



Stock Quotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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

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WHAT'S NEW

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State Veterinarian Notes

With the legislature in the rearview mirror and summer upon us, a number of seasonal updates are in order.

RAW MILK SALES: Following the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 199, sponsored by Senator Greg Hertz (SD6), raw (unpasteurized) milk produced by a 'small dairy' is legal to sell in Montana. The bill defines a small dairy as, "a place where no more than 5 lactating cows, 10 lactating goats, or 10 lactating sheep are kept for producing milk," and permits the sale of raw milk to the public. The bill requires twice yearly milk testing for quality that includes standard plate count, coliform count, and somatic cell count. Annual brucellosis testing is also required. While the bill does not list standards for testing, brucellosis is a regulated test, and as such samples must be collected and submitted to a qualified laboratory by an accredited veterinarian.

If you are working with clients who are operating a raw milk dairy, milk quality test results should be interpreted by a sanitarian, but reference values included in the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) for Grade A Raw Milk (p34: 2019 PMO) may be helpful. At this time, the Montana Board of Livestock has voted to prevent the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) from accepting samples from raw milk dairies. Samples submitted as part of the Grade A milk program and samples for home consumption of milk can still be submitted.

EXTENDED EQUINE HEALTH CERTIFICATES (EECVI): Clients that travel may benefit from the EECVI. The EECVI relies on an initial veterinary inspection / horse owner education session, followed by individual trip permits that the owner self-issues prior to travel. Currently, EECVI trip permits are accepted for interstate travel by over 30 states. More information on the EECVI is on page two. Also see articles on other seasonal topics including Strangles and Vesicular Stomatitis Virus on page four and page six.

NEW TESTS OFFERED BY THE VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY: When MVDL lacks the capability to conduct a particular

test and must therefore, forward samples to another facility, you wait longer for a diagnosis. We are aware that veterinarians may choose to utilize a laboratory that offers a more comprehensive diagnostic panel, and the state of Montana loses valuable surveillance data that helps us monitor disease trends and detect emergent threats.

Fortunately, MVDL keeps adding to their diagnostic suite and is now offering Clostridium perfringens and Mycoplasma PCR, and Equine Virus Arteritis virus neutralization. MVDL will also be adding tests for Giardia, Coxiella, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, and others to provide more rapid turnaround, more reliable results, or both.

Additionally, to better validate the clinical pathology section instruments, MVDL is currently offering free blood chemistry testing on clinically normal animals. The MVDL has also made fee adjustments to eliminate the 50% surcharge for out of state sample submissions, to increase the after-hours carcass receiving fee, and several adjustments to fees for laboratory-provided kits and supplies. See more laboratory info on page three.

MVDL BUILDING: During this year's legislative session, the Department of Livestock received funding for a new laboratory facility! We can't be more pleased to retire the existing 60-year-old facility. The new lab is likely to be built in Bozeman adjacent to the existing facility on land committed by Montana State University, however, the final siting is not yet determined. The funding will be a combination of per-capita funds (per head livestock assessment) and state or federal dollars. What we do know is that the building will be an approximately 34,000 square foot facility and offer more efficient workflow, safer environment for staff, superior biocontainment, and more flexibility for adding needed diagnostic options. We'll share more information regarding location and timeline for construction in future newsletters as this information becomes available. ☒

By Marty Zaluski, DVM

Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

As of January 1, 2019 the Department of Livestock (DOL) stopped accepting paper six-month horse health certificates, also known as an equine passport. The Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) has replaced the equine passport and provides an alternative to the standard 30 day Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). The EECVI, offered through Global Vet Link, can only be issued electronically.

Advantages of the EECVI are:

- EECVIs are valid for six months.
- Horse owners can access and log their movements 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online.
- Movement information is automatically submitted to the state of origin and the state of destination. Therefore, no phone call is needed to inform states of movements.
- Movements can be tracked to and from over 30 states. See Figure 1 for the map of states currently participating in the EECVI program.

Please remember that each state has specific identification requirements for horse imports. Visit www.globalvetlink.com for more information on participating states' specific requirements. Figure 1 shows participating states in blue (Vermont only participates May 1 – October 31 and is shown in green).

Additional Information:

- Movements on EECVIs will not be allowed should the state of origin become disease positive, (i.e., Vesicular Stomatitis Virus).
- A separate trip permit is required for each movement. An owner generates a trip permit by logging into the Global Vet Link system and entering upcoming movement details. The permit is then printed for travel. Neither the owner, nor the veterinarian needs

to call the state of destination for an import permit number.

- Physical addresses are required for origin and destination on every EECVI. If a physical address is not available a geo code (latitude/longitude) or road name and mile marker is accepted.
- Individuals who obtain an EECVI and do not track movements appropriately or who have non-compliance issues will have their access to EECVIs revoked. Areas of non-compliance include but are not limited to the following:
 - * Listing a post office box or incomplete physical location under the origin and/or the destination of the horse.
 - * Inputting a destination address for a participating EECVI state and traveling to a non-participating state (i.e., listing Montana as the destination state and traveling to Colorado).
 - * Not issuing trip permits. A recent review showed that 40% of EECVI's issued by accredited veterinarians had no associated movement document/permit logged in the Global Vet Link System. Client education associated with the use of EECVIs is important to ensure continued availability of this platform.

Key points to share with clients include:

- The initial veterinary examination does not generate a trip permit. Each movement requires the owner to log information into the GVL system.
- A unique trip permit is required for each movement.
- Clients will need to make a health declaration each time a movement is logged in the system that may include the horse's temperature. ☒

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

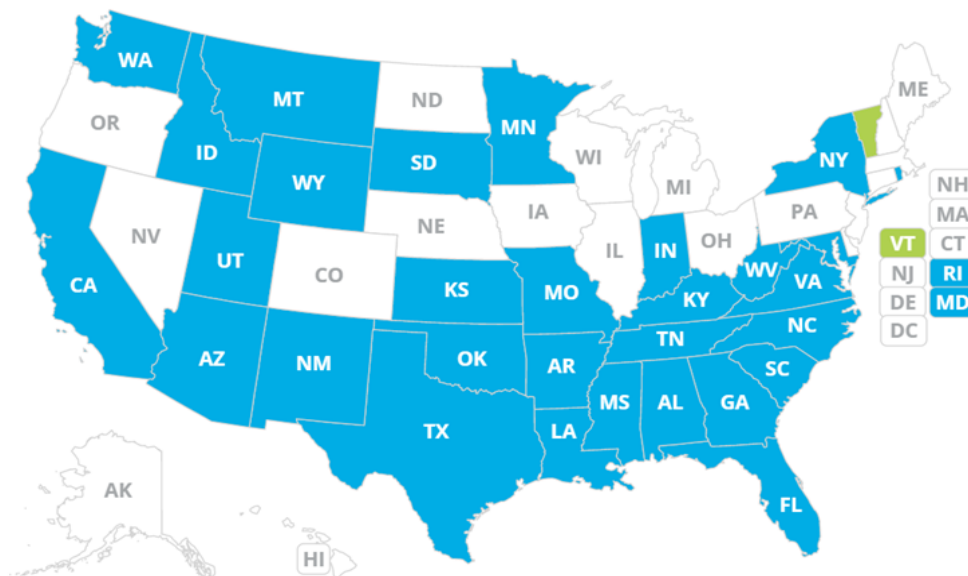


Figure 1. EECVI Participating States. Source: DOL Staff.

MVDL Updates

NEW DIAGNOSTIC TEST OFFERINGS: The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) is happy to announce several new test offerings expected to be available this summer.

- A new Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) SNAP Test will significantly reduce turnaround time on single-animal testing as well as provide a more affordable offering (\$7/test) relative to our current BVDV PCR test (\$40/test) or the BVDV virus isolation assay (\$34/test); turnaround time is expected to be one day assuming a normal operational testing volume.
- An Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) virus neutralization test will be offered at \$16/test.
- A Giardia SNAP test for \$18/test that is United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved and will cost approximately half of our currently offered Giardia ELISA test.
- An ELISA-based ruminant pregnancy test (\$4.50) and a Coxiella burnetii (Q-Fever) ELISA (\$13).
- MVDL is also approved to perform a Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus-2 PCR test (\$40) for surveillance and confirmatory purposes.

Other tests currently in development at MVDL include a *Mycoplasma bovis* PCR test (\$36), a *Coxiella/Chlamydothila* PCR test (\$36), and a *Clostridium perfringens* Typing PCR test (\$40). These PCR tests will be offered once development and verification are complete. New test offerings are based on feedback received from MVDL clients and technical input from our veterinary microbiologist Dr. Erika Schwarz-Collins, PhD DVM who oversees our Bacteriology, Serology, Virology, and Molecular Diagnostics lab sections.

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY REFERENCE INTERVAL IMPROVEMENTS AT MVDL: As you may recall, MVDL is in the process of improving our in-house reference intervals for clinical chemistry panels and have been collecting data from normal animals the last six months (January through June 2021). Because the majority of submissions to MVDL have been dogs (87 animals), that data set is almost complete. Therefore, free canine chemistry panels will continue to be offered only through July 2021. For all other species, MVDL will continue to gather data for the remainder of 2021 and will reassess our data set at that time.

We appreciate your past and continued collaboration on this project. As before, samples and data from sick animals will not be eligible for inclusion in this project, but we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to submit samples from normal, healthy animals. Be sure to note the chemistry panel reference interval project on your submission form, and please do not hesitate to contact MVDL if you have any questions. ☒

By Gregory Juda, DVM

Import Quarantines

With the transition to electronic certificates of veterinary inspection, the Department of Livestock (DOL) has previously communicated a change in how illegally imported animals are qualified to stay in Montana (see the [December 2019 Stock Quotes](#) article on Post-Illegal Imports). For animals that enter Montana without having met all animal health requirements or “illegal imports”, a series of steps is necessary to bring animals into compliance.

DOL recently decided that illegally imported animals should, at a minimum, be held to the same standard as pre-approved quarantine on arrival exemptions and we will therefore be issuing formal quarantines for animals illegally imported into Montana. The quarantine will be delivered by either DOL Enforcement officers or will be mailed from our office. Once the veterinarian who is completing the required work has been identified, a copy of the quarantine paperwork will be provided to them so that all requirements can be met.

The steps to bring the animals into compliance include:

- Notify the DOL that an animal has entered Montana and does not meet the import requirements. Illegal imports are typically reported by a Montana veterinarian, a Brands district investigator, or the Montana producer.
- Quarantine of the imported animals until testing and/or identification requirements are met. The individual responsible for the illegally imported animals will be notified of the quarantine by a Brands Enforcement Division officer.
- If testing, vaccination, or official identification is required, the producer shall notify DOL of the name of the veterinarian who they will be working with.
- When testing or identification is complete, the veterinarian will fill out and send in the quarantine release paperwork to DOL.
- If a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) was not initially issued for the movement, a post illegal permit will be issued by the Helena Animal Health office.
 - Please remember, you are no longer required to write a post illegal entry CVI.
 - Anyone can call and obtain the permit for an illegal entry. The information needed to obtain this permit is the animal origin address, the destination address, and the completed testing information or official identification, if applicable. The permit will not be issued until the DOL has received the quarantine release from the attending veterinarian.

If you are made aware of animals imported into Montana illegally, we encourage you to work with your clients and our office to qualify those animals according to Montana’s import requirements. Questions or concerns regarding import quarantines should be directed to Brooke Ruffier, Animal Health Import Manager, at 406-444-9525. ☒

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) is most commonly seen during the summer months and cases tend to cluster along river drainages and moving waterways (including irrigation canals). To date in 2021, there have been no confirmed cases of VSV in the United States (US).

VSV is primarily transmitted by biting flies, often affecting horses, cattle, and occasionally swine. Other susceptible species include sheep, goats, camelids, wildlife, and humans. The US sees two serotypes of the virus: VSV-New Jersey and VSV-Indiana-1. US outbreaks typically occur in the southwestern and Rocky Mountain regions. Known virus vectors include black flies, sand flies, and biting midges (*Culicoides* spp.).

Clinical signs of VSV are commonly found on the lips, muzzle, tongue, ears, teats, sheath, and coronary bands. In addition to the namesake vesicles, you may also see hypersalivation, anorexia, and weight loss. The virus is present in acute lesions and can be spread by direct contact between animals as well as fomites such as shared water troughs, buckets, feeders, and other equipment. Once lesions heal, animal to animal spread ends.

MONTANA RESPONSE TO VSV: As many of you are likely aware, Montana allows veterinarians to submit samples for suspected cases of VSV in horses only. Oral lesions in ruminants or swine must be handled by a state or federal foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD).

If you have an animal with suspected signs of VSV, you should report the lesions to either the state or federal office. Once reported, we can provide guidance on sample collection and submission, and premises quarantines pending final results. Please plan to collect serum and swabs of any lesions as a minimum set of diagnostic samples. Other potential samples to collect include skin tags, crusts, and vesicular fluid if available.

Diagnostic tests for VSV include:

- cELISA—Measures early antibody response following exposure. Will stay positive for years post exposure. Not sufficient for case definition
- CFT—Goes positive several days after the cELISA, and only remains positive for a few months, therefore indicates recent infection.
- PCR—Detects the presence of viral RNA from a lesion
- Virus Isolation—Detection of live, transmissible virus
- IgM Capture ELISA—Measures earliest antibody response after exposure. Only stays positive for a few months.

Diagnosis requires compatible clinical signs and confirmatory testing. Case confirmation requires one or more of the following:

- Virus isolation
- Viral genome sequence data indicative of VSV
- Combination of both IgM capture ELISA positive and real-time RT-PCR detection of VSV
- Four-fold change in complement fixation titer in paired sera collected at least 7 days apart
- Four-fold increase in virus neutralization titer in paired sera collected at least 7 days apart.

Once a state is confirmed VSV-positive, the local National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) lab, (Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab) may be activated to test equine samples. Once a case is confirmed within a county, lesioned horses within the county are no longer required to be tested, but can be quarantined as suspect cases based on clinical signs. Lesioned animals in non-affected counties must be confirmed by diagnostic testing. Ruminant and swine cases will continue to be managed by FADDs.

Confirmed and suspected cases will result in a premises quarantine for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of lesions in the last affected animal on the premises. Fourteen days closely correlates to twice the maximum observed time period for viral shedding from lesioned animals. Lesioned animals should be isolated and quarantined. Premises should implement vector mitigation measures. Accredited veterinarians may be used to monitor premise with suspected and confirmed cases of VSV.

2020 OUTBREAK: The 2020 VSV outbreak began April 13, 2020 in New Mexico, included 8 states, and resulted in 326 quarantined premises. These numbers reflect a significant financial and time investment to the management of VSV cases. Other impacts and ongoing challenges associated with VSV outbreaks in the US include:

- International and interstate movement restrictions
- Increasing numbers of livestock with VS titers that are ineligible for international export for many years
- Costs and challenges of effective vector mitigation
- Reduced participation or cancellation of events, costs of monitoring, and quarantine
- No travel to Canada

Research into vector management and factors that impact disease spread continues to assess the impact of drought and other environmental factors affecting VSV vectors. Look for additional information in the coming months and years as the frequency and size of US outbreaks seems to be increasing. ☒

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

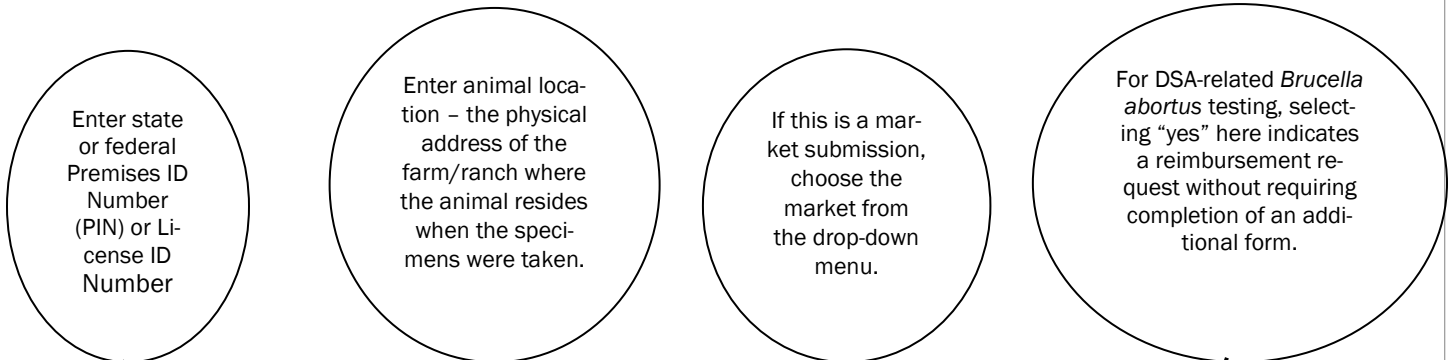


Figure 2. Veterinary Screening. Source: USDA.

New MVDL Multiple Animal Submission Form Available

The Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) has developed a new multiple animal submission form. MVDL strongly encourages submitters to download this Microsoft Excel based form from our website at <https://liv.mt.gov/DiagnosticLab> Filling out and submitting this form electronically will maximize the accuracy and efficiency of diagnostic reports. See below for a quick reference guide on how to complete specific information on the new multiple animal submission form. ☞

By Gregory Juda, PhD



LABORATORY

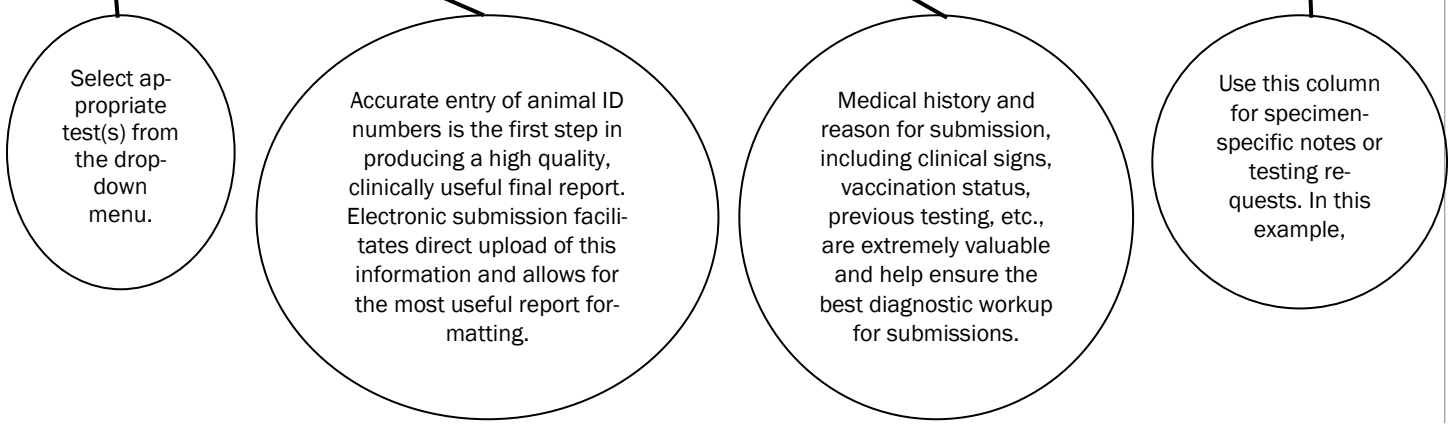
Handwritten/faxed submission forms are accepted, but for optimal efficiency and accuracy, please complete electronically and submit via email. Include a print copy with specimens.
**Asterisks indicate required submitter/owner information fields.*

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| *Submitter Name: | *Owner Name: |
| *Clinic Name: | *Animal Location: (address) |
| *Address: | *City, State, ZIP: |
| *City, State, ZIP: | Premises ID: |
| Account #: | Market: (if applicable) |
| *Phone: Fax: (if applicable) | Phone: Email: (if applicable) |
| Email: | *DSA Reimbursement Request: <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |
| *Collection Date: | *Submitted Specimens: (#/type) |
| *History: (vx, clinical signs, etc.) | |

Test Requests:
 See dropdown options below or the MVDL Submission Guide & Fee Schedule @ our website. If tests are not to be performed on all samples, specify in the Individual Specimen column below.

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |
| Submitter: _____ | Owner: _____ |

| Sample # | Tube # | Official Animal ID (one ID per field) | Other Animal ID (one ID per field) | Sex | Age | Breed | Species | Individual Specimen/Request |
|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|---------|-----------------------------|
|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|---------|-----------------------------|



Strangles

Strangles was added to Montana's reportable animal disease list in 2019. The Department of Livestock (DOL) reports all strangles cases to the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS). DOL requires that Montana veterinarians report cases to our office when a quarantine is issued or when a case is diagnosed by a laboratory other than the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL).

Management of strangles cases (confirmed or suspected) is at the discretion of the veterinarian. However, in situations involving several horses, multiple owners, and/or frequent travel off the property, veterinarians should strongly consider implementing a quarantine. Veterinarians issuing quarantines are required to "immediately deliver notice personally or by mail to the state veterinarian" as stated in Administrative Rule of Montana 32.3.108.

Quarantine considerations for strangles cases may include:

- Horses that are exhibiting clinical signs, horses that have tested positive, or horses who have direct contact with positive/clinical animals.

- Isolating animals for 21-30 days from the last positive diagnosis or resolution of all clinical signs. The quarantine period would "restart" with any new diagnosis or if a horse who was not previously exhibiting clinical signs, began showing them.

Testing recommendations to release horses from quarantine can be found in the [March 2020 Stock Quotes](#).

In situations involving a non-compliant horse owner, a letter can be issued from our office, re-defining the parameters of the quarantine. A Brands Enforcement Division officer can also be deployed to the premises as needed.

And lastly, as a reminder, all reportable diseases diagnosed in-clinic or at an out-of-state laboratory, need to be reported to our office. We do not automatically receive reports from all out-of-state laboratories. It is ultimately up to the submitting veterinarian to be aware of the reportable animal diseases in Montana (<https://liv.mt.gov/Animal-Health/Diseases/Reportable-Animal-Diseases>) and assure that the DOL is notified of each case. ✉
By Anna Forseth, DVM

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We're on the Web:
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**Montana Department
of Livestock**