



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: George Edwards	Division/Program: Livestock Loss Board	Meeting Date: 6/26/18
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info: LLB Loss Statistics		
Recommendation:		
Time needed: 5-10	Attachments: Yes	Board vote required? No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes No	Board vote required: Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes No	Board vote required: Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes No	Board vote required: Yes No

June 11 2018

Montana LLB
 PO Box 202005
 Helena MT 59620
www.llb.mt.gov

George Edwards
 Executive Director
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Swine	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead							0	
Carbon	3						3	\$2,963.13
Cascade							0	
Gallatin							0	
Glacier	3						3	\$3,154.29
Judith Basin							0	
Lake	1						1	\$964.85
L&C			6				6	\$1,017.91
Lincoln							0	
Madison	4						4	\$12,869.78
Missoula							0	
Park							0	
Pondera							0	
Powell	3						3	\$3,303.82
Ravalli		2					2	\$634.82
Sanders							0	
Silver Bow							0	
Teton	4	2					6	\$4,805.09
Totals	18	4	6	0	0	0	28	\$29,713.69

Wolves

Confirmed	8					
Probable	2					
Value	\$19,167.10					
Owners	6					

Grizzly Bears

Confirmed	5	2				
Probable	3					
Value	\$8,259.04	\$634.82				
Owners	5	2				

Mtn Lion

Confirmed		2	6			
Probable						
Value		\$634.82	\$1,017.91			
Owners		1	1			

CATTLE

FY 2018

COUNTY COMPARISON SHEET			MOU'S		CHANGE FROM PRE- VIOUS YR			(CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YR) CATTLE
	FY17	FY 18	FY17	FY 18		FY17	FY 18	
D1 Montana - WS								
BIG HORN	0.50	0.50	\$31,116.00	\$31,485.50	369.50	62,332	62,971	639
CARBON								0
CUSTER	0.50	0.50	\$32,767.50	\$32,569.50	-198.00	65,535	65,139	-396
DANIELS								0
DAWSON								0
FALLON			\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00		40,380		-40,380
GARFIELD	0.50	0.50	\$32,243.50	\$32,155.50	-88.00	64,487	64,311	-176
GOLDEN VALLEY	0.50	0.50	\$7,107.00	\$7,236.50	129.50	14,214	14,473	259
McCONE	2.00	2.00	\$63,944.00	\$63,600.00	-344.00	31,972	31,800	-172
MEAGHER (60%)	0.50	0.50	\$11,923.80	\$12,014.40	90.60	23,847	24,029	182
MUSSELSHELL								0
PARK	0.50	0.50	\$13,333.50	\$12,728.00	-605.50	26,667	25,456	-1,211
PHILLIPS								0
PRAIRIE	0.50	0.50	\$16,620.00	\$17,823.00	1,203.00	35,240	35,646	406
ROOSEVELT	0.50	0.50	\$8,597.00	\$8,752.50	155.50	17,194	17,505	311
ROSEBUD	0.50	0.50	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00	64,386	65,584	1,198
SHERIDAN	0.25	0.25	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	0.00	17,153	17,643	490
STILLWATER	0.50	0.50	\$15,056.50	\$15,553.50	497.00	30,113	31,067	954
SWEET GRASS	0.50	0.50	\$15,298.50	\$15,105.00	-193.50	30,597	30,211	-386
TREASURE								0
VALLEY	0.50	0.50	\$30,725.50	\$30,547.00	-178.50	61,451	61,094	-357
WHEATLAND	0.50	0.50	\$18,723.00	\$16,450.00	-2,273.00	37,446	32,900	-4,546
WIBAUX								0
YELLOWSTONE								0
SUB-TOTAL DISTRICT 1			\$325,955.80	\$324,520.40	-1,435.40	623,014	579,829	-43,185
D2 RED BLUFF	0.00	0.00			0.00			0
BEAVERHEAD	0.25	0.25	\$25,410.00	\$27,838.00	2,428.00	101,638	111,353	9,715
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY LPC*			\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	5,000.00			0
BLACKFEET NATIONS STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION				\$20,000.00				0
BLAINE								0
BROADWATER	0.50	0.50	\$8,449.00	\$8,284.00	-165.00	16,898	16,569	-329
CASCADE								0
CHOUTEAU								0
FERGUS	0.50	0.50	\$45,355.00	\$45,129.00	-226.00	90,709	90,259	-450
FLATHEAD								0
GALLATIN	0.50	0.50	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00	2,000.00	25,430	25,747	317
GLACIER								0
GRANITE	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0	0	0
HILL								0
JEFFERSON	0.50	0.50	\$10,754.00	\$10,975.00	221.00	21,508	21,950	442
JUDITH BASIN								0
LAKE								0
LEWIS & CLARK	1.00	1.00	\$22,640.00	\$23,746.00	1,106.00	22,640	23,746	1,106
LIBERTY	0.50	0.50	\$5,319.00	\$5,468.00	149.00	10,638	10,936	298
MADISON	0.25	0.25	\$13,716.00	\$13,391.00	-325.00	54,864	53,566	-1,298
MADISON COUNTY LPC*			\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00			0
MEAGHER (40%)	0.50	0.50	\$7,949.20	\$8,009.60	60.40	15,898	16,020	122
PETROLEUM (100%)	0.50	0.50	\$12,480.00	\$12,480.00	-12,480.00	24,959		-24,959
PONDERA	0.50	0.50	\$9,966.00	\$9,410.00	-556.00	19,932	18,820	-1,112
POWELL								0
RAVALLI								0
SANDERS								0
TETON								0
TOOLE	1.00	1.00	\$15,592.00	\$15,406.00	-186.00	15,592	15,406	-186
SUB-TOTAL DISTRICT 2			\$197,630.20	\$214,656.60	17,026.40	420,706	404,372	-16,334
ALL TOTALS			\$523,586.00	\$539,177.00	15,591.00	1,043,720	984,201	59,519

*LIVESTOCK PROTECTIVE COMMITTEE - ONE TIME PAYMENT

SHEEP

FY 2018

6/26/2018

COUNTY COMPARISON SHEET Montana - WS	FEES PER HEAD		MOU'S	MOU'S	CHANGE FROM PRE- VIOUS YR	SHEEP #'S		(CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YR)
	FY 17	FY 18	FY 17	FY 18		FY 17	FY 18	SHEEP
D1 BIG HORN	0.60	0.60	\$294.11	\$351.60	57.49	427	586	159
CARBON	0.60	0.60	\$2,068.80	\$1,758.60	-310.20	3,448	2,931	-517
CUSTER	0.60	0.60	\$2,360.40	\$2,270.40	-90.00	3,934	3,784	-150
DANIELS	0.60	0.60	\$57.60	\$61.80	4.20	96	103	7
DAWSON	0.60	0.60	\$523.80	\$1,102.80	579.00	873	949	76
FALLON	0.60	0.60	\$949.80	\$1,008.00	58.20	1,583	1,680	97
GARFIELD	1.00	1.00	\$12,282.00	\$10,609.00	-1,673.00	12,282	10,609	-1,673
GOLDEN VALLEY	0.60	0.60	\$7,464.00	\$7,578.60	114.60	12,440	12,631	191
McCONE	1.10	1.10	\$3,522.20	\$3,681.70	159.50	3,202	3,347	145
MUSSELSHELL	0.60	0.60	\$1,285.20	\$1,239.00	-46.20	2,142	2,065	-77
PARK	0.60	0.60	\$648.60	\$687.00	38.40	1,081	1,145	64
PHILLIPS	0.60	0.60	\$1,560.00	\$1,841.40	281.40	2,600	3,069	469
PRAIRIE	0.60	0.60	\$797.40	\$907.80	110.40	1,329	1,513	184
ROOSEVELT	0.60	0.60	\$999.00	\$957.60	-41.40	1,665	1,596	-69
ROSEBUD	0.60	0.60	\$1,574.40	\$874.20	-700.20	2,624	1,457	-1,167
SHERIDAN	0.60	0.60	\$632.40	\$562.20	-70.20	1,054	937	-117
STILLWATER	0.60	0.60	\$4,345.20	\$4,815.60	470.40	7,242	8,026	784
SWEET GRASS	0.60	0.60	\$2,615.40	\$2,350.80	-264.60	4,359	3,918	-441
TREASURE	0.60	0.60	\$24.00	\$19.80	-4.20	40	33	-7
VALLEY	0.60	0.60	\$495.00	\$508.80	13.80	825	848	23
WHEATLAND	0.60	0.60	\$5,922.00	\$5,822.40	-99.60	9,870	9,704	-166
WIBAUX	0.60	0.60	\$48.60	\$22.80	-25.80	81	38	-43
YELLOWSTONE	0.60	0.60	\$732.00	\$1,152.60	420.60	1,220	1,921	701
SUB-TOTAL DISTRICT 1			\$51,201.91	\$50,184.50	-1,017.41	74,417	72,890	-1,527
D2 RED BLUFF	1.00	1.00	\$480.00	\$240.00	-240.00	480	240	-240
BEAVERHEAD	0.60	0.60	\$6,063.00	\$5,952.00	-111.00	10,105	9,921	-184
BLAINE	0.60	0.60	\$903.00	\$910.00	7.00	1,505	1,518	13
BROADWATER	0.50	0.50	\$1,041.00	\$1,015.00	-26.00	2,082	2,031	-51
CASCADE	0.60	0.60	\$2,851.00	\$2,694.00	-157.00	4,752	4,491	-261
CHOUTEAU	0.60	0.60	\$188.00	\$195.00	7.00	314	325	11
FERGUS	0.60	0.60	\$2,264.00	\$2,217.00	-47.00	3,773	3,695	-78
FLATHEAD	0.60	0.60	\$135.00	\$148.00	13.00	255	248	-7
GALLATIN	0.60	0.60	\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00	-2,500.00	1,307	1,330	23
GLACIER	0.15	0.15	\$102.00	\$107.00	5.00	680	718	38
GRANITE	1.00	1.00	\$672.00	\$658.00	-14.00	672	658	-14
HILL	0.40	0.40	\$289.00	\$290.00	1.00	722	726	4
JEFFERSON	0.60	0.60	\$390.00	\$435.00	45.00	650	725	75
JUDITH BASIN	0.60	0.60	\$4,110.00	\$3,757.00	-353.00	6,850	6,263	-587
LAKE	0.50	0.50	\$435.00	\$402.00	-33.00	870	805	-65
LEWIS & CLARK	0.60	0.60	\$1,343.00	\$1,383.00	40.00	2,238	2,305	67
MADISON	0.60	0.60	\$710.00	\$751.00	41.00	1,184	1,253	69
MEAGHER	0.60	0.60	\$1,662.00	\$1,694.00	32.00	2,770	2,824	54
PETROLEUM	0.60	0.60	\$852.00		-852.00	1,420		-1,420
PONDERA	0.60	0.60	\$2,476.00	\$1,946.00	-530.00	4,126	3,244	-882
POWELL	0.50	0.50	\$221.00	\$179.00	-42.00	442	359	-83
RAVALLI	0.10	0.10	\$132.00	\$100.00	-32.00	1,320	1,002	-318
SANDERS	0.50	0.50	\$32.00	\$23.00	-9.00	64	47	-17
TETON	0.50	0.50	\$1,361.00	\$1,335.00	-26.00	2,722	2,670	-52
TOOLE	1.00	1.00	\$1,449.00	\$1,481.00	32.00	1,449	1,481	32
SUB-TOTAL DISTRICT 2			33,661.00	28,912.00	-4,749.00	52,752	48,879	-3,873
ALL TOTALS			84,862.91	79,096.50	-5,766.41	127,169	121,769	-5,400



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Evan Waters		Division/Program: Centralized Services			Meeting Date: 06/26/2018		
<u>Agenda Item:</u> Budget Appropriations Update							
Background Info: Present changes to the budget to include FY 2016 & FY 2017 carryforward authority.							
Recommendation: n/a							
Time needed: 15 min	Attachments:	Yes X	No	Board vote required?	Yes	No X	
<u>Agenda Item:</u> June 2018 Expenditure Projections							
Background Info: Report expenditure projections by division and/or bureau and attached boards.							
Recommendation: n/a							
Time needed: 10 min	Attachments:	Yes X	No	Board vote required	Yes	No X	
<u>Agenda Item:</u> June 15, 2018 YTD Budget Status report							
Background Info: Report expenditure to budget comparison report by division and/or bureau and attached boards. This report also compares current YTD expenditures to prior same-period expenditures.							
Recommendation: n/a							
Time needed: 5 Min	Attachments:	Yes X	No	Board vote required:	Yes	No X	
<u>Agenda Item:</u> Year-to-Date as of May 31, 2018 Revenue Comparison							
Background Info: Report YTD revenues and compare to prior same-period revenues							
Recommendation: n/a							
Time needed: 5 min	Attachments:	Yes X	No	Board vote required:	Yes	No X	
<u>Agenda Item:</u> Predator Control aerial hunting payment allocation							
Background Info: Report the county allocation for the three counties and wild life services per 81-7-102 MCA. Per 15-24-925 MCA, the department must transfer at least \$350,000 from the Per Capita Fee State Special Revenue Fund to the Predatory Animal State Special Revenue fund. The three counties (Carter, Powder River and Richland) have elected not to utilized Wild Life Services perform predator control, therefore a portion of the predator control fund is paid directly to these three counties.							
Recommendation:							
Time needed: 10 min	Attachments:	Yes X	No	Board vote required:	Yes X	No	



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Chad Lee	Division/Program: Milk Control Bureau	Meeting Date: 6/26/2018
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info: Report on June 25, 2018 Board of Milk Control Meeting		
Recommendation:		
Time needed: 10 - 15 minutes	Attachments:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Board vote required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Board vote required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Board vote required:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Board vote required:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Board vote required:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Dan Turcotte	Animal Health & Food Safety Division – Milk & Egg Bureau	Meeting Date: 6/26/18
<u>Agenda Item:</u> General Updates		
Background Info: Review of past month's weekly reports to the BOL		
Recommendation: N/A		
Time needed: 15 minutes	Attachments: Yes	Board vote required? No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes	Board vote required No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes No	Board vote required: Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes No	Board vote required: Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments: Yes No	Board vote required: Yes No



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Gary Hamel		Division/Program: Meat and Poultry Inspection			Meeting Date: June 26, 2018		
<u>Agenda Item:</u> General Updates							
Background Info: General information on audit results							
Recommendation:							
Time needed: 5 min	Attachments:	Yes	No X	Board vote required?	Yes	No X	
<u>Agenda Item:</u> Out of State Travel Report to Board							
Background Info:							
Bonnie Marceau recently attended the National Association of State Meat and Food Inspectors Directors (NASMFID) meeting in Minnesota. She will provide an update to the Board on the content of the meeting.							
Recommendation:							
Time needed: 10 min	Attachments:	Yes	No X	Board vote required	Yes	No X	
<u>Agenda Item:</u>							
Background Info:							
Recommendation:							
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes	No	Board vote required:	Yes	No	
<u>Agenda Item:</u>							
Background Info:							
Recommendation:							
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes	No	Board vote required:	Yes	No	
<u>Agenda Item:</u>							
Background Info:							
Recommendation:							
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes	No	Board vote required:	Yes	No	

NASMFID Meeting in Minnesota

National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors (NASMFID) was held in Bloomington Minnesota June 11 and 12. Bonnie Marceau attended from Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection.

Attendance was higher than expected with about 45 people in attendance from state meat inspection programs.

The host state of Minnesota shared information about its successful Food Advisory Committee. With no funding, not even per diem, they successfully hold quarterly meetings to assist with outreach and education on subject of food safety and marketing.

Participant groups include the University of Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, livestock associations, state and county agencies, meat processors and farmer market groups. No individual producers allowed. They had concerns that the forum would be adversarial or turn into a complaint department and are very pleased how it has turned out to be so collaborative.

There was a presentation from Chris Young the Executive Director of AAMP. He offered access to some of their resources to state directors to offer their establishments. He discussed small plant issues with FSIS: like high cost of sampling

AAMP has not heard from its membership regarding the interstate shipping of state inspected meat and remains undecided to become involved at this point.

Federal State and Audit Branch (FSAB) gave a brief update. The discussion was mainly regarding the audit process and reporting. Handouts included a list of 2018 Audit Review Findings & a summary of self-reporting concerns.

Kathyrn Labruna (FSAB) talked about the unit receiving an increasing amount of unnecessary documentation and with their new access to the Public Health Information System they hope to be able to access the states reports.

The discussion took on a life of its own and the young auditor was inundated with questions, most wondering why the process keeps getting deeper and deeper into plant workings rather than the downfalls of the state program operations.

Texas director pointed out that his program is considered a valuable service in Texas. An audit should be performed to assist him with operating his program so it may assist plants in improving food safety and production – not be a “gotcha” visit.

Minnesota also gave a presentation on their Rapid Response Team for food emergencies. Currently 19 states have teams. The idea started in California after the *e. coli* outbreak in spinach in 2006 and the FDA liked it so much they have funded 6 other state teams.

Most of the meeting was spent on several states sharing their organizational ideas and tricks to the FSIS annual self-reporting and onsite audits. Several states have developed SharePoint websites allowing field staff to send in and organize documentation eliminating postage and printing.

Each state has spent much time tailoring a plan that works for them to gather this documentation throughout the year avoiding any deadline pressures.

The group shared onsite visit embarrassing moments and vented freely on different audit findings.

There was a brief discussion on funding. Some states have found that FSIS is not matching the full 50%. FSIS budget staff sent notice that they are aware of the problem and promised to do some research. The states were assured USDA does not want to take over any state inspected establishments and realizes state programs are a bargain and will continue to work on funding.

South Dakota spoke briefly on the upcoming legislation for the sale of state inspected meat across state lines. They wondered if states had heard from their establishments. Most had not. The group decided it may be necessary to poll plants before they go any further. Legislators seem unable to get any big players to support the bill. He did note that it is already acceptable to ship dairy from state to state.

The Association will be voting in new officers at the fall meeting in October. That meeting will be in Kansas City.



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Steve Smith	Division/Program: MVDL	Meeting Date: 6/26/2018
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Agenda Item: Board-Certified Veterinary Microbiologist

Background Info:

This is a highly educated and skilled position that is much-needed at the diagnostic laboratory. As is the case with our pathology staff, the individual filling this position will have significant advanced training and an internationally recognized specialty certification, in addition to the basic DVM degree. This position will provide oversight and direction to most of the technical sections of the laboratory (microbiology, virology, serology, and molecular diagnostics), providing professional-level guidance, filling a supervisory role, leading day-to-day section operations, and spearheading development and continuous improvement to better meet the needs of laboratory clients.

Our recently completed Management Review process (an AAVLD requirement for the laboratory) has strongly emphasized the significant need for this position, as there are many important action items that will require the expertise and input of an individual with these qualifications.

In addition, during our most recent AAVLD accreditation audit, several of the most important and concerning findings and non-conformances related to the oversight and supervision of the microbiology section of the laboratory. When the accreditation committee met in October 2017, several members had serious concerns about the fact that the laboratory did not have a board-certified veterinary microbiologist on staff, and considered not granting full accreditation. Ultimately, the decision was made to grant one year of accreditation and re-assess lab progress in several key areas during Summer 2018.

Hiring this position will be vital for the ongoing accreditation of the laboratory. Because of the currently available FTE's at the lab and some degree of restructuring in process, both the FTE (1.0) and the funds for salary are available, particularly if another open (technician level) position is temporarily left open, as is currently planned. Classification as a Band 7 Veterinarian is complete, and salary information is pending DOA approval, but should be available by the time of the board meeting.

Recommendation:

Board approval to recruit and hire this position.

Time needed: 15 minutes	Attachments:	<u>Yes</u>	No	Board vote required?	<u>Yes</u>	No
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Agenda Item:

Background Info:

Recommendation:

Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes	No	Board vote required	Yes	No
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Agenda Item:

Background Info:



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Tahnee Szymanski	Division/Program: Animal Health Bureau	Meeting Date: June 26, 2018
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Agenda Item: State-wide vaccination Administrative Rule- DRAFT

Background Info: At the May 23, 2018 meeting, the Board of Livestock requested a draft of a State-wide brucellosis vaccination ARM. Changes to ARM 32.3.436 were approved to the Board at the last meeting and are currently out for public comment. The version below is written as if the version out for public comment was adopted without change at the end of the comment period.

32.3.436 BRUCELLOSIS VACCINATION

(1) All sexually intact female cattle and domestic bison 12 months of age or older ~~in a county that borders or contains DSA~~ must be official vaccinates.

(a) Variances or exceptions to requirements will be considered on an individual basis by the administrator.

Recommendation: N/A

Time needed: 10 minutes	Attachments:	No	Board vote required?	Yes
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Agenda Item: Wyoming Governor’s Brucellosis Coordination Team meeting- Report to the Board

Background Info: Dr. Liska traveled to Lander, WY for the annual Brucellosis Coordination Team (BCT) meeting held May 22. Dr. Liska will give the BOL a report of topics covered at the meeting.

Recommendation: Include in consent agenda

Time needed: 10 minutes	Attachments:	Yes	Board vote required	No
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Agenda Item: Western States Livestock Health Association Annual Conference – Report to the Board

Background Info: Dr. Szymanski served as the 2017 president of the WSLHA and therefore the annual conference was held in Montana. Staff in attendance at the meeting have prepared a report of topics covered at the meeting.

Recommendation: Include in consent agenda

Time needed: 10 minutes	Attachments:	Yes	Board vote required:	No
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Agenda Item:

Background Info:

Recommendation:

Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes	No	Board vote required:	Yes	No
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Agenda Item:

June 27, 2018 Montana Board of Livestock: Dr. Eric Liska-Notes/report from the annual Brucellosis Coordination Team (BCT) meeting

Wyoming State Veterinarian Report-Dr. Jim Logan

- No brucellosis quarantined herds in Wyoming
- Lincoln County commissioners and cattle producers requested that the southern boundary of the DSA move north to the Bridger-Teton National Forest. WLSB voted no
 - Seroprevalence in the area is unknown
- Governor Mead and BCT (drafted by D. Logan) will send a letter to Secretary Perdue requesting more funding for wildlife surveillance
- DSA
 - 89,700 cattle
 - 36,000 tests annually
- Sheridan and Big Horn Counties
 - 65,000 cattle
 - 6,644 tested
 - Expanding the DSA "would be a severe dilution of resources"
 - Very little livestock testing in Sheridan and Big Horn Counties this last year
 - Due to reduced testing, \$50k was reverted.
 - No positive elk found since 2016 (2 of 61 collared elk in Feb)
 - None found in 2017- spring 2018
 - 144 hunter tests (fall 2017)
 - 105 captured, tested and collared (fall 2018)
 - Collar data does not show movement of elk over bighorns to Sheridan County
- Wyoming Livestock Board voted to reduce the size of the brucellosis area of concern to include only elk hunt districts 39, 40 and 41 in Big Horn County
 - These are the 3 units where positive elk have been found.
 - Also, based on elk movement data
 - 34 producers utilize ground within this area
 - The plan now is to assess and assign risk to each producer
 - Insignificant
 - Potential
 - Significant
- APHIS review of the WY DSA
 - Expressed some concern over the Bighorns
 - Created an MOU

Montana DSA update-Liska

Idaho update

- Collected samples from 247 elk in 2017-2018
 - One reactor and one suspect in Unit 49 (100 miles West of the DSA boundary)
 - No change to the DSA boundary
 - Current DSA

2018 Wyoming Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team Meeting -May 22, 2018 Lander, WY

- 2600 resident cattle
- 7000 seasonal grazers
- 1 affected herd-purebred Angus
 - 550 head
 - 1 positive animal
 - Two herd tests have been completed

Brucella PCR (Dr. Schumaker)

- Test validation at the WY lab
- Not yet validated at NVSL-under review
- 100% sensitivity-based on culture (i.e. all cultured tissues were positive with some additional positives found)
- 100% specificity
- Prevalence study on 159 slaughtered YNP bison in 2017
 - 16% on culture but 66% on PCR
 - Calves (less than years of age)- up to 69% (vertical transmission)
- B. suis project in Texas
 - 250 samples collected and working on testing

B. suis vaccine (Dr. Schumaker)

- Andrews lab is evaluating protein targets that have the potential for a multi-valent vaccine

Bison Quarantine (Dr. Clarke)

- Approximately 100 animals at the Stephens Creek facility
- No new research, (GonaCon) ended
- 62 seronegative animals at Corwin Springs animals will likely go to tribe(s)

Defenders of wildlife (Jonathon Proctor)

- Support the quarantine process for bison restoration in large numbers on large enough areas of land to be self-sustaining.

Wyoming Game and Fish (Hank Edwards)

- 26 years of data
- 15,700 samples.
- 2017 sent out 10,500 test kits
- 1,438 were returned,
- 1,337 were suitable for testing
- Use to throw out 30-50% of returned samples due to visible hemolysis
- With FPA, samples with 0-100% hemolysis they feel that 90-93% of them are still valid for testing – Need better research
- EL- MVDL serology lab believes there is a risk of false negatives.
- No positive samples from the Bighorn mountains (708)
- Elk on private property with no cattle are a problem with no easy solution

North Bighorn elk movement update (Eric Maichak)

- 180 collared elk
- Movement is generally north/south vs east/west
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) continue to create risk models based on elk movement data

WGFD feed-ground surveillance 2016-17 (Brandon Scurlock)

- Gooseberry/Cody elk 15-23% seroprevalence
- Absaroka bison up to 60%
- Dell Creek feed-ground 88% seroprevalence
- Scab Creek feed-ground 49%

Antler collection discussion

- Value of antlers has increased
- Now have aggressive collection activity
- WGFD established a season for collection- begins May 1
- Activity has displaced many elk
- A land owner in Meeteetse shut down public access to forest for shed hunting and did not have to haze elk.

BSL 3 lab update (Dr. Will Laegreid)

- Some air handling issues
- Broke ground for incinerator
- Scheduled completion of lab is mid-September
- Need CDC approval so likely 2019 before BSL-3 approved

Legislative update

- State has a deficit but the "rainy-day" fund is full
- Brucellosis funding was not cut in the last session.

Sierra club (Lloyd Dorsey)

- Should concentrate on a better cattle vaccine
- SC is opposed to feed-grounds (brucellosis and CWD)



**2018 Western States Livestock Health Association
Annual Meeting Agenda
Big Sky, Montana
June 11-13, 2018**

Sunday, June 10

6:00 pm Welcome Reception

Monday, June 11

7:00 am Breakfast (provided)

8:00 Welcome Steve Bullock, Montana
Governor (invited)

8:15 USAHA Update Barbara Determan,
President USAHA

8:30 ARMAR Full-Scale Exercise Discussion (CA, CO, KS,
MT, SD) Dr. Keith Roehr
Dr. Justin Smith
Dr. Dustin Oedekoven
Dr. Martin Zaluski

10:00 Break

10:15 NIAA Update Katie Ambrose

10:30 EP/EIA Cases Linked to Illegal Movements across
Mexico/US Border Dr. Angela Pelzel-
McCluskey

11:00 B. ovis semen PCR Tiffany Brigner
Dr. Dan Love

11:30 Comments from Sponsors

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 State TB Updates Dr. Dennis Hughes
Dr. Dustin Oedekoven
Dr. Andy Schwartz
Dr. Ralph Zimmerman

2:00	State Brucellosis Updates	Dr. Bill Barton Dr. Thach Winslow Dr. Martin Zaluski
3:00	Break	
3:15	USDA Updates	Dr. Ryan Clarke Dr. Sara Ahola Dr. Brian McCluskey
4:30	Questions and Adjourn	

Tuesday, June 12

7:00 am	Breakfast (Provided)	
8:00	ADT for SAHO's; Where are you at and where would you like to be?	Dr. Keith Roehr
8:20	RFID use in Western Livestock Auction Markets	Dr. Dustin Oedekoven
8:40	Emergency Disease Software – IIAD	Dr. Dee Ellis
9:30	Depart Big Sky Resort for Tour of Flying D Ranch (Lunch provided)	
10:30	Arrive at Flying D Ranch	
3:30	Depart Flying D Ranch for Return to Big Sky Resort	
6:00	Banquet – Big Sky	

Wednesday, June 13

7:00 am	Breakfast (provided)	
8:00	Import Concerns for Non-regulated Diseases (Anaplasmosis, bluetongue, BLV, Johne's) panel discussion	Dr. J.J. Goicoechea Dr. Brad LeaMaster Dr. Dustin Oedekoven Dr. Martin Zaluski
9:00	WSLHA Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order • Transition to new President • Approval of Agenda • Approval of meetings - Western District Meeting at 2017 USAHA (CA) 	

- Treasurer's Report
- Old Business / USDA responses to resolutions
- New Business
 - Revisions to WSLHA By-Laws by Working Group
 - Site selection for the next USAHA Meeting to be held in the Western District
 - 2019 WSLHA Meeting planning considerations
- Nomination and election of next Vice President
- State Reports Summaries

12:00 Adjourn



2018 Western States Livestock Health Association

Big Sky, Montana

June 11-13, 2018

ARMAR Full-Scale Discussion

Colorado spent 3-4 years planning for the ARMAR exercise and used the exercise to educate their state emergency managers about agriculture as well as to conduct outreach to industry. One big take-away for Colorado was that the indemnity model proposed by USDA (offer 50% of market value) won't work; many producers are leveraged at greater than 50% and so can't accept that low an indemnity offer. Colorado has some emergency funding available within the state, and the Department of Agriculture played a request for that funding to cover indemnity for affected producers. Additionally, Colorado was surprised by the nation-wide stand still order from USDA and would have trouble with the logistics of a stop movement order.

South Dakota includes their animal disease response plan as a part of the statewide all hazards plan. South Dakota used this exercise preparation as an opportunity to update all their animal disease response plans and used the exercise to connect with state emergency managers. For the exercise South Dakota focused on communication with local emergency coordinators. South Dakota requested a National Incident Management Team (NIMT) as part of the exercise and felt that the integration with the NIMT did not go smoothly. As an exercise inject, South Dakota received an injunction to prevent affected herd depopulation on behalf of the Cattleman's organization.

California has a blended incident management team that includes California Department of Food and Agriculture, USDA VS, and state emergency managers. Members of the team all have position specific training. The exercise scenario in California involved introduction into a purebred beef herd with spread to additional herds via contamination on a private veterinarian. California emphasize the need for an approved FMD test for milk. When the standstill order went into effect California allowed shipments to slaughter to continue to their destination; all other shipments were inspected and healthy cattle could continue, but sick animals were quarantined at a variety of state facilities. One issue with the dairies in California is that many do not raise their own calves and so are not equipped to hold calves for more than a few days. One conclusion from the exercise in California is that stamping out an FMD outbreak is not likely to be effective for a variety of reasons including public perception, time it will take to depopulate large herds, and legal challenges. California is working on a vaccination plan with a third-party contractor to conduct a large-scale vaccination campaign in the event of an outbreak.

Montana was invited to participate in the exercise because the common denominator for all participating states was that they receive cattle from Montana. Montana hosted the Blue NIMT from USDA and had good participation from other state agencies. Montana was successful with tracing in state animal movements using brands enforcement and market data. Montana did not successfully depopulate even the index herd during the exercise.

Kansas hosted the SimCell for the exercise and had staff travel to observe in different states. Kansas plays their own functional exercise every year. Kansas has encountered many of the same challenges as the states that participated in ARMAR. Kansas plans call for a statewide stop movement, so that matches well with the USDA ordered standstill. The Secure Food Supply Plans are necessary to set up the permitting process and start animals moving again. Kansas emphasize the need to know what responses/risks/restrictions that the various livestock industries are willing to take or accept.

Overall, there is a need for increased outreach to producers. Producers need to know what states are planning to do during an outbreak and what the permitting process will look like. No one has the resources to reach out to producers one at a time. Proposal for regional/commodity based approach to operationalize secure food supply plans and conduct outreach to producer organizations. Kansas is leading the effort for the beef sector. Recognition that continuity of business during an outbreak is not going to be business as usual.

Illegal Movement of Horses from Mexico: Pathways for entry of equine diseases into the U.S. – Dr. Angela Pelzel-McCluskey with APHIS-VS presented on the topic of equine piroplasmiasis (EP) and equine infectious anemia (EIA). A large percentage of these cases are likely from out of country rather than untested “pockets” of horses in the U.S. For example, in 2017, 49 of the 80 EIA cases in the U.S. were found in QH racehorses. Three illegal entry pathways identified were discussed including horses from overseas smuggled into the U.S. via Mexico, repeated illegal movement for unsanctioned (bush track) racing, and rejection from legal import and subsequent smuggling across the border. These movements pose a risk of introduction of many different diseases as well as other threats.

Brucellosis update from USDA-VS-cattle health- Dr. Ryan Clarke presented on the USDA review of the Wyoming Brucellosis Management Plan (BMP) completed in June of 2016. Dr. Clarke discussed the strengths of the program and recommendations made by the review committee. USDA conducted a review of the Idaho BMP this spring but has yet to publish the review. The USDA will review one of the three GYA state’s BMP each year. Montana’s is scheduled for the spring of 2019.

USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services Program Updates – Dr. Brian McCluskey, Associate Deputy Administrator, Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services presented updates on the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication efforts including work to develop new treatments of wildlife, cattle and horses. A border fence to prevent wildlife movement is under construction in Zapata County, Texas.

The discovery of the Long-horned tick in the U.S. was discussed. This tick is concerning because it is a good vector for many pathogens. Additionally, a female can reproduce without males. It was initially detected in the U.S. in 2017 but archived samples suggest it has been in New Jersey since 2013. The tick has since been found in three additional states since.

For the bovine tuberculosis program update comprehensive reviews in Indiana and South Dakota this spring were discussed. The USDA’s direction for the program continues to focus on cooperation with State partners, work to create new TB rules, collaboration with Canada and Mexico to minimize risk in trade, and work with wildlife regulatory agencies to minimize spillover from wildlife reservoirs.

Virulent Newcastle disease (vND) was discovered in backyard exhibition chickens in Los Angeles County, California in May of this year. Previously referred to as exotic Newcastle Disease, vND has not been seen in the U.S. since 2003. California and USDA have utilized the emergency response Incident Command

Structure. The response has consumed a tremendous amount of state and federal resources, particularly personnel. Surveillance and eradication efforts in California have included visits to more than 40,000 premises. 16 affected premises have been discovered so far. Exhibition chickens are not considered poultry therefore, this outbreak has not had an impact on trade.

Seneca A virus has been an issue in slaughter swine in the U.S. for ten years. The disease is not reportable, it is not zoonotic, does not impact trade, and has limited effect on swine production. However, it has an outside impact that has become much more significant recently. Because clinical signs in swine (vesicles) mimic clinical signs of FMD in swine, each case must be investigated. The increasing presence of the virus, particularly at slaughter, is draining resources and attention from foreign animal disease surveillance and investigation.

The federal CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) was implemented in 2014. Currently, 2,103 herds are certified. To date, CWD has been detected in 13 captive cervid herds in 5 different states. The indemnity budget is \$1 million per year with \$650,000 remaining in FY18. APHIS published draft revised CWD Program Standards in the Federal Register on March 29, 2018.

Dr. McCluskey covered on farm investigations supporting foodborne disease outbreaks. Due to a March 2017 Government Accountability Office recommendation, APHIS VS and FSIS have increased efforts to work with state animal health officials and industry representatives to develop an operational framework, including a decision matrix, that will support multi-agency and stakeholder coordination and cooperation.

Brucellosis slaughter surveillance and high-risk animals - Dr. Sara Ahola USDA APHIS VS, cattle health, presented an update on the current level of national brucellosis slaughter surveillance. GYA state livestock slaughter samples are considered "high value" samples. Nine slaughter plants in eight different states collect samples from cattle for brucellosis testing. The majority of GYA cattle samples are collected at the slaughter plants in Idaho, Utah and California. Ten percent of the national slaughter samples collected and tested are from GYA states.

U.S. Bovine Tuberculosis Update - Dr. Sara Ahola presented a bovine tuberculosis update on the cost of indemnity. In 2015, 3 large dairy herds in Texas and 2 beef herds in Michigan cost \$18 million. In 2016, 4 beef herds in Michigan and 1 in Indiana cost \$2.8 million. In 2017, 3 beef herds and a small dairy in Michigan, 3 beef herds in South Dakota, 2 large dairies in New Mexico, and 1 beef herd in Indiana cost \$9.7 million. To date in 2018, 2 beef herds in Michigan, 1 beef herd in South Dakota, and 1 beef herd in Nebraska have cost \$1.2 million in indemnity.

GYA State brucellosis updates, Wyoming – Dr. Thach Winslow, Wyoming Assistant State Veterinarian, presented an update on the Wyoming DSA. Livestock surveillance in their DSA as well in the Bighorn Mountains were covered. They have 89,700 cattle in their DSA and run 36,000 tests annually. Wyoming does not currently have a brucellosis affected herd.

Wyoming's Brucellosis Area of Concern (BAC) in the Bighorn Mountains was discussed. The Wyoming Livestock Board recently voted to reduce the size of the BAC to remove Sheridan County and only include 3 hunt districts in Big Horn County. The livestock board utilized elk movement data from the Wyoming Fish and Game to narrow the BAC. Wyoming plans to utilize elk collar data to help determine which herds are at the highest risk in their BAC. Cattle herds will be assigned risk levels of insignificant,

potential and significant. Herds will be placed on herd plans. 65,000 cattle exist in Sheridan and Big Horn Counties, last year, 6,644 tests were performed in the area.

Dr. Winslow also discussed the 2016 USDA review and their response to recommendations which included some rule changes, the creation of an MOU with USDA, and concern expressed over the BAC.

GYA State brucellosis update, Idaho – Dr. Bill Barton, State Veterinarian, Idaho, gave an update on their DSA. In 2017 Idaho tested over 12,200 animals. Dr. Barton gave an overview of the status of the epidemiologic investigation for their single brucellosis quarantined herd. The affected herd is a purebred cattle herd of 550 head, discovered in November of 2017 during a herd test.

USDA recently reviewed Idaho's brucellosis program. The final review is still in draft form but some recommendations were presented. Recommendations will likely include enhance wildlife surveillance, ensure movement testing out of the DSA, ensure slaughter cow testing, reduce test eligible age to 12 months and retain brucellosis records for 5 years.

GYA State brucellosis update, Montana – Dr. Martin Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Montana covered Montana's DSA livestock surveillance and recent live elk capture. Dr. Zaluski also covered proposed administrative rule changes, including a DSA boundary adjustment, brucellosis vaccination, and a change to bison import requirements that would reflect USDA and Montana cattle import requirements.

Evolution of *B. ovis* Testing in Colorado - Tiffany Brigner and Dr. Dan Love from the Colorado Department of Agriculture presented on their effort to develop a *Brucella ovis* PCR test that can be used on semen. The current test used for surveillance in *B. ovis* flock certification programs and for the management of affected flocks, is plagued with false positive results, equivocal results, and significant producer frustration. The development of the semen PCR for *B. ovis* detection provides an option for determining previous exposure to the disease that results in an antibody response from animals that are actively shedding the organism. This test has significant potential for animals that have historically been culled due to equivocal results.

State Tuberculosis (TB) Reports – Texas still has one large dairy complex (three facilities) under quarantine (11,000 head under one owner). All three facilities tested 10 times 2015 – 2018; completed 10th removal test in April (cumulative total of 1,637 CFT positives removed; 112,562 injected). Sixty-seven confirmed MB compatible animals. Found a single positive animal on most recent removal test. Currently, USDA is working on a new model to determine how many additional removal tests are needed with no positives to determine disease freedom (usually requires at least 4 negative removal tests before verification testing). Next test scheduled for July 2018. This herd is able to continue to market milk during quarantine and testing process.

South Dakota had two Tb positive herds in 2017. A Harding County herd in February that Montana received trace ins and outs from, and a Tripp County herd in November 2017. Between 2000 and 2017, there have been 9 slaughter trace back investigations of beef herds in SD. The 4 most recent investigations have led to the finding of 7 infected beef herds. Since 2000, South Dakota has had 5 singleton cows with TB identified where no infected herd was found, and 3 additional outbreaks that resulted in 6 affected herds. None of these slaughter trace backs are genetically linked. Received an additional slaughter trace back this past week, epi work and herd testing is pending.

New Mexico – Single large dairy remains under quarantine. This dairy is associated with two premises. All affected animals came from a single heifer cohort. New Mexico has worked with USDA to depopulate only animals from the highly infected cohort. The remainder of the herd is undergoing test and remove testing.

Nebraska – single affected herd with epidemiological link to SD Tripp County herd. Large number of traces associated with this detection. Herd was approved for depopulation and slaughtered in Feb 2018. C&D has since been completed and quarantine of premises released.

Panel discussion on diseases not routinely addressed in movement requirements – State veterinarians from MT, OR, SD, and NV discussed regional differences in disease and what, if any, the role of a state animal health official is in providing education to producers or local veterinarians. For instance, NV has epizootic bovine abortion (foothills abortion). A naïve group of cattle imported into their state can suffer devastatingly high abortion rates when exposed to the causative agent. Additional diseases discussed were blue tongue, epizootic hemorrhagic disease, Johne's, and anaplasmosis.

Flying D Tour – Approximately 85 conference attendees toured the Flying D Ranch. Ranch staff including Dr. David Hunter, veterinarian; Danny Johnson, ranch manager; and Todd Traucht, bison manager presented to the group on the management of the bison herd along with their experiences with diseases such as anthrax, Johne's, Mycoplasma, and brucellosis.

WSLHA Business Meeting – The conference concluded with the WSLHA business meeting where the presidency was transferred from Dr. Tahnee Szymanski to Dr. Barry Pittman of Utah. Next year's meeting will be held in Utah.



Board of Livestock Meeting

Agenda Request Form

From: Leslie Doely	Division/Program: Brands Enforcement Division	Meeting Date: June 26, 2018
<u>Agenda Item:</u> Out of State Travel Request		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes No Board vote required? Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u> Request to Modify Position and Hire (old business)		
Background Info: Request to return the existing (vacant) Administrative Specialist position to a supervisor of Helena compliance technician staff, handling personnel management and day-to-day policy and procedural issues. Shifting the compliance tech staff under the Administrative specialist reduces the Administrator's direct reports from 11 to 5.		
Position classification and pay information now available.		
Recommendation:		
Time needed: 20 minutes	Attachments:	Yes No Board vote required Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes No Board vote required: Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes No Board vote required: Yes No
<u>Agenda Item:</u>		
Background Info:		
Recommendation:		
Time needed:	Attachments:	Yes No Board vote required: Yes No

Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 10:31 AM
To: Honeycutt, Mike <MHoneycutt@mt.gov>
Subject: Possible DSA exxpansion

Hi Mike,

I am Dale Venhuizen from Manhattan, MT and own and operate Churchill Cattle Co in Manhattan. We are a registered Hereford beef operation. We are located north off Interstate 90 in Gallatin county and currently outside of the DSA.

The possible expansion of the DSA to include all of Gallatin County would negatively impact our operation in a very big way because of two situations that greatly affect our business.

First, we sell a lot of Hereford females to the state of Texas every year through an annual female sale in September. The Texas state vet has put extreme restrictions on females that come from within the DSA and go into Texas. The restrictions include an extensive quarantine period and then retesting all the females after they have had their first calf in Texas. This may not sound like that big of an issue but for our buyers it would be a big headache for them and so much so that most of them would not buy from us any more. These female sales to buyers in Texas is the most profitable part of our operation and really helps make our operation what it is today. if we lose those sales we will have to totally change the way we do business either by moving to a different county or scaling our operation way back. We currently employ 5 full time people and most of the money that those sales to Texas generate are a big help to our local economy. Just last week we negotiated a private treaty sale of 15 Hereford females for a total sale of \$115,000 to a buyer in McAllen, TX.

Second, our operation is a satellite center for Trans Ova Genetics of Sioux Center, IA. Trans Ova personnel come to our ranch every two weeks to collect embryos from purebred cattle of all breeds. The opportunity to collect these embryos for many Montana producers is a an important service for registered cattle breeders in Montana. We are also eligible to export these embryos to other countries. If our operation were to become inside the DSA it could curtail greatly the collection and sale of these embryos for several Montana producers.

In summary, I would plead with you not to expand the DSA in Gallatin county beyond what it currently is.

I can reached by phone anytime at 406-***-****.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Dale Venhuizen

Churchill Cattle Co

Honeycutt, Mike

From: Les Graham
Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Honeycutt, Mike
Subject: Re: Seeking Industry Input on required Statewide Brucellosis Vaccination in Cattle and Domestic Bison

Importance: High

Hi Mike; MALAM met Saturday and passed a motion that they are absolutely opposed to mandatory statewide vaccination. Mostly we agree with msg's position. Since the meeting was changed, I can't be there. Will be teaching a class for the summer meeting of the Vo Ag Teachers in Big Timber. Please call if you have questions.

LES

On Jun 4, 2018, at 3:16 PM, Honeycutt, Mike <MHoneycutt@mt.gov> wrote:

Greetings,

I am reaching out to each of you as a valued industry stakeholder at the request of the Montana Board of Livestock. The Board is seeking input and feedback from the industry regarding the potential of requiring calfhood vaccination for Brucellosis of all cattle and domestic bison statewide. The current administrative rule states:

32.3.436 VACCINATION WITHIN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH THE DSA IS LOCATED

(1) Within the entirety of counties in which the DSA is located all sexually intact female cattle and domestic bison that are four months of age or older as of January 1 of any year must be Official Calfhood Vaccinates (OCV).

(a) Female cattle or domestic bison that are not OCV eligible may become Official Adult Vaccinates (AV).

(b) Variances or exceptions to requirements will be considered on an individual basis by the administrator.

We are currently beginning the rule making process to extend this requirement to counties that border the DSA and public comment process on that issue will begin once the rule proposal is published. We will public notice that issue when it is open for comment and review. However, during looking at the issue the Board has questioned if the timing and need may be right to extend this requirement to all 56 counties. The Board has not approved moving forward with such a policy change but intends to discuss the issue more at their next meeting in Helena on June 27th. We would invite any of you or other representatives of your organizations to attend the meeting to provide public comment, or if that is not possible to at least provide me written public comment ahead of the meeting date.

We recognize that in the past this has been a highly controversial issue which is why the Board would like information from you before moving forward with any decisions. Please share this information with your members, discuss at upcoming summer meetings and share any feedback you can collect. Board members and staff will also be present at many of these meetings to discuss the issue and answer questions if desired.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance and we look forward to hearing from all of you.