



ANNUAL REPORT

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK - Animal Health Division

Mission Statement

To control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals.

*Serving Montana Since
1885*



Figure 1 : Wild Horse
Source: MDOL stock photo



Figure 2 : American Bison
Source: <http://goo.gl/z9A28H>



Figure 3: Cow Herd
Source: MDOL stock photo

2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LOOKING BACK/HIGHLIGHTS

Management	4
Deputy Veterinarian Training	4
Information Sharing.....	4
Legislation.....	5

DISEASES

Johne's	6
Trichomoniasis.....	6
Rabies	7
West Nile	8

BRUCELLOSIS

DSA	9
Livestock testing	10
Livestock Management & Wildlife Surveillance	11
Epidemiologic Investigation	12
Compliance Evaluation.....	13
Interstate Regulation	14
Bison IBMP.....	14

TRAINING

FADD (Foreign-Animal Disease Diagnostician)	15
Public Health.....	15
Emergency Preparedness	16

PERFORMANCE/PROGRAMS

Import/Export.....	17, 18
Administrative Rule Change	19, 20
Computer System/IT/USAHerds	21
Alternative Livestock	22

FIELD REPORTS

Western	23
Eastern.....	24
Central	24

LOOKING FORWARD

LOOKING BACK/HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Martin Zaluski, DVM

Summary Highlights

Much of early 2013 was committed to the 63rd Legislative Session. MDOL successfully requested a statutory change relating to swine feeding. MDOL personnel testified on bills on a statewide rabies vaccination requirement, sale of raw milk, and many bills pertaining to bison. Numerous rule changes were proposed; many of which were put forth to replace Official Orders with administrative rules. Official orders are meant to provide the state veterinarian additional authority to actively respond to emerging disease threats; however, some of the orders were in place for 12 years.

Significant efforts were also made in the brucellosis program where the Department, (with the invaluable assistance of producers, veterinarians, and USDA) was able to rapidly detect brucellosis infections in cattle herds. Two affected herds were detected in 2013. Both herds had an infection rate well less than 0.5% at detection which suggests recent infections. A compliance assessment of DSA regulations demonstrated a high level of producer and veterinarian participation.

Disease control efforts included an early rabies season, ramped up involvement in Johne's testing, and a West Nile virus case count that came in third (27 cases) after Texas (43) and Oklahoma (39).



Figure 4: Dr. Zaluski
Source: MDOL photo stock

MANAGEMENT

Changes in personnel this year presented an opportunity to assess staff capabilities and make adjustments in assignments as necessary to maintain balanced workloads and match the responsibilities to the skills of the staff members. Evaleen Starkel is again managing the Alternative Livestock Program. Leslie Doely moved into the Brucellosis program Compliance Specialist position. We welcomed two new hires including Darcy Alm as a Compliance Tech in the Import Section, and Cinda Young-Eichenfels as our new License Compliance Tech with oversight of the administrative rule changes for the Animal Health Division.



Figure 5: Animal Health Staff—Clockwise lower left : Barb, Ferguson, Leslie Doely, Darcy Alm, Cinda Young-Eichenfels, Evaleen Starkel, and Margie Kelley.

DEPUTY VETERINARIAN ACCREDITATION

During 2013 MDOL, Animal Health, hosted four Deputy Veterinarian training seminars. These accreditation sessions bring together veterinarians from a wide geographic area seeking to do official work for the state. Forty-one veterinarians obtained accreditation in 2013.

Official state work entails writing health certificates for interstate transport, disease reporting, issuing field quarantines as necessary. Putting veterinarians on the front lines by this special accreditation also affords the public access to veterinarians who can officiate the necessary paperwork for livestock animal travel.

Late in 2013, MDOL updated deputy veterinarian administrative rules to include the responsibility of veterinarians to comply with both state and federal regulations, primarily to account for the new federal traceability rule and category I and II federal accreditation.

Historically, MDOL has prepared a deputy vet handbook that was handed out to all participants. To replace a system that outdates rapidly, MDOL has now created a deputy vet section on our department's web site that contains all necessary information for veterinarians in Montana.

INFORMATION SHARING

MDOL, has developed and distributed four "Stock Quotes" Animal Health newsletters in 2013. These informative publications are sent by e-mail to about 450 veterinarians, uploaded to our web site, and mailed to 716 veterinarians providing its readers information on new policies, updates, and current events relative to the department.

The Animal Health Division's 12 staff members meet in Helena about every other month. In 2013 we met six times to discuss topics such as Board of Livestock decisions, proposed administrative rule changes, program activities including trichomoniasis, rabies, brucellosis (DSA), imports and exports, meetings attended, legislation, field reports from the area supervisors and calendar issues. Included at our meetings was an education segment presented by one of the state veterinarians on a particular relevant animal health issue keeping our staff continually informed and better prepared to respond to the public's questions.

"The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do."

Benjamin Disraeli, statesman and literary figure

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Animal Health staff were involved in numerous bills during the 2013. According to departmental policy, staff may provide testimony in support of agency bills; can offer “informational” testimony on other bills; or can oppose a bill.

Bison: HB312. On Jan 31, 2013, Dr. Zaluski testified in opposition to this bill which would sunset DSA regulations after one year. Regulations could be extended by the state veterinarian following numerous public meetings. This bill also required prevalence reduction in wild elk, and was strongly opposed by the wildlife community. This proposed legislation died in committee April 24, 2013.

Raw Milk: HB574. This bill established "small herd exemption" to certain laws related to the sale of milk. Dr. Zaluski collected information and met with Christian Mackay, MDOL Executive Director, and Dan Turcotte, head of Milk and Egg Bureau, for Mackay's testimony in opposition of this bill. The bill proposed to allow the sale of raw milk, and exempts the milk from the majority of quality standards that apply to Grade A milk. MDOL's opposition to this bill was based on public health grounds and fiscal costs of sampling raw milk dairies. The bill passed out of House committee on a 16 to 1 vote, passed out of the House on a 96 to 3 vote and was up for hearing in Senate Ag Committee. The bill died in the process.

Garbage Feeding: Dr. Zaluski testified on HB114 (clarify garbage types for animal feed). Testimony was given in support of this bill which would remove vegetable wastes from the definition of garbage that can be fed to swine. This change recognized that the risk of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) transmission to swine is negligible from vegetable wastes if the waste has not been in contact with meat, and would make state statute consistent with federal regulations. House Bill 114 was signed into law February 27, 2013.

Small Animal: HB495. Dr. Zaluski testified as an informational witness on a bill that would have required statewide rabies vaccination on dogs, cats, and ferrets. This regulation would be enforced by the county, and not MDOL. This bill was tabled; then died in standing committee April 24, 2013.

HB439. Dr. Zaluski testified as an informational witness on a bill that would require the MDOL to inspect and license facilities that sell puppies if they have 11 or more breeding bitches. This bill died in standing committee on April 24, 2013.

Meat Inspection: HB356. Testimony was given in support for Gary Hamel who could not attend. This bill would have improved compliance with federal regulations for meat inspection. House Bill 356 was signed into law March 27, 2013.

Rules: HB337. Testimony was given in opposition of HB337. This bill increased notification requirements of rules adopted by MDOL. The bill was signed into law March 27, 2013.

Legislative Needs: Animal Health held several meetings on legislative needs in regard to feral hogs. A meeting took place with Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) personnel, MSGA, and several hunting interest groups on possible legislation. There was general support to enhance existing authorities to be able to better respond to feral swine incursions when they occur.



Figure 6: Montana State Capitol
Source: <http://www.flickr.com>

D I S E A S E S

JOHNE'S

M DOL has seen an increase in Johne's testing at our Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. When notified of a positive result, we follow up with the submitting veterinarian to discuss further diagnostics and disposition of the affected animal. Federal regulations prevent the movement of affected animals across state lines unless animals are moving on a restricted movement document to slaughter only.

	(+) Samples	(-) Samples	All Samples	Submissions	Average Samples/ Submission
2011	24	484	508	96	5.3
2012	47	1729	1776	122	14.6
2013	118	2384	2502	110	22.7
Total	189	4597	4786	328	14.6

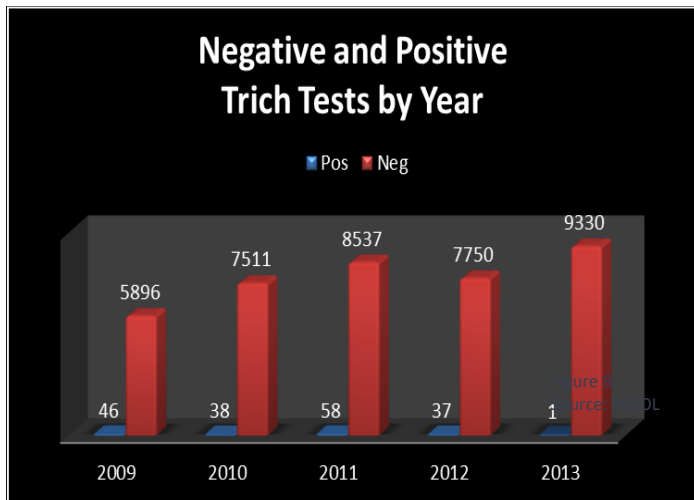
As the above table shows (Figure 7), MDOL has seen an increase in both the number of submissions and the number of animals per submission, which likely reflects a shift from individual animal diagnostics to herd-level surveillance.

TRICHOMONIASIS

The trichomoniasis outbreak in Fergus and surrounding counties came to a close in 2013 with all affected herds completing a negative post breeding test. Montana saw only one new case of trichomoniasis in 2013. A herd in Yellowstone County was required to test as an adjacent to a positive herd identified in December of 2012, tested positive. Since the diagnosis of these two herds, one has completed the post breeding test and one has a test pending.

At this time, Montana has four herds classified as trich-positive.

- ⇒ the 2013 Yellowstone County positive herd with a pending post-breeding season test
- ⇒ a noncompliant herd in Big Horn County that was initially diagnosed in February of 2011
- ⇒ a noncompliant herd in Lewis and Clark County that was initially diagnosed in May of 2011
- ⇒ a noncompliant herd in Glacier County that was initially diagnosed in July of 2012



Trichomoniasis administrative rules were updated in 2013 following a resolution brought to the Board of Livestock by the Montana Stockgrowers Association. Changes to the administrative rule primarily focused on how positive herds are managed to better protect adjacent herds.

DISEASES

RABIES

Montana saw 36 positive rabies cases in 2013. Unique in 2013 was the diagnosis of multiple positive skunks throughout the winter months. Historically we see a decrease in rabies activity over the winter. The map below (Figure 9) shows the distribution of rabies in Montana by species.

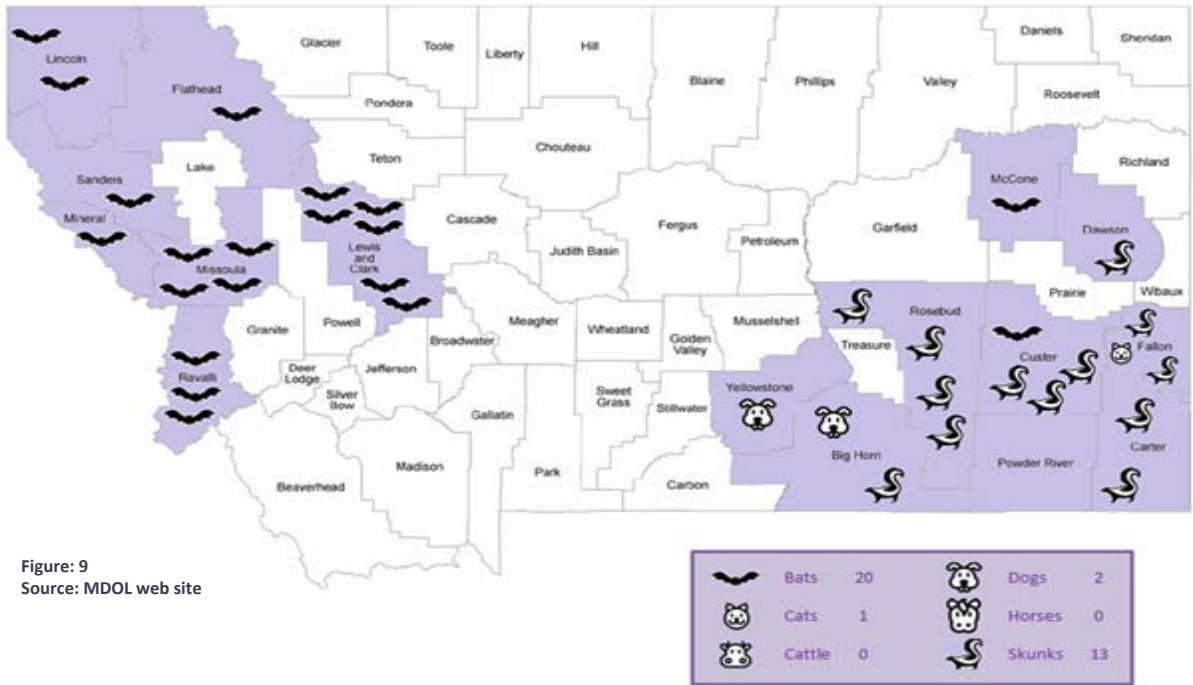


Figure: 9
Source: MDOL web site

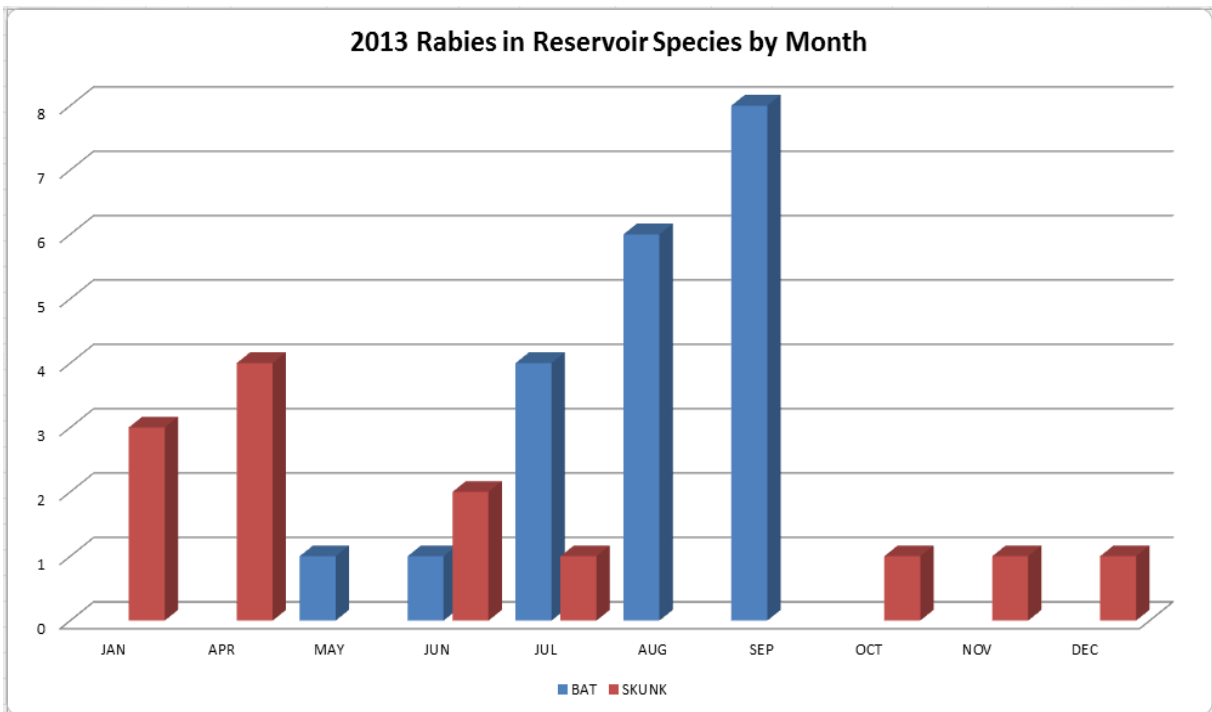


Figure 10: Reservoir species, such as skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes and coyotes, are responsible for maintenance of the rabies virus in the wild and for transmission to domestic species. Source: MDOL staff research

DISEASES

WEST NILE VIRUS

Montana had 32 confirmed cases of WNV in 2013 (see map, Figure 11). The first case was reported on August 23 and MDOL saw cases through September. Of the 32 cases, none were current vaccinates and 12 animals died or were euthanized. This reporting is consistent with the national fatality rate of about 30%. MDOL followed up with all submitting veterinarians and provided outreach to horse owners on disease prevention, including the inclusion of West Nile in vaccination protocols.

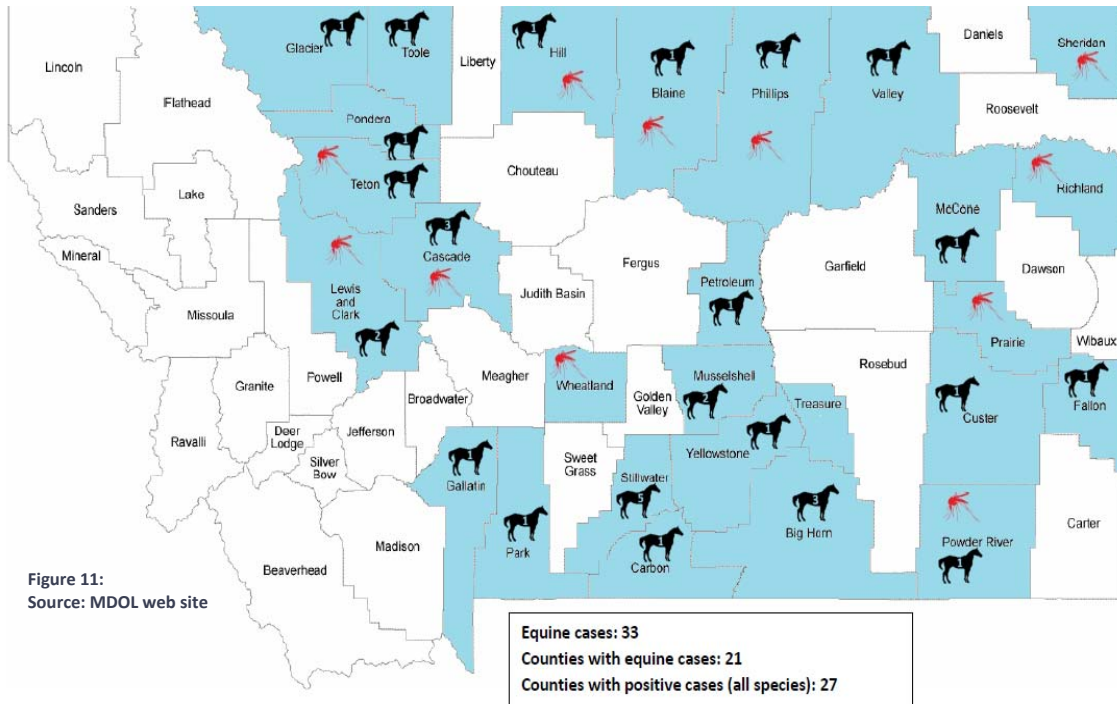


Figure 11:
Source: MDOL web site

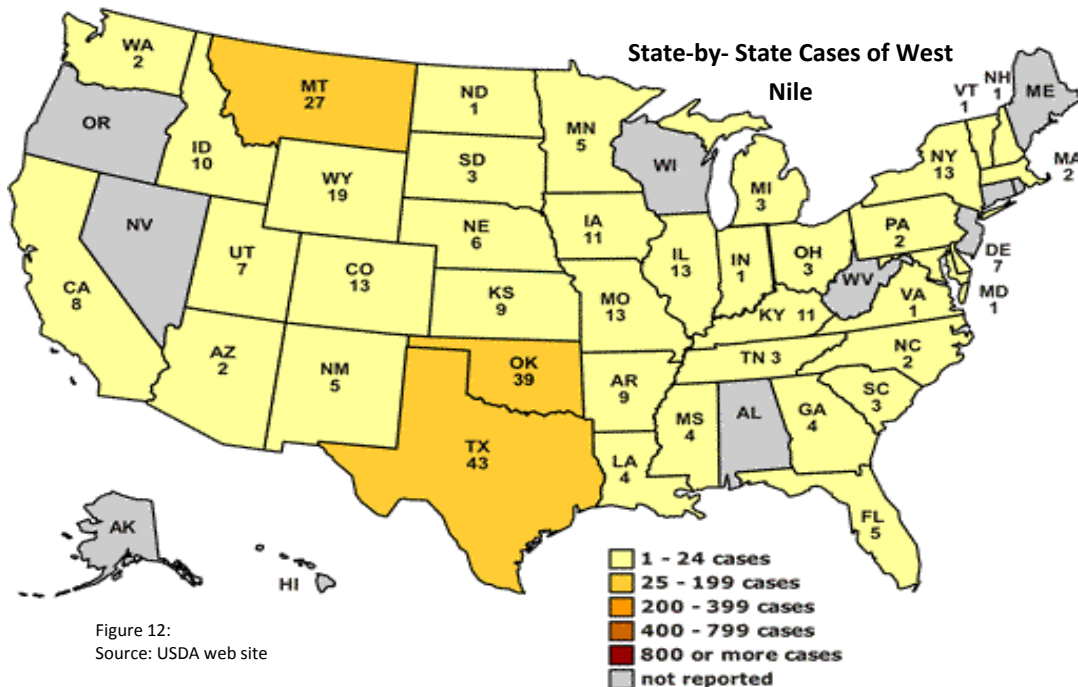


Figure 12:
Source: USDA web site

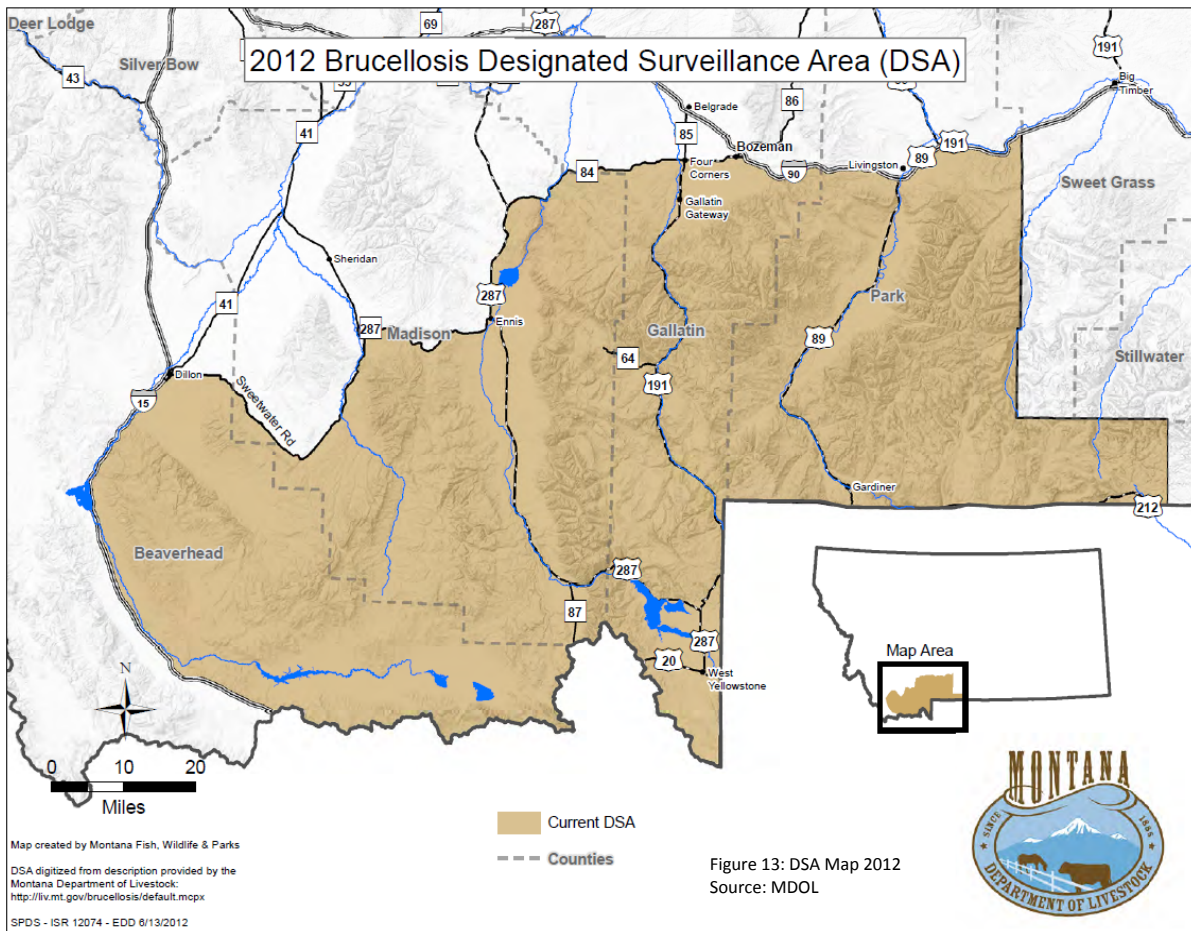
BRUCELLOSIS

DESIGNATED SURVEILLANCE AREA (DSA)

The DSA was created in 2009 to rapidly identify affected herds, prevent infection, and ensure continued interstate marketability of Montana livestock. A strong Montana program eliminates the need for other states to place additional regulations on cattle exported from Montana.

Montana's brucellosis program is founded on the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA). The program relies on: testing of domestic livestock for movement and/or change of ownership; surveillance of wildlife to ensure the boundary correctly defines the area of risk; and livestock management through herd plans, regulations, and enforcement to reduce risk of transmission.

The boundaries of the DSA have remained the same since early summer of 2012 (Figure 13).



BRUCELLOSIS

Most livestock testing is performed by local veterinarians for movement, change of ownership, surveillance and market veterinarians for change of ownership, and preslaughter. Brucellosis testing is paid for through reimbursement of testing costs directly to the veterinarians and livestock owners (ranch testing only). **Figure 14** compares testing from 2011-2013. **Figure 15** shows a summary of 2013 brucellosis test reimbursements by month, including total number of cattle tested, as well as the total amount reimbursed for testing done at markets, on ranches, and overall.

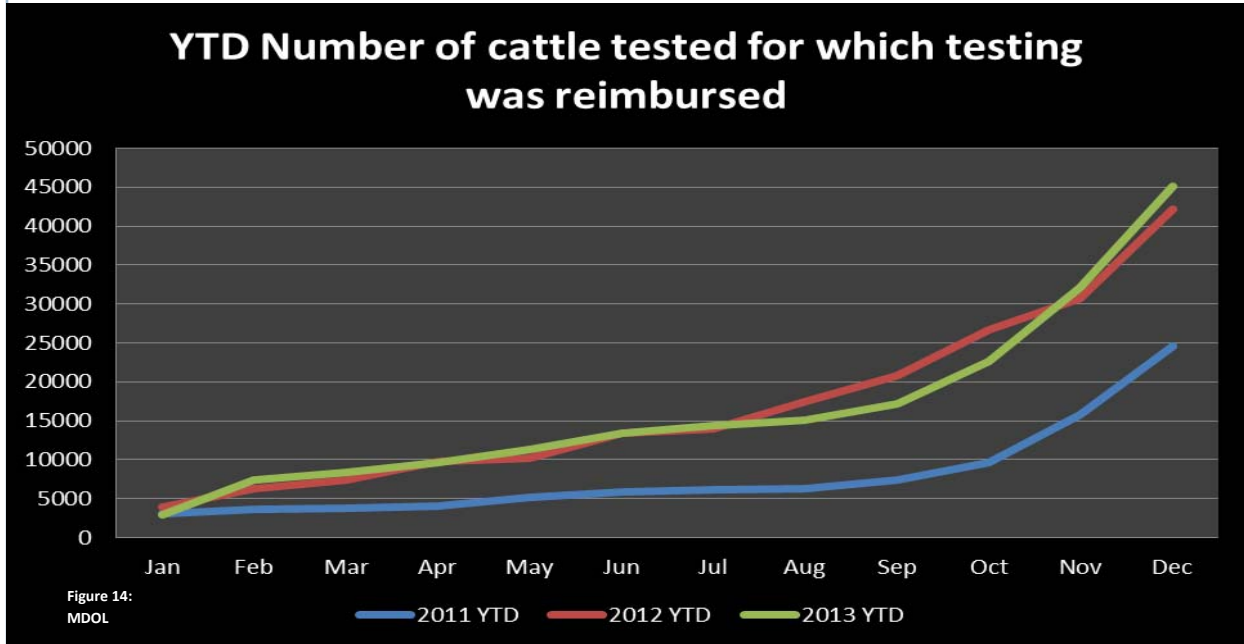


Figure 15: MDOL

MONTH	2013 MARKET		2013 RANCH		2013 TOTAL	
	No. Cattle	Amount	No. Cattle	Amount	No. Cattle	Amount
JAN	1352	\$ 11,492.00	1534	\$ 18,704.00	2886	\$ 30,196.00
FEB	673	\$ 5,720.50	3830	\$ 36,536.62	4503	\$ 42,257.12
MAR	546	\$ 4,641.00	455	\$ 4,612.00	1001	\$ 9,253.00
APR	510	\$ 4,335.00	759	\$ 8,254.50	1269	\$ 12,589.50
MAY	852	\$ 7,242.00	779	\$ 5,761.00	1631	\$ 13,003.00
JUN	622	\$ 5,287.00	1442	\$ 11,334.50	2064	\$ 16,621.50
JUL	640	\$ 5,440.00	339	\$ 3,355.00	979	\$ 8,795.00
AUG	279	\$ 2,371.50	496	\$ 3,967.50	775	\$ 6,339.00
SEP	628	\$ 5,338.00	1477	\$ 11,555.00	2105	\$ 16,893.00
OCT	418	\$ 3,553.00	5038	\$ 39,301.00	5456	\$ 42,854.00
NOV	940	\$ 7,990.00	8509	\$ 59,012.00	9449	\$ 67,002.00
DEC	742	\$ 6,182.00	12271	\$ 92,644.50	13013	\$ 98,826.50
TOTAL	8202	\$ 69,592.00	36929	\$ 295,037.62	45131	\$ 364,629.62

BRUCELLOSIS

MULTI-YEAR ELK SURVEILLANCE PROJECT/LIVE ELK CAPTURE-RELEASE

In 2011 Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) began a five-year live elk capture study focusing on the boundary of Montana's DSA (area of known wildlife infection). This study tests for the existence of brucellosis in elk during the high risk period (later winter/early spring) and monitors their movements with recapture of seropositive elk for monitoring. It is a one-of-a kind proactive approach that is essential in identifying livestock populations that are at-risk and ensures the DSA boundaries are correctly placed.

History

- 2011-Ruby Range Southeast of Dillon: 12 of 100 elk captured tested positive. The DSA boundary was changed by the Board of Livestock to encompass the livestock at risk
- 2012-Blacktail Sage Creek Areas South of Dillon: 5 of 46 elk captured tested positive. This resulted in a DSA boundary change
- 2013-Pioneer Mountains Northwest of Dillon: 100 of 100 elk captured tested negative

Future areas for elk surveillance

Elk surveillance locations are selected based on risk and landowner interest. Landowner cooperation is extremely important for capture and continued monitoring.

- 2014-Southern Tobacco Roots and Northern Hunting District (HD) 311
- 2015-Likely HD 317, HD 560 and potentially HD 560
- 2016-Bangtails (Southwest section of HD383) or other area(s) of interest



Figures 16, 17, 18: Elk capture and release
Source: MDOL photo stock

B R U C E L L O S I S

EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS

Two brucellosis-positive cattle herds in 2013 — both herds within Montana’s DSA.

The Park County herd was discovered when a single serologic reactor animal was disclosed on September 2, 2013 during a routine entire herd test. The animal was a seven-month old bull calf. The bull was euthanized and tissues were collected at MVDL on September 23, 2013. Positive culture results were returned on October 4, 2013. This herd consisted of 560 test-eligible cattle (sexually intact six months of age or older). The positive animal was tested as part of an annual herd test for certified Brucellosis-Free herd status recertification. The entire herd test including a repeat test of the reactor bull’s cohort and was completed by the end of September. The dam of the bull had tested negative three times prior to 2013 and twice in 2013. Four (4) adjacent herds were tested involving just over 800 animals. All of these herds will complete their assurance testing in the fall of 2014. Additionally, most of these herds will continue with entire herd testing annually.

The Madison County herd was discovered following the disclosure of the index reactor animal on September 5, 2013. The reactor was a three-year old female with calf at side. This animal tested negative in July of 2012. This herd consists of 1140 test-eligible animals. The test was performed per DSA regulations (open cows were tested for change of ownership). Following the completion of the herd test, two additional reactor females were found. The animals were slaughtered and collected for culture. Only the index animal was culture-positive. These two additional females were of the same age and in the same cohort as the index female. The specific nature of the exposure was important for the investigation because only the herds adjacent to this cohort of females were placed on adjacent herd plans, and required to test and follow-up with an assurance test in 6-12 months. Nine (9) adjacent herds were discovered and tested involving 2740 animals. All of the adjacent herds will perform their assurance test in the fall of 2014. Most will continue annual herd testing each fall.

Two domestic bison herds remained under quarantine throughout 2013 — both within Montana’s DSA

The Gallatin County domestic bison herd consists of more than 3,000 animals. This herd was placed under quarantine in 2010 and has performed four entire herd tests since. Additional positive animals have been found each time, likely infected from infected elk in the area. The herd remains under quarantine and will continue to perform annual herd testing. The herd is subject to quarantine regulations, which include restricted movement as well as additional testing requirements.

The Madison County domestic bison herd was placed under quarantine after the discovery of a single positive bull in 2011. This herd consisted of approximately 1500 animals at that time. Following the removal of that single positive animal, completion of that year’s herd test and the epidemiologic investigation, the MDOL plans to remove the quarantine in early 2014. This herd is within the DSA, and therefore will continue to have testing requirements following the release of quarantine.



Figure 19: Dr. Liska, testing a bison
Source: MDOL stock photo

BRUCELLOSIS

BRUCELLOSIS - DSA COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

In fall of 2013, the Animal Health Division conducted a compliance assessment of DSA regulations. Results are as follows:

Nearly 280 herds use the DSA at some time of the year. One hundred ninety two (69%) herds are resident, while 88 (31%) herds use the DSA for only part of the year (typically summer grazing).

Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) conducted a compliance assessment with DSA regulations in the fall of 2013. The assessment found that 236 herds (84%) submitted at least one brucellosis test during the last fiscal year, while 44 herds (16%) submitted no brucellosis tests (Figure 20).

As expected, herds that did not participate in testing tended to be smaller, and therefore, the 16% of nonparticipating herds only represented 7% of DSA cattle (Figure 21). Of the 44 nonparticipating herds, 17/44 herds did not sell or move test-eligible animals, no longer use the DSA or sold all their animals. Therefore, these 17 herds were in compliance even though they did not test any animals. These herds have an average herd size of 40 animals.

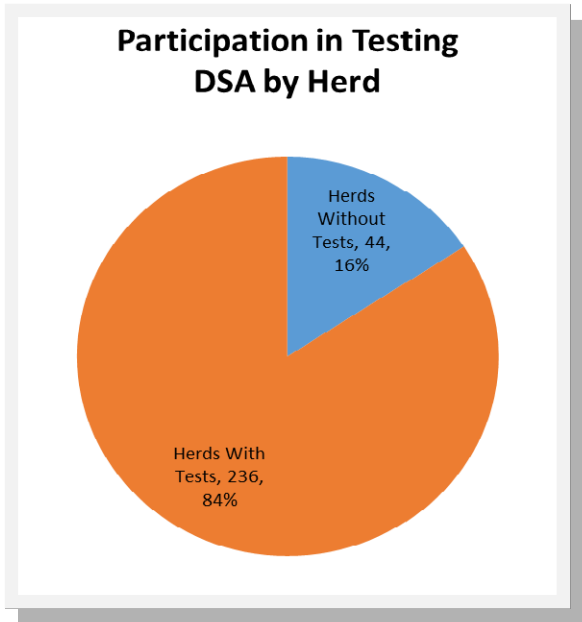


Figure 20: Participation of DSA herds in brucellosis testing. 44 herds did not submit brucellosis tests in FY 2013
Source: Brucellosis Committee, Montana State Report document

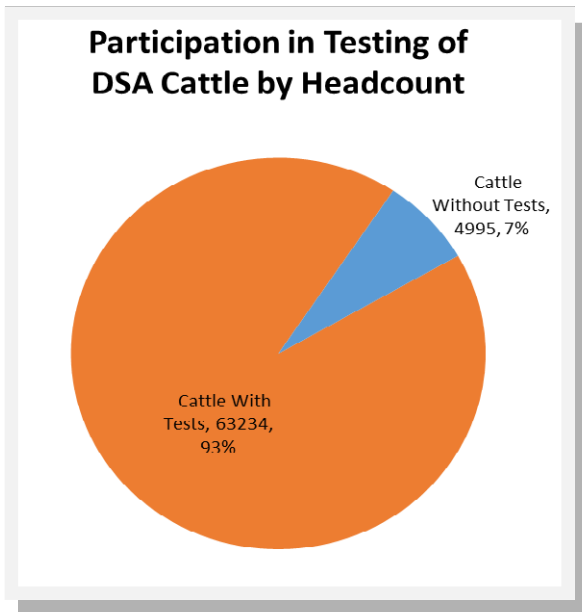


Figure 21: Participation in DSA testing by headcount. Non-participating herds tended to be small with an average herd size of 40 animals.
Source: Brucellosis Committee, Montana State Report document

Herds out of compliance (sold or moved test-eligible animals that were not tested), numbered 27 herds (9.6%) of the total DSA herds. These herds numbered 4,323 cattle.

The majority of the noncompliant herds (22/27) were due to an error by market personnel who: a) did not check the market computer for flagged brands that denote that a brand requires testing, or b) superseded the flag with their own assessment of grazing location. This error has since been corrected. Five herds representing 1372 animals were out of compliance for other reasons.

BRUCELLSIS

INTERSTATE REGULATION

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

The Animal Health Division spent considerable time responding to a Texas Animal Health Commission proposed rule that would require post-entry testing of breeding cattle from the three Greater Yellowstone Area states. For young breeding heifers, this would result in an extended quarantine/hold that is likely to dramatically reduce the demand for Montana cattle by Texas producers.

MDOL drafted formal comments on the proposed rule and talking points for industry groups' comments. We communicated with Montana veterinarians through newsletters, e-mail (MDOL update), and with the USDA Western Region Associate Director, and deputy administrator of USDA to request a risk assessment for Montana. We also requested that the USDA become engaged to defend the DSA regional concept that has been so successful.

Dr. Zaluski and Dr. Liska traveled to Austin in early September to present in front of the TAHC to discourage Texas from implementing additional regulations on DSA origin breeding cattle. An initial proposal included testing of all breeding cattle from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, but was subsequently scaled down to focus on just DSA-sourced animals. The TAHC voted to adopt the rule with one commissioner voting "no" and one abstained from the vote. The TAHC committed to review the regulation in the future.

BISON

Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP)

Before a 'science' panel of vaccine developers, wildlife ecologists, and wildlife biologists convened by Yellowstone National Park, Dr. Marty Zaluski presented advise on the use of vaccination for disease suppression in bison. Contrary to the commitments in the IBMP Record of Decision and MDOL position, this panel recommended that vaccination (and remote vaccination in particular) not be implemented on YNP bison. Aside from the conclusions drawn by the panel, MDOL had a number of concerns that included composition of the panel, and the fact that the panel focused only on the area where bison are currently allowed – ignoring the fact that tolerance area expansion is part of just about every discourse on bison.



Figure 22: Dr. Zaluski
Source: MDOL stock photo

Dr. Zaluski drafted an adaptive management proposal to reduce the opportunity for bison to exit the Gardiner basin to Dome Mountain ranch and Paradise Valley. Actively involved Dr. Zaluski assisted in bison operations near West Yellowstone.

Meetings with Jason Smith, Governor Bullock's State Director of Indian Affairs on hunting in Yellowstone Park, yielded positive communication with several tribes (CKST and others), but tribes contacted did not want to push for hunting rights inside Yellowstone National park

Bison management ground operations continued in the spring with weekly conference calls. Materials are available at www.ibmp.info.

TRAINING

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE TRAINING

In June of 2013 Tahnee Szymanski, Assistant State Veterinarian, spent two weeks at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center for Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) training. As a FADD, Dr. Szymanski is responsible for responding to reports of suspicious clinical signs/illness, assessing the relative risk/likelihood that a foreign animal disease is present in Montana, and collecting and submitting appropriate diagnostic samples. This valuable training focused on the rapid recognition and diagnosis of high consequence foreign animal diseases. During the course, the attendees (students) were able to see the disease progression in live animals, the lesions present upon post mortem examination, and the required samples for diagnosis.



Figure 23: Dr. Szymanski, Assistant State Veterinarian (left), swabbing a chicken for avian influenza. Source: MDOL stock photo



Figure 24: Plum Island group photo, June 2013 Source: MDOL stock photo

PUBLIC HEALTH

Through a cooperative agreement with USDA, MDOL was able to fund a hand washing station program with fairs and animal exhibitions. This is MDOL's third year on providing guidance to fair boards and other events where there are animals for exhibition. In addition to assisting with the cost of hand washing stations, MDOL provides other resources to help in minimizing the risk of illness associated with animal contacts. These measures include signage and guidance on traffic flow, prohibited traffic, and placement of hand washing stations and food vendors.

TRAINING

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Continuity Coordination 2013

Dr. Eric Liska began with the assignment of Continuity Coordinator for the Department in late July of 2013. The continuity coordinator develops plans for business continuity (continue business as usual) in the case of emergency or catastrophic failure of business necessities or physical plant due to such issues as a building collapse or condemnation following an earthquake, flood, fire, etc.. Training began in December of 2013.

Additional meetings and training sessions are scheduled in 2014.

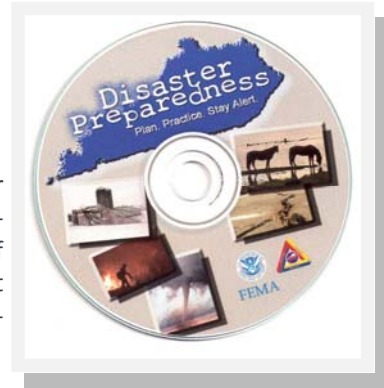


Figure 25 :
Source: montemartin.blogspot.com

Emergency Preparedness 2013

ESF #11 is one of the 15 ESF annexes developed as part of the National Response Framework. It is activated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) upon notification of a potential or actual incident that requires a coordinated Federal response and support to help ensure one or more of the following:

- ⇒ The availability and delivery of food products; food safety
- ⇒ Appropriate response to an animal or plant disease or pest
- ⇒ The protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties
- ⇒ And/ or the safety and well-being of household pets

In late 2013, Dr. Liska became involved in the emergency preparedness activities for the State of Montana and the Department of Livestock. Liska attended an emergency preparedness symposium on the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources (see side panel).

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) is a repository of critical veterinary supplies, equipment, vaccines, and response support services that was established by the USDA. Work began late in 2013 to establish a timeline for an exercise to receive stockpile. This exercise will likely be a multistate exercise held in 2015-2016.

In addition to the NVS, in the case of a severe animal health emergency, the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) may be utilized. The VMAT units are directed, supported and funded by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). VMAT units serve as first responders for animals in cases of disasters and emergencies. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be established for a VMAT unit to be utilized in Montana. Dr. Liska is working with the AVMA-VMAT and the Department of Labor and Industry/Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish this MOU to allow for the legal use of a VMAT unit if necessary.



Figure 26: Cattle in flood
Source: <http://goo.gl/UwLKM9>

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPORT/EXPORT

Export Certificate Data Entry

To ensure compliance with the newly published federal rule on animal disease traceability, MDOL began entering export data for Montana origin animals into our animal health software. Historically, Montana has only stored paper records for animals exports. Data entered included individual official identification to allow quicker queries. Data entry was primarily performed by a temporary employee that was funded with USDA APHIS cooperative agreement money to advance traceability. MDOL entered 4,395 certificates and 202,034 individual identification numbers of cattle.

Import Reports to Revenue for Per Capita fees

Per capita fees are per-head fees charged on livestock. Animal health developed reports detailing shipments of animals imported to Montanans and sent those reports to the Department of Revenue for their use during per capita fee assessment. The fees help fund the department's animal health and other programs and are an important component of the department's budget. In the past, these reports were submitted to the county assessors in each county. Because the old DOS data system broke down in 2007, we have not had the capability to produce these reports until recently. Reports are now generated and sent to the Department of Revenue Helena office each month.

6-Month Passports

The equine 6-month passport program allows frequent traveling equines to have fewer health inspections than would be necessary without the program. Unfortunately, horses traveling on 6-month passports may have a higher chance of being exposed to communicable diseases; and compliance with documentation requirements regarding travel histories has been inadequate. In response, we strengthened enforcement to monitor that we are receiving copies of the required post travel itinerary. We notified users that noncompliance could result in future denial of their privilege to use this type of certificate for travel into Montana. Lifetime brand inspections are also a requirement of this type of certificate, so we now request that information during the permit application process.

Exotic Animals

The importation of exotic animals is coordinated with Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks regarding ownership and exhibition permits. In 2013, MDOL, Animal Health issued permits to private owners, exhibition at various fairs and events, the majority of which went to pet stores circuses and private owners. The popularity of exotic animals is on the rise and MDOL ensures that each species imported is not prohibited and is accompanied by the required health certificate.



Figure 27: Red-eared slider turtle
Source: <http://goo.gl/2KIFTB>

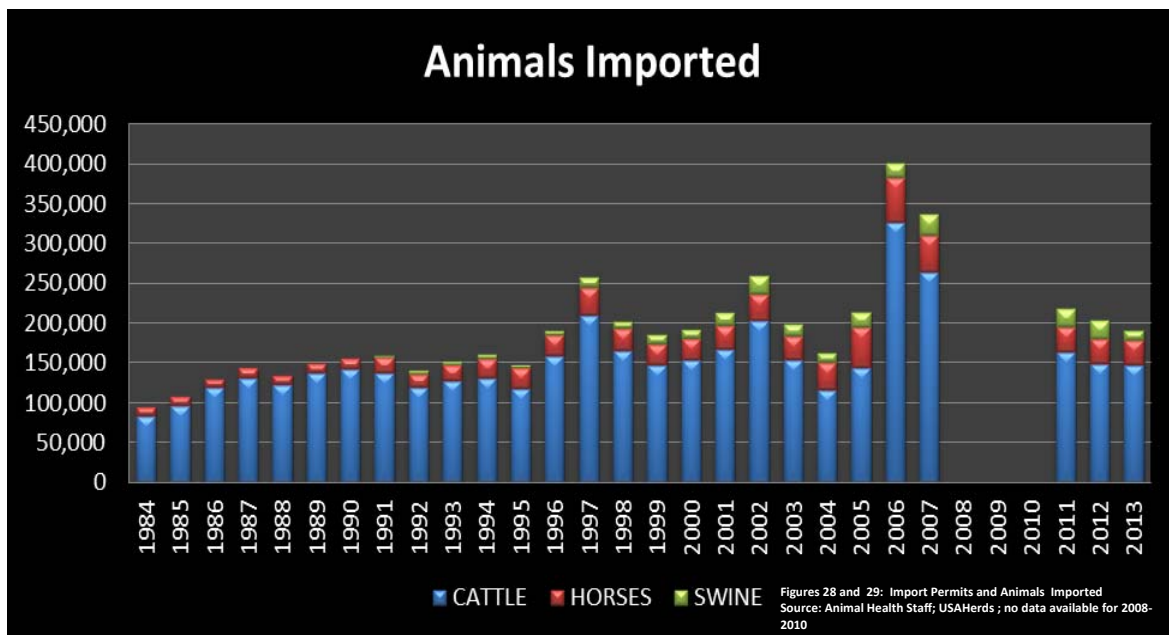
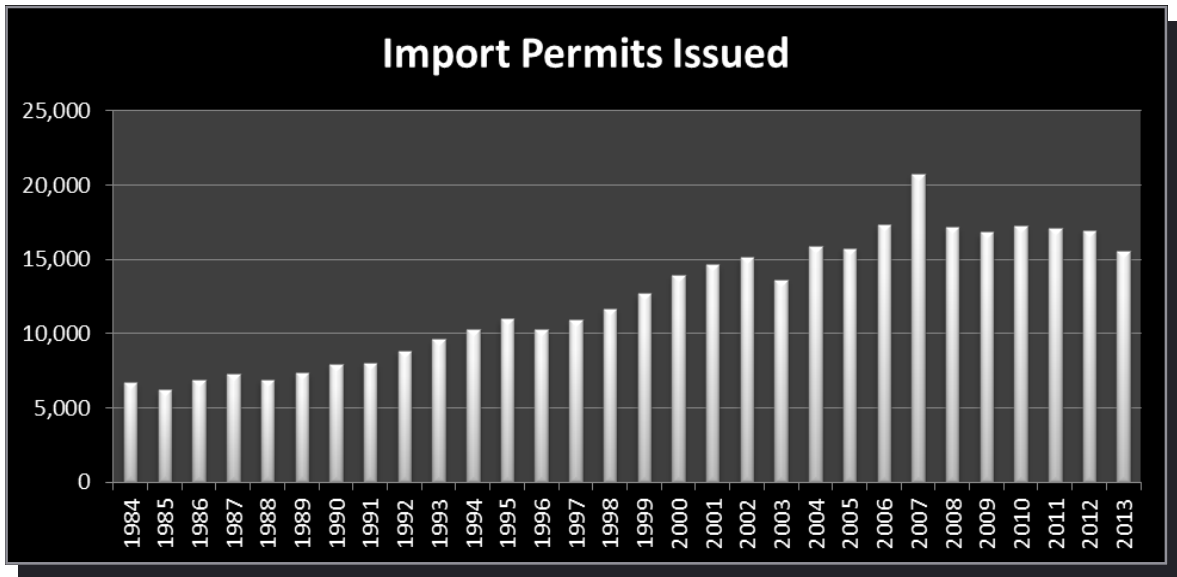
PROGRAM PERFORMANCE YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPORT/EXPORT (CONTINUED)

Permits Issued and Animals Imported

An import permit number is a unique number issued by MDOL prior to entry into Montana after all other import requirements have been met. Permits are typically issued to veterinarians over the phone by calling the import line at (406)444-2976 and are valid for ten days from the date of issue. One permit is usually issued for one shipment of animals.

In 2013 we issued 3,644 permits for import of 151,690 cattle and 30,573 permits for 9,259 horses to enter Montana.



Figures 28 and 29: Import Permits and Animals Imported
Source: Animal Health Staff; USAHerds ; no data available for 2008-2010

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE YEAR IN REVIEW

2013 ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

In response to HB337, amending laws relating to Department of Livestock rulemaking authority, we developed office procedures for sending notices to the livestock markets, conservation districts, veterinary offices, and each county extension office within ten days of adoption for each rule.



Figure 30:
Source: <http://goo.gl/cPAvU>

Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis rule change allows MDOL to have greater oversight over affected herds, in particular, affected herds that have high risk management practices. Also, to ensure that we are identifying all affected herds in an area, adjacent and exposed herds are now required to have a negative trich test. To ensure the timely closure of epidemiological investigations, all test requirements now have deadlines for the completion of testing.

Alternative Livestock

Alternative Livestock rules were amended pertaining to identification of, inspection of, importation of alternative livestock, transport within and into Montana, definitions, requirements for mandatory surveillance of Montana alternative livestock cervidae for chronic wasting disease, alternative livestock monitored herd status for chronic wasting disease, and import requirements for cervids.

Tuberculosis Testing

Official Order 13-01-I was approved to permit the use of a newly approved blood test for tuberculosis testing of imported cervids (CervidTB Stat Pak). A rule change is to follow.

ARM 32.3.201 and 32.3.212 were amended and adopted clarifying import requirements to allow the importation of dairy steers/spayed heifers without a tuberculosis test. These animals are almost exclusively contained in feeding/slaughter channels and therefore pose a lower risk to the health of Montana livestock.

Official Calf hood Vaccinates

Reviewed current MDOL policy for accepting the importation of unvaccinated heifer calves for quarantine and OCV upon arrival. Animal Health has had variable success with compliance with this program, and some changes were recommended. No rule amendment was proposed, but Animal Health will be requesting the importer of the unvaccinated calves to make a request directly to our office to assist with compliance.

Rabies

Rabies authorization implementation citations were reviewed and updated to legally continue to enforce the Administrative Rules of Montana. MDOL believes that it is necessary to cite all applicable sections of Montana Code that give the department authority in the management of rabies in both livestock and domestic animals.

Fees, licensing, permits, bull stud, semen

Amendments were proposed in December 2013 pertaining to fees on veterinary forms, miscellaneous licensing, and amendments clarifying definitions, permit terms, bull studs, semen shipped into Montana, and veterinary fees. Adoption is pending pursuant to comments.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE YEAR IN REVIEW

2013 ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES (CONTINUED)



Special Requirements for Goats

Special requirements for goats, ARM 32.3.214, was amended and adopted as MDOL received two requests asking the agency to reconsider the requirements for a negative brucellosis test on dairy goats, imported into Montana or re-entering Montana after attending an out-of-state exhibition. The proposed change exempts animals for exhibition that do not originate from a brucellosis management area from a negative brucellosis test prior to importation into Montana. Definition of “brucellosis test-eligible goat” was added as it was necessary to define the age at which animals are eligible to be tested for brucellosis to prevent the testing of animals that are too young to provide valid test results. Also, specifying that only sexually intact animals be eligible for testing is consistent with which animals pose a risk of transmission of the Brucella organism.

Designated Surveillance Area (DSA)

DSA rules were amended and adopted pertaining to testing within the DSA. The USDA brucellosis program review generally gave the state of Montana very high marks. However, two recommendations were made that required a rule change to be implemented. These changes include testing of breeding cattle at any age, and testing preslaughter cattle because of the decrease in national MCI testing.

Scrapie

Scrapie rules were amended and adopted pertaining to identification and identification methodology. To be considered a scrapie-consistent state, Official Order 00-01-GF of the Montana Department of Livestock, Animal Health Division was implemented in 2000 with the intent of updating the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM). The department proposed amendments to update current and outdated rules pertaining to scrapie identification and methodology. The rule changes allowed the rescinding of the official order from the year 2000.

Traceability

The federal rule on traceability was published in March of 2013 and MDOL has been working to ensure that our state traceability program is consistent with federal standards. This effort has included updating the import requirements for animals entering Montana, data entry of animal movement data of animals exported, designation of approved tagging sites, and increasing the available resources for the electronic capture of traceability data. MDOL was able to purchase 17,000 additional RFID tags for distribution to producers and veterinarians at no cost for use in animals involved in official disease work.

The full text of rule changes can be viewed on the Department of Livestock’s web site at <http://liv.mt.gov/public/arm.mcp.x> or on the Secretary of State’s web site <http://sos.mt.gov/>

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE YEAR IN REVIEW

COMPUTER SYSTEMS/IT

MDOL Animal Health continued to work on traceability issues. Specific efforts included revising our policy for identification requirements for imports updating policy memos, web site traceability information, and a quick reference table that lists identification and documentation requirements.

Animal Health staff worked with Colorado and Kansas making electronic health certificates (eCVIs) available to private veterinarians. In April, 2013, MDOL made eCVIs available to Montana veterinarians. Fourteen veterinarians issued 402 certificates in 2013 and had positive feedback for the form. The certificates are free, easy to use, and can be completed without internet access. Information from these certificates will eventually be automatically uploaded into animal movement databases, drastically reducing data entry and processing time for office staff.

Additional benefits of this technology include: improved legibility of health documents, improved speed through transfer, improved compliance with health regulations, and reduced errors.

Our staff reviewed draft requirements for purchase and deployment of a LIMS system (Laboratory Information Management System) that would streamline diagnostic information from the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and allow sharing results with private veterinarians and the Helena office.



Figure 31:
Source: USAHerds Logo

USAHERDS

In 2011 the Animal Health Division implemented USAHerds, a new animal health management system. One step we take to manage this system and keep it current is to request annual enhancements that include changes to the system to better fit our day to day business operations.

Enhancements: Workflow efficiency for import office staff increased with an enhancement to USAHerds that allows data entry of import permits and CVIs on a single page. The state of Kansas agreed to share equal cost for three USAHerds enhancements that will greatly reduce the work required to create alternative livestock herd histories herd inventories. Thirteen states are now using the USAHerds program.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE YEAR IN REVIEW

ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK

Significant changes were implemented in 2013 for the Alternative Livestock program.

Program staff worked to bring about changes in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing and animal identification requirements to assure Montana’s surveillance program was approved by USDA. The application was accepted and then approved on April 26, 2013. Montana’s program is now an “Approved State CWD Herd Certification Program”. Through Board of Livestock official order and rule change, the state veterinarian allowed the use of the new Stat-Pak and DPP tests for tuberculosis testing of captive cervids. A new permit system for transportation of animals to slaughter facilities was implemented which saves producers time money.

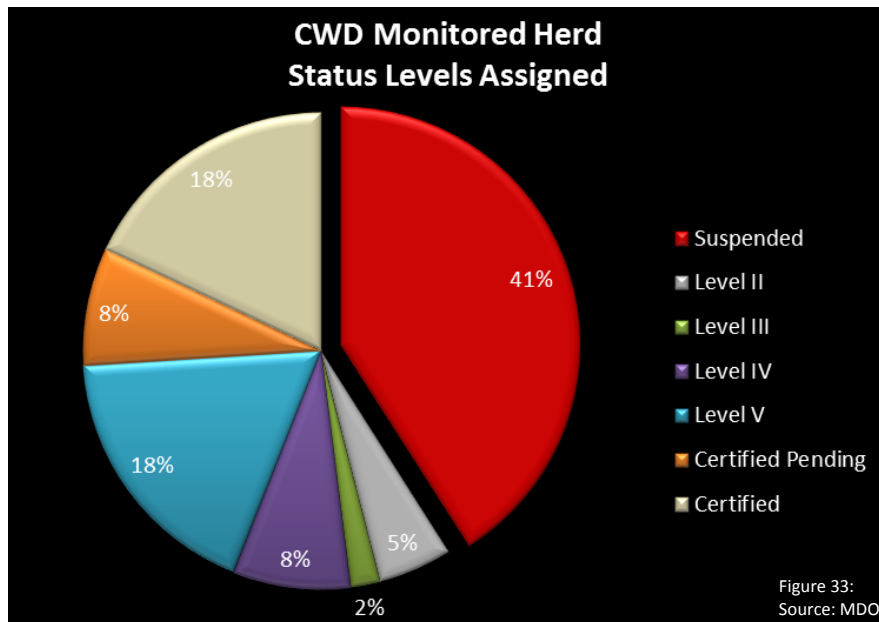
These changes were communicated to the producers and their designated agent veterinarians.

Alternative Livestock 2013 Year-End Statistics

FWP Licensed Facilities	MDOL Computer Animal Inventory	Calves/Fawns Born
2009 - 43	1,946	378
2010 - 41	2,056	336
2011 - 41	2,061	279
2012 - 39	1,206	265
2013 - 39	1,226	252

There are 12 licensed ranches w/no animals as of 12/31/2013. The industry inventory peaked at 4,529 in 2001. Above Fig: 32

The CWD Herd Certification program includes an annual review of each herd’s records for inventory, deaths, and CWD testing. A status level is assigned according to ARM 32.4.1303. (Figure 33 below shows this assignment)



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE / YEAR IN REVIEW

FIELD REPORTS

WESTERN DISTRICT—ERNIE MCCAFFREE, AREA MANAGER



Figure 34:
Source: MDOL

Inspections: Included completion of herd inventory in Lake county; Swan Mtn Outfitters of 120 head of horses and mules; Bouvry Exports; RYMO ranch for Idaho Brand Board at state line near Troy, Eureka area cattle inspection; several Notices to Appear were served; rodeo permit issued on 108 head of bucking horses at the Whitford and Hall Ranch in Browning.

Alternative Livestock: At the Elk ranch, a death certificate was issued and tags were removed from the last two remaining elk. The CWD test was waived.

Brand inspection and investigations: Included FWP Region One out of compliance and in violation of brand laws on FWP horses/mules. A citation was issued. Thirty two outfitter horses belonging to the Lincoln County Sheriff were in violation. Notice to Appear citation issued to the sheriff. Ronan area ranch brand expired and will not be reissued until inspection of cow herd.

Strays: Three significant events involving strays were addressed in 2013:

- ◆ Giles stray cattle from Fairfield recovered north and west of Seeley Lake; US cattle strayed into Canada near Glacier Park/Waterton Park — brands and ownership were identified for Alberta brand officials.
- ◆ Sheep were running at large and killed on highway near Plains with a warning citation issued and report to the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP).
- ◆ Seventeen Canadian stray horses were reported on the Hurst Ranch at Roosville—Canadian owners didn't make a good-faith effort to have the livestock returned. Panel corral was set up and we captured two stud herds of horses. Those stud horses were sold to Bouvry Exports. Logistics planned for gathering of Canadian horses off the Hurst Ranch.

Sales: Sales worked included Dillon cattle sale, Missoula horse sale—sold black stray gelding from Lake County; Cinch Bucking Horse Championships for compliance at Majestic Valley Arena.

Quarantine: Quarantine follow up was done in Sanders and Lincoln counties.

Enforcement: Enforced DSA rules in the Dillon area. West Yellowstone—bison hazing operation (19 consecutive years).

Thefts: Attended to the Missouri Breaks theft case in Blaine county, served search warrant and seized the cattle. Flathead County suspect fled with cattle and horses with no inspections en route to Colorado. Citations were issued. We worked with Blackfoot Tribe officials regarding stolen baby calves on the reservation.

Wolf kill: Conducted an investigation and report of wolf kill cattle west of Kalispell (wildlife services on government shutdown furlough).

Personnel: Larry Elings, Inspector for Pondera, Glacier, Liberty and Toole counties, passed away from an extended illness. Several investigator vacancies opened up and were filled. Meetings in Billings, Helena, and Spokane, Washington provided education and clarification of rules.

Miles Driven:	29,802
Cattle Inspections:	1,117
Horse Lifetime In- spections	167
Horse Annual	300
Estrays:	51
Truck Stops	16
NTA:	2
W/T:	19
Felony	1

Figure 35:
Source: MDOL

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE / YEAR IN REVIEW



FIELD REPORTS

EASTERN DISTRICT—TRAVIS ELINGS

Investigations: Several investigations included a butchered cow on the Crow reservation and horses being shot in the same area that were running on farm ground. Both probes were turned over to the BIA. Work was done with Wyoming investigators on a horse theft out of Nebraska. Without the owners knowledge the horse was sold at the BLS sale and taken to Wyoming. Prosecution was to take place in Wyoming.

Other investigations centered around a circus that came to Billings; starving animal complaints for the sheriffs office and numerous counties; feedlot branding issues, individuals selling baby calves on Craigslist without proper documentation for these transactions; and theft of four rodeo bulls stolen out of Montana and sold to a producer in South Dakota—one of which was seen on TV bucking at the PBR finals in Las Vegas.

Violations: Seventeen NTAs (Notice to Appear) were written throughout the year.

Truck Stops: Set up one struck stop with Montana and Wyoming investigators.

Sales: Worked four special sales and numerous auction sales as well as the NILE.

Meetings: Throughout the year attended the Western states brand and animal health meetings; county attorney annual meeting along with Justice of the Peace annual meeting.

Arrests: Worked with Shawn Hando and Ty Thomas in arresting individuals at horse sales with warrants and bad checks.

Quarantines: Enforced numerous quarantines, with the biggest number being rabies from Billings to Baker.

We lost quite a few employees in 2013 (four market inspectors and two district men). Compensation is the biggest challenge in recruitment and retention.

Miles Driven:	31,259
Cattle Inspections:	1067
Horse Lifetime Inspections	28
Horse Annual	31
Estrays:	36
Truck Stops	63
Special Sales	968
W/T:	22
Felony	12

Figure 36:
Source: MDOL

CENTRAL DISTRICT—MARTY CLARK

Miles Driven:	14,763
Cattle Inspections:	198
Horse Lifetime Inspections	0
Horse Annual	5
Estrays:	13
Truck Stops	16
Misdemeanors	2
Warnings	8
Felony	0

Figure 37:
Source: MDOL

LOOKING FORWARD

Long-Term Outlook Martin Zaluski, DVM

I see two significant efforts converging in 2014: Technology, and animal disease traceability. Early in 2014 we expect a mobile app to be released for mobile Apple products (iPad, iPhone) to enable health certificate submissions electronically to the state of origin and destination. Meanwhile, other contractors are working to merge livestock brands inspection data with health inspections at markets to allow easier compliance with interstate movement requirements.

For 2014, I also see continuing emphasis on the brucellosis program which includes the designated surveillance area (DSA) and bison management under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). The DSA has been highly effective in rapidly finding brucellosis affected cattle, and ensuring that Montana cattle are accepted nationwide without additional burdensome testing requirements. As of January 2014, only the states of Arizona, Texas, and Michigan have testing requirements beyond what we require in Montana. We hope to roll those back in the coming months.

The IBMP, which maintains a working relationship between Yellowstone National Park and the state of Montana, has been highly successful in preventing transmission of brucellosis to cattle. The state and federal agencies are in the early stages of planning for a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on bison management that would replace the previous EIS and Record of Decision signed in 2000.

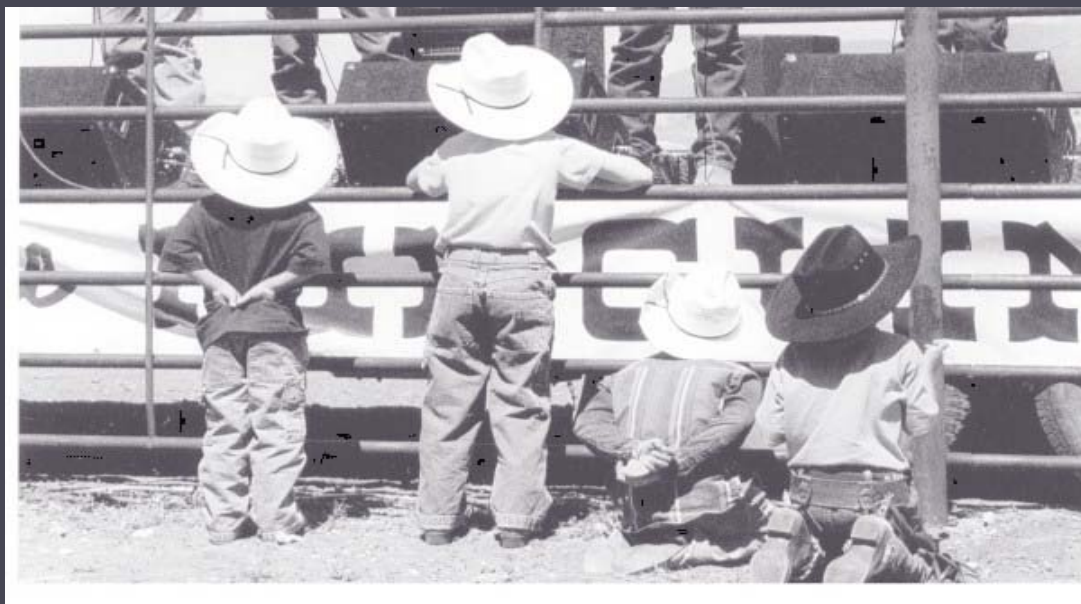


Figure 38: Hats
Source: MDOL photo stock