StockQuotes Animal Health Newsletter

Sep 2010

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

Volume 3, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events:

- **Board of Livestock:** Sep 30—Oct 1, 2010
- **MDOL 125th Anniversary Celebration** Oct 1, 2010
- **Deputy Veterinarian Training and Trichomoniasis Certification: Helena** Oct 4, 2010

State Veterinarian Update

Over the last several months, I and several other state veterinarians participated in a working group that was asked to draft traceability regulations impacting interstate livestock movement. Based on experience with the previously proposed animal ID system, this is no small task, but please read more on this issue in the traceability column.

MDOL submitted two sets of formal comments on issues critical to brucellosis management in the state. In response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on bison vaccination within Yellowstone National Park, MDOL strongly recommended implementing the most comprehensive vaccination alternative. MDOL also submitted comments on the "select agent" list of potential bioterrorism agents. More on this in the brucellosis section.

In other news, we're finally updating our animal health management system. The current system, written in DOS several decades ago, had numerous limitations including the fact that programmers proficient in the coding language have long since retired (or deceased). The new system, USAHerds, is web-browser based and will be used to manage import permitting as well as the variety of Animal Health licensing programs. The software has already been adopted by several other states so we should have good support and ongoing development for the foreseeable future. The new system should be in place by the end of the calendar year so please bear with us during the first few months of 2011 while we make the transition. Hopefully you will notice a positive difference.

Lastly, MDOL is gearing up for its 125th anniversary. Being the oldest law enforcement agency in the state, we have much to celebrate. If you have suggestions, or experiences with the MDOL over the years that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. ¤

mz

Laboratory Corner

Whether a diagnostic sample is submitted for brucellosis, rabies, plague, or foot and mouth disease, the result will have dramatic implications on case management. When you receive a laboratory result, how are you, regulatory officials or the general public assured that a laboratory result is accurate?

The simple answer is laboratory accreditation. Prior to submitting your samples from your clients' animals, check to ensure the laboratory has the necessary accreditation. Obtaining accreditation by an independent, professionally recognized organization has become common place for many institutions and is now essential and expected for most institutions in the medical and veterinary profession.

Accreditation represents an audit of an institution to determine if that institution is meeting comparative professional standards. Achieving accreditation provides assurances to those utilizing the laboratory services that the institution has a competent staff, established quality assurance, control procedures, testing procedures and facilities that are meeting professional standards.

Accreditation differs from "proficiency testing" which provides a measure of accuracy of results on a given test, but does not provide a systems wide assessment of the facility, staff qualifications, and how a test is performed in the scope of other laboratory operations.

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) is an internationally recognized accreditation body for veterinary diagnostic laboratories. The MVDL is one of 37 state, provincial and university veterinary diagnostic laboratory systems that are accredited by the AAVLD. ¤

By Bill Layton, DVM

Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Brucellosis

Map of Hebgen Lake area outside of West Yellowstone, MT.

Source: http://tinyurl.com/2cfntmn

Interagency Bison Management Plan:

In addition to submitting comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on brucellosis vaccination of bison within Yellowstone National Park, MDOL also commented on the select agent rule. Select agent regulations, enacted in 1996 and revised in 2001, are designed to prevent listed agents from being acquired by terrorists. These regulations help secure and limit access to high consequence organisms such as plague, tularemia, smallpox, and others.

Unfortunately, the same restrictions apply to other agents which pose a much smaller threat to homeland security, such as *Brucella abortus*. In fact, MDOL's written comments suggested that the select agent designation for *B. abortus* serves counter to the goals of national security program because it; 1) prevents the development of novel therapies and vaccines, and 2) does little to prevent the illicit acquisition of the organism as it can be obtained from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

In addition to requesting the removal of *B. abortus* from the select agent list, MDOL suggests that a tiered regulatory system is most appropriate. A tiered list would allow for the categorization of biological agents based on public health, agricultural, and other homeland security concerns while creating regulatory restrictions and oversight commensurate to the perceived threat.

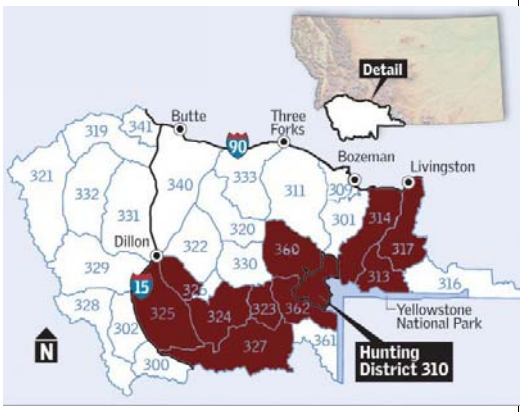
Designated Surveillance Area by the Numbers:

We've previously written about the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and some of the associated testing requirements. However, it also may be informative to share progress on herd plans and herd mitigation efforts in the area.

At nearly 3.5 million acres, the DSA includes 3.6% of the land area of the state and includes nearly 205 operations. As of late August, 109 DSA producers are participating in a herd plan (completed or pending). Four producers have opted out of developing or signing a Herd Plan and will test annually as per the Official Order.

Results of Brucellosis Surveillance in Elk:

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has nearly completed its elk surveillance report from the 2009 hunting season. Over the last several years, brucellosis positive elk (either by serology or positive tissue culture) have been detected in hunting districts (HD) 313, 314, 317, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 360, and 362 (see map below – please note that while the entirety of the hunting districts are shaded, the disease is not evenly distributed, and may be limited to elk herd units within the HD).



While we continue to improve our knowledge of the extent of the disease in elk, the number of samples submitted by hunters in 2009 was approximately half that of the previous year.

Current surveillance methods have produced 20 or fewer samples over the last two years in many hunting districts where this information is of high importance to help determine areas where livestock producers need to engage in risk mitigation activities. We've recently had discussions with FWP on a long-range surveillance plan that would augment the hunter submitted sampling in these areas. This plan may include helicopter capture, and location collaring, with annual recapture.

As I've been recently reminded by Dr. Kammy Johnson (USDA APHIS), surveillance efforts are undertaken to stimulate subsequent action. Livestock risk mitigation efforts are part of this response, as are discussions of long range management of Greater Yellowstone Area elk populations. ¤ mz

Traceability

Successful traceability depends on the identification of individual animals at a physical location at a point in time. This information is captured during official calfhood vaccination and during official testing. Both the vaccination certificate and the test chart list the individual animals, the date of the activity, and the address of the owner.

Traceability "performance standards" for state traceability programs were described in the previous edition of this newsletter. These evaluation criteria fall into one of two categories; 1) the ability to trace animals that have moved out of Montana (where animals were tagged and location from which they were exported) and, 2) the ability to trace animals that have moved into Montana (the state where the animals were initially identified and the state from which the animals shipped).

In a recent pilot exercise measuring how long it took Montana to fulfill the four performance standards, fifteen Montana tags (state code 81) were randomly pulled from a federal database after they left the state. Similarly, 15 tags from other states that had a test record in Montana were randomly selected.

MDOL relied on official calfhood vaccination certificates, test charts, health certificates, and clinic records. Additionally, MDOL used the federal database of official disease activity (OCV, Brucellosis testing, TB testing), the Montana import permit system, backtags, market clearance forms, producer records, and the Montana brand database.

What rapidly became apparent is that the process of tracing a tag using our currently available system is time consuming, inefficient, and cannot be scaled to a rapidly developing incident. A large amount of incomplete data must be sifted through both in the electronic and paper format to gather information on individual animals. Some of the key lessons learned from this exercise that apply directly to accredited veterinarians are:

* The submission of complete and correctly filled out vaccination certificates, test charts, and health certificates is critical to any traceability system.
* The use of the Montana Import Permit System provides consistent and easily searchable traceability information on animals entering Montana.
* Without the submission of health certificates from accredited veterinarians, our body of information on animals leaving Montana is non-existent.
* The use of electronic forms greatly improves access to traceability data.
* Accurate clinic records serve as a valuable tool for animal health officials to use during traceback activities.

MDOL encourages the state's accredited veterinarians to consider their role in traceability. A timely example of a traceability policy that may have an impact on your daily practice is the European Union's new policy affecting countries that export horse meat to the EU and the affect this has on US origin animals destined for slaughter in other countries. The policy is intended to eliminate drug residues from horse meat and encompasses a list of banned substances as well as an owner affidavit listing all medications, vaccinations, and deworming products that an animal has received. All of the information will be included on an Equine Identification Document that will be necessary before these animals can be exported.

MDOL is eager to discuss how to best move forward to ensure that Montana has an effective system that is workable for everyone involved in the livestock industry. A Montana traceability working group has been started that will hold monthly conference calls (next call scheduled for Sep 27th) to keep all interested parties informed on the issue and to obtain constructive feedback from participants. If you are interested in participating in these calls or in learning more about the use of electronic forms in your practice, please contact Dr. Tahnee Szymanski at tszymanski@mt.gov or at (406)444-5214.

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Rabies

Source: http://tinyurl.com/246xk3r

Rabies has been confirmed in a number of counties in 2010 as follows; Cascade (2 bats), Gallatin (3 bats), Lewis and Clark (2 bats), Missoula (1 bat), Teton (1 bat), Treasure (1 skunk, 1 bat), Yellowstone (1 horse, 1 skunk, 2 bats). We have current county quarantines on Yellowstone and Rosebud Counties . These will expire Oct 10th and Nov 15th, respectively, if no additional cases of rabies are confirmed.

There are likely to be a couple changes to the rabies program in the upcoming months. First is the topic of county quarantines. As you may know MDOL has made the policy to quarantine counties based on detections of rabies in terrestrial animals (wild skunks, companion animals), but rabies in bats has not triggered a county quarantine.

However, detection of rabies in any species offers an opportunity for increased outreach and education regarding public health and rabies vaccination compliance. Further, repeated detections in wildlife suggest that a population is endemic for this disease and therefore in the future, you are likely to see MDOL quarantining counties based on confirmations of rabies in terrestrial animals as well as bats.

Second, we've been having some internal discussions regarding the 45 day recommendation by the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention. For current vaccinates, the compendium recommends immediate re-vaccination and close observation of the cat or dog following exposure to an animal that is rabid or suspected to be rabid. While we have previously interpreted this to mean that the dog or cat needs to be on a 45 day quarantine, current information suggests that this can be left to the owner's discretion rather than a formal quarantine administered by MDOL.

Both of the above changes are likely to happen in early 2011, and MDOL is working with several counties and will bring this topic to the small animal committee of the Montana Veterinary Medical Association at an upcoming meeting. If you have suggestions, comments or concerns please don't hesitate to contact Drs. Rankin or Zaluski. ¤

By Drs. Rankin and Zaluski

Reportable Diseases

As you know, disease reporting is a duty of Deputy Veterinarians, and MDOL has an extensive list of diseases that are reportable either immediately, or within 30 days. This list is codified in Administrative Rule 32.3.104 and lists important diseases for all animal species.

I'm concerned that a number of the listed diseases are so routine that practicing veterinarians tend to ignore the reporting requirement and, therefore, MDOL would like to review this list to remove agents that are not relevant or frequently found in the Montana animal population. Diseases that may be appropriate for removal for equine include equine influenza and equine rhinopneumonitis (non EHV-1 neurologic); for cattle include IBR, BVD, leptospirosis, leukosis and possibly Johne's. As we have access to laboratory results, it may also be worthwhile to create a list of laboratory confirmed diseases for which veterinary reporting would only be necessary if an out of state laboratory is used.

Please refer to the insert in this newsletter to familiarize yourself with the current reportable diseases. However, I'd like to hear from you regarding which diseases you think are important to report and which you'd like to see dropped.

From the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), we have the following positive tests for calendar year 2010 (please note that this is an incomplete list and that a positive test does not necessarily reflect a positive animal):

Cattle / Bison:

* Anaplasmosis (ELISA): 32 bison and 32 bovine
* Blue Tongue (ELISA): 44 bison and 100 bovine
* Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease: 46 bovine and 26 bison
* Paratuberculosis (ELISA): 31 bovine

Sheep / Goats:

* Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis: 2 goats
* Brucella ovis: 1 sheep;
* Ovine Progressive Pneumonia: 14 total
* Paratuberculosis (ELISA): 1 goat

Equine:

* EIA: 2 equine

Small animal:

* Heartworm (ELISA): 3 canine

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USDA Corner:

Canadian Import Restrictions, New Tuberculin Packaging, Veterinary Accreditation Program

NEW USDA-APHIS-VS User Fee Increases
Effective October 1, 2010, User Fees will increase for APHIS services, including those for the import and export of live animals, animal products and animal by-products.

Starting October 1, 2010, the following will be the User Fees associated with reviewing and endorsing the most common Health Certificates for animal exports:

- Non-slaughter horses to Canada = $57.00 (Individual horse on VS Form 17-145)
- Non-slaughter horses to Canada = $57.00 (1st animal) and $6.50 (for each additional animal). (Multiple horses for Permanent Export on VS Form 17-140)
- 1-2 Tests or Vaccinations = $114.00 (1st animal) and $6.50 (for each additional animal);
- 3-6 Tests or Vaccinations = $141.00 (1st animal) and $11.00 (for each additional animal);
- 7 or more Tests or Vaccinations = $163.00 (1st animal) and $13.00 (for each additional animal);
- Dog/Cat Health certificates with only a rabies vaccination to verify = $36.00 (per certificate)
- Dog/Cat Certificates with Rabies Titer to verify = $114.00 (1st animal) and $6.50 (for each additional animal).

For more information, please contact the Montana USDA-APHIS-VS Office (406-449-2220) or access the following web links:

- **Increase Cost of User Fees-** http://tinyurl.com/39v55l4
- **9CFR 130.2 User Fees-** http://tinyurl.com/2fuajld

Vesicular stomatitis quarantines released in Arizona
On July 23, Arizona was removed from VSV -positive state status by having completed a 21-day countdown since the release of the last positive premises with no additional cases identified. Currently, there are no VSV-positive premises under quarantine in the U.S.

Effective July 28, 2010, Canada removed its VSV-related import restrictions on equines from the state of Arizona. Equines from the state of Arizona can now be imported into Canada. Please note that Canada still requires the CEM-related certification statements for all horses and a CFIA-issued import permit and the following Equine Piroplasmosis-related certification statements and testing for horses originating from Texas and New Mexico:

- The animal(s) was(were) inspected by a veterinarian within 15 days prior to export;
- The animal(s) was(were) inspected for ticks and if necessary treated for ticks at the time of inspection;
- The animal(s) has(have) not been on a premises where Equine Piroplasmosis (clinical or serology) has occurred during the 60 days immediately prior to export, nor has this disease occurred on any adjoining premises during the same period of time; and
- The animal(s) has(have) tested negative to Equine Piroplasmosis using cELISA test during the 15 days prior to export.

National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) Update – September 2010
The NVAP staff received a tremendous response from accredited veterinarians submitting their VS 1-36A applications to elect to participate in the National Veterinary Accreditation Program. If you have already submitted your Form 1-36A, your application is being processed. Even though you have not received confirmation, your accreditation is not going to expire and you may continue to do the important work your accreditation authorizes you to do. The processing of all applications may take until May 2011.

The NVAP staff recently learned from recent visits to the AVMA, AABP, and Central Veterinary Conference meetings that many accredited veterinarians have either still not heard about the new accreditation regulations, or heard something about the regulations but inadvertently let the August 2nd deadline come and go. It is important

(Continued on page 6)

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We're on the Web:
www.liv.mt.gov

USDA *(cont'd)*

(Continued from page 5)
that we not lose these veterinarians from our roster. The services you provide your communities and USDA are vital to local and global commerce.

If you are an accredited veterinarian and you have not yet notified the NVAP that you wish to retain your accreditation, you must submit an application to us. Please visit the following web site for information regarding the NVAP and to view a brief **WEBINAR** that explains the process:

- National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP)
  http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/

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By Thomas Linfield, DVM,
APHIS Area Veterinarian in Charge

Shipping Issues

The Helena office occasionally receives misrouted laboratory samples such as blood or trich pouches that should have been addressed to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory. We try not to open these packages and promptly forward them to the lab, but it's still possible that the submission will not be diagnostic.

MDOL is also incurring additional shipping charges due to requests for overnight shipping and correspondence with postage due (under-stamped). While we have been covering these shipping cost in the past, we plan to charge the veterinarian's account for these costs starting in 2011.

By correctly directing specimens to the diagnostic laboratory, planning ahead to ensure timely delivery of supplies, and affixing appropriate postage, I hope you and your staff can help us avoid these shipping issues in the future. ¤

By Evaleen Starkel

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Montana Reportable Animal Diseases

Report to STATE Officials within 30 days:

MULTIPLE SPECIES:
Campylobacteriosis*
Cryptosporidiosis*
Echinococcosis/hydatidosis*
Heartworm
Leishmaniasis*
Leptospirosis*
Listeriosis*
Paratuberculosis (Johne's Disease)
Salmonellosis*
Trichinellosis*

CATTLE/BISON:
Bovine anaplasmosis
Bovine cysticercosis*
Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
Bovine viral diarrhea
Dermatophilosis (*Dermatophilus congolensis*)
Enzootic bovine leukosis
Hemorrhagic septicemia (*Pasteurella multocida*)
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/ infectious pustular vulvovaginitis

EQUINE:
Epizootic lymphangitis
Equine rhinopneumonitis
Equine influenza
Horse mange
Horse pox
Potomac Horse Fever

SHEEP/GOATS:
Caprine arthritis/encephalitis
Enzootic abortion of ewes (Ovine chlamydiosis)
Ovine epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*)
Ovine progressive pneumonia/Maedi -Visna
Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis
Salmonellosis (*S. abortosovis*)

SWINE:
Atrophic rhinitis of swine
Porcine cysticercosis* (*Cysticercus cellulosae*)
Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
Transmissible gastroenteritis

AVIAN/POULTRY:
Avian chlamydiosis* (Psittacosis)
Avian infectious bronchitis
Avian infectious laryngotracheitis
Avian mycoplasmosis (*M. gallisepticum, M. synoviae*)
Duck virus enteritis
Duck virus hepatitis
Fowl cholera
Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)
Marek's disease
Turkey rhinotracheitis (Avian pneumovirus)

LAGOMORPHS:
Myxomatosis

AQUACULTURE:
Epizootic hematopoietic necrosis
Epizootic ulcerative syndrome
Gyrocactylosis
Infectious hematopoietic necrosis
Infectious salmon anemia
Koi herpesvirus disease
Oncorhynchus masou virus disease
Red Sea bream iridoviral disease
Spring viremia of carp

Zoonotic disease*

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Dr. Thomas F.T. Linfield, AVIC

Montana Reportable Animal Diseases

MCA 81-2-107 Duty to Report Contagious Disease "A person, including the owner or custodian, who has reason to suspect the existence of a dangerous, infections, contagious, or communicable disease in livestock or the presence of animals exposed to the disease in this state shall immediately give notice to the department."

IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS and QUARANTINE:

ARM 32.3.104 Diseases or conditions requiring reporting and quarantine.

Acute swine erysipelas
African horse sickness
African swine fever
Avian influenza
- **High pathogenic (Fowl Plague)***
- Low pathogenic

Bovine babesiosis
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy*
Brucellosis* (*Brucella abortus, B. melitenses, B. suis, B. canis)
Cattle fever tick (*Boophilus annulatus, B. microplus*)
Chronic wasting disease
Classical swine fever (Hog cholera)
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (*Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides*)
Contagious equine metritis
Dourine (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*)
Equine encephalomyelitis* (EEE, WEE, VEE)
Equine infectious anemia
Equine piroplasmosis
Exotic Newcastle disease*
Foot and mouth disease
Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)
Glanders* (*Burkholderia mallei*)
Heartwater (*Cowdria ruminantium*)
Japanese encephalitis*
Lumpy skin disease
Malignant catarrhal fever
Mange (*Sarcoptes scabiei, Psoroptes sp*. or *Chorioptes sp*.)
Nairobi sheep disease
New and Old World Screwworm
Nipah virus encephalitis*
Peste des petits ruminants
Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's disease)
Rabbit hemorrhagic disease
Rift Valley fever*
Rinderpest
Scrapie
Sheep pox and goat pox
Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)
Swine influenza (H1N1)
Swine vesicular disease
Trypanosomosis (Tse-tse borne)
Tuberculosis* (*Mycobacterium bovis*)
Vesicular exanthema
Vesicular stomatitis
Viral hemorrhagic septicemia

IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY STATE OFFICIALS and QUARANTINE:
(These diseases are not Federally reportable)

ARM 32.3.104 Diseases or conditions requiring reporting and quarantine.

Anthrax*
Bluetongue
Contagious agalactia (*Mycoplasma spp*)
Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
Contagious foot rot
Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever
Equine viral arteritis
Equine rhinopneumonitis, neurologic form (EHV-1)
Ovine pediculosis
Plague* (*Yersinia pestis*)
Pullorum disease (*S. pullorum*)
Q-Fever* (*Coxiella burnettii*)
Rabies*
Theileriosis
Trichomonosis
Tularemia*
West Nile virus*

Zoonotic disease*

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