of cattle. ☒

By Bill Layton, DVM; Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

This is a hand-completed Coggins form (VS10-11) for a horse named 'Blaze'. The form includes sections for laboratory information, owner details, and a Coggins chart with three photographs of the horse. The laboratory is the EQUINE MEDICAL ANIMAL LABORATORY TEST, and the owner is 'Blaze' with address 'Blaze Farm, 12345 Main St, Bozeman, MT 59717'. The form is dated 08/15/15.

Images above and below: Hand completed Coggins form (VS10-11) and one completed through GlobalVetLINK.

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USDA Corner: International Export Tips

As temperatures rise, so do the number of animals exported from Montana. The local USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services office processes the export health certificates for these shipments and offers these tips to help the process go smoothly.

GENERAL GUIDANCE: You must be a USDA-Accredited Veterinarian to issue or submit export health certificates for endorsement. To verify your accreditation status, please call the Area Office (406) 449-2220.

- Category I Veterinarians may issue export health certificates for all animals except: food and fiber species, horses, birds, farm raised aquatic animals, all other livestock species, and zoo animals that can transmit exotic animal diseases to livestock.
- Category II Veterinarians may issue export health certificates for all animals.

When clients approach you regarding animal exports, your first step should be to check the "IREGS" website for country-specific import regulations: <http://goo.gl/DchB7>.

- For countries or species not listed on the IREGS, import regulations are unknown to USDA.
- If the regulations are unknown, the client must apply to the country for an import permit or provide - in-writing (English) from that country's Consulate - the required forms, tests, vaccinations, and certification statements.

For countries that require USDA endorsement, original health certificates must be sent to the Helena Area Office.

- Certificates cannot be endorsed via fax or photocopy.
- All original documents should contain blue-ink signatures.

Proof of all accompanying tests, vaccinations, and import permits must be submitted with certificates.

- Rabies vaccination certificates should include microchip number and original signature of the issuing veterinarian - stamped or "on-behalf of" signatures are not acceptable.
- *EIA test chart's must include drawings of all white markings and matching

written description; provide yellow or white original copy.

- Test charts for all livestock should include an accurate age denoted in years or months. Charts with "adult" or "mature" ages will be rejected.

Include proper user fee.

- Endorsement fees are based on the number of tests or vaccinations and vary by country.
- The Helena office establishes credit accounts and accepts checks and credit cards; sorry, no cash.

COMMON ERRORS on Export Health Certificates:

Corrections:

- Please DO NOT use "white-out" for corrections - certificates with "white-out" will not be endorsed.
- Draw single line thru incorrect information; provide correct information - initial deletions and corrections.

Horses Exported to Canada:

- Every blank of the EIA test chart* and the health certificate (VS 17-145) must be complete and match (*see above). Incomplete certificates or those with miss-matched markings will not be endorsed.
- If no white markings, indicate "N/A" or "no white markings" for written description.

Breeding Cattle Exported to Canada:

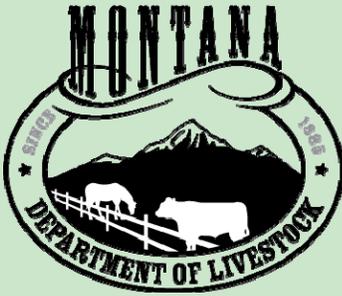
- Incorrect test conducted. For example, brucellosis testing must be Standard Plate test (SPT) or Standard Tube test (STT) @ 1:50 dilution - BAPA is not an accepted test.
- Animals cELISA-positive for Anaplasmosis are not eligible for export. Herd mates of cELISA-positive animals are eligible for export, if the cELISA have a negative PCR test.
- All testing must be conducted at the U.S. place of origin. Assembled herds, such as rodeo stock from out of state, must return to their herd of origin or complete



(Continued on page 6)

Montana Department of Livestock

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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

Staff Corner — Margie Kelley



I transferred to DOL from the Department of Justice in late 2006. I started out as a License Permit Technician, and then became the Alternative Livestock Program Manager in July 2008. I issue import permits on the permit phone line, process annual equine and bull semen permits, track births and deaths of cervids, compile herd histories of Alternative Livestock producers upon request, compile monthly import statistics county reports, attend Classification Review Committee meetings three times per year.

My partner, Ken, and I have six children between us, eight grandchildren, and a six-year-old GSP-cross dog, Starr, who thinks she rules the roost!

Ken and I like to ride motorcycles, shop for antiques, camp and fish, garden, shoot silhouette, and spend time with our families. ☘ by Margie Kelley

USDA VS International Exports Continued from page #5

all required tests again at “new” Montana place of origin.

- 60 days must elapse between TB tests; animals must complete two brucellosis tests at least 31 days apart.

Revised forms for the export of pets to the European Union:

- Effective March 1, 2012 each EU Member State has a new health certificate. Please refer to IREGS website.
- Effective March 13, 2012, Dogs and cats traveling to the United Kingdom can complete tapeworm treatment after USDA endorsement.
- Pets are getting delayed if EU health certificate doesn't indicate microchip implant date. Please ensure microchip numbers are indicated on health and rabies vaccination certificates. ☘

By Michelle Peterson and Dr. Kammy Johnson (USDA-APHIS-VS)

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