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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

63rd Montana Legislature Convenes
January 7

Veterinary Deputy Accreditation Seminars, Helena
January 10, March 28
June 20, September 19

Montana Board of Livestock
January 14-15

MVMA Winter meeting
January 25-26

Western States Livestock Health Association
March 20-21

StockQuotes Animal Health Newsletter

<http://liv.mt.gov/ah/newsletter>

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

Volume 5, Issue 4

State Veterinarian Notes

Best wishes for the holiday season. In addition to the standing topics from the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, USDA, and trichomoniasis, this StockQuotes issue covers significant changes to the 6 month Horse Passport program. If you're a veterinarian that issued one of the 150 Horse Passports in 2012, documentation requirements are significantly increased.

Also, please see the brucellosis column for rule changes that are being proposed based on our brucellosis program audit. I realize that it's a challenge to keep up with rule drafts and appreciate you fitting a review into your busy schedule. While it may seem cumbersome, rulemaking provides a consistent process of updating regulations while allowing for public input. Without your efforts, our rules would be either outdated or even worse, miss the mark. Rules that may receive updates in the next few months include trichomoniasis, CWD and traceability.

Dr. Szymanski writes about the Authorized Testing Agent program which certifies laypersons to sample poultry for NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) compliance. As of September, MDOL has trained 15 Testing Agents that help ensure that poultry shipped from MT is pullorum-typhoid free.

We continue to update the website so it contains information that is current and may be of interest. We recently updated the webpage with contacts for state veterinarians for other states, current Trichomoniasis case information, and state cumulative trichomoniasis test data by year. Rabies case information by county is also available. (Thanks Leslie Doely for her efforts to keep our site current). If you have any suggestions for improvement of the site, please don't hesitate to email me or call at 406/444-2043. ✉ mz

LATE BREAKING: As this issue was heading to print, USDA announced that the publication of the much anticipated Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule will take place on December 28. Please see the USDA column for details. ✉

Changes to 6 Month Horse Passports

Equine passports (6moHP) are extended health certificates that allow frequent equine travelers easier movement between several western states. Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington issue 6moHP. Additionally, the passports are accepted in California.

The 6moHP provide convenience for frequent travelers who can attend the entire summer's events on one health inspection. Owners are obligated to submit a completed itinerary at the end of the season; however, this requirement has not been consistently enforced, and subsequently compliance has been inadequate. To put it another way, the program provides leniency for health certification for a population of equines that are most likely to be exposed and spread communicable diseases, but information on travel history is not available.

Therefore, we're making a number of changes to the program that may affect the ability of owners to obtain these certificates in 2013 and 2014. These include:

1. Prior to approving the 6moHP, the state veterinarian office must receive the intended itinerary, including dates and physical address of the destinations during the six month period.
2. Montana will require a lifetime brand inspection on the horse prior to approving a 6moHP (for Montana horses, and from other participating states).
3. A completed (corrected) itinerary must be submitted to the state veterinarian's office at the end of the season, but no later than the end of calendar year.
4. 6moHP will be issued to horse owners by the animal health office of their state of residence.
5. In the case of a contagious disease event, these passports may be canceled by any of the receiving states.

Horse owners that are not able to comply with these requirements will not receive 6 mo HP in the future. These changes are essential to maintain the 6moHP program and I appreciate you communicating these changes to your clients. ✉ mz

Brucellosis Update

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES: I discussed the recent DSA brucellosis program audit in the last issue. We expect the final report from USDA to be made available any day, and we'll be putting it up on the web-site.

MDOL is proposing a couple of changes to Administrative Rule 32.4.435: TESTING WITHIN THE DSA based on the findings of the audit report. 1) We're clarifying that DSA cattle being sold for slaughter be tested before transport. With dramatic reductions in MCI (slaughter) testing nationally, we can no longer depend on this program to identify affected herds; therefore, we must test cattle prior to shipment. 2) Also, any DSA origin cattle regardless of age sold for breeding purposes will need to be tested before sale. This not only addresses a recommendation from the brucellosis program audit, but also mitigates the small but real risk that brucellosis-infected calves are sold for breeding prior to reaching "test eligible" age. For reference, one brucellosis reactor in a recently affected herd was a nine month old bull. Wyoming has a similar requirement already in place.

These rule changes are open for public comment through January 22nd.

BISON TESTING: Two domestic bison herds remain under quarantine for brucellosis. Both are located in the DSA, and continue herd testing.

The Yellowstone National Park (YNP) origin bison that are part of the Bison Quarantine Feasibility Study continue to test negative. This speaks well for the study design, and for the potential of a full scale operational quarantine (as opposed to a pilot project) sometime in the future.

IBMP PROPOSALS: As you're likely aware, MDOL and the Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) are conducting an environmental review for additional tolerance of YNP bison in the state of Montana. Under this plan, male and female bison would be permitted to occupy additional area near West Yellowstone year-round, and male bison would be given the ability to occupy the tolerance area north of Gardiner year-round. The draft environmental assessment (EA) is being drafted and should be open for public comment later this spring. ☞ mz

RB-51 Occupational Exposure Survey

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is interested in learning of any adverse health events after accidental exposure to RB51 brucellosis vaccine. The data collected will help develop targeted prevention efforts aimed at decreasing high-risk exposures to RB51 vaccine and any associated health consequences.

The RB51 vaccine was conditionally licensed for use in cattle in 1996 and fully licensed in 2003. RB51 was developed to replace Strain 19; in part because cattle vaccinated with Strain 19 would give false positive tests results on brucellosis surveillance tests while RB51 does not result in the development of cross reacting antibodies. Although Strain 19 has been reported to cause brucellosis after accidental human exposure, the safety of the RB51 vaccine in humans following exposure remains largely undefined.

One study published in 2004 describes the accidental exposure of 26 individuals to RB51 either by needle stick injury (21 people) or spray exposure (5 people). At least one systemic symptom was reported in 19 of the individuals. There was no evidence that any of the individuals developed brucellosis. However the authors caution against concluding too much from such a small number of cases.

In Montana approximately 200,000 RB51 vaccinations are given to cattle each year. One survey of needle stick exposures among veterinarians found a needle stick frequency rate of 1 needle stick per 1000 injections. If Montana veterinarians have a similar needle stick frequency, one would expect as many as 200 accidental inoculations of RB51 each year.

An on-line, anonymous survey has been developed for Montana veterinarians to provide information to DPHHS regarding their accidental exposures to RB51. This survey has already been deployed in Wyoming and will soon be in Idaho. The survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RB51Survey>. A paper copy of the survey can also be mailed to you by contacting Randall Nett at 406-444-5917 or RNett@mt.gov. ☞

Adapted from the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory Newsletter, Volume 14, Issue 1.



Trichomoniasis Outbreak Investigation Wrap-up

It's been a full year since MDOL began its investigation of a trichomoniasis outbreak in central Montana. Ten positive herds have been identified and over 100 adjacent herds have been required to test bulls. MDOL has worked with local producers and veterinarians to learn from the investigation and to shape future trich policy in Montana.

As the investigation nears its end, it is worthwhile to discuss key points that came up in the discussion of how to better improve our response to a positive trichomoniasis test.

COMMUNICATION: In this investigation, MDOL established an email list with all involved veterinarians and was able to send out regular updates regarding the progress of testing and epidemiological links. By establishing a direct line of contact between our office and the local veterinarians involved in an investigation, pertinent details of the investigation are more readily obtained, neighbor notification is more complete, and accurate information is more readily available to producers in the area. This process evolved over the course of the investigation and MDOL will continue to use this approach in future investigations.

NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION: When MDOL makes contact with the affected producer for the first time, we gather information on where the affected bulls were during the previous breeding season and what herds either ran in common or adjacent to the affected animals. In addition to information provided by the affected producer, MDOL gathers information from brands personnel and local veterinarians. MDOL provides a phone-call to all adjacent producers within 24 hours of us becoming aware of their link to the investigation. We understand that it's important to identify all adjacent herds in a timely manner, but sometimes this information takes longer to collect than MDOL or the affected producers are pleased with. MDOL will continue to work to improve our approach to the identification of adjacent herds but we recognize that information is not always forthcoming, and therefore, there will continue to be limitations to how efficiently we are able to do so.

MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS: When a herd is initially diagnosed with trichomoniasis, the herd is quarantined. This quarantine applies

to all non-virgin bulls and all females over 12 months of age that are open or less than 120 days bred. The quarantine is lifted when the entire bull battery completes three negative weekly individual PCR tests, however, market restrictions remain in place for open cows and cows less than 120 days bred. These animals when presented for sale at a Montana livestock market are restricted to slaughter channels only.

Once the quarantine is lifted, animals from the affected herd can move freely within the production system. During the Fergus County outbreak, this became a concern to many producers who felt that there should be continued restrictions on the movement of those animals that we classify as higher risk. Specifically, it has been suggested that affected producers who choose to retain open or late bred animals in their production system should not be allowed to take those animals to grass and run in common or adjacent to other producers.

MORE CHANGES: MDOL continues to receive regular feedback on the management of trich, including two resolutions presented at the Montana Stockgrowers Association Annual Convention proposing changes to current regulations. The first resolution addresses the movement of higher risk animals from positive herds as discussed above. The resolution would require open cows from positive herds to be consigned to slaughter channels. If an affected herd owner chooses to retain ownership of these higher risk animals, they would be required to sign a herd health plan that outlines best management practices, neighbor notification, and protection of neighboring cattle.

The second resolution seeks to tighten-up statewide requirements that were relaxed in 2011 following feedback from industry. Similar to 2011 trich regulations, this resolution specifies that all non-virgin bulls sold at market must be designated for slaughter channels only. This resolution does not allow for a negative test to change sale designation, which is more restrictive than the 2011 regulations, but would require less department oversight. Look for more information on this topic and a potential rule change in the upcoming months. ✕

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM



Trichomoniasis tags changed to ORANGE on Sept 1st.

*Color schedule is as follows:
 Sep 1, 2012 - Tag color changed to Orange
 Sep 1, 2013 - Tag color changes to Blue
 Sep 1, 2014 - Tag color changes to Yellow
 Sep 1, 2015 - Tag color changes to Green
 Sep 1, 2016 - Tag color changes to White
 Sep 1, 2017 - Tag color repeats (Orange)*



Quality Management in the Vet Diagnostic Lab

It's important to you that test results and diagnostic reports you receive from the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory are accurate. In addition to providing client service through a wide range of testing procedures, these results have a significant impact on the livestock industry and public health.

Therefore, a critical component of the laboratory is our Quality Management System – which ensures consistency, efficiency, and accuracy to maintain the trust and satisfaction of our clients. In a laboratory such as ours that performs a wide variety of tests, this takes many different forms.

As a pathologist, I'll start with pathology reports. The pathologists meet frequently to review and discuss complicated cases, and every two weeks, several cases from each pathologist are selected for thorough review. The three of us (Drs. Layton, Marshall, and Smith) examine all of the associated case material including histories, histology slides, ancillary testing results, and final reports, to make sure that there is agreement on diagnoses and to re-check reports for errors and omissions. In the rare instance that there is disagreement on a diagnosis, we perform ancillary testing or obtain additional opinions by referring the case out.

In other laboratory sections, quality management can include regular analysis of "check samples" to ensure that accurate results are being obtained, calibration and maintenance of equipment, and documentation of variances from expected results. This allows for trend analysis and continual improvement in efficiency and in the accuracy and trustworthiness of the tests we perform. The Quality System even applies to testing that is not performed in-house; we make every effort to only refer testing to reputable laboratories that use validated testing methods.

Quality management also has multiple levels; our system is reviewed and evaluated for completeness and efficacy through the AAVLD (American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians) laboratory accreditation program.

The Quality Management System builds confidence in our reports and test results with you – our clients, and helps us continually become a better diagnostic laboratory. ✕

By Steve Smith, DVM, Pathologist

USDA COLUMN: Traceability and Vet Accreditation

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY: As this issue of StockQuotes was heading to the printer, USDA gave notice that the much anticipated rule on Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) will be published on December 28th. The ADT rule will establish identification and documentation requirements for some classes of livestock moving interstate. Adult cattle, dairy cattle and cattle destined to show/exhibitions will be required to be identified.

However, Beef cattle under 18 months of age, unless they are moved interstate for shows, exhibitions, rodeos, or recreational events, are exempt from the official identification requirements.

The state of Montana will be carefully reviewing the rule, but based on the media release available on the USDA web site (<http://goo.gl/KRVqP>), there are some significant changes from the requirements that were initially discussed. These include:

- Accepting the use of brands, tattoos and brand registration as official identification when accepted by the shipping and receiving States or Tribes. In the initial proposal, brands were NOT to be considered as official, but could be accepted if animal health officials of export/import states agreed.
- Permanently maintaining the use of backtags as an alternative to official eartags for cattle and bison moved directly to slaughter. In the initial proposal, backtags were to be phased out and not considered official ID.

In another departure from the previous proposals, identification of beef cattle younger than 18 months of age "will be addressed in in separate rulemaking, allowing APHIS to work closely with industry to ensure the effective implementation of the identification requirements," rather than through an expansion of requirements of a single rule. Stay tuned for additional updates by email and future issues of StockQuotes.

VETERINARY ACCREDITATION:

- The "1st wave" of veterinary accreditation renewals is beginning in January 2013. Accredited veterinarians (AV) were assigned a National Accreditation Number (NAN) and an Accreditation Renewal Date (ARD). If you do not know your NAN or ARD, please contact the Veterinary Services Area Office in Helena.



(Continued on page 6)

Computer System at Livestock Markets

Since early 2011, MDOL has been computerizing the traditional paper-based brand inspection system at all 13 markets. While the paper tally has served us well for decades, searching the system was extremely time consuming. For instance, to find all sales of a specific brand, staff had to conduct 26 individual searches - 13 searches (once for each market) under buyers and again 13 searches under sellers. With over 100,000 brand inspections annually, representing 2.6 million animals, such efforts were unsustainable in the face of shrinking budgets and increased expectations of disease programs and national traceability.

Key features of this new electronic system are: 1) entering the owner and animal information at check-in using a hand held computer (same hardware as some veterinarians are using to work cattle with RFID tags), 2) easy look-up of brands from a current and consolidated database including ownership, authorized bill-of-sale signers and any liens and 3) printing out inspections from a computer in seconds versus staying hours after the auction to hand count and re-write paper slips.

This new system allows Montana to better manage existing brand inspections and provides a significant level of animal traceability in case of disease outbreak and/or investigation of theft. Additionally, the computer highlights herds that are linked to trichomoniasis investigations or are required to perform brucellosis testing as part of DSA regulations.

One of the market systems includes a pilot project that allows capturing health information and integrating it with the brand inspection. This allows Dr. Sorensen at Headwaters auction in Three Forks to print Health Certificates from a computer tied into the same system as used by the brand inspectors. A copy of health inspections from this system is automatically sent to the state of destination. At the end of the auction, all of the information (brand and health) is electronically sent to the state office.

This brands software, provided by Fort Supply Technologies (www.fort-supply.com), also allows easier sharing of brands information across state boundaries, thereby helping MDOL to be even more effective in finding lost and stolen cattle.

The system was in place during our recent brucellosis review and we credit it with our high marks in traceability and ability to enforce DSA regulations.

By Malcolm Harvey (Fort Supply Tech) with mz

Screen capture from the brands system output listing consignor, consignee, address, brand and backtag #.

Seller Name	Seller Address	Buyer Name	Buyer Address	Buyer #	Prefix	Backtag	Brand	Location	Color	Sale
AMS*ERDAM HOLSTEINS	MAIHATTAN, MT	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	PO BOX 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MT 59347	1001	81BD	2436	NO BRAND	Hcstein	Live	HT
AMS*ERDAM HOLSTEINS	MAIHATTAN, MT	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	PO BOX 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MI 59347	1001	81BD	2436	NO BRAND	Hcstein	Live	HT
EMERSON, L, UK	2015 WINDY HILL TOWNSEND, MT 59614	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	143 N 1/2 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MT 59347	1001	81BD	3220	RR	Red	Live	HT
RICHARD D	2015 WINDY HILL TOWNSEND, MT 59614	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	PO BOX 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MT 59347	1001	81BD	3220	RR	Red	Live	HT
HARDWAY RANCH	2015 WINDY HILL TOWNSEND, MT 59614	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	PO BOX 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MT 59347	1001	81BD	3220	RR	Black	Live	HT
GALT RANCH LP	RD WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645	THOMPSON CATTLE CO, TY	3205 HWY 87 EAST BILLINGS, MT 59101	1138	81BD	3220	RR	Black	Live	HT
GALT RANCH LP	RD WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645	THOMPSON CATTLE CO, TY	3205 HWY 87 EAST BILLINGS, MT 59101	1138	81BD	3220	RR	Black	Live	HT
BATES, AMBER	MAIHATTAN, MT	THOMPSON CATTLE CO, TY	3205 HWY 87 EAST BILLINGS, MT 59101	1138	81BD	3221	RR	Black	Live	HT
MARK O' DELLA	2015 WINDY HILL TOWNSEND, MT 59614	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	PO BOX 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MI 59347	1001	81BD	3220	RR	Black	Live	HT
MARK O' DELLA	2015 WINDY HILL TOWNSEND, MT 59614	LONG PRAIRIE P&K	PO BOX 148 LONG PRAIRIE, MI 59347	1001	81BD	3220	RR	Black	Live	HT

NPIP Pullorum Testing

MDOL recently held its second Authorized Testing Agent (ATA) session. These sessions train lay persons to complete pullorum-typhoid testing for NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Program) certification, interstate movement, and exhibition. To date, MDOL has certified 15 agents under the new program.

With the new program we have also seen an increase in interest from growers who wish to have their flocks NPIP certified. NPIP certification allows producers to export and move live bird products more easily. If you do not work on poultry, but have producers who have expressed interest, please direct them to MDOL and we can provide them with the name of ATAs in their area. Alternatively if you would

like to work on poultry, feel free to contact our office and we can get you up to speed on performing the agglutination test.

If you know local poultry growers who may be interested in becoming an ATA, or having their flock NPIP certified, MDOL plans to hold another training session in the spring. ATAs are certified for a two year period for a fee of \$50 and receive training on regulations and conducting the test. Per administrative rule (32.3.1504 DISTRIBUTORS), testing agents are not allowed to test their own birds, can not be poultry dealers, and must report all testing information to our office.

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM



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

Staff Corner: Evaleen Starkel



I've had the privilege of working in the Animal Health Division since 1983. Over the years, I learned a lot from several state veterinarians. The biggest challenge has been all the changes in technology. I started as a file clerk, then moved into the import permit office, then as administrative secretary to the state veterinarian. An interesting part of my career was managing the alternative livestock (game farm) program for 8 ½ years and now I help manage the office with Dr. Zaluski.

I love spending time watching the wildlife at our home in the Elkhorn mountains near Clancy and going to church activities with my husband Rick. We've been married 32 years and have two adult boys with families. We thoroughly enjoy our 10 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. We recently rescued two Jack Russell dogs, a new adventure for us that we would highly recommend – the rescue part and the Jack Russell breed! ☺

USDA Corner - ADT and Accreditation (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

- Accreditation can be renewed any time within 6 months prior to your ARD.
- APHIS-Approved Supplemental Training (AAST) modules and dates completed should be listed on the VS Form 1-36A.
- Retain Certificates of Completion for the AAST modules as they may be requested during periodic audits.
- If you perform accredited duties in more than one state, it is only necessary to renew your accreditation in the State in which your business address is located.
- Three veterinary accreditation modules will be offered at the MVMA Winter Meeting in Bozeman, on Thursday, January 24, 2013. For more details please visit: <http://goo.gl/Hy30r>. ☺

By Tom Linfield, DVM and mz

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