



Serve Montana's Livestock Producers and livestock related businesses by fostering, growing, promoting and protecting the livestock industry.

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

Annual Performance Report

FY2026

MANAGE REPORTABLE DISEASE PREVALENCE IN MONTANA

Conduct public meetings and educational outreach about Montana's brucellosis program-

Conduct disease surveillance-

Exercise response to Foreign Animal Disease-

Track laboratory testing for federally reportable diseases-



Strategic Outcome

#1

	Measure	Status
Key Measures	Maintain at least 95% or above compliance with regulatory testing requirements	Ongoing: DSA compliance is performed at the county level on a rotating basis. The Brucellosis Compliance Technician is in the process of reviewing cattle movements, brand inspections and required brucellosis testing for compliance. Suspected cases of non-compliance are followed up on individually to either verify compliance, require testing, or take enforcement action as necessary. Gallatin and Park County are being reviewed for FY2026. Past assessments of other DSA counties have been at 95% and 98%.
	Complete at least one major exercise per year engaging multiple staff, state /federal agencies, and stakeholders to test disease response plans and make improvements	Met: The Department of Livestock has been working on the development of a communication plan for use during a foreign animal disease detection and national movement standstill. This has included meetings across the state with producers and targeted moderated meetings with local, state, federal, tribal and livestock stakeholder groups. This work culminated in the drafting of a communication plan that will be tested at a final tabletop exercise on September 29, 2026 in Helena. In addition, DOL continues to respond to detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) through coordination with federal and public health entities, continuing to reflect on efficacy of our response and what changes and adjustments can be made to improve our response capabilities.

		• Partner with FWP and the Crow Tribe to conduct disease surveillance of wildlife on tribal ground	Met: Following the establishment of an MOU between the three entities, FWP coordinated with the Crow Tribe to capture 99 elk on the Crow Reservation in early February. Live elk capture is part of the ongoing targeted elk brucellosis surveillance in support of Montana's brucellosis program. All 99 elk tested negative for brucellosis. In addition to brucellosis testing, 30 elk were fitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) collars. The movement and location data from these collars will provide a better understanding of elk movement in the region. Wyoming has found intermittent seropositive results from elk in the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming. The northern terminus of the Big Horn Mountains is on the Crow Reservation in Montana. The successful capture of elk on the Crow Reservation and the negative results help provide confidence that we do not have an additional geographic area with brucellosis infected wildlife and a risk of disease spillover to livestock.
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MAINTAIN INTEGRITY IN LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION, MARKETING, AND MOVEMENT

Develop an online system to conduct brand lien renewals-

Conduct targeted truck stop and enforcement activity across the state-

Provide additional electronic inspections to the livestock industry-

Develop improved system to conduct compliance audits within the division-



Strategic Outcome

#2

Key Measures

Measure

Status

- Allow for online secure web service that allows lienholders to manage and renew their brand liens

Partially Met: The brand lien portal is currently functioning for lienholders to manage liens. Lien renewal is currently being set up for the start of the renewal cycle beginning December 2027.

- Conduct at least 6 truck stop activities across the state to check and monitor compliance

Met: Conducted six truck stops. In addition, completed compliance checks for contestants at numerous rodeos and assisted in county fairs to ensure correct change of ownership for 4H participants.

- Develop pilot program that allows deputy stock inspectors to issue electronic inspections

Partially Met: Developed a work plan with the programming architect on steps needed for deputy stock inspector to issue electronic inspections. Identified stock inspectors to serve as beta testers as the system is being developed.

- Conduct an audit of each livestock commission company during the course of the biennium and track all issued inspections books

Partially Met: Developed online system that tracks each inspection book and the assigned inspector. System also tracks when inspection is entered into the system and when inspection book is completed. Brands' audit position to conduct audits on commission companies remains vacant. Reviewing potential contractors to provide the service while the position is open.

IMPROVE ONLINE AND DIGITAL SERVICES FOR REAL TIME DATA AND IMPROVE SPEED OF COMMERCE

Increase Animal Health Division's customer support, security, and reporting capabilities-

Develop new Departmental reporting capabilities-

Recognize the importance of economic viability and sustainability of individual livestock operators in Montana-



Strategic Outcome

#3

Key Measures	Measure	Status
	Finish upgrading of Animal Health's Division-wide new Core1 application during this biennium	Met: The Department of Livestock Animal Health and Food Safety Division successfully implemented the CoreOne Animal Health Traceability database division-wide, which modernized the Department's animal health information system and improved access to data used for animal health traceability. CoreOne strengthened the Department's ability to capture, retrieve, and report animal health traceability information in an efficient and real-time manner.
	Expand reporting and traceability functionality with the Enterprise's Snowflake database reporting tools	Partially Met: Data from the ServiceNow Brands application, Axiom, Fort Supply, and VADDS is being imported into Snowflake. Importing of CoreOne data is being worked on currently as well as per capita fee data. Queries need to be built to access the data. Real-world cross-referencing of data remains unleveraged.
	Provide financial reimbursements and preventative grants to producers with losses caused by wolves, mountain lions, grizzly or black bears based upon program criteria	Met: FY26's reimbursements totaled \$324,427 (235 losses) with zero filed disputes. FY26 prevention grants totaled \$396,077. These grants are utilized by dozens of ranches to prevent depredations on more than 50,000 head of Montana livestock.