# ANNUAL REPORT

## Montana Department of Livestock

### *ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU*

## Mission Statement

*To control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals.*

Figure 1. Angus Heifers
Source: DOL Staff

## FISCAL YEAR 22

**July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**

# Table of Contents (not yet done)

# LOOKING BACK

## Summary Highlights
### Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Fiscal year 22, spanning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, was a busy year for the Animal Health Bureau (AHB). When I look at the year as a whole, two themes dominate the work done by AHB staff. The first is work to advance Department of Livestock's (DOL) level of preparedness for a large scale animal disease or other disaster impacting Montana's livestock industry. The second is the deployment of those skills in response to detections of bovine tuberculosis (TB) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). While there is still much to do regarding emergency preparedness, the progress we are making is evident. We benefit from strong working relationships with our counterparts in other state agencies, with our federal partners, and with private industry.

Figure 2. Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Source: Personal Photo

The detection of TB in a Blaine County herd was the first in the state in over 50 years. The resulting investigation involved Department employees from every part of DOL and outside agencies as well. Likewise for our response to detection of HPAI. I feel confident that the work done on these disease responses is a true reflection of our mission to safeguard the health and food production capacity of Montana's livestock and poultry industries.

I am greatly appreciative of DOL staff and the tremendous industry that we serve. My personal thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,
Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Animal Health Bureau Chief
Assistant State Veterinarian

# ANIMAL HEALTH STAFF

**Marty Zaluski, DVM** grew up in Butte, Montana and graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. He joined the Department of Livestock in 2007. As the state veterinarian and the administrator of the Animal Health & Food Safety Division, he is focused on the mission of protecting animal and public health. He oversees the bureaus of Animal Health, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Meat & Poultry Inspection, and Milk & Egg. He has been highly involved in Montana's brucellosis program, trichomoniasis, traceability, animal imports and food safety. Dr. Zaluski is married to Heather Zaluski, MD and has three children, Kate (16), Evan (20), and Maia (23). In his off-duty time, Dr. Zaluski enjoys brewing beer, riding dirt bikes, hunting, and boating.

**Tahnee Szymanski, DVM** is a Helena native and a 2004 graduate from Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She joined the Department of Livestock in 2008 after several years in large animal ambulatory practice. As the Assistant State Veterinarian and Animal Health Bureau Chief, Dr. Szymanski is responsible for the import office, Montana's state traceability program, animal health enforcement field staff, the alternative livestock program, and state and federal disease programs. These include trichomoniasis, tuberculosis, as well as other cattle, equine, and small ruminant disease programs. In her off-duty time, Dr. Szymanski enjoys hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, and other outdoor adventures with her ten year-old daughter, Campbell.

**Eric Liska, DVM** grew up on the family Angus ranch in Nebraska, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in science and a minor in agriculture. Following his graduation from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1998, he practiced and owned his own large animal veterinary practice in Helena for 11 years. Dr. Liska came on board with the Department of Livestock as the Brucellosis Program Veterinarian in June of 2009. He enjoys pheasant hunting and quality time with his wife Eleana, and daughters, Stella (18) and Grace (15).

**Anna Forseth, DVM** grew up in Three Forks, Montana. She received her Bachelor's degree from Montana State University in 2012, her veterinary degree from Colorado State University in 2016 and her Master's degree from Iowa State University in 2020. She joined the Department of Livestock in 2018 as a Program Veterinarian, after working in the swine industry in Iowa following graduation from veterinary school. Dr. Forseth oversees the department's animal emergency preparedness and One Health efforts, the state's National Poultry Improvement Plan program, and disease programs including rabies and Johne's. Dr. Forseth and her husband Rocky have two children, Olie (4) and Joslynn "Jo" (3). The Forseths stay busy exploring the great outdoors of Montana, spending time at the family ranch in Fairfield, farm in Three Forks, and visiting friends throughout Montana.

## Import Office

**Brooke Ruffier Hoopes** grew up in Butte, Montana. She holds two bachelor degrees from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana: one in Equitation and Training and the other in Business Management. Brooke joined the department in March 2017. She manages the import office and the alternative livestock program. Brooke pals around with her corgi , enjoys training horses and spending time with her husband Austin and two year old son, Jackson.

**Jacqueline "Jac" Cima** grew up in Northern California where she spent her childhood reading, riding dirt bikes, and showing the world's most difficult chestnut mare. She graduated from the University of California at Davis with a B.S in Animal Science with an emphasis on Livestock Production, which is just another way of saying she went to class with hay in her hair a lot. She worked as a Veterinary Technician at the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital for several years. As a technician, she specialized in equine critical care and livestock medicine and surgery which resulted in some great stories, a few scars, and a general dislike for potbellied pigs. She joined the Department of Livestock Brands Division as Re-Record Clerk in 2021 before moving upstairs in 2022 to the Animal Health Bureau to work as a Compliance Technician and oversee the Alternative Livestock program. In her free time, she enjoys baking, traveling, attempting to hit sporting clays, riding horses and, inexplicitly, volunteering to be ground crew at brandings.

**Britta Sekora** grew up in Shelby, Montana and attended Carroll College for History and Constitutional studies. Britta was hired by the Department of Livestock in September 2019 and is now a Compliance Specialist, manages the poultry program, and edits quarterly and annual reports. She lives in South Helena with her husband Andrew and two daughters, age 5 and 9. In her free time Britta enjoys traveling, knitting, hiking, golfing and spending time on the river with her family.

**Kaylee Hiel** grew up in Helena, Montana. She joined the Department of Livestock in September 2019 as a Permit Technician and is now a Compliance Specialist, managing the blanket permit program. She enjoys traveling, hiking, baking, and spending time with her family and dogs.

**Sara Starkey** grew up in Southern California and earned an Associate's Degree in Equine Health from the University of Montana Western. She then spent four years working at a mixed animal veterinary clinic as a veterinary technician. Sara joined the Animal Health Bureau of the Department of Livestock in May 2016. She is a program specialist and manages seasonal grazer and biologics programs, coordinates the veterinary accreditation seminars, oversees electronic health certificate management and manages import quarantines. In her free time, Sara spends time with her husband, daughter, four dogs and six horses on their growing ranch.

**Leslie Doely** is a native of Creston, Montana in the Flathead Valley. She graduated from Montana State with a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science and soon after married high school sweetheart, Josh. The couple both secured jobs in Helena in 2010 – Leslie as a temp with Department of Livestock. Leslie has held several positions with DOL but is currently enjoying her role as the Brucellosis Compliance Specialist. The couple have two feisty boys, ages 4 (Callaway) and 7 (Cooper), a small beef cattle and meat goat operation, a few horses, chickens, cats, dogs and a big garden to keep them all busy and enjoying the outdoors.

## Enforcement

**Dan Bugni** grew up in Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. He spent his high school years jockeying racehorses, which took him all over the western United States for nine years. Dan eventually settled in Butte, Montana and was hired by the Department of Livestock in 1995 as a Market Inspector in Billings. From there Dan went to Great Falls, Ramsay, into the Chinook District and finally the Dillon District. He is currently the Western Area Supervisor working animal health and brands investigations. Dan is married, has a son who is a corporal in the Marine Corp and a daughter who is currently a sales associate at the Murdoch's corporation. In his free time Dan enjoys hunting, fishing, riding horses and assisting area ranchers to work their livestock.

**Travis Elings** grew up in Montana and graduated from Browning High School. In 1997, Travis graduated from Dawson Community College in Glendive with an Ag Business Degree. Travis hired on with the Department of Livestock in 1997, first working in Great Falls. Travis is now located in the Billings area and is the Eastern Montana Area Supervisor working animal health and brands investigations. Travis lives in Shepherd Montana, is married, has a son and a daughter. Off-duty Travis likes to rope with his kids and work in his shop.

## Bison Program

**Clay Vines** was born and raised in Montana. He grew up and went to high school in Livingston, Montana. He attended Dawson Community college in Glendive, where he graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice; Law enforcement. He stayed competitive on the rodeo team participating in team and calf roping. Clay became a fishing guide in college and Fishing Outfitter in the years to follow. In 2014 he took a job with the Montana Department of Livestock and is now the Bison Program Manager living in the West Yellowstone, Montana area.

**Mike Himmelspach** was born and raised in Livingston, Montana. He has spent most of his life guiding hunters and ranching in Paradise Valley. Mike hired on with the Department of Livestock in January of 2019 with the Bison Management Program. Mike enjoys hunting, riding horses in the mountains, camping and lives in Paradise Valley with his wife Alison.

## Brucellosis—Epidemiologic Investigations

In FY22, Department of Livestock (DOL) identified two brucellosis affected herds, in addition to two existing affected herds (2010 and 2019).

The first brucellosis detection in FY22 was a herd located within the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) of Madison County. The infected herd was found when two animals tested seropositive (suspect) on a voluntary whole herd test in December 2021. Pathologists at Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) collected tissues and forwarded samples to National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa where infection was confirmed in one of the two animals. The herd was placed under quarantine and a brucellosis affected herd plan completed. Two whole herd tests have been completed to date with no additional non-negative animals. Quarantine release is pending the completion of a post-calving negative whole herd test. Testing of adjacent and contact herds was completed with negative results on all herds. DOL is still waiting on whole genome sequencing (WGS) results of the isolate to inform potential source of introduction.

The epidemiological investigation of the Madison County affected her was simplified because:

- Both non-negative animals tested negative the year prior allowing only adjacent herds and trace in and out animals since the negative test to be involved in the investigation.
- Most adjacent herds voluntarily test each year and had already done so, eliminating the need to quarantine for testing.
- No animals had left the herd without a test (on ranch or at the market) since the previous negative test.

A brucellosis affected herd within the DSA of Gallatin County was also disclosed in FY22 after a voluntary herd test revealed a non-negative adult cow. The reactor cow had tested negative the previous year. The Gallatin County herd was placed under quarantine and an affected herd plan completed. Quarantine was released in April 2022 after the completion of two whole herd tests including, a parturient calving test. An assurance test is planned for late Fall 2022. Testing of adjacent and contact herds is ongoing. DOL is still waiting for WGS results on the isolate to inform potential source of introduction.

The two existing brucellosis affected herds (2010 and 2019) include:

- A large domestic bison herd based in Gallatin County which has been under quarantine since FY11 due to ongoing detections of brucellosis during annual herd testing.
- A Madison County herd that was placed under quarantine following the discovery of an infected animal in FY19.

## Brucellosis—Testing and Reimbursement

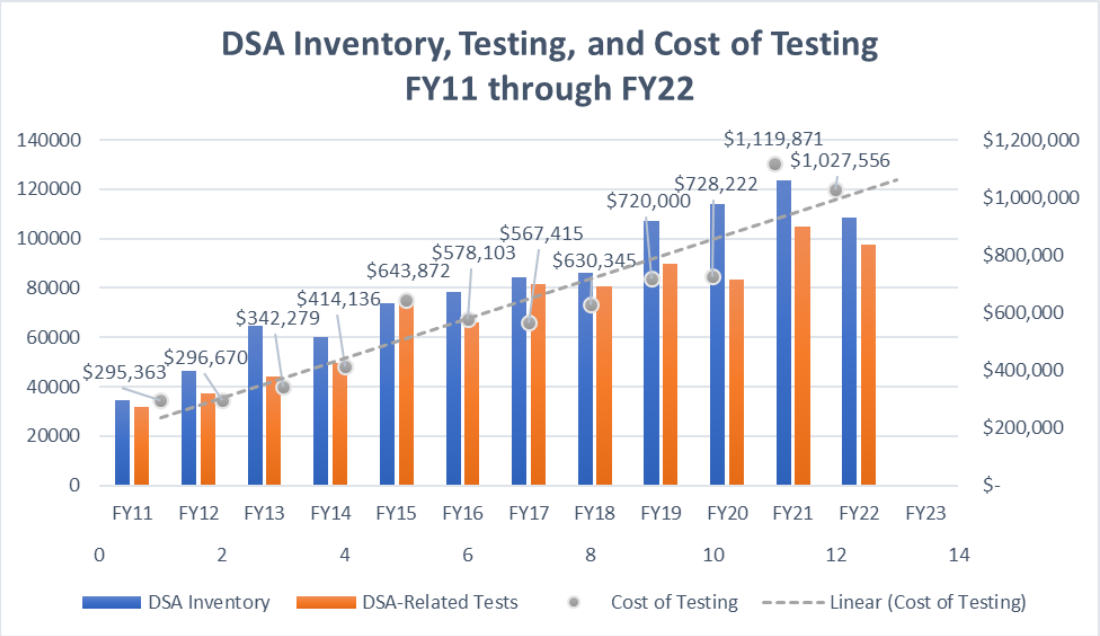



Figure 3. DSA Inventory, Testing, and Cost of Testing FY22. Source: DOL Staff

Figure 3 above shows the cost of the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) continues to rise as the number of animals and number of tests increases.

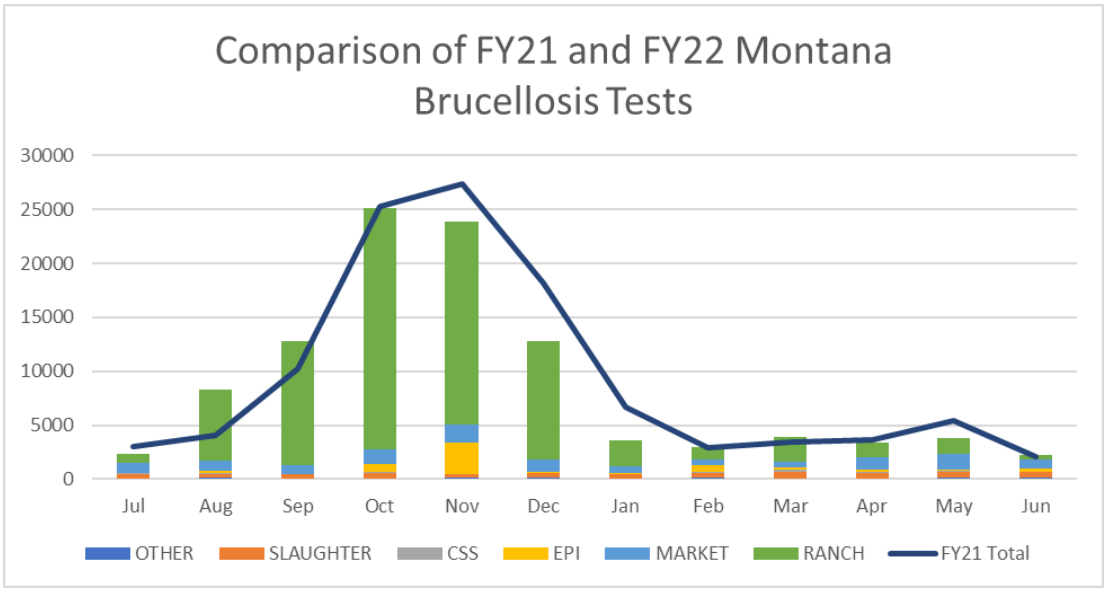



Figure 4. Comparison of FY21 and FY22 Brucellosis Testing. Source: DOL Staff

Montana brucellosis test volume followed a similar pattern in FY21 and FY22, as shown in Figure 4 above. The total number of tests, however, fell six percent from FY21 with 112,458 tests to 105,396 tests in FY22.

## Brucellosis—Testing and Reimbursement, continued

In FY22, Department of Livestock (DOL) changed the process by which veterinary reimbursements for Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) brucellosis testing were issued. Rather than completing an additional form beyond the laboratory submission form, veterinarians can now indicate a request for reimbursement on the form, eliminating several steps from the process. As a result, all 92,228 tests eligible for reimbursement to veterinarians were reimbursed. Most tests were reimbursed at the lowest rate of $6.00 per head for tests of 51 or more animals (Figure 5). The average veterinary reimbursement was $6.28 per head.

Of note, only 45% of the 85,669 tests eligible for reimbursement to producers were reimbursed, leaving approximately $92,246 in unclaimed producer reimbursements in FY22.

The total for producer, veterinary and adult vaccination reimbursements for testing and vaccination completed in FY22 was $662,883.

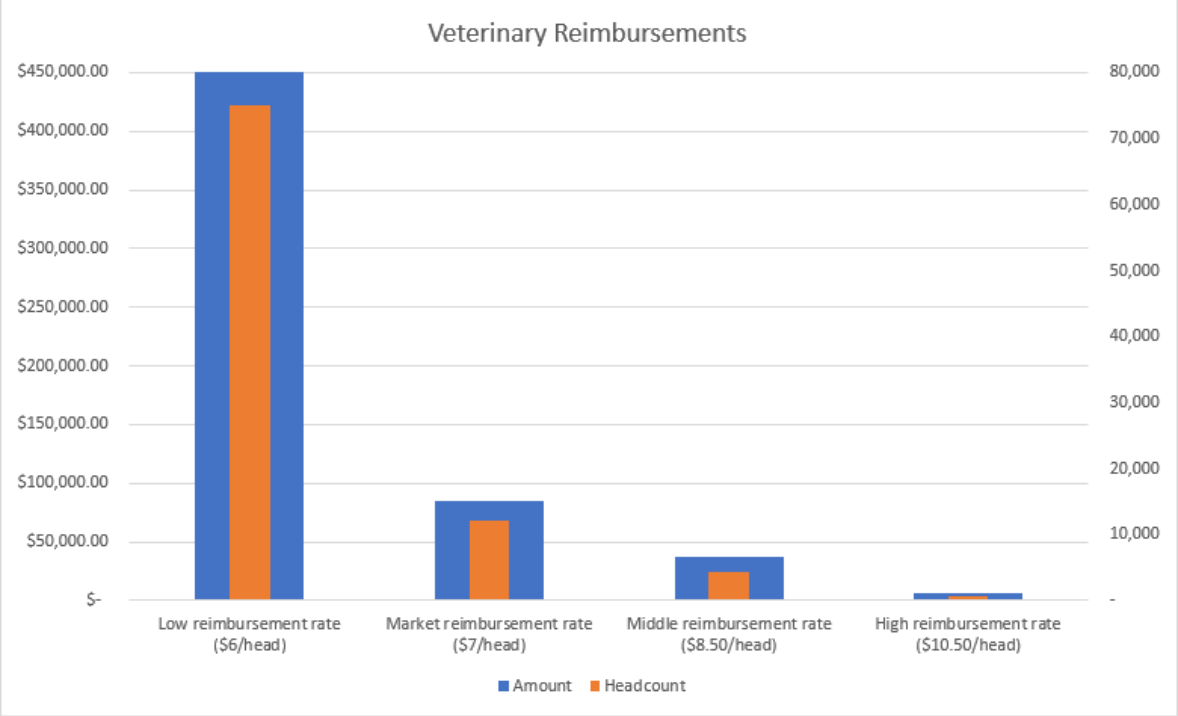



Figure 5. DSA Veterinary Reimbursements FY22. Reimbursement rates fall into three categories. The lowest rate per head ($6) is for tests containing more than 50 animals. Tests with 11-50 animals are reimbursed at a rate of $8.50 per head. Tests with 10 or fewer animals receive $10.50 per head. The rate for livestock market testing is $7 per head regardless of headcount. Source: DOL Staff

## Brucellosis– Elk Capture FY22

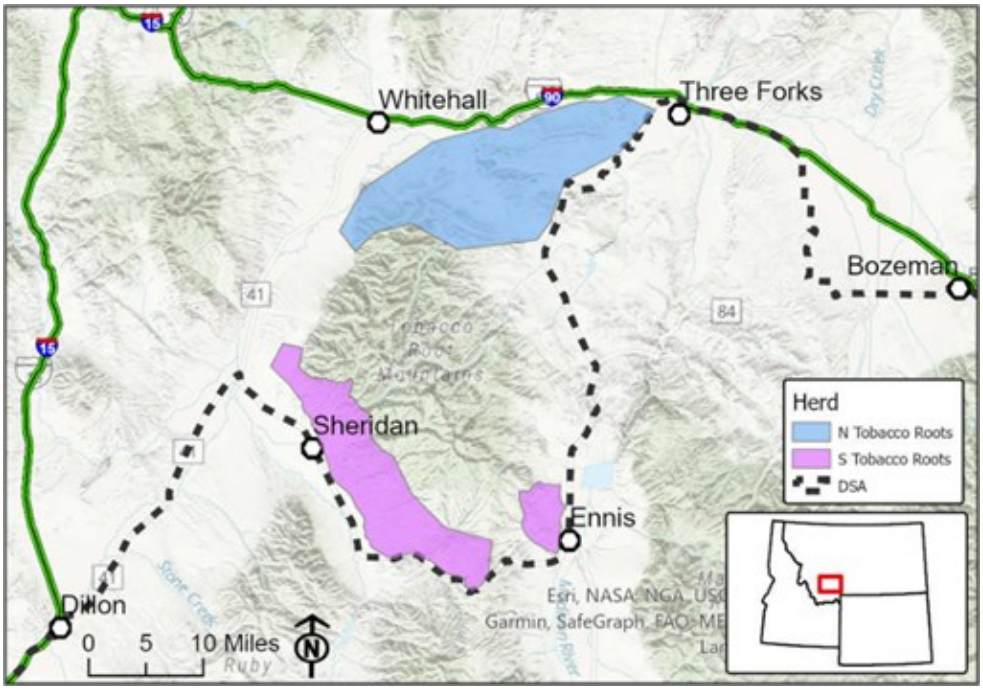



Figure 6. Elk brucellosis surveillance was conducted in the northern (HD333) and southern (HD320) portions of the Tobacco Root Mountains. DOL brucellosis designated surveillance area (DSA) is shown as a black dotted line. Source: FWP.

In 2011, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) initiated the targeted elk brucellosis surveillance project. Sampling efforts focus on one to two elk herds each year. Elk in targeted herds are captured and sampled to evaluate the prevalence and spatial extent of brucellosis exposure in elk herds. Global Positioning System (GPS) radio collars are deployed on a subset of elk to document elk movements, the extent of spatial overlap with livestock, and interchange between elk herds. Elk capture and sampling efforts for the current year occurred January 27-29, 2022, in the northern portion of the Tobacco Root Mountains (HD333) and February 1–4, 2022, in the southern portion (HD320) (Figure 6).

A total of 100 female elk were captured and sampled in the northern Tobacco Root Mountains study area (HD333), (Figure 7, Page 10). Zero of the 100 animals sampled tested seropositive for exposure to brucellosis, giving the herd an estimated seroprevalence of zero (95% confidence interval: 0 - 0.037).

A total of 63 female elk were captured and sampled in the southern Tobacco Root Mountains study area (HD320), (Figure 8, Page 10). Of these, 0 tested seropositive for exposure to brucellosis, giving the herd an estimated seroprevalence of 0 (95% confidence interval: 0 - 0.06).

## Brucellosis– Elk Capture FY22, continued

In 2014, 70 elk were also sampled in the Southern Tobacco Roots with all elk testing negative. Department of Livestock (DOL) and Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) chose to re-sample the Southern Tobacco Roots area in 2022 because two elk from the Ruby Mountains to the south tested seropositive in 2020. Movement data suggests potential mixing between Southern Tobacco Roots and Ruby Mountains herds, creating the potential for a more recent introduction of brucellosis into Tobacco Root elk In order to have current data on the distribution of brucellosis in elk, DOL and FWP recognize that going back to previous sampling areas will be necessary. No elk were fitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) collars in the Southern Tobacco Roots area because sufficient movement data was collected from the 26 collared elk of the 2014 capture effort .

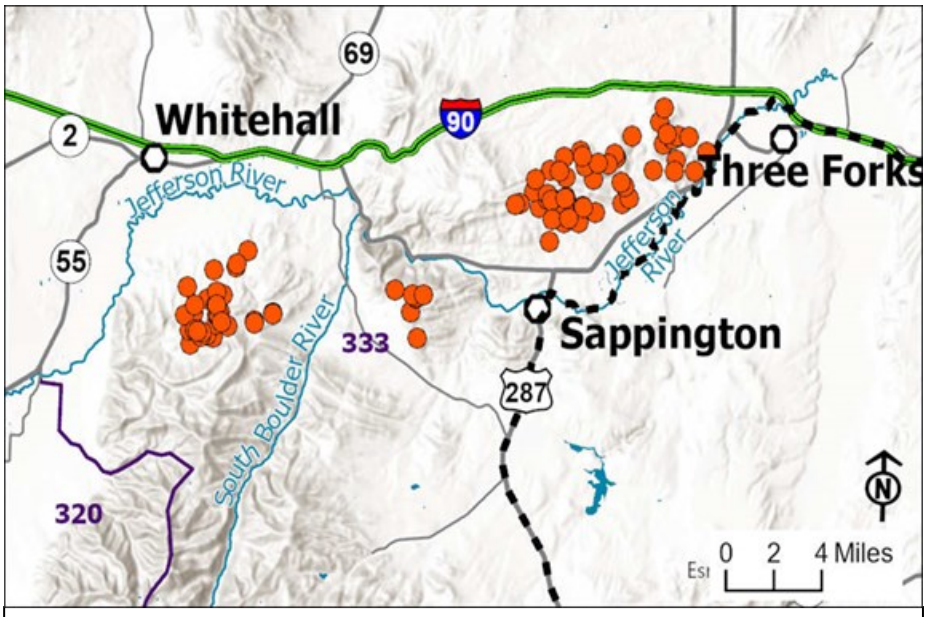



Figure 7. Capture locations of elk in the northern Tobacco Root Mountains south of Whitehall, Montana during January 2022. Source: FWP.

Current information on the distribution of brucellosis exposed elk, including the results from the 2022 capture, indicates that the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) boundary encompasses the appropriate population of livestock that could have contact with infected wildlife. Following the 2022 captures and elk brucellosis test results, Animal Health Bureau (AHB) deems the existing DSA boundary as sufficient. Detections of seropositive elk outside of the boundary are a primary determinant in making recommendations for Montana DSA boundary adjustments.

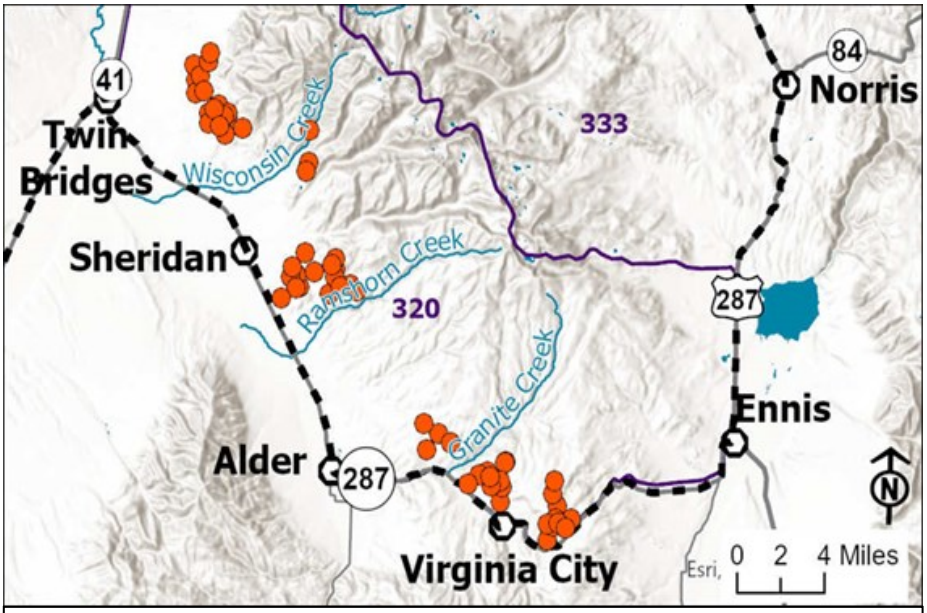



Figure 8. Capture locations of elk in the southern Tobacco Root Mountains near Sheridan, Montana during February 2022. Source: FWP.

## *Brucella Canis (B. canis)*

Department of Livestock (DOL) continues to see an increase on the incidence of *Brucella canis* (*B. canis*) in Montana canine populations. DOL has frequent communication with Montana's veterinary community as well as shelter and rescue networks regarding *B. canis*. As shown in Figure 9 below, calendar year testing totals for *B. canis* should equal or exceed test numbers in FY21 with an increased rate of positive detections in FY22. Tests reported represent only those tests run at Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) and may include animals that have been tested multiple times. Additionally, positive test results are not confirmation of infection. DOL is working on case definitions and testing guidance for Montana Veterinarians.

As testing for *B. canis* expands, DOL has seen positives from canine populations that exceeds the scope of the existing recommendation of high risk populations. These positives include all dogs from Valley and Roosevelt Counties, symptomatic dogs, and pregnant dogs with an unknown breeding history. See Figure 10 on page 12 of this report for a summary of reason for test for *B. canis.*

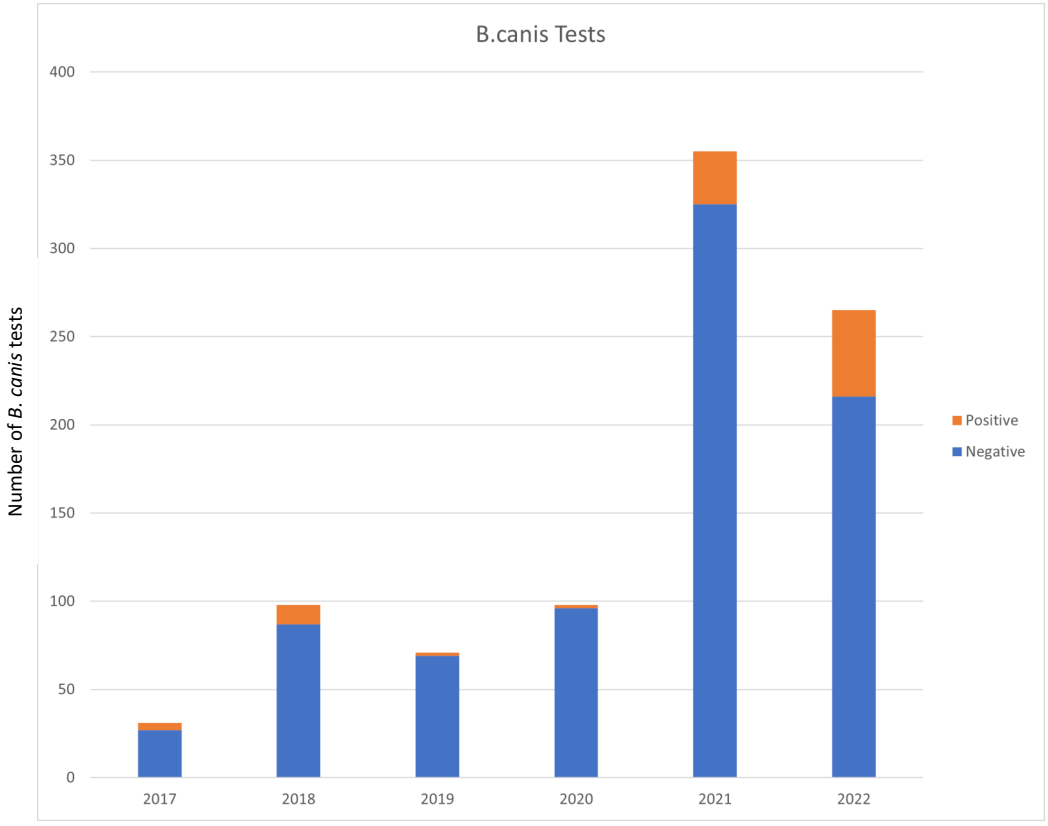



Figure 9. *B. canis* tests FY22. Positive tests are shown in orange and negative tests are shown in blue.
Source: DOL Staff.

## *Brucella canis* (*B. canis*), continued

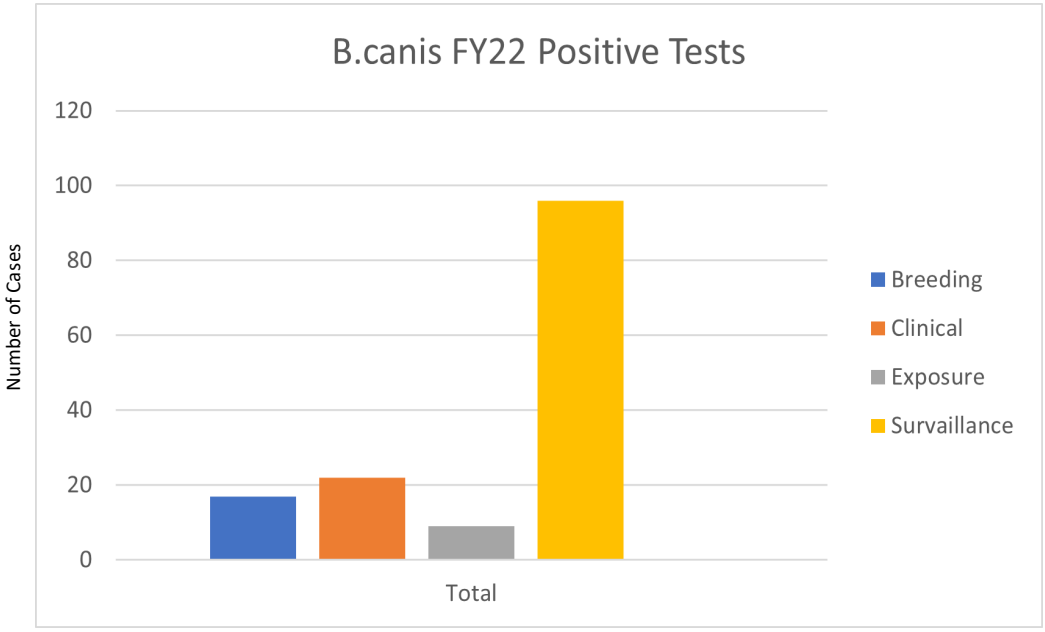



Figure 10. *B. canis* Positive Tests , By Reason For Test FY22. Source: DOL Staff.

## *Brucella Ovis (B. ovis)*

There are 22 flocks that participate in the Montana *B. ovis* Free Flock program. The participants perform annual brucellosis testing on all rams eight months of age and older. Any outside rams that are added to the *B. ovis* free flocks must have two negative tests 60 days apart or come directly from a *B. ovis* free flock before comingling. By participating in the *B. ovis* Free Flock Program, producers do not have to test their rams before taking them to market. Producers can also sell rams to other *B.ovis* free flocks without those rams needing additional brucellosis testing.

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Indemnity was approved for the 2021 Flathead County Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) affected herd. CWD was diagnosed in the herd through the routine testing of an on-farm mortality. Whole herd depopulation was completed with the help of United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services (USDA VS) and United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS). Fifteen age eligible animals were sampled as part of the depopulation process. Nine of the 15 animals sampled tested positive for CWD. This infection rate suggests the disease has been present in the herd for an extended period prior to detection. The producer is required to complete cleaning and disinfection of areas where animals were housed, must maintain fences for five years, and may not restock pens with susceptible species during that time.

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Department of Livestock (DOL) confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a Cascade County Flock on April 1, 2022. Montana was the 25th state nationally to report cases of HPAI in domestic poultry in 2022. Following the Cascade County detection, Montana had nine additional premises confirmed positive for HPAI in FY22. HPAI was confirmed in Judith Basin, Toole, Fergus (2 premises), Gallatin, Glacier, Pondera, Missoula, and Flathead counties (Figure 11). Three of the infected flocks were classified as backyard poultry (sale of poultry or poultry products ) and the remainder of the affected premises were classified as non-poultry (backyard flocks with no sales). DOL classifies flocks in accordance with World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH); backyard poultry are classified as flock with less than 75,000 birds, whereas commercial poultry flocks have 75,000 birds or more. All HPAI positive flocks were depopulated, totaling approximately 80,00 birds. The three backyard poultry flocks also completed active cleaning and disinfection, have been released from quarantine, and are eligible for restocking. The six non-poultry flocks are required to remain fallow for 150 days following the completion of depopulation.

For all confirmations, DOL conducted surveillance canvassing in a ten kilometer area around the affected premises. Surveillance focused on identification of poultry owners in the zone and education about HPAI. Any reports of sick birds would be prioritized for HPAI testing. One control zone contained three commercial backyard poultry flocks and those flocks were required to conduct weekly surveillance for HPAI prior to shipping eggs.

As part of the national HPAI outbreak, DOL issued an emergency order on April 8, 2022 preventing the sale, exhibition, trade, and swap of poultry in Montana, excluding retail sale of poultry and a recommendation on March 3, 2022 that poultry be housed indoors during the spring migratory bird season to decrease the risk of disease transmission.

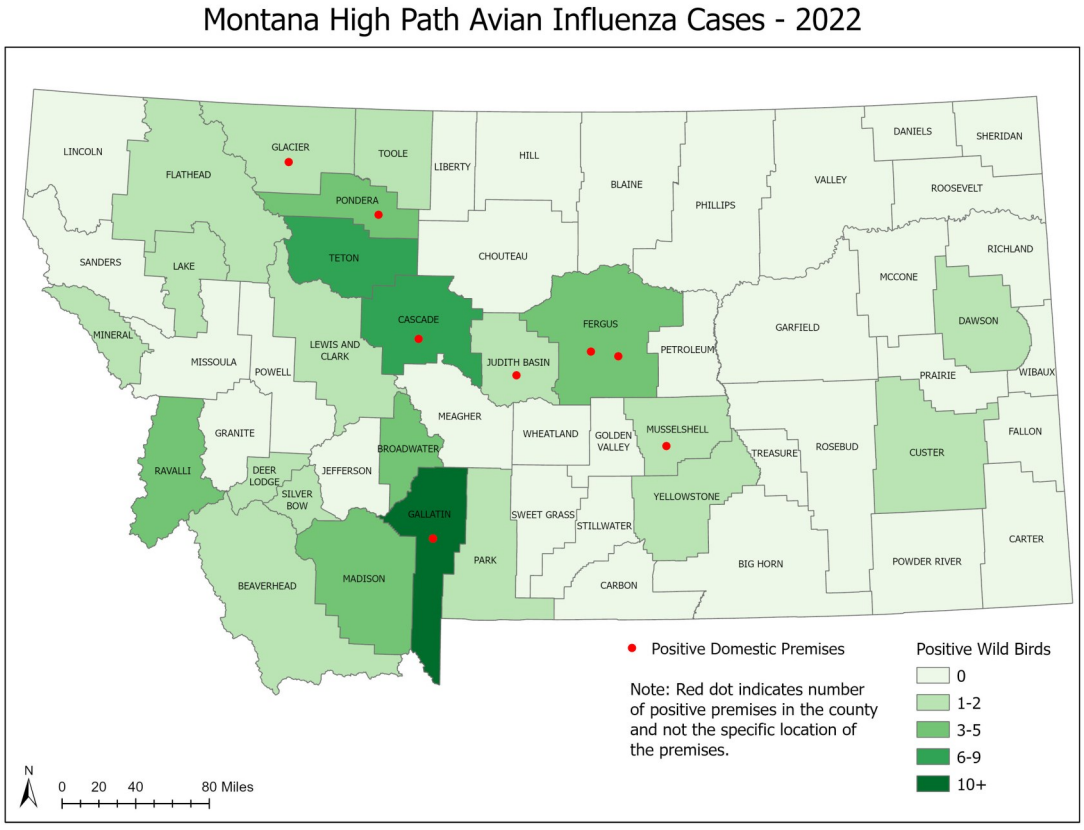



Figure 11. HPAI Positive Cases FY22. Source: DOL Staff.

## Johne's

The Montana Johne's Control Program was introduced to Montana Livestock producers and Montana veterinarians in August 2019. Currently seven herds are enrolled, and 89 veterinarians are certified to work with Montana producers on Johne's. Johne's testing numbers have increased since the program's inception as shown in Figure 12. The increase in testing is not solely represented by program participants but Department of Livestock (DOL) believes increased outreach and disease awareness in the livestock industry from veterinarians has influenced this upward trend.

**CATTLE JOHNE'S TEST RESULTS BY FISCAL YEAR**

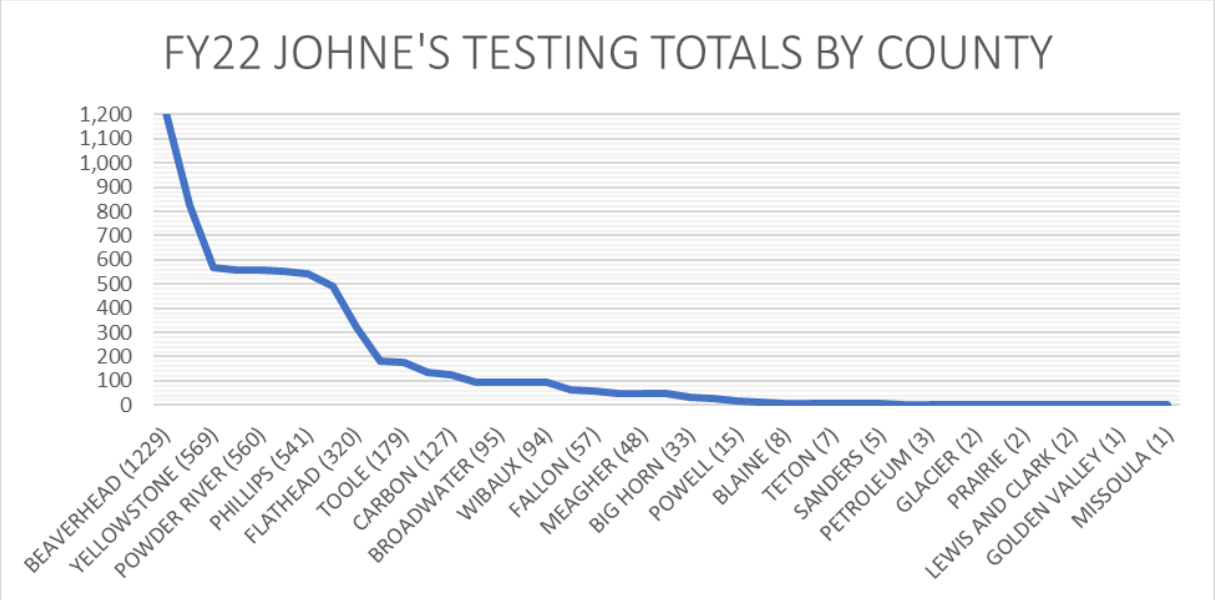



Figure 12 illustrates the number of Johne's tests completed in each Montana County in FY22. The data for this graph is a compilation of tests run at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) and other diagnostic laboratories that report Johne's testing for Montana producers. Approximately 16 counties account for 90% of the testing totals in FY22. Source: DOL Staff.

| Year | NEGATIVE | POSITIVE | PERCENT POSITIVE |
|---|---|---|---|
| FY22 | 8876 | 279 | 3% |
| FY21 | 9087 | 391 | 4% |
| FY20 | 6459 | 241 | 4% |
| FY19 | 4018 | 818 | 20% |
| FY18 | 3066 | 157 | 5% |

Figure 13. Johne's Testing. Source: DOL Staff.

Figure 13 above shows the number of cattle tested for Johne's disease in Montana over the period of the last five fiscal years. This table demonstrates a significantly higher rate of positive animals in 2019 that coincides with the increased producer interest in the Montana Johne's program. Since the inception of Montana's Johne's program Johne's testing has increased significantly but the precent of positive tests have decreased.

## Other Diseases

Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) received a report of a cattle die off in FY22. An Eastern Montana producer lost 13 cows out of a group of 120 over a three-day period. The animals did not show any significant clinical signs prior to death and the producer was concerned about the possibility of anthrax. DOL worked with a local Montana Veterinarian to examine one of the mortalities and it was determined the deaths were due to blackleg. Samples from the anthrax suspect in Eastern Montana were forwarded to the Montana State Public Health Lab and confirmed negative for anthrax. Animals were vaccinated and treated for blackleg and no additional cattle deaths were reported.

## Rabies

A variety of species were tested for rabies in FY22 due to suspicious clinical signs, animal, or human exposure. Twenty-seven species were tested for rabies in FY22 including: badger, bat, cat, dog, weasel, skunk, goat, raccoon, mountain lion and coyote. Of the 503 samples tested, 16 were positive: 13 bats, 1 cat, 1 dog, and 2 skunks (Figure 14). Six of the positive cases required action by DOL, including two 60-day quarantines in Big Horn County.

Domestic animal exposure to rabies from wild animals is not uncommon in Montana. DOL follows up on any potential rabies exposure even when the wild animal is not available for testing. In instances where the wild animal was unavailable for testing, exposures resulted in five observations and two quarantines.

DOL's website has an interactive map showing total rabies tests, positive rabies tests, and accredited veterinarians for each county. DOL continues to see a correlation between the number of rabies samples submitted from each Montana county with the population density and number of accredited veterinarians in the county.

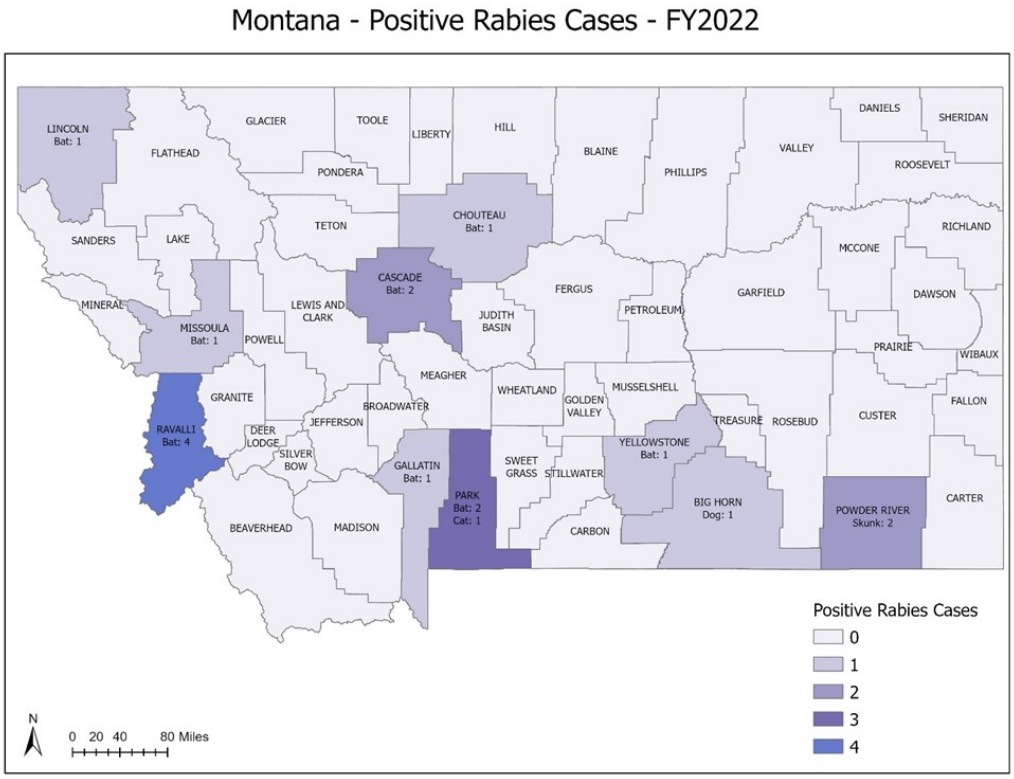



Figure 14. Positive Rabies FY22. Source: DOL Staff.

## Trichomoniasis

There were no trichomoniasis positive bulls reported in Montana in FY22. Figure 15 below shows total negatives, positives and historic positives by county. Figures 15 shows trichomoniasis tests by county in FY22. Figures 15 and 16 can also be found on Department of Livestock's (DOL) website. The online version is interactive and includes total negative tests, positives, female totals, and estimated bull totals by county. Female cattle numbers by county are based on 2021 per capita data. Total bulls per county are based on average stocking rate of 1 bull per 25 beef females. This per capita information allows an estimate for the percentage of bulls tested per county.

### Trichomoniasis Bulls by County

| County | FY16 | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Carter** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Custer** | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Fallon** | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Glacier** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Yellowstone** | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Negative Tests** | 9,765 | 7,310 | 7,308 | 7,341 | 8,412 | 9,658 | 10,248 |
| **Total Positive Tests** | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 15. Trichomoniasis Bulls by County. Number of Positive Tests and Bull Inventory by County as Estimated From Cow County Data. Source: DOL Staff.

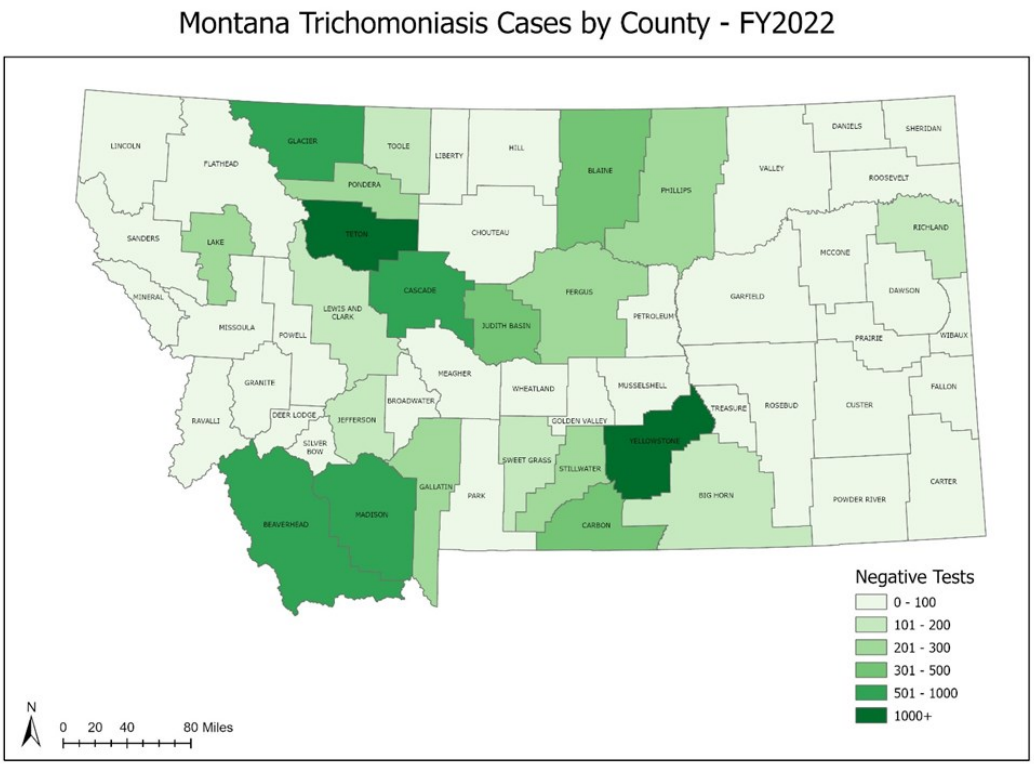



Figure 16. Montana Trichomoniasis Tests by County FY22. Source: DOL Staff.

## Tuberculosis (TB)

Department of Livestock (DOL) worked on two epidemiological investigations associated with detections of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in slaughter animals in FY22. Postmortem inspection of carcasses at slaughter plants is the primary method for TB surveillance in the United States (US). These postmortem evaluations are conducted at all state and federally inspected slaughter facilities. Additional opportunities for detection include testing of animals associated with a TB trace, pre-movement testing, and testing for TB accredited free herd status.

Blaine County Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herd and Epidemiological Investigation

In August 2021, DOL received preliminary notification from National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) of a bovine tuberculosis histocompatible lesion from an animal slaughtered in Minnesota on July 11, 2021. The lesion was found during routine postmortem inspection of the animal at slaughter. A Montana brucellosis vaccination tag was collected from the animal at the time of slaughter and a Blaine County source herd was identified using brand and animal health movement documentation. The owner was notified and put under a voluntary hold order pending confirmation from NVSL. Final confirmation of bovine tuberculosis via culture was completed in early September 2021 and a formal quarantine was issued by DOL.

An initial whole herd test was completed by Animal Health Bureau (AHB), Brands Enforcement, and United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services (USDA VS) staff with 28 TB reactors identified using the Caudal Fold Test (CFT). The Gamma Interferon test was used to select animals for on farm euthanasia verses slaughter under enhanced inspection. AHB, Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL), Brands Enforcement, and USDA VS personnel conducted on-farm euthanasia and sample collection of the four Gamma positive TB reactors. Three additional animals were euthanized, and tissues collected from a single animal based upon a USDA VS request. Samples were submitted to NVSL for histopathology, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and culture and TB was confirmed, therefore, the Blaine County herd was then classified as a bovine tuberculosis affected herd.

The Blaine County herd was approved for whole-herd depopulation at the owner's request and began shipping cows to slaughter in November 2021. Depopulation was completed in early 2022. Adult animals were shipped direct to slaughter and calves were shipped to a feedlot out of state under quarantine until slaughter.

AHB worked with state, federal, and tribal officials on a wildlife surveillance plan surrounding the affected premises. Premises and regional surveillance was conducted by Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS), and Department of Agriculture employees in early December 2021. Results from the first round of wildlife surveillance around the 2021 Blaine County TB affected herd were all negative for bovine TB. Wildlife surveillance will continue into the fall of 2022 hunting season.

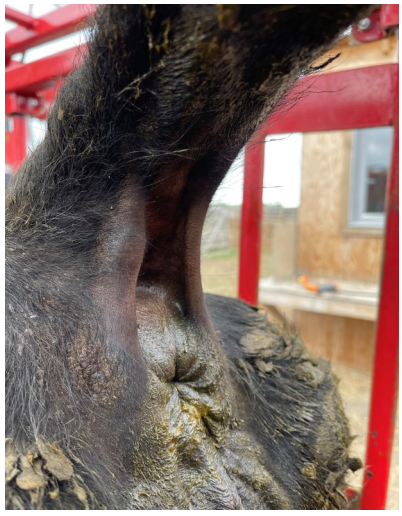


Figure 17. Caudal Fold Test (CFT) Responder. DOL Staff.

## Tuberculosis (TB), continued

Blaine County Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herd and Epidemiological Investigation, continued

To date, 9,300 cattle are associated with the Blaine County TB investigation. Nearly 5,000 animals have been tested, with 90 Caudal Fold Test (CFT) suspects (Figure 18). Four of the CFT suspects were positive on the gamma test. These animals were indemnified, euthanized on farm, and examined for evidence of disease. None of the animals sampled from epi-linked herds had gross lesions and all were histopath and culture negative at National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

Of the 83 herds or landowners identified as having contact with the affected herd:

- 32 have no testing requirements.
- 30 herds have completed all requirements.
- 5 herds have completed all initial testing requirements and have been released from quarantine. These herds are required to complete a 12-month assurance test.
- 6 herds have yet to complete testing of either the whole herds or a subset of exposed animals. One of these herds are under quarantine pending completion of testing.
- 8 herds or property owners are pending notification due to difficulty in identifying primary contact information.
- 2 herds are out of state traces.

| | Total Animals Tested |
|---|---|
| Caudal Fold Test | 4,935 |
| Gamma Interferon | 90 |
| Post-mortem exam, histopathology, and culture | 4 |
| TB Reactors | 0 |

Figure 18. Blaine County TB Affected Herd Animals Tested. Source: DOL Staff.

Madison County Bovine Tuberculosis Slaughter Trace

Department of Livestock (DOL) was notified of a second bovine TB slaughter trace in September 2021. The animal was slaughtered in Idaho and lesions were found on routine post-mortem inspection. Official Identification (ID) collected at slaughter along with movement documentation were used to trace the animal back to a Madison County herd. The herd was placed under quarantine and an initial whole herd test completed.

Sixty-one CFT responders were identified and classified as reactors. Reactors are required to be euthanized and examined for evidence of TB. In communication with the producer an initial 10% of the herd was selected for on-farm euthanasia and full tissue collection. The selection of 10% of the herd for on-farm euthanasia is based off guidance from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The remainder of animals were also scheduled for on-farm euthanasia, and tissue collection was only required for animals with lesions.

Tissues from seven additional animals were submitted to National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for histology and additional testing. All 13 animals from which tissues were submitted were found to be histopath and culture negative for TB. Following a second whole herd test in December where no reactors were identified and the herd was released from quarantine. The Madison County herd is required to complete a whole herd assurance test in 12-18 months.

## West Nile Virus (WNV)

Department of Livestock (DOL) received two reports of West Nile Virus (WNV) in FY22. The cases were diagnosed in Blaine and Richland Counties. The first horse was diagnosed in Blaine County and had no known vaccination or travel history. The animal presented as neurologic and was unable to use his hind end. The horse was treated but did not regain the use of its hind end and was euthanized. The second horse was diagnosed in Richland County and also did not have a history of vaccination. The exposure was diagnosed as "local" as the horse had not been off the property in at least a month prior to the diagnosis. The horse was mildly symptomatic and was recovering post-diagnosis.

Historically, clinical horses testing positive for WNV, were non-vaccinated. The WNV vaccinations that are available for domestic animals including horses have shown to be effective against the virus and development of clinical signs.

In addition to the positive equine case, there were two positive human cases and 11 positive mosquito pools reported in FY22 (Figure 19). Information about positive WNV cases is shared between the DOL and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), to support identification of potential risk areas within Montana and to help with WNV prevention. While direct transmission of WNV between animals and people does not occur, a veterinarian's diagnosis of WNV in an animal warrants client and public education about the presence of WNV in the region.

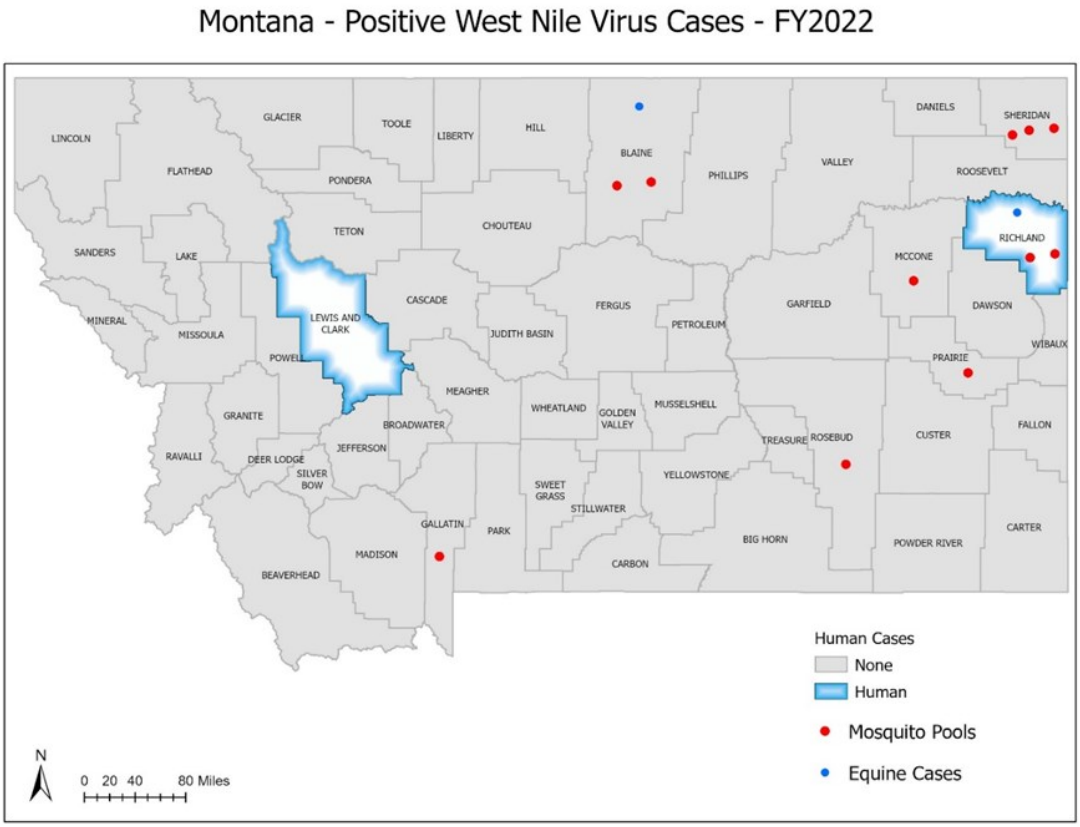



Figure 19. Positive Montana West Nile Virus Cases FY22 Source: DOL Staff

## Reportable Disease Summary

Figure 20 is a summary of reportable disease testing and diagnosis in Montana in FY22. The numbers represent testing conducted at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL).

| Test Name | Total Test Results | Total Tests Positive | Notes About Positive/Suspect Cases |
|---|---|---|---|
| African Swine Fever | 2 | 0 | |
| Anaplasmosis | 1020 | 193 | Antibody +, doesn't indicate disease |
| Avian Influenza | 635 | 243 | |
| Brucella Canis | 982 | 168 | |
| Bovine Herpes Virus | 596 | 88 | |
| Bluetongue | 273 | 51 | Antibody +, doesn't indicate disease |
| Bovine Leukemia Virus | 690 | 54 | Antibody +, doesn't indicate disease |
| Brucella ovis | 283 | 9 | |
| Bovine Viral Diarrhea | 3436 | 99 | Antibody +, doesn't indicate disease |
| Caprine Arthritis Encephalitits/ Ovine Progressive Pneumonia | 395 | 9 | |
| Campylobacter | 1244 | 0 | |
| Chronic Wasting Disease | 19 | 0 | |
| CSF PCR | 2 | 0 | |
| Equine Infectious Anemia | 7365 | 0 | |
| Foot-and-Mouth Disease | 2 | 0 | |
| Heartworm | 100 | 2 | |
| Johnes | 6787 | 277 | |
| Rabies | 503 | 19 | |
| Salmonella Pullorum | 1563 | 1 | |
| Swine Influenza | 1 | 0 | |
| Trichinella | 6 | 0 | |
| Tritrichomonas foetus | 4120 | 0 | |
| Vesicular Stomatitis | 120 | 2 | Positives were cattle |
| West Nile Virus | 19 | 2 | |

Figure 20. Reportable Disease Summary FY22. Source: MVDL and DOL Staff

## Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Investigations

Reports of potential foreign animal disease in Montana are followed up on by a state or federal diagnostician. Figure 21 below present a summary of all FAD investigations for the fiscal year. Two investigations of interest include:

- A Madison County steer with oral and coronary band lesions. A Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was sent out to examine the animal and conduct a site visit with the producer. The FADD made the determination that this animal did not fit the clinical picture of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and no further action was taken.
- A Big Horn County calf with hypersalivation and oral lesions. A USDA FADD traveled to the clinic and conducted an investigation and examination of the animal. It was determined that the likelihood of the lesions being FMD was low. Samples were collected and submitted to Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) and United States Department of Agricultural Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (USDA FADDL) for confirmatory testing. Results of testing were negative for Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) and FMD.

| Disease Investigated | Species | Date | County | Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vesicular Stomatitis | Equine | 9/21/2021 | Garfield | Negative |
| Vesicular Stomatitis | Equine | 9/28/2021 | Gallatin | Negative |
| Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease | Rabbit | 10/25/2021 | Glacier | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 1/6/2022 | Yellowstone | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/1/2022 | Garfield | Positive |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/4/2022 | Judith Basin | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/5/2022 | Cascade | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/8/2022 | Toole | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/18/2022 | Glacier | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/19/2022 | Broadwater | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/18/2022 | Fallon | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/20/2022 | Gallatin | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/22/2022 | Missoula | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/22/2022 | Gallatin | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/25/2022 | Pondera | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/26/2022 | Granite | Positive |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/26/2022 | Fergus | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/27/2022 | Gallatin | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 4/29/2022 | Silver Bow | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 5/2/2022 | Fergus | Under Investigation |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 5/12/2022 | Gallatin | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 5/17/2022 | Sanders | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 5/23/2022 | Flathead | Positive |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 6/3/2022 | Silver Bow | Negative |
| High Path Avian Influenza | Poultry | 6/13/2022 | Gallatin | Negative |

In FY22, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs) conducted 25 investigations – 2 equine, 1 rabbit, and 22 poultry. Figure 21 shows FY22 FAD investigation disease information and results in each county. Source: DOL Staff

## Deputy State Veterinarian

Animal Health Bureau (AHB) conducted two joint United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Veterinary Services (USDA APHIS VS) and Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) accreditation sessions for 28 veterinarians new to practice in Montana. Three accreditations are typically held per calendar year but due to the June session being moved to July, only two sessions were held during FY22. The sessions provide information to veterinarians on issues specific to Montana, including brucellosis, trichomoniasis, Johne's and traceability. Twelve attending veterinarians were category one, or federally accredited for small animal only. The remaining sixteen veterinarians were category two, covering small and large animal regulatory practice as well as exotics.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, AHB and USDA APHIS VS provided both accreditations virtually.

AHB continues to publish quarterly StockQuotes newsletters and as needed DOL Update email blasts for Montana deputy state veterinarians. Past editions of the newsletter and associated One Health insert are available on the web at: https://liv.mt.gov/Animal-Health/Newsletters/index. Fourteen DOL Updates were sent to veterinarians covering topics such as: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, emergency alert system, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) reader reimbursements, bovine tuberculosis (TB), Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) vaccination and rabies.

In FY22 AHB implemented the use of the emergency alert system (EAS). The EAS is an automated notification system that texts, emails, and calls veterinarians to notify them of important animal health disease information in the state or specific area. Veterinarians are asked to keep their contact information up to date with AHB so they can be notified via the EAS system.


Figure 22. Emergency Alert System. Source: Google Images

## Emergency Preparedness

Animal Health Bureau (AHB) held a three-day Incident Command System (ICS) exercise to advance Department of Livestock (DOL) preparedness for a foreign animal disease (FAD) introduction. The ICS activity included a simulated foot and mouth disease (FMD) detection in Custer County involving cattle. Thirty-five individuals from DOL, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Disaster Emergency Services (DES) participated in the exercise.

DOL, DES, and USDA personnel participated in a two-day exercise simulating day four and beyond of a FMD detection in Montana as a continuation of the previous ICS300 training. Discussion was focused on the development of surveillance and vaccination plans, ordering vaccine from the National Veterinary Stockpile, and implementing a control zone around an affected premises while also continuing to respond to reports of animals with lesions. DOL has developed a list of to-do items based upon lessons learned during these exercises.

Eighteen employees from Centralized Services Division (CSD), Brands Enforcement, Meat Inspection Bureau, Milk and Egg Bureau, Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MDVL), and AHB attended a media training focused on how to communicate with the media during a crisis such as a FAD detection.

As part of the FY19 National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) grant, AHB hosted nine penetrating captive bolt trainings for veterinarians, other animal emergency responders, and DOL employees. Approximately 66 individuals were trained during these activities. By week, the trainings included:

- Custer and Richland Counties 15 attendees
- Yellowstone County 9 attendees
- Park County 8 attendees
- Beaverhead and Missoula Counties 16 attendees
- Cascade County 4 attendees
- Fergus and Lewis and Clark Counties 14 attendees

## Public Health

AHB co-hosted the third annual One Health in the 406 Conference with Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPPHS) and Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Approximately 120 people registered for the conference and this year's topic was zoonotic diseases of wildlife. Specific presentation topics included: zoonotic diseases of feral swine, Brucellosis, Avian Influenza (AI), Rabies, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and Plague.


Figure 23. One Health in the 406 FY22. Source: DOL Staff

## Alternative Livestock

In FY22, Montana exported 193 elk, white tail deer, mule deer, and big horn sheep to Idaho, Texas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming. There were zero alternative livestock animals imported into Montana in FY22.

There are 13 alternative livestock licensed herds in the state, with only one of these herds being a mixed species herd. Herd sizes range from 2 to 206 animals. The majority of the alternative livestock animals in Montana have elk. During FY22, there were a total of 683 animals in alternative livestock herds. There were 287 births and 122 deaths, of these deaths 98 animals were eligible and tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Producers are required to test all mortalities of animals 12 months of age and older. Untested animals were either too young for testing, too decomposed to yield reliable results, or missing and presumed dead.

Animal Health Bureau (AHB) staff reviewed multiple alternative livestock annual inventories and assigned herd status in the CWD Herd Certification Program accordingly. The CWD Herd Certification Program is a cooperative effort between Department of Livestock (DOL) and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA APHIS) to monitor, control, and contain the spread of CWD in farmed cervids. The CWD certification program assigns herd monitored statuses based upon years of surveillance. After five years of testing, reporting, and monitoring, CWD Herd Certification is granted. Certification status is required to import or export to other states. Requirements for enrolled herds include fencing, individual official identification (ID), regular annual inventories, and testing of all cervids over the age of 12 months that die. AHB completed annual herd inventories and reviews of ten alternative livestock premises. The remaining three reports are pending until the producers submit a complete inventory. The graph below (Figure 24) illustrates the current CWD Monitored Herd Status of Montana's 13 alternative livestock ranches.

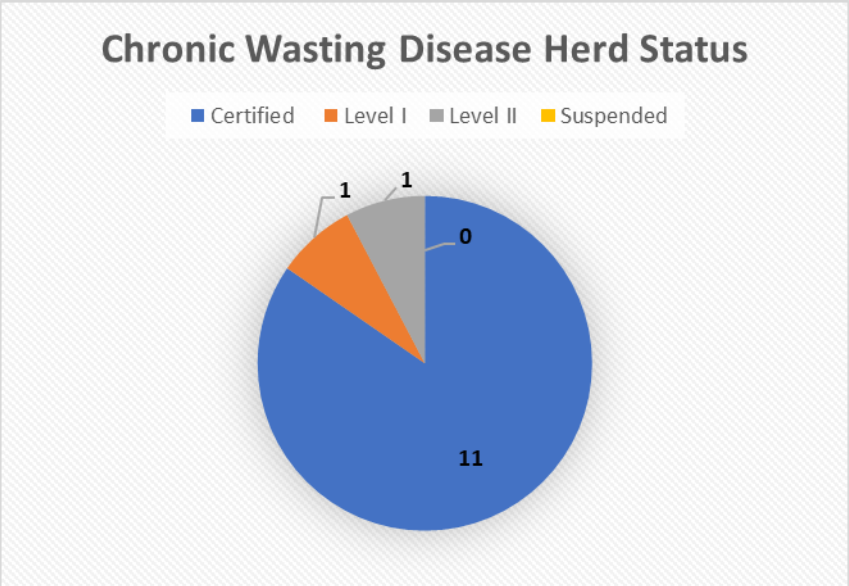



Figure 24. CWD Monitored Herd Status FY22 Source: DOL Staff

**Alternative Livestock Non-Compliance FY22:**

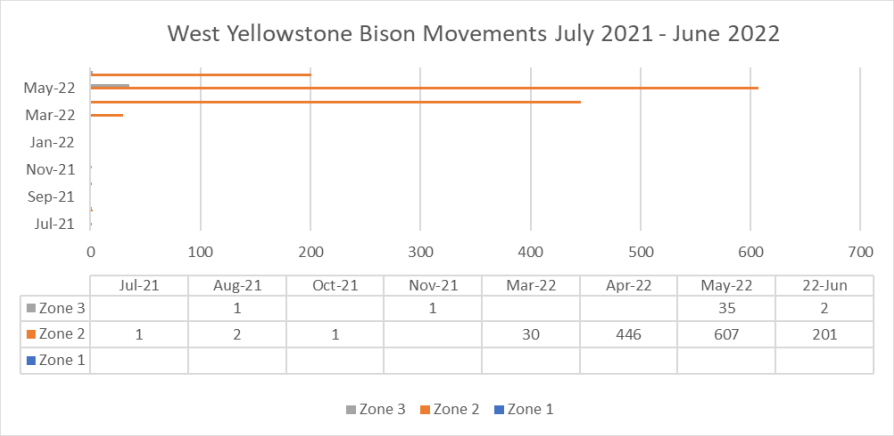
There are no non-compliance issues to report for FY22, largely due to the continued cooperation of alternative livestock producers in Montana.

## Bison Management

Department of Livestock (DOL) participates in the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), along with the National Park Service, United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Inspection Services (USDA APHIS), Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the United States Forest Service (USFS), Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) and Nez Perce Tribe (NPT). The dual goals of the IBMP are to limit the co-mingling of wild bison and domestic cattle to prevent the spread of brucellosis and to maintain a wild and free roaming bison population in and around Yellowstone National Park (YNP).

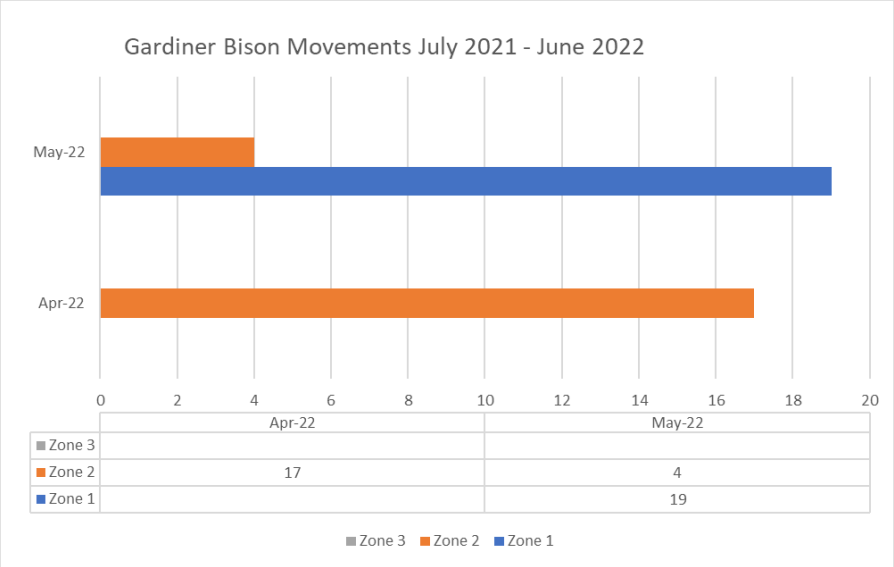
There are two separate management areas, on the west (West Yellowstone) (Figure 25) and north (Gardiner) (Figure 26) boundaries of the park. Animals found in Zone 3 are hazed back into the tolerance zone of the park.

- Zone 1 is the area inside the park, near the park boundary.
- Zone 2 is the tolerance zone outside of the park boundary.
- Zone 3 is outside of the park where there is no tolerance.




| | Jul-21 | Aug-21 | Oct-21 | Nov-21 | Mar-22 | Apr-22 | May-22 | 22-Jun |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zone 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 35 | 2 |
| Zone 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 30 | 446 | 607 | 201 |
| Zone 1 | | | | | | | | |

Figure 25. West Yellowstone Bison Movements FY22 Source: DOL Staff




| | Apr-22 | May-22 |
|---|---|---|
| Zone 3 | | |
| Zone 2 | 17 | 4 |
| Zone 1 | | 19 |

Figure 26. Gardiner Bison Movements FY22 Source: DOL Staff

## Feral Swine

Department of Livestock (DOL) responded to eight feral swine reports in FY22. These reports spanned the following counties: Meagher, Roosevelt, Pondera, Jefferson, Garfield, Wheatland, Lincoln, and Lewis and Clark.

Reports of potential feral swine include the following:

- Dead swine on a highway in Meagher County. The dead animal was confirmed to be an elk calf and not a dead feral swine.
- Three loose wild pigs near the Missouri River, South of Wolf Point, Montana. United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS) followed up with the sighting and the animals were determined to be loose domestic swine.
- Loose swine in Petroleum County. Officer Murphy with the Brands Enforcement Division followed up on the report and was able to locate the owner of the pigs.

Animal Health Bureau (AH)B staff participated in a feral swine tabletop exercise put on by the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC). The exercise was designed to advance Montana's initial response plan (IRP) and identify gaps in response due to jurisdictional issues. Several action items were identified during the exercise. Actions items will be addressed by DOL, USDA WS, Montana State University (MSU) Extension, and Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC).

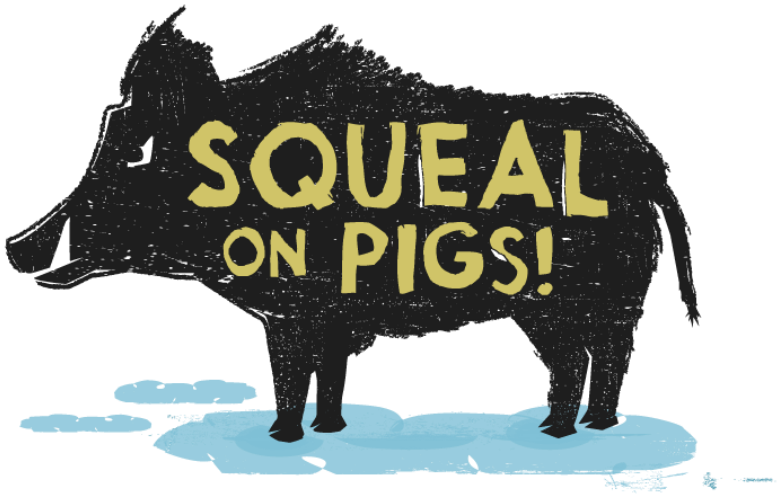



Figure 27. Squeal on Pigs Campaign.
Source: Montana Invasive Species Council

## National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) focuses on managing disease risk in live birds and hatching eggs. The program was initially developed to combat *Salmonella pullorum*, a disease that can cause high mortality in young poultry and has since expanded to include additional diseases of concern, notably Avian Influenza (AI). The benefit to Montana producers in being NPIP certified is a knowledge of the health of their flock, the safe interstate movement of their birds and eggs, and the security of knowing producers may qualify for indemnity in the event of a confirmed disease outbreak. In FY22, Montana had a total of 25 NPIP participants. Of Montana's participants, 18 are backyard flocks, 4 are gamebird farms, 2 are commercial egg layers, and 1 is a dealer (Figure 28). Montana participants are in Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Flathead, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Musselshell, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Yellowstone Counties.

Surveillance testing requirements vary by flock type and size. In FY22, six flocks were tested for *Salmonella pullorum* and 17 were tested for AI. Department of Livestock (DOL) works closely with 13 accredited veterinarians who conduct most of the state's NPIP testing.

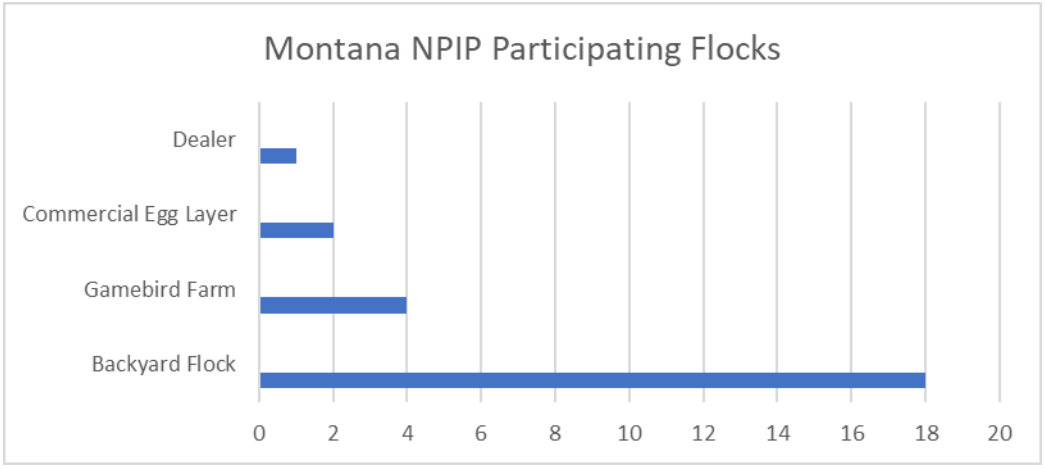



Figure 28. NPIP Participating Flocks. Source: AHB Staff

Figure 29. Happy Hens. Source: USDA-APHIS

## Call Center

The compliance section of Animal Health Bureau (AHB) strives to provide excellent customer service through a busy call center, an after-hours answering service, and several online systems in FY22. The call center processed 11,044 calls consisting of both permit requests and general questions (Figure 30).

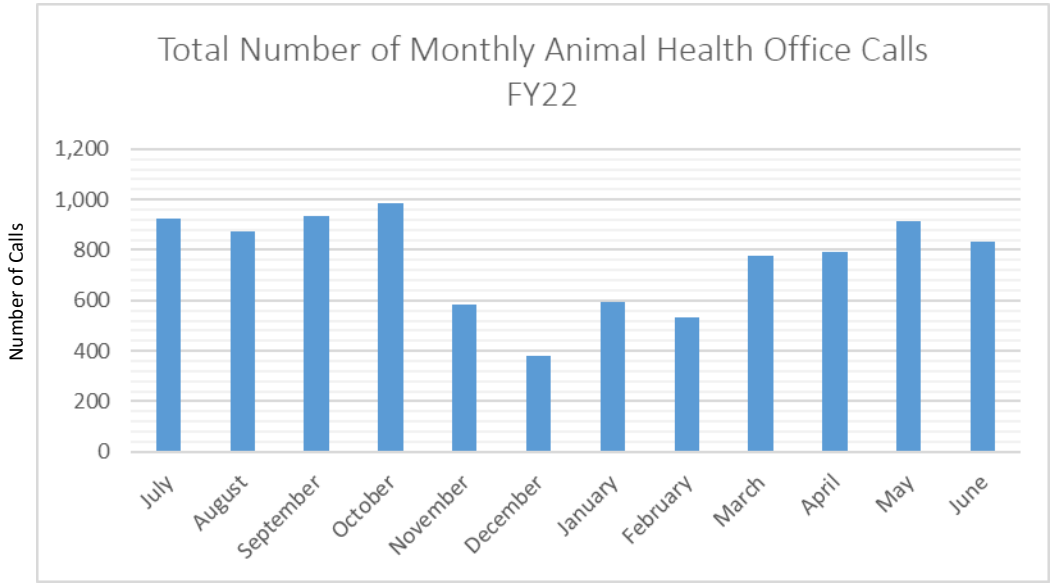



Figure 30. Animal Health Office Call Center Calls FY22. Source: AHB Staff

Starting January 2020, the requirement for import permits was removed for Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) platforms Global Vet Link and AgView. On April 1, 2021, the import permit waiver was expanded to include all forms of eCVIs. Historically, import permits were required because a call to our office prior to animal import allowed AHB to ensure compliance with import requirements due to the delay of paper certificates traveling by mail to state offices. The transition to eCVIs enables AHB to obtain traceability data at a much faster, often instant rate, eliminating the need for an import permit. This change has resulted in a significant drop in the number of calls to the AHB compliance office. During FY22 the department saw an 18% percent decrease in incoming calls.

The after-hours answering service provide an additional avenue for veterinarians to obtain an after-hours permit. In-state veterinarians and producers also call the after-hours line to report disease or feral hog sightings.

## Traceability and Compliance

Animal Health Bureau (AHB) Compliance Office monitors imports and exports of livestock into and out of Montana. During FY22 42,287 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) were checked for compliance (Figure 31).

To improve animal disease traceability, AHB compliance staff sends letters to out-of-state veterinarians and their offices. A "no permit letter" is sent to veterinarians who send animals to Montana on paper health certificates without obtaining a permit number. Approximately 237 "no permit" letters were sent to out-of-state veterinarians in FY22.

When animals enter Montana illegally, AHB compliance staff works in conjunction with Brands Enforcement Division staff to ensure those animals come into compliance with Montana laws and regulations. During FY22 AHB worked with Brands Enforcement staff to bring ten non-compliant imports into compliance with Montana regulations. Violations included importation without a CVI, animals entering without meeting testing requirements, and animals being imported without official identification (ID). All violations were rectified, and the importers and exporters were educated on Montana import regulations.

| AH RECORDS | NUMBER ENTERED |
|---|---|
| Vaccination Records | 5,477 |
| Health Certificates Checked for Compliance | 42,287 |
| Brucellosis Tests | 1,775 |
| **Total Records Reviewed** | **49,539** |
| Official Identification (ID) Tags Entered | 470,451 |

Figure 31. Records received and reviewed by compliance staff in FY22.
Source: AHB Staff

## Traceability and Compliance, continued

**Official Identification:**

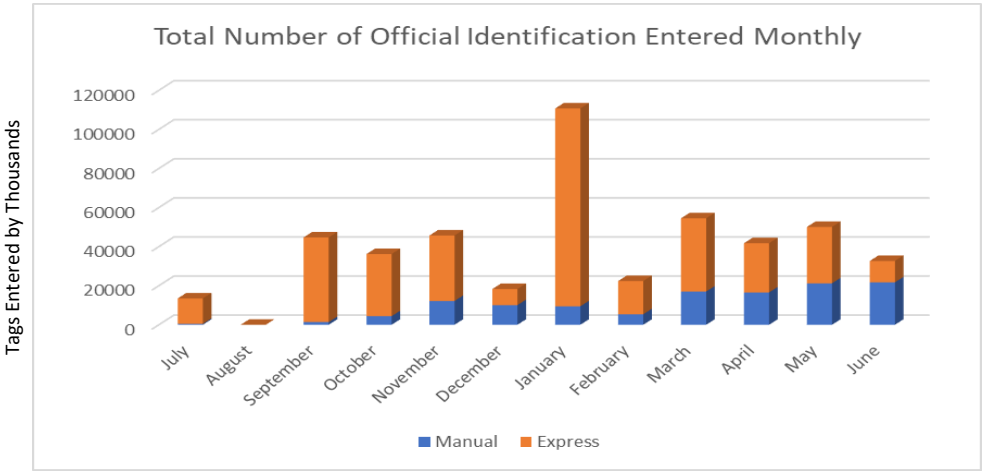



Figure 32. Official ID entered in FY22. Source: AHB Staff

Figure 32 above illustrates the number of official identification (ID) tags entered each month by Animal Health Bureau (AHB) compliance staff. Tags entered in a hand-written format, then manually entered by AHB staff are shown in blue and tags entered in an electronic format, then entered by AHB staff are shown in orange. Official ID entered is not the full representation of the official ID received by Department of Livestock (DOL). Over half of all official ID is uploaded automatically into United States Animal Health Emergency Reporting Diagnostic System (USAHERDS). The month of August shows no data entry because USAHERDS was down due to security issues and could not be accessed for data entry.

**Transition to Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVIs):**

Starting January 1, 2021, the department has mandated the use of electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVIs) for all animals exported from Montana. This transition resulted in a 55 percent decrease in the number of papers CVIs issued by veterinarians. Figure 33 illustrates the number of paper export health certificates received in FY20 and FY21 compared to the number of paper health certificates received in FY22. Although there is a decrease in paper CVIs in both years the drop in paper health certificate submissions from FY21 to FY22 is even more significant and illustrates broad adoption of electronic platforms.

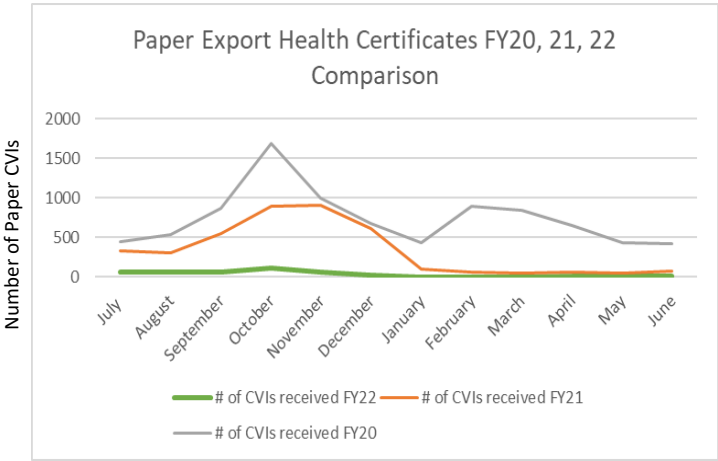



Figure 33. Comparison of Paper Export CVIs. Source: AHB Staff

## Animal Movements

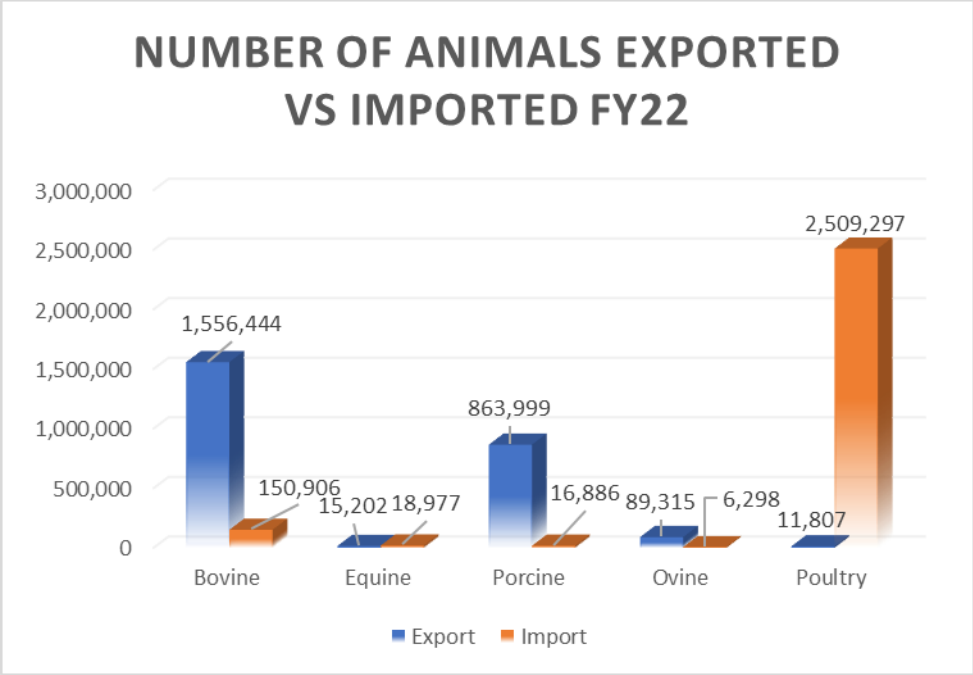



Figure 34. above illustrates the number of animals exported compared to the number of animals imported into Montana in FY22. Montana is clearly an export state with 50 percent of animals exported being exported to these top five states: South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa, and Colorado. . Source: AHB Staff

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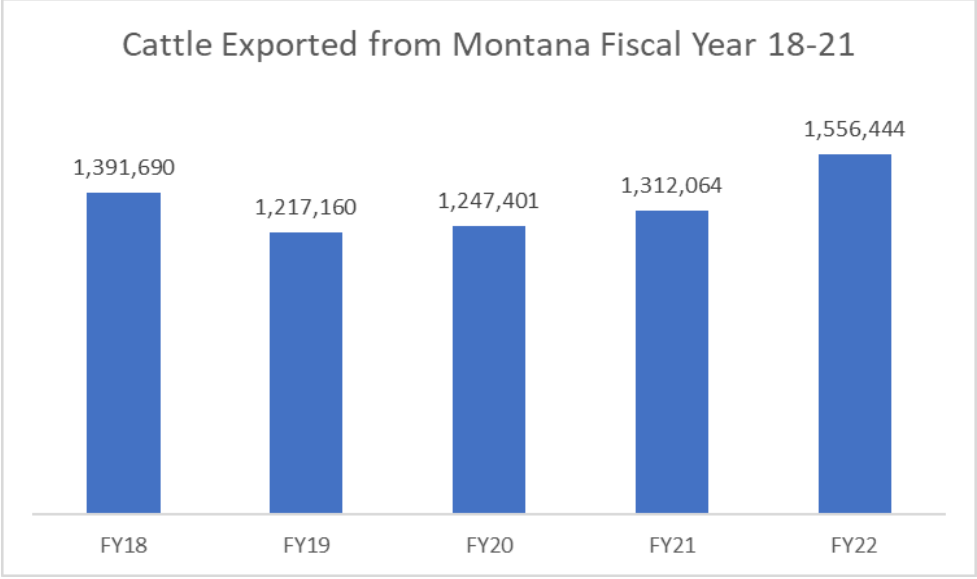


Figure 35 above illustrates the number of cattle exported from Montana from FY18 to FY22. Source: AHB Staff

## Equine Extended Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI)

January 1, 2020, Department of Livestock (DOL) transitioned to the Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI). The EECVI is offered by Global Vet Link (GVL). The EECVI is valid for six months and owners track their movements through the web portal on the GVL site. The transition to the EECVI has allowed DOL to offer an extended validity certificate and meet traceability requirements. The below table illustrates the number of horse movements on the EECVI in FY22.

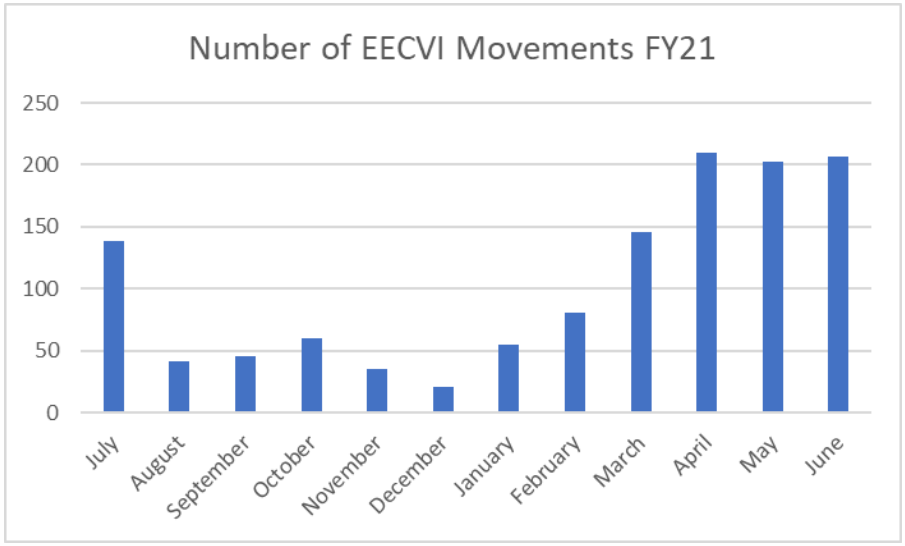


Figure 36. EECVI Movements in FY22. Source: AHB Staff

Acceptance of EECVIs continues to grow among states. Participating states in Figure 37 below are highlighted in blue (Vermont only participates May 1 through October 31 and is highlighted in green).

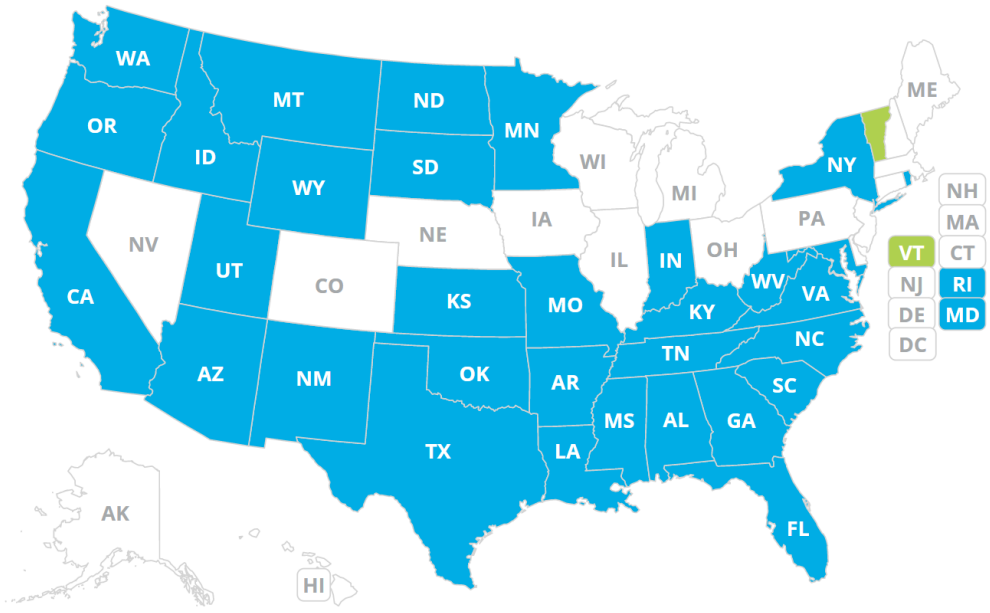


Figure 37. EECVI Participating States. Source: Global Vet

## Permits, Licenses, and Fees Collected FY21

Figure 38 below is a table of licenses and permits offered in FY22 and the amounts collected by Department of Livestock (DOL) to facilitate various programs. Also included in Figure 37 are the amounts distributed and collected for supplies provided to veterinarians. Animal Health Bureau (AHB) distributes health certificate books, trichomoniasis and alternative livestock tags to veterinarians at cost to help facilitate traceability.

| Permits/Licenses/Supplies Certifications Program | Permits/Licenses Certifications Applications/Supplies | Permits/Licenses/ Certifications Fees Collected |
|---|---|---|
| Annual Equine Semen Import | 66 | $462.00 |
| *Brucella Ovis* – New Application | 0 | $0 |
| *Brucella Ovis* – Renewal | 21 | $378.00 |
| Biologics – New Application | 3 | $90.00 |
| Biologics – Renewal | 6 | $60.00 |
| Bovine Semen Domestic | 3 | $12.00 |
| Bovine Semen International | 0 | $0 |
| Equine Feedlot | 1 | $1,450.00 |
| Montana Bull Stud | 3 | $1,050.00 |
| Seasonal Grazer - New Application | 14 | $518.00 |
| Seasonal Grazer – Renewal | 36 | $504.00 |
| Trichomoniasis Quarantine Feedlot | 5 | $60.00 |
| Large Animal Health Certificate Book | 6 | $192.00 |
| Large Animal Health Certificate Single | 20 | $25.60 |
| Alternative Livestock Tags | 200 | $300.00 |
| Trichomoniasis Tags | 4670 | $7,798.90 |
| **TOTAL** | | $12,900.50 |

Figure 38. FY22 Revenue generated from special licenses/permits and veterinarian supplies. Official Centralized Services (CS) analysis may differ due to actual dates and items that were received and processed. AHB data is shown to display specific program item revenue. Source: DOL Staff

# FIELD REPORTS

## Eastern Area—Travis Elings, Area Manager

Officer Elings worked on various tasks throughout FY22 including tuberculosis (TB) testing, public information meetings, quarantine follow up for various non-compliant issues, work with local Sheriff Offices for cases of livestock neglect, and representing Montana as the host of the Western States Rural Livestock Enforcement Association in Reno, Nevada.

**Quarantines**

- Assisted a Montana producer with Montana import requirements to bring Mexican branded roping steers from Texas.
- Worked with Animal Health Bureau (AHB) compliance staff to find a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for a horse imported from Iowa. A copy of the CVI and coggins test was obtained from the Iowa Veterinarian and emailed to the owner as well as AHB compliance office.
- A large group of district officers supervised by Officer Elings served in an investigation with a local Sheriff's Office regarding a neglect case involving nearly 200 head of cattle. Officer Elings attended the trial for the neglect case in February 2022.
- Assisted a district investigator with an investigation of an illegal import of cattle that entered the state of Montana without the proper seasonal grazer paperwork.
- Opened an investigation based on a report from a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinarian for cattle leaving the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) in Wyoming without being tested for brucellosis.

**Tuberculosis (TB) Testing**

- Throughout the fall, Officer Elings assisted with testing of cattle following the detection of TB in a Blaine County herd, including scheduling, coordination with producer, logistics, and on farm activities.
- Assisted state and federal veterinarians with a public meeting informing Montanans of the TB positive trace.
- Produced a comprehensive report on the cost of TB related activities for FY22 that included miles driven, hotel cost, equipment expenses, and time spent.

**Compliance**

- Various district investigators supervised by Officer Elings conducted compliance check stations throughout Montana in FY22 to confirm compliance by producers traveling into Montana.

# FIELD REPORTS

## Western Area—Dan Bugni, Area Manager

Officer Bugni drove a total of 29,963 miles in FY22 carrying out various tasks and assignments for both the Animal Health Bureau (AHB) and Brands Enforcement Division. Bugni attended an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training in Butte, Montana and now carries an AED device in his livestock vehicle. Other AHB duties in FY22 include the depopulation of a CWD positive herd in Flathead County, sealing loads of bison to be shipped and slaughtered in the central United States, assisting with brucellosis slaughter traces and testing for Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) compliance, avian influenza (AI) surveillance, tuberculosis (TB) testing, and various trainings throughout the State of Montana.

**Quarantines**

- Two quarantine notices were received in July 2022; one for imported dairy cross goats from Alaska that came in without any TB or brucellosis testing and another for two individuals that brought a horse and a burro to Montana from Wyoming with pending coggins listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Officer Bugni met with the owner of the non-compliant goat import and placed the animal under quarantine until the required testing was completed. The individuals with the coggins pending equine already had the coggins test results and a new CVI issued with an import permit number when Officer Bugni arrived on site, a warning citation was issued.
- Received five new import quarantines in FY22 for feedlots in the western Montana area. According to collected information, the quarantines for the feedlots in the Dillon, Montana area were rectified and released in September 2022.
- Assisted in getting an overdue quarantine completed on roping calves from Wyoming by contacting the owner and sending the required information to the AHB compliance office.

**Tuberculosis (TB) Testing**

- Arranged assistance of district field personnel and participated in the TB testing of a cattle herd in the Madison County area. TB testing efforts began September 20, 2022, and continued through the fall with the assistance of seven Department of Livestock (DOL) employees.
- A total of 243.5 hours were spent and 5,210 miles driven by Officer Bugni for TB testing in FY22.

**Compliance**

- Along with district law enforcement personnel and bison law enforcement personnel, Officer Bugni conducted livestock paperwork compliance check stations in Drummond, Montana and Feely, Montana. Officer Bugni conducted more check stations throughout Summer 2022.

# Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Rulemaking

Rule making for the Animal Health Bureau (AHB) was minimal for the FY2022. Below summarizes the amendments adopted into rule:

**Camelids:** The department ARM 32.3.225 pertains to the import of camelids in response to stakeholder requests received by AHB in FY22. The amendment removed import testing requirements for brucellosis and tuberculosis for camelids entering Montana. This change was based on the lack of documented risk of either disease in camelids, the lack of validated tests for camelids for tuberculosis, and the value of aligning Montana's import requirements with other states. The amendment was enthusiastically supported by stakeholders in the show llama industry.


Administrative Rules Books
Source: http://goo.gl/cPAvIJ

# LOOKING FORWARD

**Figure 39. Montana Movement**
**Source: DOL Staff**

The end of a fiscal year (FY) is an administrative designation as the Blaine County tuberculosis (TB) investigation is not yet complete and detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) are expected through fall 2022. Additionally, the new FY will bring challenges not yet known. The constant however is the reason for the work we do in the Animal Health Bureau (AHB), protecting the health and viability of Montana's livestock and poultry industry. The foundational work that we complete regarding emergency preparedness and disease response is critical in ensuring future successes in disease response. I am confident in the AHB's direction and capabilities as we move into the new year.

***Thank you for letting us serve you!***

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Animal Health Bureau Chief
Assistant State Veterinarian