



ANNUAL REPORT

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK - Animal Health Division



Figure 1. Elk Ranch

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 2. Travis Elings



Figure 3. Calf with CAN Brand

FISCAL YEAR 2016

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LOOKING BACK/HIGHLIGHTS

Summary Highlights

Marty Zaluski, DVM

Montana happily avoided some major disease outbreaks affecting other parts of the country, such as tuberculosis in Texas, Indiana, and Michigan, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in captive wildlife in Texas, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Colorado, or Equine Herpes Virus 1 (neurological) which affected several dozen horses at a race track in New Mexico.

We welcomed a new Executive Officer in February. Mike Honeycutt brought an agricultural background and a wealth of administrative experience to the position. Prior to coming to Department of Livestock (DOL), Mike served as managing director of the National Council for Agricultural Education in Indiana. He's a strong communicator and has placed a priority on fiscal management and forging strong relationships with industry organizations and legislators. We're pleased to have Mike aboard.

In addition to standing priorities of animal traceability, regulating imports, and monitoring diagnostic testing, the Animal Health Division focused on brucellosis and bison issues. We continue to be concerned about the spread of brucellosis in wild elk. The surveillance area for brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) has been adjusted four times since 2011, and these area changes remain one of our biggest challenges. Elk testing in January 2015 revealed an additional area of concern in Carbon County near the Wyoming border which may require further boundary changes. The Yellowstone National Park (YNP) bison population is at a record high with the summer count showing 5,500 animals. A proposal by YNP to establish a bison quarantine facility hundreds of miles away from the park, and well outside the DSA prompted the Animal Health Division to submit written comments opposing this transfer. DOL was joined in voicing these concerns by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The following pages document the hard work of many individuals on behalf of animals, the livestock industry, and public health. I'm proud of the great work done every day by the dedicated staff located in Helena and throughout Montana.



A N I M A L H E A L T H S T A F F

Marty Zaluski, DVM grew up in Butte Montana, and graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. He joined the Department of Livestock in 2007. As the state veterinarian and the administrator of the Animal Health Division, he has oversight over animal health programs including brucellosis, trichomoniasis, traceability, and animal imports. Much of his time is committed to brucellosis and bison management around Yellowstone National Park as required by Montana Code Annotated. Dr. Zaluski is married to Heather Zaluski, MD and has three children, Kate (10), Evan (15), and Maia (18). In his off-duty time, Dr. Zaluski enjoys brewing beer, riding dirt bikes, hunting, and boating.

Tahnee Szmanski, DVM is a Helena native and a 2004 graduate from Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She joined the Department of Livestock in 2008. As the assistant state veterinarian, Dr. Szymanski works on trichomoniasis; traceability; rabies; biologics; disease reporting; public health issues; as well as other cattle, equine, and poultry disease programs. Szymanski is married to Seth Szymanski and has one child, Campbell (4). In her off-duty time, Dr. Szymanski enjoys hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, and quilting.

Eric Liska, DVM grew up on the family Angus ranch in Nebraska, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in science and a minor in agriculture. Following his graduation from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1998, he practiced and owned his own large animal veterinary practice in Helena for 11 years. Dr. Liska came on board with the Department as the Brucellosis Program Veterinarian in June of 2009. Eric enjoys pheasant hunting and spends quality time with his two daughters 10 and 13.

Emily Kaleczyc, DVM moved to Montana after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2013 and worked as a mixed animal veterinarian for 2.5 years. She joined the Animal Health Division of the Department of Livestock as the Brucellosis Compliance Specialist in February 2016. In addition to working in the brucellosis program, Emily is working on emergency planning for the department and assisting with alternative livestock and other disease programs. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Montana. Emily lives in Helena with her husband, John, enjoying their dogs, cats, and riding horses.

Evaleen Starkel is a 3rd generation Montana native. Evaleen is the Division Supervisor for Import/Export Staff, an Alternative Livestock Program Manager, and a source for historical perspectives. She has worked for, and learned a great deal from six state veterinarians and two acting state veterinarians since September 1983 – 33 years! Evaleen enjoys watching wildlife from her home in the Elkhorn Mountains near Clancy, Montana and spending time with her church family - teaching Sunday school and other children's programs at the Friendship Baptist Church in Montana City. She looks forward to learning sign language in the near future.

Tyler Thomas grew up outside of Billings Montana. He graduated from Northeast College in Powell Wyoming with a degree in AG business in 2000. Ty hired on with the Department of Livestock in July 2002 and Tyler now holds the Assistant Administrator's position for Brands Enforcement for the Central Area. Tyler is married to his wife Marlo for 16 years and has two boys Gunnar (11) and Gavin (9). Tyler likes to hunt, fish, help his friend on their ranch, and goes to catfish tournaments around the state and nation. Tyler coaches and watches his kids in their sport activities!

Jeff Mount grew up in Livingston Montana attended Montana State University, Bozeman. Jeff hired on with the Department of Livestock in January 2008 and monitors the Yellowstone National Park bison mitigating contact with domestic livestock. Married 34 years to his wife, Melody, Jeff has three daughters and two grandsons. Off-duty he enjoys hunting and packing horses in the mountains around Livingston.

A N I M A L H E A L T H S T A F F

Cinda Young-Eichenfels grew up in Three Forks Montana and graduated from Carroll College with a Bachelor's Degree in English Writing/History in 1996. She furthered her education with a Paralegal Certification. Cinda joined the Department of Livestock in May 2012 and is the department's Administrative Rules Specialist and is editor of our monthly and annual reports. On her hobby ranch, Cinda rides horses, spends time with her grandchildren, raises chickens, and has a few pygmy goats.

Margie Kelley As a military dependent Margie grew up mostly in Colorado. She attended Parks College, Denver Colorado. After that she earned her teaching certificate in Big Spring, Texas where she taught first grade. Margie joined Department of Livestock 2006 and is an import compliance technician, issues and tracks veterinarian large animal books and other specialty forms, and manages all annual specialty permit programs. In her down time, Margie enjoys quilting, playing the violin and piano, camping, motorcycling and travelling with her dog Starr.

Sara Starkey grew up in Southern California and earned an Associate's Degree in Equine Health from the University of Montana Western. She then spent four years working at a mixed practice veterinary clinic as a vet technician. Sara joined the Animal Health Division of the Department of Livestock in May 2016. She is an import compliance technician and manages seasonal grazer and biologics programs, coordinates the veterinary accreditation seminars, oversees electronic health certificate management and manages import quarantines. In her free time, Sara spends time with her husband and four dogs; she rides horses and ballroom dances.

Ernie McCaffree was born and raised on the family cattle and sheep ranch north of the Musselshell in Eastern Montana. He attended Miles Community College in Miles City Montana. Started riding for the Department of Livestock (Brands) circa 1979. Ernie is the Western Montana Animal Health/Brands Law Enforcement Supervisor with specialized training in Animal Health compliance, Yellowstone National Park Bison and Alternative Livestock. Ernie has a small acreage in the Flathead Valley and runs a few cattle and horses. He is married to his wife of 36 years (Wendy) and two sons Zane and Shane - each are married and have a daughter. Ernie spends all the time he can out doors with family, working livestock and hunting. He has a metal and wood shop where he makes custom-built branding irons and beautiful wood projects.

Travis Elings grew up in Montana and graduated from Browning High School. In 1997, Travis graduated from Dawson Community College in Glendive with an Ag Business Degree. Travis hired on with the Department of Livestock in 1997, first working in Great Falls. Travis is now located in the Billings area and is the Eastern Montana Area Supervisor working animal health and brands investigations. He is married and has a son (17) , a senior in high school, and a daughter (10) in the 4th grade. Off-duty Travis likes to rope with his kids and work in his shop.

Bridger Cunningham grew up in Immigrant Montana graduating from high school in 2005. Bridger hired on with the Department of Livestock in 2008 managing bison in and around Gardiner and Yellowstone National Park—a position he holds today. Off-duty he runs 60 head of cattle in Paradise Valley, Montana and is an elk hunting guide in the fall.

Rob Tierney grew up in Harlowton, Montana. He attended Dawson Community College at Glendive, then hired on with Department of Livestock July 1982 in Brands Enforcement. Rob worked his way up to Brands Administrator; then, transferred to the Bison Program as the manager in 2001. Rob is married and has five children and five grandchildren. Ranching on the home place keeps him busy; for fun, Rob enjoys water sports and traveling.

MANAGEMENT/STAFF

The Animal Health Division experienced numerous personnel changes during this period. The Administrator temporarily assumed the Executive Officer duties for four months; during the interim the Assistant State Veterinarian took a more active administrative role for the division.

In September 2015, the modified part-time traceability data entry position was approved and filled. The Brucellosis Program Administrative Specialist position was filled in March 2016. For the Import/Export Section, one employee retired and another moved into a position in the Milk and Egg Bureau. One new hire worked for only five months.

These positions are now filled. Throughout these multiple transitions, the Animal Health Division staff managed to continue to provide first-rate, uninterrupted service. We look forward to the contributions from the new employees as they bring fresh perspectives and new ideas of how to best serve Montana's producers and veterinarians.



Figure 5. Gaggle of geese

IMPORT/EXPORT STAFF MEETINGS

During FY2016, the import/export staff utilized weekly meetings to coordinate office procedures, review updates and changes to computer programs, and continued to work together to improve the program during several personnel changes. Discussions during these meetings provided an opportunity to organize duties and develop procedures that afford the best possible customer service to producers and veterinarians who use this busy call center.

Animal Health Staff Meetings: The Animal Health Division staff met five times in Helena during FY2016. These meetings included discussions of current events, field staff updates, and provided discussions of disease events and prevention updates.

INFORMATION SHARING

In an effort to communicate current disease control events and regulatory changes to Montana Deputy State Veterinarians, Animal Health Division produced and distributed four quarterly newsletters by email and mail. The email distribution list includes approximately 504 veterinarians, plus the western states state veterinarians and a few other interested parties. The mail distribution goes to an average of 709 veterinarians, plus department personnel and other state agencies. The newsletters included a state veterinarian column covering topics such as current disease issues, legislative updates, traceability, administrative rule proposed changes, and policy changes such as processing six-month passport certificates. There is a standard Brucellosis update in each issue and a section provided to the Montana Diagnostic Laboratory for them to share current concerns. Staff veterinarians wrote articles on diseases including equine vesicular stomatitis, salmonella, the new rabies compendium, tuberculosis, Seneca Valley Virus, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. For each issue, an insert titled Montana One Health was collaboratively authored by the Montana Department of Livestock and Department of Public Health and Human Services.

DISEASES

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Following the 2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak, Department of Livestock (DOL) recommended that waterfowl not be allowed to participate in exhibitions for the 2015 fair season. The department provided information packets to interested fairs. These packets included posters for use in and around poultry exhibits, disinfectant, and hand sanitizer. Additionally, Drs. Zaluski and Szymanski conducted avian influenza surveillance at the Lewis and Clark County Fair. All exhibitors' birds were tested at the time of check in. For fairs outside of the Helena area who were interested in performing similar surveillance, the department provided all necessary equipment to conduct surveillance.



Figure 6. Turkey

Animal Health Division worked with biologists from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on two wild bird transplants into Montana. The first were Merriam turkeys from Nebraska; the second, Trumpeter swans imported from Wyoming. Department of Livestock coordinated with Fish, Wildlife and Parks to ensure that import requirements were met and that the introductions did not increase the risk of avian influenza for our domestic poultry producers.

The one premises remaining under quarantine from a March 2015 detection was released from quarantine after a 180-day fallow period following depopulation. The premises is now eligible to restock with no additional restrictions. This premises release is significant as any foreign trade restrictions placed upon Montana poultry products should now also be lifted. No additional cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza were found in FY 2016.

TRICHOMONIASIS

In May 2016, Animal Health Division was notified of the first positive trichomoniasis herd since December of 2013. The herd, located in Yellowstone County, has a history of pasture utilization in an area where trich exposure has been documented. It's likely that the use of artificial insemination and use of a fall and spring calving herd kept the disease undiagnosed over multiple breeding seasons. The owner sold all nonvirgin bulls and open cows to slaughter. All remaining cows had a calf at side ; had already been held apart from any bulls for an extended period of time, and are considered low risk of disease transmission. Neighbor notification is complete and only involved one adjacent herd.

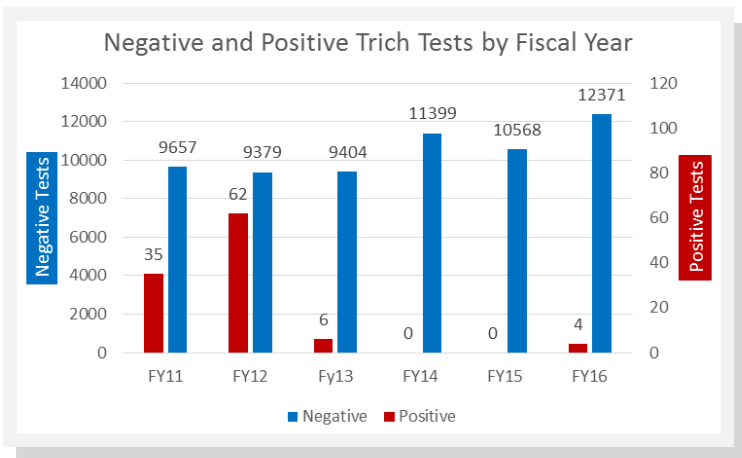


Figure 7. Numbers of negative and positive tests for trichomoniasis in cattle by fiscal year. There were four positive tests on two different premises in FY 2016.

One week later, Animal Health Division received notice of a second positive herd. This herd located in Custer County is a large rebreed operation. The epidemiological investigation involved extensive tracing of animal movements and permitting movement of low risk animals off of the premises.

DISEASES

RABIES

We've seen increased participation by local jurisdictions in the administration of rabies regulations and management of exposed animals. Flathead County created a robust rabies control program. Flathead County's regulations are actually stricter than state law regarding the management of animals exposed to rabid or potentially rabid animals.

A rabid skunk was diagnosed in Missoula County following both human and pet exposure. This case was the first terrestrial rabies west of the Continental Divide since the fall of 1996. As a result of the rabies diagnosis, several dogs were placed under a six-month quarantine following exposure to the animal and a colony of feral cats was depopulated. Additionally, Missoula County was placed under a 60-day quarantine that requires all dogs and cats to be current vaccinates 28 days prior to movement out of the county. This quarantine resulted in increased communication between shelters, veterinarians, and pet owners in Missoula County compared to a similar quarantine in a county where terrestrial rabies is more commonly diagnosed.

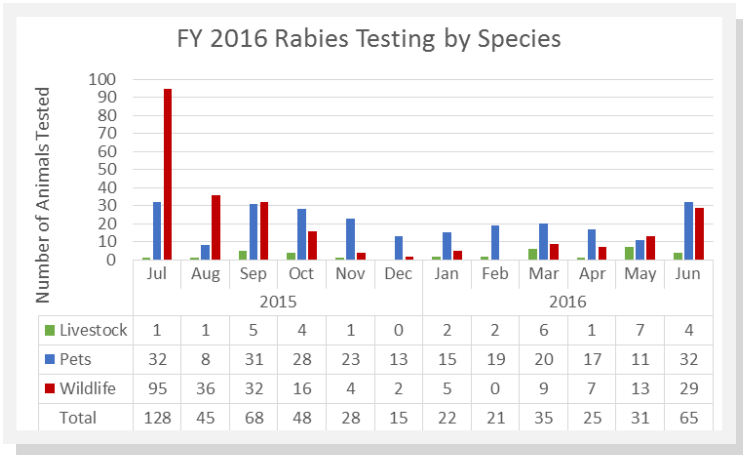


Figure 8. Shows numbers of rabies tests broken down by animal type and month of test. Pets include dogs, cats, rabbits, and ferrets; livestock includes goats, sheep, cattle, and horses; wildlife is any wild animal, but most commonly bats, skunks, and raccoons.

The Department of Livestock updated administrative rules to reflect changes in the 2016 compendium on Animal Rabies Prevention. The changes to the compendium follow research done by Kansas State University that show the amnestic response to vaccination has a much longer duration than the current label recommendations for commercially available rabies vaccines.

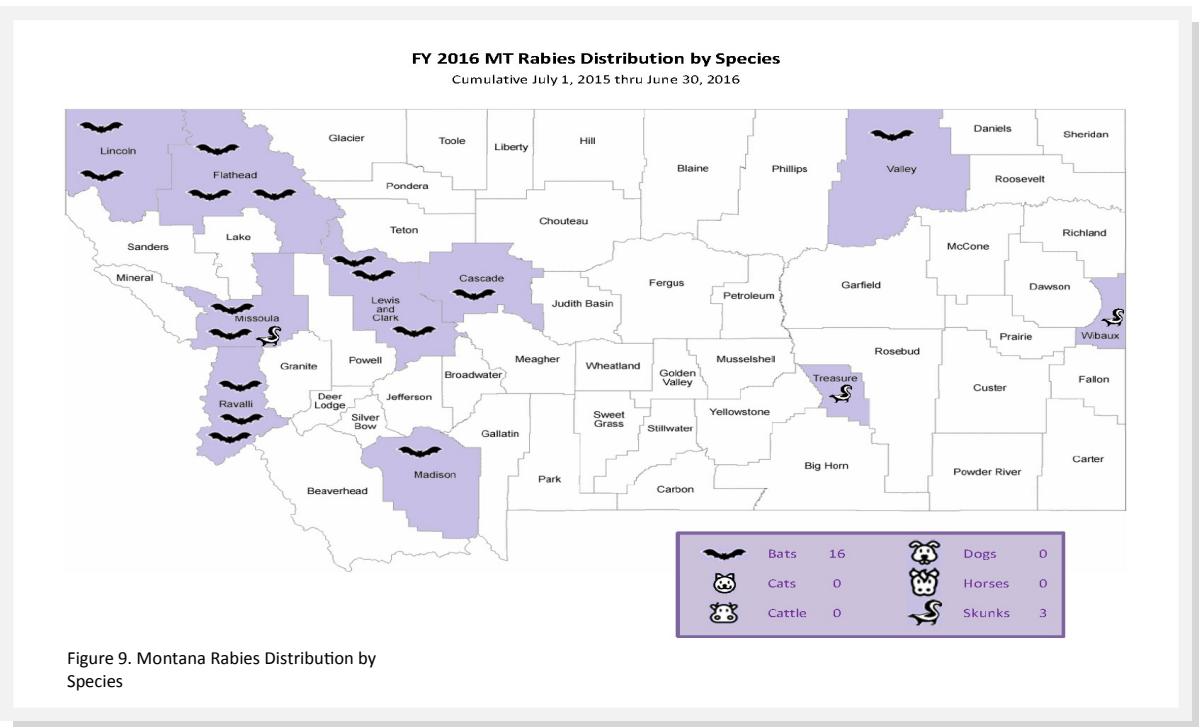
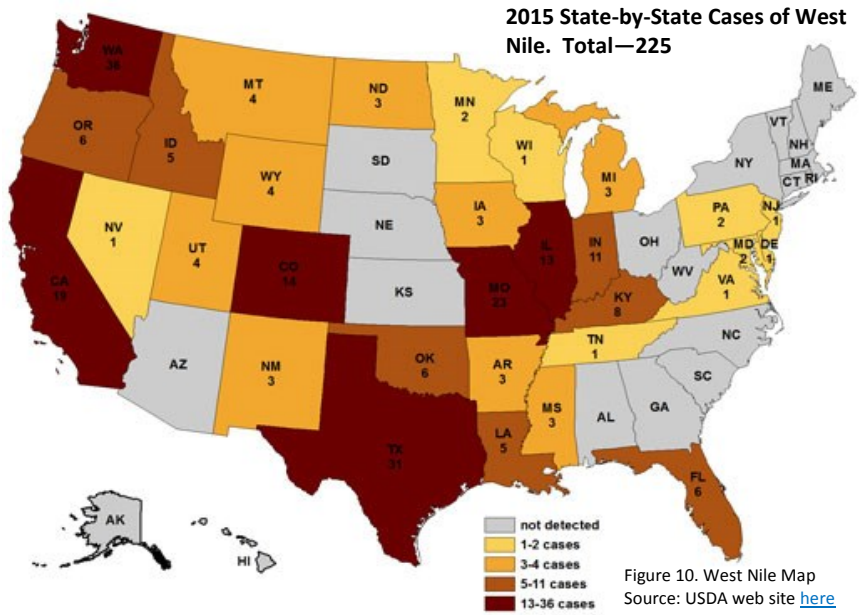


Figure 9. Montana Rabies Distribution by Species

DISEASES

WEST NILE VIRUS

Montana saw another mild fall for West Nile Virus (WNV) with a total of four affected horses. All affected horses were considered nonvaccinates (three of the four had no vaccination history, and one animal had last been vaccinated for WNV in 2009). The fatality rate was higher than the 33% mortality rate we have historically seen, with three of four (75%) of the 2015 cases resulting in euthanasia. Consistent with years past, DOL received reports of WNV starting in August and continuing through September.



2015 Positive West Nile

As of September 24, 2015

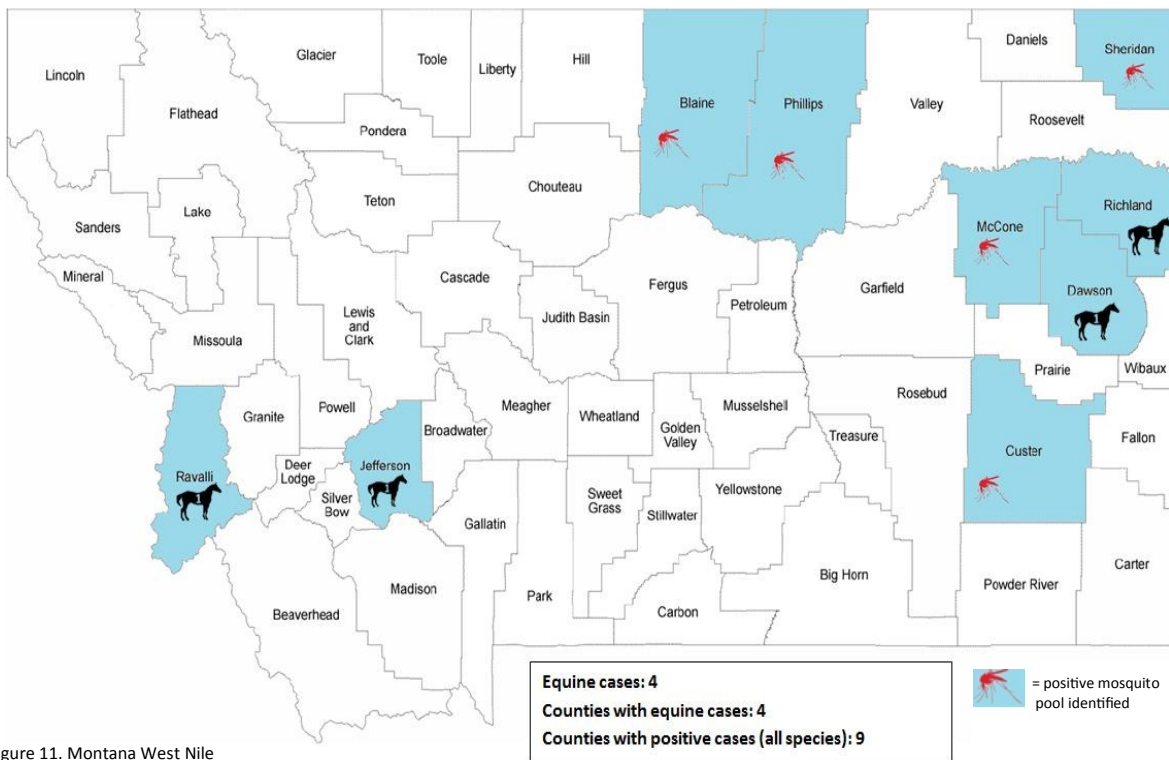


Figure 11. Montana West Nile

D I S E A S E S

Disease Investigations

Seneca Valley Virus (SVV)

Seneca Valley Virus is an emerging disease in swine that causes vesicles on the snout and feet that are clinically indistinguishable from Foot and Mouth Disease. Animal health officials are seeing an increase in the number of swine disease investigations nationally. Vesicles from SVV are most commonly found at slaughter associated with the stress of transport and comingling of animals from various sources. So as not to overwhelm animal health and laboratory officials, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released guidance information on how to handle samples from lesioned animals in which there is a high index of suspicion of SVV.

Montana has had multiple loads of hogs associated with foreign animal disease investigations which were subsequently confirmed to be SVV in the destination state, including:

- Four hogs in a shipment of 186 market hogs to a California slaughter plant were identified prior to slaughter with small vesicles around snout. Tests were negative for foot and mouth disease and positive for SVV.
- Two additional loads of cull sows from Montana were found to have oral lesions at the slaughter plant. These loads had sows from four Montana swine premises.

Tuberculosis

Department of Livestock (DOL) worked with a Montana producer whose bull repeatedly tested positive for tuberculosis in Nebraska. Because of high value and no supporting epidemiologic information suggesting that the animal was positive, additional testing options were worked out through USDA, rather than immediate slaughter.

The bull was held under quarantine in Nebraska pending a repeat comparative cervical test in 60 days and the testing of all animals in both the herd of origin and the current herd that had been exposed to the bull. All animals exposed to the suspect bull in Nebraska tested negative. Fifty animals in Montana remained on the ranch of origin in Montana that would have been exposed to the bull from birth to weaning and eventual sale. All 50 animals were negative on a caudal fold test completed in November 2015 and the bull was released from quarantine.

In a second case, comparative cervical testing was conducted on a group of mule deer that were suspect on initial single cervical testing. All 15 of the animals tested negative on the comparative cervical and were released for interstate movement.

Canine Influenza

DOL received reports of a new strain of canine influenza (H3N2) diagnosed in a dog in Helena, Montana. While not reportable, information was relayed to other Montana veterinarians because of the novel influenza strain affecting canines and significant public interest.

Equine Viral Arteritis

DOL received notice from the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) of a mare with a positive titer for equine viral arteritis (EVA). Within days, DOL received notice from the Kansas Department of Agriculture regarding a recently identified EVA-positive stallion with a recent semen shipment into Montana. Kansas provided DOL with the owner and animal information for the shipment and indeed the positive mare at MVDL was the same animal. DOL made contact with the Montana attending veterinarian. The mare showed no clinical signs, but the mare did not settle on the breeding. This mare was isolated from the remainder of the brood mares at the facility for 21 days based on direction from DOL and the practicing veterinarian.

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY

States that receive Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) federal funding are required to complete a minimum quota of test or actual traces that demonstrate the implementation of traceability in their states. Historically, Department of Livestock (DOL) has not completed sufficient actual traces to meet our quota and must supplement numbers with test traces. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides tag numbers on a semi-regular basis that we can trace and report on.

The hiring process was completed for a modified permanent part-time employee to complete data entry for animal disease traceability. The position is funded using ADT cooperative agreement money. Previously, Montana origin health certificates were filed and any attempt to trace animal movements required extensive hand searching of paper records. This part-time employee is now doing data entry of animal movement of Montana origin certificates for animals that fall under the federal ADT rule. This data, including consignee, consignor, animal description, and identification is now searchable, greatly improving our ability to trace animal movements.



DOL began conducting quarterly webinars for Montana veterinarians and their staff who are interested in learning more about the use of electronics in regulatory medicine. This format includes the use of USDA Mobile Information Management System (MIMS) for brucellosis testing, electronic submission forms for the diagnostic lab, and electronics certificates of veterinary inspection. The webinar format also allows DOL to reach a broader audience to conduct outreach more effectively and efficiently. Historically, the same information would be covered via in-person visits to multiple veterinary clinics, a very time consuming and expensive approach. To date, DOL has conducted three webinars covering the following topics:

- The use of MIMS PDA, a USDA software, for the capture of animal information for disease testing/vaccination purposes. This software allows the automated creation of lab submission and brucellosis vaccination forms.
- The mCVI mobile electronic health certificate application. DOL had 26 participants. The half-hour webinar was approved for 0.5 CE credits for attending veterinarians by the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- Part two of our mCVI webinar for veterinarians and covered the use of the batch upload feature for large groups of animals that are required to be officially identified for movement. Thirteen participants attended this webinar. The half-hour webinar was approved for 0.5 CE credits for attending veterinarians by the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine.

DOL worked with the Helena College of Technology and a student intern (volunteer) for the fall of 2015 on a website project for Animal Health Division. The project was a redesign of the animal health import requirement's webpage. The student was required to complete 80 hours of project work over the course of the semester and worked with both Animal Health Division and IT staff to accomplish the project.

BRUCELLOSIS

Designated Surveillance Area (DSA)

Overall the winter 2015-2016 was a relatively quiet year for bison movements. Department of Livestock (DOL) only conducted three hazing events in the Hebgen basin on the west side of Yellowstone National Park; no hazing was necessary on the north side. The major change to the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) was Governor Bullock's environmental assessment decision in December 2015 to expand year-round tolerance for bison in the western management area. Bison are now allowed to be out of the park on the west side north of the Madison river year-round. This area includes land on Horse Butte and north of Duck Creek that was previously only available to bison in the winter months. Bison removals focused primarily on hunting, with the majority of hunting taking place north of the park. Capture operations at the Stephen's Creek Facility were initiated late in the season after all the hunting had concluded; this capture effort led to a smaller than expected number of animals being removed.



Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 32.3.433 describes the boundary of the DSA. The DSA includes portions of Beaverhead, Gallatin, Madison and Park Counties and encompasses the area where brucellosis serologic positive elk are known to exist. The Board of Livestock (BOL) fortuitously included the area south of Three Forks in FY2015 to address elk movement data which suggested an increased potential for seropositive elk and cattle comingling during the risk period. In the winter and spring of 2016 producers, DOL, and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) did see unusual elk movement into this area. The boundary adjustment addressed concerns of brucellosis transmission from elk to cattle through increased livestock brucellosis testing and surveillance.

Annual DSA Compliance Evaluation

The annual DSA compliance evaluation examines compliance with brucellosis testing requirements for movement and travel. The FY2016 evaluation is underway, and preliminary results suggest that compliance levels will be comparable to previous years. There are approximately 340 producers with cattle in the DSA with an estimated 78,500 test-eligible animals (test-eligible animals are sexually intact and over 12 months of age). Just over 67,000 DSA associated brucellosis tests were performed in FY2016 keeping the testing numbers at nearly the same level as FY2015. Preliminary estimates suggest that over 91% of cattle in the DSA come from producers that tested $\geq 15\%$ of their herd. Herds were also considered in compliance if they did not sell or move any test-eligible animals, had testing conducted under a different name, or were dairies that underwent brucellosis ring testing on milk. Herds were considered noncompliant if sales or movements recorded by the Brands Enforcement Division occurred without a corresponding brucellosis test for test-eligible animals. Overall, 91% of DSA cattle herds are in compliance with DSA testing regulations.

BRUCELLOSIS

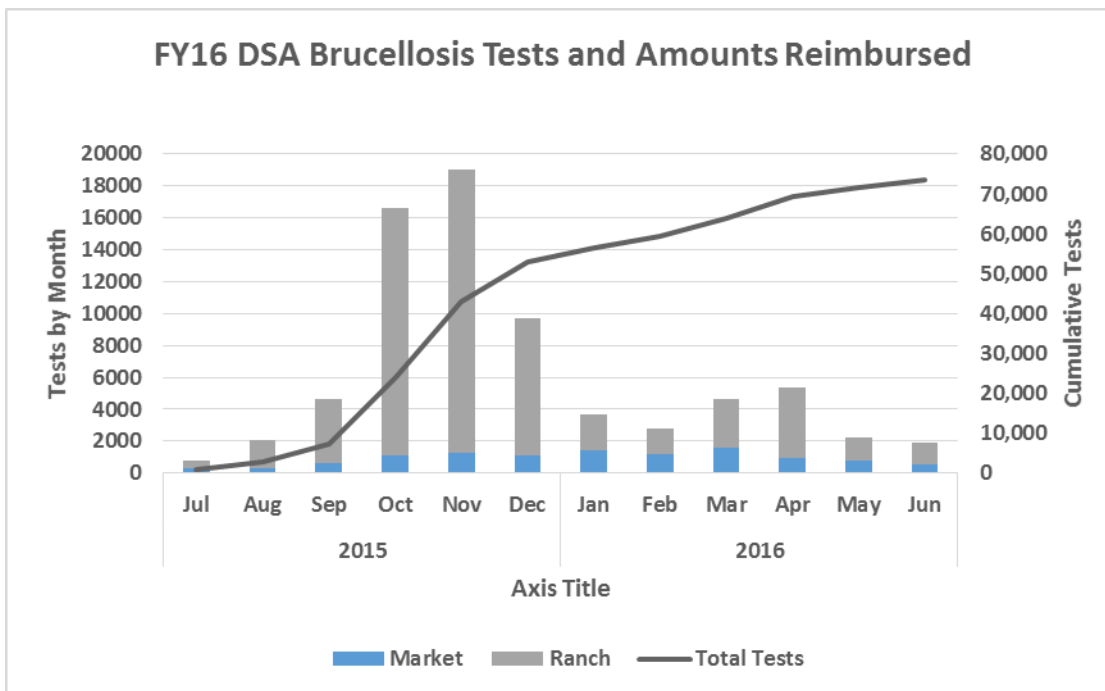


Figure 14. DSA-related brucellosis testing completed and amount reimbursed for testing during FY2016 by month and by test type. These data include tests reimbursed to both producers and veterinarians as well as adult vaccinations reimbursed to veterinarians. There were a total of 73,406 DSA tests or vaccinations conducted in FY2016. Of these, 66,881 were reimbursed to veterinarians, and 35,283 were reimbursed to producers as well as veterinarians.

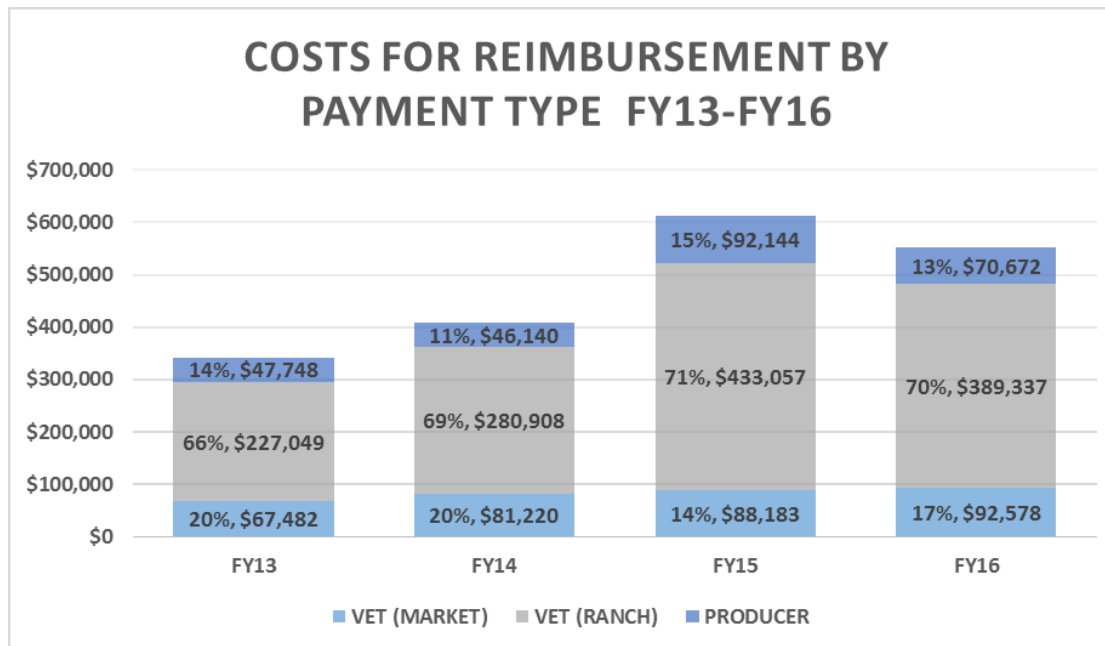


Figure 15. Numbers of DSA-related brucellosis tests that were reimbursed in FY2014, FY2015, and FY2016. Not all producers and veterinarians request reimbursement for eligible testing. Producers requested fewer reimbursements in FY16 than the previous year; overall DSA testing was slightly lower due to fewer epidemiologic investigations.

BRUCELLOSIS

BRUCELLOSIS - Live Elk Capture Study

Elk capture and sampling efforts by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for the targeted elk brucellosis surveillance project occurred January 17 through February 23, 2016. Elk from four populations along the eastern portion of the Absaroka Mountain Range between Big Timber and Red Lodge were screened for exposure to brucellosis. Additionally, elk captured in previous years of this project were recaptured for continued monitoring and/or collar removal.

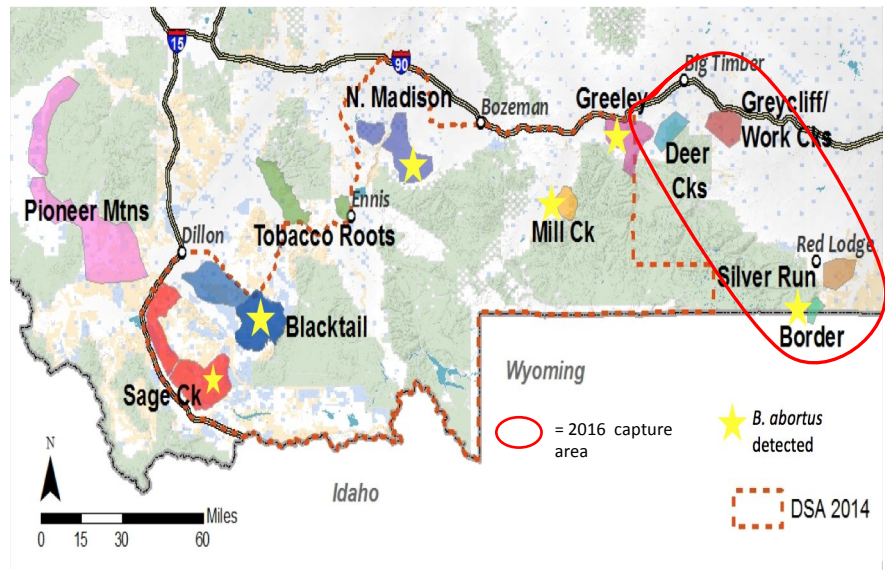


Figure 16. Study areas sampled during 2011-2016 elk surveillance project. Yellow stars denote brucellosis-positive elk findings. Source: Fish, Wildlife and Parks

2016 Captures—Absaroka Mountain Range Brucellosis Sampling

A total of 94 adult (i.e., ≥ 1.5 years old) elk from four elk populations were captured and sampled for exposure to brucellosis (see Figure 16 circled area above). Blood was collected in the field and later screened for exposure to brucellosis at the Department of Livestock Diagnostic Laboratory. In addition, Fish, Wildlife and Parks received and screened three blood samples from hunter-harvested female elk within the area. Six elk from the WY-MT border elk population south of Red Lodge tested positive for brucellosis. All other elk tested negative for exposure to brucellosis.

Population	Total Elk	Seropositive	Seroprevalence	GPS Collars
Border	16	6	0.38 (0.18, 0.61)	13
Silver Run	19*	0	0 (0, 0.17)	11
Deer Creeks	30	0	0 (0, 0.11)	4
Greycliff /Work Creeks	32	0	0 (0, 0.11)	3

Table 17. The total number of elk sampled and the number of seropositive elk in wintering populations along the eastern portion of the Absaroka Mountain range in January 2016. The numbers in parentheses represent the lower and upper bounds of the 95% confidence interval on the seroprevalence estimate. *Includes three hunter-harvest samples. Source: Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

BRUCELLOSIS

BRUCELLOSIS - Live Elk Capture Study, continued

There are currently 29 radio collars on seronegative elk in Greeley, Mill Creek, Black's Ford, Red Mountain, and the Tobacco Roots. These radio collars were deployed during the 2014 and 2015 capture seasons and their automatic release mechanisms will be dropping the collars in the spring of 2017 when they will be retrieved and their GPS data downloaded.

Population	Seropositive Elk	Elk with VITs
Sage Creek	1	0
Black's Ford	7	2*
Mill Creek	14	8*
Greeley	2	0

Table 18. Continued monitoring of seropositive elk with vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) being tracked for the 2016 parturition season.

*One pregnant elk in this herd died from capture –related injuries and is not included here.

Figures 19, 20.
Photos of Live
Elk Capture Study.



USDA-APHIS proposed revised brucellosis/bovine tuberculosis rules

The tuberculosis eradication program began in 1917 and the brucellosis eradication program began in 1934. The first Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) was published in 1947 and the most recent in 2003. The UM&R specify the minimum standards for preventing, detecting, controlling, and/or eradicating program diseases. In 2008 the USDA began work on the development of the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis proposed rule and program standards. In 2010, the USDA began to rewrite regulations for the bovine tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis eradication programs. The proposed regulations consolidated these two complex programs and added regulations on captive cervids. The proposed rule and program standards were published for comment on December 16, 2015. The program standards are intended to replace the current Uniform Methods and Rules.

Department of Livestock submitted comments to the USDA reflecting concerns that the rules as proposed would reduce the discretion of the state animal health official and do not effectively take new science, technology, and knowledge of the epidemiology of the two diseases into account. As written, they would cause a dramatic increase in costs and are made unnecessarily complex by consolidating the brucellosis and tuberculosis program regulations.

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD)

Using federal funding designated for addressing the threat of swine enteric coronavirus disease, Department of Livestock (DOL) has been contracting with a veterinarian to conduct outreach and education to Montana fairs and noncommercial swine producers. The contract veterinarian has attended multiple fairs around the state and been in contact with numerous 4H and other swine groups to provide outreach. This is the first time that DOL has had contact with many of these individuals. This position has been able to address the significant misinformation that exists regarding Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) and other coronavirus diseases along with providing information about biosecurity, Seneca Valley Virus (SVV) and human handling of swine.

Because of an extension on the funds, DOL was able to utilize the funds for an additional full season of fairs and exhibition (2016) and allowed DOL to meet requests for winter outreach activities.

National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS) Equine Study

Montana was included in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NAHMS Equine 2015 study. The purpose of NAHMS studies is to provide an in-depth look at U.S. equine operations resulting in valuable information regarding trends in the industry. For the study NAHMS asked for input on:

- Owner reported lameness
- Health management practices
- Animal health related costs
- Control practices for gastrointestinal parasites.

The NAHMS equine study, which was delayed by USDA due to the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza 2 (HPAI) in the United States, resumed with the second phase of the study occurring during spring/summer of 2016. Phase II of the NAHMS program began in May and involves USDA and DOL employees visiting equine operations that agreed to participate. A survey and biological sampling was conducted to evaluate lameness, vaccination practices, tick prevalence, fecal parasite numbers, and parasite resistance to anthelmintics. Approximately 40 Montana premises agreed to participate in Phase II.

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)/ Avian Influenza

NPIP is a voluntary disease testing program aimed at improving commercial poultry production while also facilitating interstate movement of poultry.

To certify the flocks as pullorum free or participation in the NPIP program, DOL held one authorized testing agent certification training in FY2016. The session was conducted in Stevensville, Montana and included conducting passive avian influenza surveillance on the flock used for the training. There were five attendees. Pullorum testing was completed on 70 plus birds and avian influenza surveillance was conducted on approximately 30 of those.



Figure 21. Poultry Testing

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Veterinarian Accreditation

In cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Livestock (DOL) conducted four veterinary accreditation/deputy vet training seminars in Helena. Topics covered included official responsibilities, records management, traceability, brucellosis, disease reporting, and rabies.

Additionally, USDA and DOL conducted four disciplinary hearings for veterinarians found to be in violation of accredited veterinarian standards. Two instances were for veterinarians whose technicians were independently performing work that a veterinarian must attest to having done themselves or having directly supervised. The third instance was a veterinarian that misrepresented official identification on a brucellosis test. In all three instances a warning letter was issued and the veterinarians will be required to attend a veterinary accreditation/deputy veterinarian training seminar within one year. The last consultation was conducted along with the Wyoming Board of Animal Industry for a veterinarian who had a relative travel to Montana to draw Coggins tests on a group of horses; then issued a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for the animals without personally having inspected the animals.

Classification Review Committee (CRC)

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski was appointed to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks CRC for the Department of Livestock. The committee evaluates classification status for exotic species in Montana to determine the risk to wildlife, livestock, and public health. The role of the CRC is to make a recommendation to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on how a species should be classified in Montana based upon risk to public health, risk to wildlife/natural resources, and risk to livestock/agriculture. Currently, if an animal has not been classified by the commission, it is prohibited. The CRC reviewed one petition for ownership of the marmoset. CRC recommended this animal be prohibited; Fish, Wildlife and Parks adopted the recommendation.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Montana nominated and successfully received designations for six shortage areas in Montana. Two veterinarians who applied were successfully matched to a shortage area and were eligible to receive \$25,000 per year for up to three years to apply towards their student loan debt.

STATE	STATUS	PRIORITY	FY	COUNTY
Montana	Awarded	High	2015	Broadwater, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Wheatland
Montana	Awarded	Critical	2015	Lewis and Clark
Montana	Open	High	2016	Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet
Montana	Open	Critical	2016	Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Richland, Wibaux
Montana	Open	High	2016	Blaine, Daniels, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley
Montana	Open	High	2016	Custer, Rosebud, Treasure
Montana	Open	Critical	2016	Carter, Fallon, Powder River
Montana	Open	High	2016	Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone

Table 22. FY 2015-16 VMLRP Status for Montana.

TRAINING / EDUCATION

Public Health /Outreach—Dr. Tahnee Szymanski

Dr. Szymanski spoke to the 16 participants of the Inaugural Stockgrowers Leadership Series in Helena, Montana. An overview of the department and some tips for how individuals in the livestock industry can stay involved with the Department of Livestock (DOL) were presented.

Attending the winter Montana Veterinary Medical Association (VMA) meeting in Bozeman, Montana, Dr Szymanski presented seven mini-sessions to veterinarians on the new mobile electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) application for iOS and Android devices.

Travel for DOL staff also included two meetings (Shelby and Great Falls) sponsored by a private veterinary clinic for their clientele with presentations in two sessions - one half-hour to swine producers, to dairy producers. Topics covered included:

- Swine enteric coronavirus disease (PED, SDCoV)
- Seneca Valley Virus
- Interstate movement requirements for swine
- Trichomoniasis
- Johnes disease
- Traceability requirements for dairy animals.



Figure 23. Outreach Poster

Dr. Szymanski was guest lecturer for a senior level Equine Business course. Topics covered included disease incubation and shedding periods as they pertain to the decision to quarantine an individual animal or barn exposed to disease, continuing the discussion included EHV-1, rabies, vesicular stomatitis, and strangles.

The DOL again collaborated with Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for the 2016 seasonal chick sales and fair seasons. DOL sent out information packets to chick retailers to promote public safety when handling live poultry by providing educational and hand washing materials stores that sell live chicks. Additionally, DOL compiled a list of all Montana residents that received shipments of poultry from out of state during the previous year and sent out a mailer with information on avian influenza as well as safe handling of poultry.

At the 2015 District Brand Inspector Annual Meeting, Dr. Szymanski presented the following in the animal health section:

- A brief update on trichomoniasis in Montana
- Two trace exercises that demonstrated the crossover between animal disease traceability and brands
- A donning and doffing exercise to familiarize brands enforcement with the process should their assistance ever be needed for an animal health emergency.

The DOL worked with Montana poultry producers, industry personnel, and the primary veterinarian for our egg-laying producers to discuss avian influenza, biosecurity, and preparedness/response plans.

DOL staff presented to the Beef Marketing Committee meeting at the Annual Montana of the Stockgrowers Association meeting. Topics covered included trichomoniasis, brucellosis, and bison. Agency feedback was provided on several resolutions on topics of trichomoniasis and the removal of brucella from the select agent list.

DOL staff presented at two sessions of the Department of Agriculture's Young Ag Couples Conference. Presentations covered biosecurity, avian influenza, tuberculosis, Johnes, brucellosis, and bison management in Montana.

Emergency Preparedness

Emily Kaleczyc started working on emergency preparedness after joining Department of Livestock (DOL) in March 2016. One focus so far has been starting the continuity of business planning process for the department. This strategy involves planning how to continue offering the essential services of the department in case of an emergency or disaster that may leave buildings or personnel unavailable. Most divisions and bureaus have completed the initial step in the process which involves identifying the essential services each performs.

Emily also attended the National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs annual conference and has met with Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to start the process of planning for DOL to be able to assist with coordination of animal sheltering if necessary during a large scale disaster.

Additionally, Emily has been working on the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) plan with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state partners with the goal of developing a state NVS plan that could be used in a large scale animal disease outbreak and with the goal for Montana to host an NVS exercise in 2019.

National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)

Mission

To provide the veterinary countermeasures animal vaccines, antivirals, or therapeutic products, supplies, equipment, and response support services that States, Tribes, and Territories need to respond to damaging animal disease outbreaks.

Purpose

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 established the NVS in 2004 to protect the nation's food supply by maintaining sufficient amounts of countermeasures capable of deployment against the most damaging animal diseases within 24 hours. The directive reflected the national concern that terrorists could simultaneously release animal diseases of catastrophic proportions that would quickly deplete available resources within the State, Tribe, or Territory and overwhelm the private sector's ability to support such a disaster.

Goals

Deploy within 24 hours of approval countermeasures against the most damaging animal diseases, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot-and- Mouth Disease, Exotic Newcastle Disease, and Classical Swine Fever.

Assist States, Tribes, and Territories plan, train, and exercise for the rapid request, receipt, processing, and distribution of NVS countermeasures during an event.

Figure 24. NVS Mission
Source: USDA web site [here](#)

USAHerds

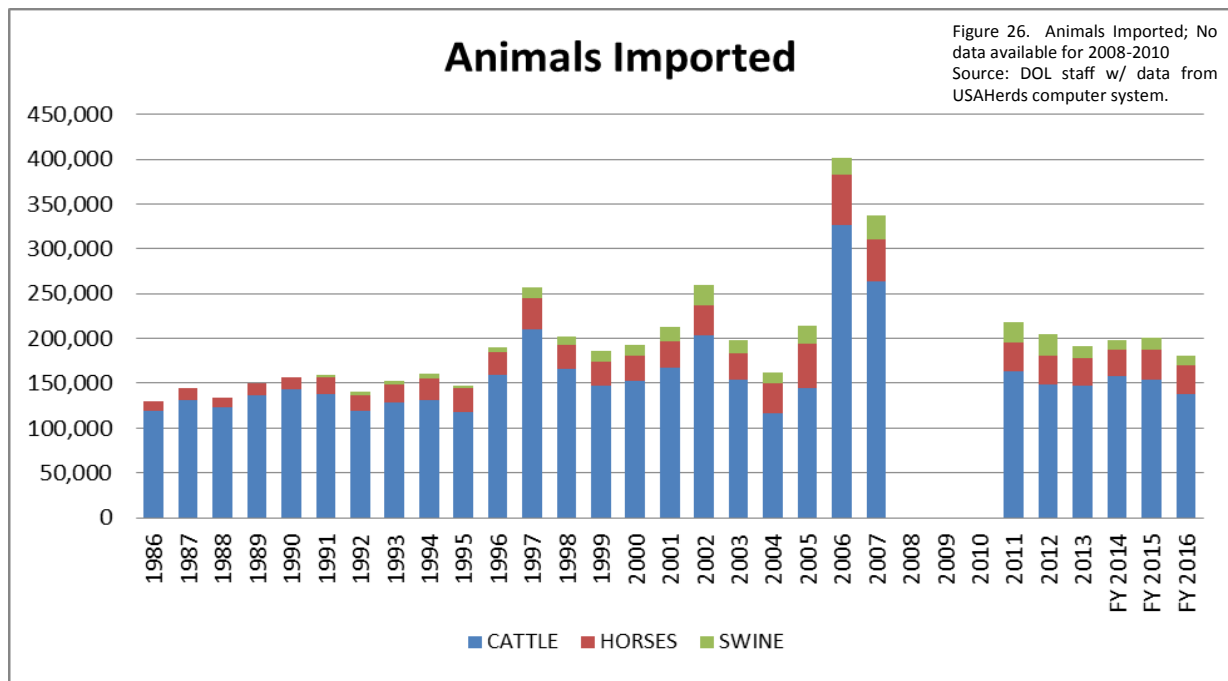
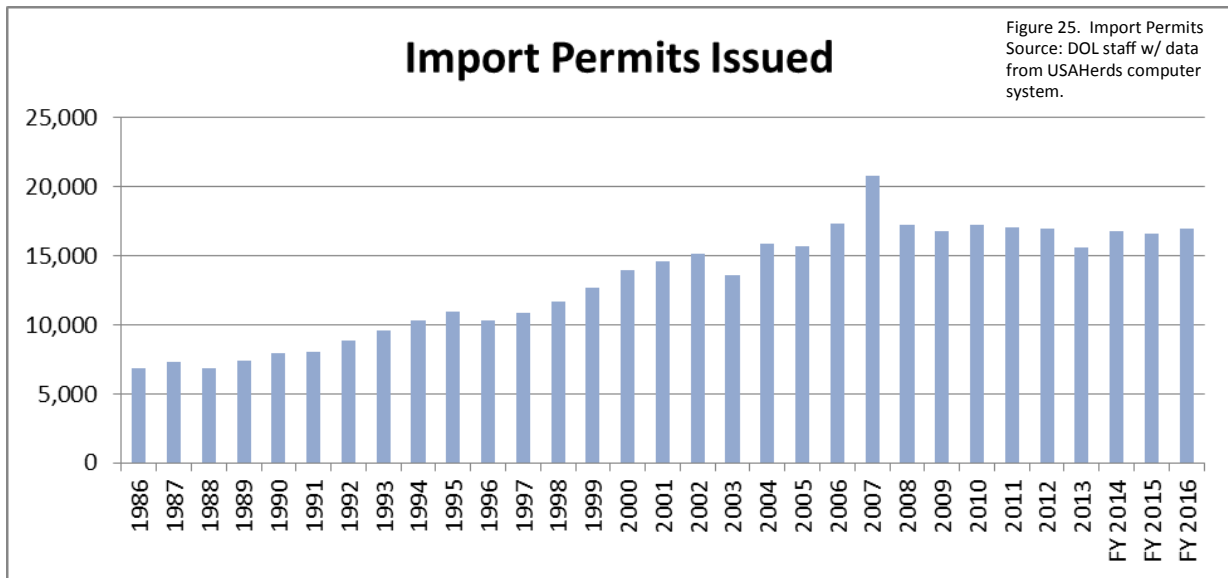
Two employees from the department attended a training for users of USAHerds, the Animal Health tracking computer program used by Animal Health staff to manage quarantine and import information. Tom Shultz, from the department computer programming staff and Evaleen Starkel, Animal Health Division, joined representatives from 11 states at the conference. Participants presented and shared information on the ways they use the various program applications in their state. One-on-one sessions with the program developer presented an opportunity to discuss common issues and fixes. Animal Health and the Brands Enforcement Division are considering additional applications provided by this multifaceted computer program.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Import/Export Export Certificate Data

The Animal Health Division implemented an online payment system in January 2016. The system provides owners an option to pay license and permit fees using a credit card. Department of Livestock staff collected a total \$3032.00 on 458 transactions during the first six months of the calendar year.

During the 12-month reporting period, import staff issued 4,068 permits for 138,049 cattle and 11,284 permits for 32,139 horses to enter or re-enter Montana. Import staff changed the re-entry permit requirements for horses; those traveling on electronic certificates are not required to obtain a permit because that travel data is received as soon as the certificate is issued.



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Exotic Imports: Imports of exotic species are verified to not conflict with Fish, Wildlife and Park's prohibited species list, as review by the Classification Review Committee. Legend shows distribution of prohibited and controlled species.

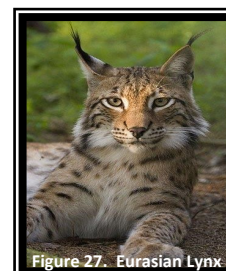


Figure 27. Eurasian Lynx.

ANIMAL	QUANTITY IMPORTED	FAMILY NAME
African Aquatic Side-neck Turtle	27	Pelomedusidae
Bahaman Anole	65	Polychrotidae
Ball Python	108	Pythonidae
Bearded Dragon	526	Agamidae
Black-Footed Ferret	49	Mustelidae
Bobcat *	1	Felidae
Coopers Hawk	1	Accipitridae
Corn Snake	44	Colubridae
Coyote	2	Canidae
Cynomulgus Monkey	24	Non-Human Primate
Eurasian Lynx	2	Felidae
Eyelash Crested Gecko	33	Gekkonidae
Falcons (Gyr, Peregrine)	17	Falconidae
Fisher ¥	1	Mustelidae
Flame Crested Gecko	2	Gekkonidae
Fox *¥	8	Canidae
Goshawk ²	2	Accipitridae
Green Anole	105	Polychrotidae
Green Treefrog	37	Hylidae
Hedgehog	23	Erinaceidae
King snake	5	Colubridae
Leopard Gecko	260	Gekkonidae
Longtail Lizard	74	Polychrotidae
Milk Snake	8	Colubridae
Mississippi Map Turtle	9	Emydidae
Mississippi Mud Turtle	7	Kinosternidae
Mountain Lion	2	Felidae
Pine Marten *¥	2	Mustelidae
Porcupine Ω	1	Erethizontitae
Red-Tail Hawk ²	1	Accipitridae
Rhesus Monkey ®	57	Non-Human Primate
Russian Tortoise	71	Testudinidae
Snow Leopard ¥	2	Felidae
Skunk *	3	Mephitidae
Syrian Brown Bear¥	2	Ursidae
Veiled Chameleon	44	Chamaeleonidae
Walleroo*	1	Macropodidae
Water Buffalo	1	Bovidae
Western Painted Turtle	13	Emydidae
White's Tree Frog	46	Hylidae
TOTALS	1688	

Legend:

- * Roadside Menagerie
- ¥ Game Farm
- ® Research Lab
- Ω Sanctuary
- ² Falconer

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Special Licenses, Permits, and Veterinarian Forms

July 2015—June 2016

May 22, 2014, the Department of Livestock adopted rules raising certain Animal Health fees to cover administration costs. The tables below show the Animal Health Division internal tracking of these fees. *We discontinued our trichomoniasis forms after 10/15/15; they are now available online.

FORM	REVENUE FY2015	REVENUE FY2016
SV-7—Large Animal CVI Book	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 16,392.00
SV-7A—CVI Convoy Replica Book	\$ 182.00	\$ 400.00
SV-7B—CVI Continuation Pages Book	\$ 527.00	\$ 740.00
SV-7HP—Six-Month Horse Passport	\$ 268.00	\$ 55.00
SV-7GF—Alternative Livestock CVIs	\$ 162.50	\$ 105.00
SV-7GFC—Alt. Livestock Continuation	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00
GF TAGS—Game Farm Tags	\$ 489.50	\$ 484.50
Trich Forms*	\$ 443.00	\$ 185.00
Trich Tags	\$ 5,583.90	\$ 5,759.85
TOTAL	\$ 23,085.90	\$ 24,136.35

Table 28. Revenue generated from the increased fees for veterinary forms and tags. By Montana Code, fees are commensurate with costs and include employee time, shipping, and handling.

Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Program	Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Applications	Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Fees Collected
Annual Equine Import	95	\$ 846.00
Annual Equine Semen Import	52	\$ 535.00
Annual Poultry Import	59	\$ 236.00
B-Ovis	27	\$ 508.00
Biologics	34	\$ 1370.00
Bovine Semen Domestic	5	\$ 20.00
Bovine Semen Int'l	1	\$ 42.00
Equine Feedlot	1	\$ 1,450.00
Montana Bull Stud	2	\$ 746.00
NPIP Test Agent	6	\$ 300.00
Seasonal Grazer	76	\$ 1,570.00
Six-Month Horse passport	496	\$ 3,414.00
Trich Quarantine Feedlot	5	\$ 60.00
TOTAL	859	\$ 11,127.00

Table 29. Revenue generated from special licenses and permits. Official Centralized Services (CS) analysis may differ due to actual dates and items that were received and processed. The Animal Health Division data is shown to display specific program item revenue.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

EXPORTS

To meet USDA animal disease traceability requirements, Department of Livestock (DOL) has been entering export data for Montana origin shipments of cattle into the Animal Health database. Specifically, DOL has focused our efforts on two groups of cattle into the USAHerds computer system:

- Cattle that are covered by the federal Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule, including sexually intact beef cattle 18 months of age and older, all dairy cattle, and all cattle for exhibition/events); and
- Cattle shipments that originate from Montana’s Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) for brucellosis.

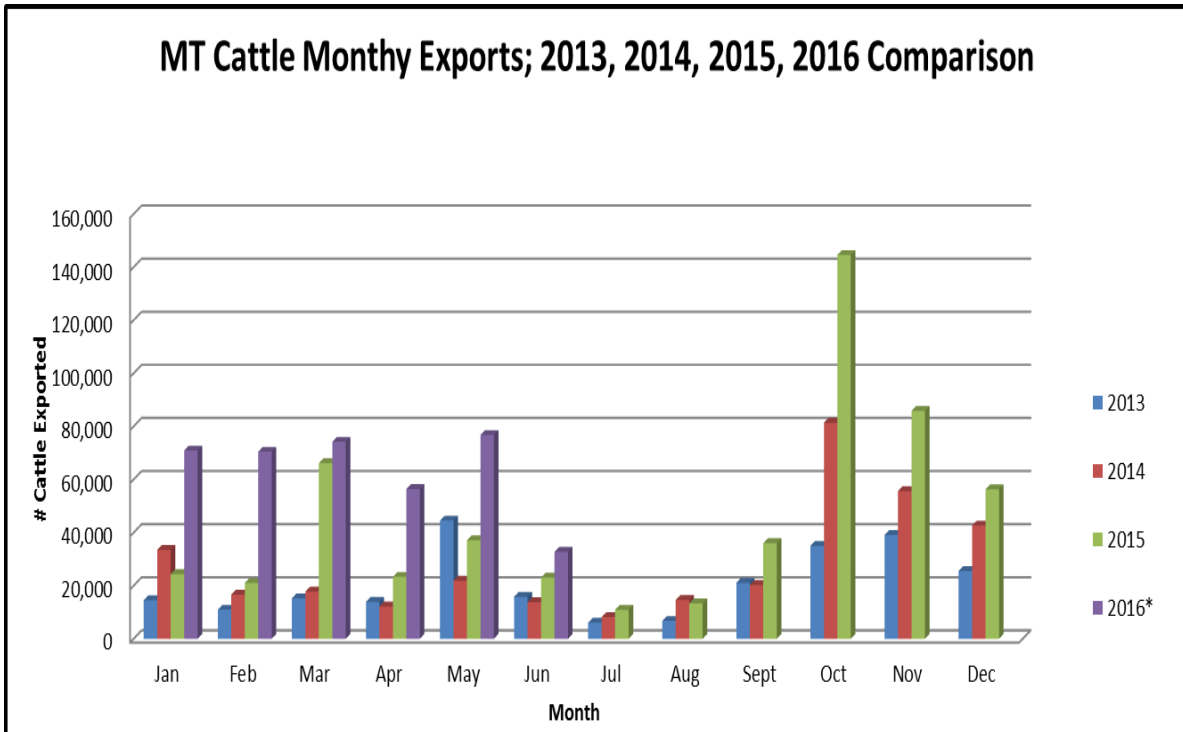


Figure 30. Summary of the number of cattle exported by month over a 3 1/2-year period. Cattle numbers are based upon Certificate of Veterinary Inspection data entered into USAHerds for traceability purposes.

Collection of ADT data is facilitated by the use of electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) by accredited veterinarians. Montana has continued to see an increase in the use of electronic CVIs by accredited veterinarians and continues to work to make these technologies more available. DOL, recognizing the benefits of receiving data electronically, discontinued the requirement for a re-entry permit on Montana origin horses moving on an electronic CVI in FY2016. This provides additional incentive for veterinarians to consider the use of electronic CVIs.

For paper certificates, Animal Health Division has hired a part-time data entry position with federal ADT funding to capture specific information off of Montana origin CVIs. This information is hand-entered into USAHerds, creating a searchable database of animal movement data. The graphic shows the number of cattle entered into USAHerds by type of movement document. Only cattle traveling on paper CVIs require ADT data to be manually entered into USAHerds.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Changes—FY2016



Figure: 31. Administrative Rules Books
Source: <http://goo.gl/cPAvU>

Alternative Livestock

- **Special Requirements:** The department amended brucellosis test requirements only applying to sexually intact animals.
- **Importation of Alternative Livestock:** The department amended duplicate permit language and updated the import requirements to reflect changes in ARM 32.4.402.

Intrastate Movement of Cattle: Identification: Department of Livestock changed the required age of back tagging animals from two years of age to eighteen months of age to be consistent with federal animal disease traceability standards.

Feral Swine: A new rule was created for mandatory reporting of feral swine. The 2015 Legislature granted the department additional authority to control and eradicate feral swine. Feral swine are invasive and destroys agricultural and wildlife resources in many states and Canadian provinces, including Saskatchewan and Alberta. Much of the range expansion is caused by aspiring hunters, seeding swine into new areas. Senate Bill 100 (2015) (SB100) established reporting requirements and made it illegal to import, transport, possess, feed, hunt, trap, or kill a feral swine, except as allowed by statute, or to profit from the release, hunting, trapping, or killing of a feral swine. The department proposed this new rule (ARM 32.22.201) based on the enactment of SB100, which establishes a notification requirement for feral swine.

Fees: The department established a fee to license an authorized pyllorum-typhoid testing agent following the establishment of the program in August of 2011 in ARM 32.3.1505(7). The authorized testing agent license affects approximately 12 individuals.

Import Requirements for Cattle: Changes to this rule state that sporting bovines originating from a tuberculosis accredited free U.S. state or zone require a negative tuberculosis test within twelve months rather than six months prior to importation if they: (a) are six months of age and older; or (b) have attended at least a single sporting event; or (c) are being imported for a specific sporting event.

The department amended this rule regarding sporting bovines to provide greater consistency between states for the interstate movement of sporting bovine while still adequately addressing the risk of tuberculosis in this sporting class of livestock.

Rabies: May 20, 2016, the department proposed to revise administrative rule for management of animals exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal to be consistent with the recently released 2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. The Compendium recommended:

- A shorter quarantine period for nonvaccinated animals (6 months decreased to 4 months)
- Allowing dogs and cats overdue for vaccine to become current with a booster (even if the duration between initial vaccination and the booster is longer than the vaccine label recommendations)
- The ability to 'prove' previous vaccination status by serologically documenting an anamnestic response.

These changes reflect current science showing the response to vaccination of an animal past due for rabies vaccination, as well as better data about the incubation period of the disease. The Montana Administrative Rule change became effective July 23, 2016.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FY2016 Administrative Rule Changes, continued



Certified Semen Services (CSS): The department removed language in ARM 32.3.330 that specified Certified Semen Services (CSS) testing requirements. That language was unnecessary when animals are permanent residents of a CSS facility. The department removed language that specifies chemotherapeutic agents to be used for semen in place of more broad requirements that procedures used be approved by both the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the National Association of Breeders. The department also removed a reference to an outdated official order and to the 1962 proceedings of the USAHA.

Exceptions/Waivers: February 26, 2015, the department adopted amendments granting exemption flexibility on a case-by-case basis for imports into the state of Montana. Rule amendments were also adopted to remove language specifying that permits must be obtained by phone and language requiring excessive documentation of prior animal movement history.

Canadian livestock producers annually request a CAN brand waiver to attend exhibitions in Montana. The department proposed providing an exemption for the required CAN brand for exhibition animals only. A public hearing was held in May 2015, and the rules were approved and adopted as proposed in July 2015.

Alternative Livestock

Events during the reporting period included closing an investigation for an alternative livestock producer who had their license revoked in April 2015. All animals were slaughtered and the 1400-acre licensed property was inspected for missing animals; no live elk were seen within the fenced facility. This particular ranch was missing at least 48 elk that were presumed dead and were not tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Alternative Livestock Statistics

Date	Fish, Wildlife and Parks Licensed Facilities	Department of Livestock Computer Animal Inventory	Calves/Fawns Born
2010	41	2,056	336
2011	41	2,061	279
2012	39	1,206	265
2013	39	1,226	252
FY2014	35	888	252
FY2015	33	875	259
FY2016	31	765	258

Table 32. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks licenses alternative livestock ranches. Department of Livestock regulates and tracks all the animals located on each ranch. This table shows the decline of the industry; in 2001 there were over 4500 alternative livestock animals on 78 licensed ranches.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Alternative Livestock, continued

An annual review of the alternative livestock herds for inventory, deaths, and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing is compiled and reported to USDA-APHIS-VS Cervid Health Center Team. This report is part of the application for renewal of Montana’s CWD Herd Certification approved state review. Including Montana, there are 29 states with approved CWD Herd Certification Programs (HCP). This status is required to allow producers to export cervid animals from their state without further testing.

Montana Code Annotated, 87-4-411(2) authorizes the Department of Livestock to assess import fees. Two ranchers imported seven alternative livestock animals from three states and the department collected a total of \$190.00 on the following:

- One bull elk from Michigan
- Four stone sheep from Nebraska
- Two Big Horn sheep from Tennessee.

Destination	Elk	Mule Deer	Bighorn sheep	Rocky Mtn. Goat
Idaho	30			
Kansas		26		
Kentucky			1	
Nebraska			1	1
Oklahoma			3	
Texas	23		5	
Utah	20			
Wisconsin			1	

Figure 33. Montana Alternative Livestock ranches exported 111 animals to eight states during FY2016.

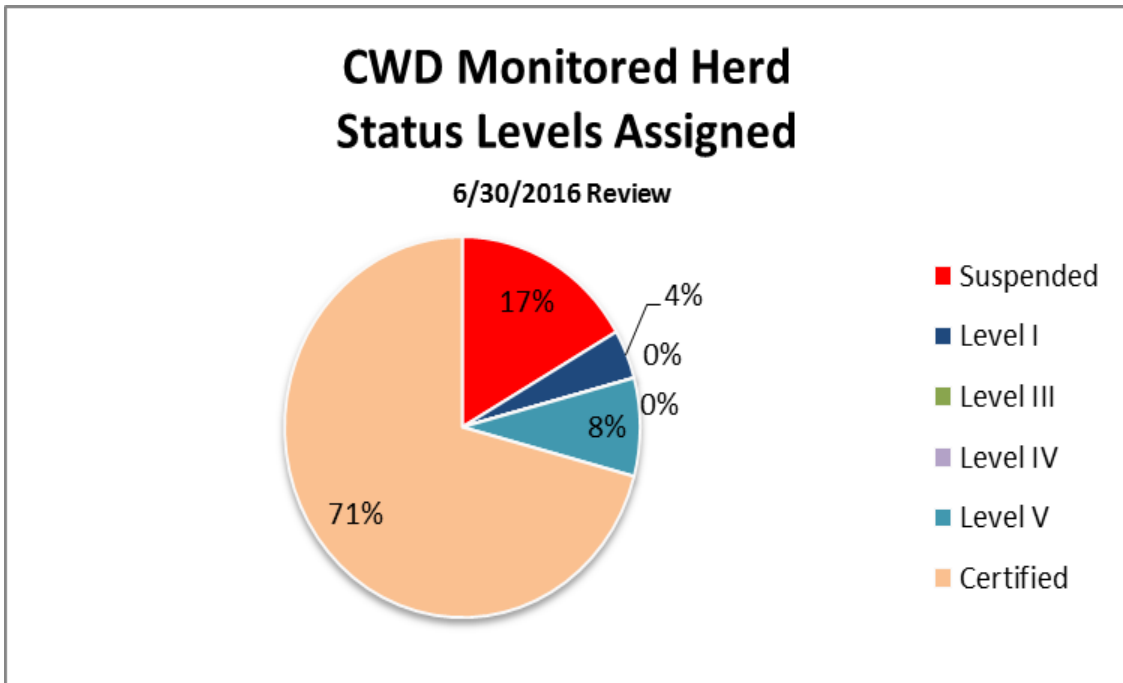


Figure 34: In the above graphic, levels I, III, IV, and V indicate the degree of compliance with federal/state Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance activities in a herd, with the highest level achieved being “Certified.”

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Western Area—Ernie McCaffree, Area Manager



Inspection (special events): Throughout the fiscal year, the western area worked several special livestock events at Majestic Valley Arena in Kalispell for compliance of the Montana livestock laws and inspections.

Quarantines: The western area quarantined illegal import cattle shipped from Canada to Kalispell. The cattle did not have the required CAN brand. The owner requested a branding waiver from the Board of Livestock (BOL); the waiver was denied and therefore the cattle were branded to meet the import requirements.

Felony Investigations: A Ronan cattle producer shot two stray cross bred bulls that broke through his fence and commingled with his registered cow herd. This producer could not identify the bulls by brand and made several unsuccessful attempts corral them with no luck. The stray bulls were fighting the rancher's bull and breeding his cows, so he shot and killed both bulls. Lake County Attorney advised shooting was justified as per 81-4-206, MCA .

An in-depth investigation took place regarding suspected dogs killing sheep. A Notice to Appear was issued to dog owner. Hair samples from the dogs and fences were collected and DNA samples sent to a lab in Missoula. This case is active and will most likely go to trial due to a large amount of death and destruction to the sheep herd.

Other investigations involved a stolen Palomino gelding in Flathead County; the gelding was recovered and returned to the owner - no charges. Also investigated were six cases of illegally imported livestock in which the animals were quarantined, tested; a citation was served.

Employee duties: After the retirement of Tom Harmon, Ernie McCaffree took over District 15 duties beginning November 1, 2015. This area consists of Lake, Lincoln, Sanders, and Flathead Counties.

Animal abuse/neglect: Ernie assisted Ted Wall LS-525, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, and Granite County Sheriff's Office concerning complaints of several concerned citizens calls and reports on starving cattle in those two counties. Cattle were owned by the same person and a Scottish Highlander herd of cattle owned by the suspect were being neglected. This animal cruelty case is ongoing.

Alternative Livestock: Alternative livestock saw some activity with the close-out of an alternative livestock ranch in Fergus County. The suspect forfeited his ranch license and was ordered to depopulate all elk from the ranch for multiple violations of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Department of Livestock (DOL) game ranch laws. The majority of elk were sent to slaughter to Lower Valley processing in Kalispell. The DOL hauled the last shipment in November 2015.

Field Report Metric FY2016	
Miles Driven	28618
Cattle Inspections	432
Horse Lifetime Inspections	192
Horse Annual	235
Estrays	102
Truck Stops	10
NTA	1
W/T	8
Felony	2

Table 35. Field Report

International Equine Exports: Several compliance inspections of Bouvry Exports feedlot in Shelby, Montana were completed this fiscal year. This facility is a slaughter horse feedlot regulated and inspected for compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Bouvry Exports and the DOL.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

FIELD REPORTS

Eastern Area—Travis Elings, Area Manager



Inspections: The eastern area was busy helping local producers clear up cattle issues; inspecting animals at the fairs, and checking birds for avian influenza. Trailer seals had to be broken on a number of trailers coming out of the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA). The owners had a suspect brucellosis positive cow; cattle were counted. All tests were negative.

Conferences: Shawn Hando, Ty Thomas, Leslie Doley, and Travis Elings travelled to Reno, Nevada for the Western States Investigators Meeting; highlights included presentations on cellphone investigation and effective report writing.

Investigations: The eastern area investigators dealt with time-consuming investigations in Decker regarding possible stolen cattle, a criminal case in Sidney, a complex investigation in Glendive with evidence dating back to 1998, and a roping producer hauling M-branded cattle without the proper health paper work. Elings worked on rodeo bull, seasonal grazer, veterinarian noncompliance, and falsified registration papers on a horse at Billings Livestock Sales (BLS). Other investigations included horse traders in Billings and Worden; a South Dakota trader operating without health certificates, bogus registration papers for horses coming from Wyoming, and suspiciously large numbers of horses leaving the state for sale bypassing BLS (regularly one of the largest livestock sales around).

Tempers flared and a show of weapons ensued regarding a tribal horse (reservation outside of Havre) allegedly being stolen. In the end, Travis Elings, Tyler Thomas, Mark Simenson, and Monty Simenson successfully deflated the situation.

Special Events: Throughout this fiscal year, the eastern area worked the NILE, livestock sales in Mile City, Billings, and Public Auction Yards (PAYS); worked cattle in Sidney due to a civil action requiring court-ordered state investigators; and helped with the local bull tests on out-of-state and Canadian cattle. Some of these events had limited staff and dealt with large numbers of livestock.

Brand Issues/strays: There was much activity for the eastern area gathering stray cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs in Worden, Bridger, Park City, Roundup, Billings, Warren, Broadus, and on the Wyoming line. Some of these situations involved the Sheriff's Office and the Highway Patrol and are ongoing.

Some stray horses running at large were picked up and sold; one owner surfaced to reclaim his horses. No repercussions to the department ensued.

Animal abuse/neglect: During fiscal year 2016, numerous abuse/neglect calls came in from a variety of counties and included reports of starving and/or neglected horses and cattle. The eastern area staff assisted Sheriffs' Offices on a regular basis and investigations on these situations take time and are ongoing.

Field Report Metric FY2016	
Miles Driven	28302
Cattle Inspections	672
Horse Lifetime Inspections	58
Horse Annual	44
Estrays	42
Truck Stops	68
Misdemeanors	7
Warnings	12
Felony	5

Table 36. Field Report

Employee duties: Elings assumed many extra responsibilities during a time of continued position vacancies in Glasgow, Miles City, Glendive, Billings, and Roundup along with employee retirements, division reorganization, and management changes.

LOOKING FORWARD

Long-Term Outlook Martin Zaluski, DVM

As I look in the crystal ball, I see some common themes. Our number one challenge continues to be the expanding geographical range of brucellosis infected wildlife. Without better tools, the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) for brucellosis will grow. Fortunately, DSA producers continue testing cattle at a high level which ensures that states buying Montana cattle can do so with confidence that the animals are brucellosis free.

The legislature meets in January 2017, and we're anticipating that General Fund, which covers Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) testing, will be difficult to come by. Those funds (\$800K/yr.) help DSA producers offset testing costs; however, the greatest benefactors of the DSA are the producers who operate outside the DSA. Currently, 95% of Montana producers can export cattle without any brucellosis testing because of DSA producers' compliance with rigorous DSA requirements. These efforts are critical to maintain the confidence in the disease-free status of exported cattle.



Figure: 37. Elk

We continue to move toward electronic health records. With numerous options available, veterinarians are able to find the digital solution that best fits their practice. Electronic movement and identification data helps improve data accuracy, availability, and allows us to meet federal requirements. This coming year, we plan on offering several more seminars on the use of PDF files and other digital options to take the place of paper forms.

In this coming year, we will continue to focus on trichomoniasis, and will renew our focus on Johne's. Johne's seems to be on an increase and the impact can be especially harmful to seedstock operations.

We look forward to the challenges of this coming year. Don't hesitate to contact me for whatever reason at 406/444-2043, mzaluski@mt.gov.



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