StockQuotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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

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

June 2013

Volume 6, Issue 2

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Veterinary Deputy Accreditation Seminar
September 19, Helena

Montana Board of Livestock
July 23-24

Trich tag color changes
September 1 to **blue** tag

MVMA
Fall Symposium
September 5 & 6
Bozeman, Montana

State Veterinarian Notes

Thanks for picking up the June 2013 StockQuotes newsletter.

In this issue, we cover feral hogs, an ill-advised brucellosis rule proposed by Texas, and a fee increase on veterinary forms. Dr. Tahnee Szymanski just wrapped up a two-week course at Plum Island to qualify her as a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) and she's included a brief column on that training. Dr. Szymanski also summarizes the proposed changes to the trichomoniasis rule in response to a request from veterinarians and industry groups.

Look for more information on West Nile Virus (WNV) in the OneHealth article insert that DOL and Public Health collaboratively author on a quarterly basis. Lastly, please refer to the traceability article and table to help you and your clients comply with the identification requirements published by USDA last March.

DOL will be publishing a proposal to increase the fee that Animal Health Division charges for a variety of paper forms in the near future. The fee that we've been charging for health books, including health certificates, has not been adjusted for rising expenses since 2003. As importantly, the federal traceability rule requires that DOL staff enter individual identification of some classes of animals coming into, and leaving Montana. Therefore, the revised costs for forms will include not only the printing costs, which can be significant, but also the staff time required to transcribe the key information on those documents. Paper forms will continue to be available of course, but we will support electronic forms to streamline data capture, reduce data entry errors, and provide more efficient service to animal owners.

On that topic, electronic CVIs are here! We've made the eCVI files available to 9 veterinarians, and have already received numerous completed certificates. Most of these have been large animal, but small animal veterinarians may find this new tool especially useful. This is because DOL is no longer

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Foreign Animal Disease Training

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but there is no substitute for seeing the real thing. At the two week Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) course at Plum Island, attendees observed the clinical presentation of 10 of the highest consequence foreign animal diseases not currently present in the U.S., including foot and mouth disease, sheep pox, African horse fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

For each disease, we covered host species, incubation period, route of transmission, clinical signs, gross pathology, causative agent, prevention, and treatment, if any. We learned why these diseases are important, geographic distribution, survivability in the environment, and some factors that put the U.S. at risk of introduction.

For example, classical swine fever (CSF) should be of concern to swine producers for several reasons:

- The disease's proximity to the United States. CSF is present in several countries off the coast of Florida and several countries in South America.
- Stability of the causative agent in meat products - up to 1 year.
- Garbage feeding practices in the U.S.
- Susceptibility of feral swine to the disease.
- Prolonged time to diagnosis. If there is not a high level of mortality in the index herd, the disease can be mistaken for several other endemic swine diseases, including swine influenza. Animals that recover from the acute disease become chronic poor doers susceptible to other illnesses.

Although Montana's swine industry is relatively small, CSF provides an excellent illustration of why ongoing surveillance and awareness is of value. Conversely, the risk of introduction of hendra virus (a zoonotic and highly fatal disease of horses) is low because the U.S. does not have flying foxes (fruit bats), the species that spreads the disease to horses. ¤ By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Brucellosis Update

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has proposed a rule that requires breeding cattle imported from the entirety of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to be tested for brucellosis after arrival into Texas. This rule proposes that:

- "Female cattle under 18 months of age (heifers) or adult females that have not calved must test negative no less than 30 days or more than 90 days after calving," and
- "Sexually intact females and breeding bulls over 18 months of age entering Texas from Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming be held under restriction until tested negative for bovine brucellosis no less than 60 days and no more than 120 days after entry. "

Therefore, this rule would require that adult breeding cattle from any part of Montana be tested between two and six months after entry. The requirements on young breeding females are even more restrictive by requiring those animals to be brucellosis tested up to 2 years after import; i.e. 6-month old breeding heifers would have to be tested approximately 18 months or more after import post calving.

Obviously, I have deep concerns over this proposal because it will virtually eliminate imports of breeding heifers from Montana when producers from Texas stop purchasing Montana-sourced animals to avoid these rigorous requirements. Likewise, there's a possibility that other states will follow suit which would impact Montana even more broadly.

I understand the interest by Texas to minimize the risk of importing a brucellosis positive animal, however, the extent of brucellosis testing in Montana on an annual basis makes this risk negligible. Interestingly, Texas found a brucellosis affected herd in 2011 with 9 reactors in a herd of approximately 20 animals. In contrast, the average infection rate at detection in Montana herds has been 1.1%. Lastly, it's difficult to not object to this proposed rule when one considers that Montana has been 100% successful in preventing the export of brucellosis affected animals while the most recent report of tuberculosis in North Dakota attributes that infection to an animal exported from Texas. Additional concerns include:

1. The proposed TAHC regulations create burdensome government restrictions that are not supported by a risk analysis. Montana's brucellosis testing provides for a 99% confidence of finding brucellosis at a level of less than 0.008%. (42,025 animals out of a total of 73,200 Designtated Surveillance Area [DSA] animals were tested this fiscal year: July 1, 2012 – June 10, 2013).
2. The proposed TAHC regulations ignore the fact that brucellosis is a disease that can be stamped out should the worst happen and an infected animal is imported. Montana has a DSA identification requirement which allows for rapid trace-back to state of origin.
3. The proposed TAHC regulations do not recognize the risk to livestock from wildlife is regional instead of statewide.
4. Producer education on the inherent risks of any animal additions to include DSA cattle and cattle from other sources is a more appropriate action.
5. The TAHC proposed rule is far more restrictive than even USDA's Class B Brucellosis state status which was assigned to states with a herd infection rate of up to 1%. For comparison, the state of Montana has had less than 1 affected herd per year over 6 years since 2007 at an annual infection rate of 0.007% (12,341 herds) and already tests DSA-sourced cattle prior to export.

The proposed rule can be accessed on the TAHC website (http://goo.gl/Ilo2k), and comments on the proposal will be accepted through July 15, 2013.

ELK SURVEILLANCE PROJECT: The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has compiled the elk surveillance report for the month of May. We continue to be pleased with the amount of information that's being provided through the study, and by the fact that all elk identified as brucellosis seropositive through the study have not been shown to move outside of the DSA in Montana. I shared the full report by email to the mailing list in early June. If you're not on our email list but would like a copy, feel free to contact me. ¤ mz

Vaginal Implant Transmitter such as the one implanted into seropositive, pregnant elk in the FWP live-capture study.
Image source: http://www.vectronic-aerospace.com/images/wildlife/VIT.png

Feral Hoggin'

A recent illegal import of feral swine from Texas highlighted concerns over the potential introduction of these animals to the state of Montana. As you might know, feral swine cause widespread damage in much of the United States. The distribution of feral swine in the United States has expanded dramatically in the last 20 years (see maps) as hunting interests have live-captured swine and transported them to new areas.

DIFFICULT TO CONTROL: No state has successfully eliminated feral swine once established. Feral swine are highly prolific by breeding at six months of age, and having up to two litters per year of 4-8 piglets per litter. They are intelligent and adapt to evade control programs. One example is the animals adopting a nocturnal existence to avoid hunting pressure. State agencies are typically in a Catch-22 dilemma where they lack adequate staffing to eradicate the impostors, but offering a public damage hunt often backfires as hunters introduce swine to new habitats within the state to expand sporting opportunities.

EXAMPLES OF DAMAGE: In addition to consuming and trampling agricultural crops such as corn and wheat, feral pigs can cause longer term plant damage by their wallowing and rooting behavior. Riparian areas, parks, and golf courses have sustained much damage. They prey on ground nesting birds and even young livestock such as lambs. Further, feral swine have been known to carry or transmit over 30 diseases (including brucellosis and pseudorabies) and 37 parasites that can be transmitted to livestock, people, pets, and wildlife (source: USDA-APHIS).

LEGAL STATUS: Feral swine are classified as a prohibited species in Montana under Fish, Wildlife and Parks administrative rule 12.6.1540 which includes: "all wild species in the family Suidae (Russian boar, European boar) and hybrids thereof; and, in the family Tayassuidae, the collared peccary (javelina) (Tayassu tajacu)." Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 87-5-705, these animals must be disposed of, or export immediately.

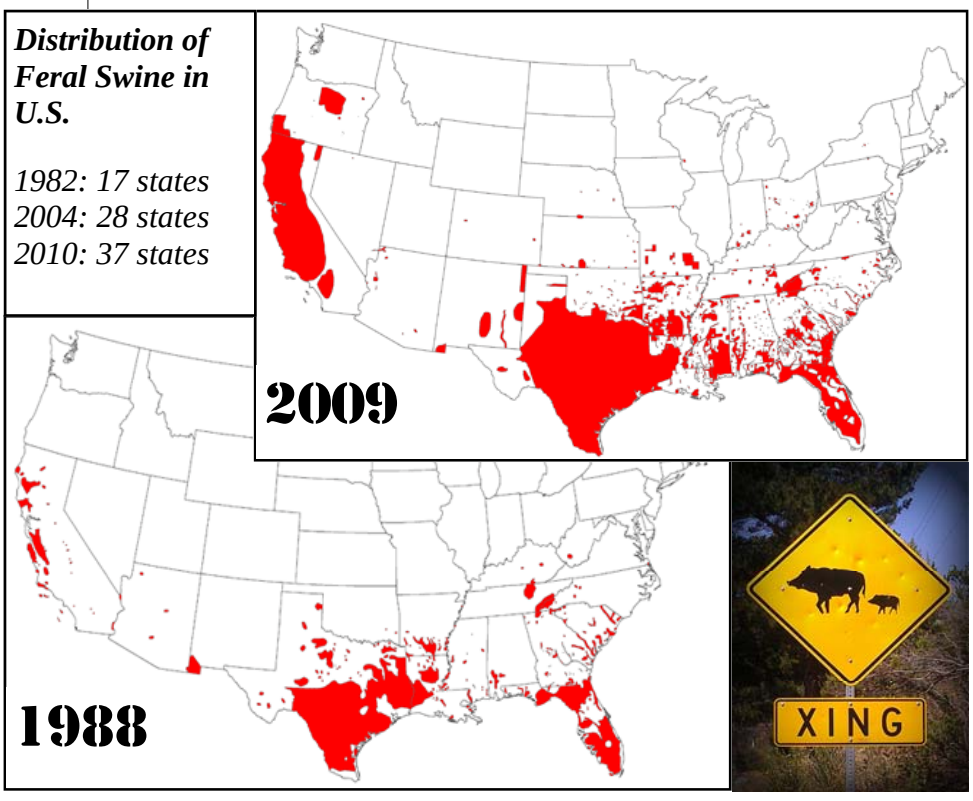
Further, these species imported illegally are also in violation of DOL's import regulations that require a health certificate and import permit and therefore may be quarantined.

MONTANA INCIDENT: In May, a DOL livestock district investigator got a tip that someone near Anaconda recently acquired swine with a Russian boar/feral appearance. When he inspected the premises, he found three (little) pigs. The owner stated that the animals were live trapped in Texas and he trucked them to Montana. Although the owner stated that he intended to butcher them in "eight weeks", the investigator was concerned that the animals looked like they fit the prohibited species description, the fact that there were two females and a male, and obviously their source. He made another visit to the premises with a FWP game warden to request that the animals be transported out of state or euthanized, but found the pigs gone. Fortunately, the owner was compliant and had already butchered the pigs over the weekend. The DOL investigator verified this by inspecting the contents of the freezer.

You may find an informative brochure by USDA here: http://goo.gl/9802W. ¤ mz

Texas origin feral swine illegally imported into southwestern Montana.
Photo credit: Mike Hayes

Distribution of feral swine in the United States in 1988 and 2009 show the significant range expansion.
Source: Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study



Traceability (ADT)

Following the March 11, 2013, publication of the federal rule on animal disease traceability (ADT), DOL updated import requirements for cattle entering Montana, designated state-approved tagging sites, and developed a table to simplify identification and documentation requirements for intestate movement.

REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORT UPDATED: Effective June 1, the following identification requirements for cattle entering Montana are in place. The policy memo can be viewed here: http://goo.gl/7TCFT.

The main requirements include:

1. Montana will accept brand inspections as official identification on sexually intact animals over 18 months of age for: *Individually identified beef animals when the brand inspection certificate accompanies the shipment and the CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) has both the brand inspection number and a statement that all animals are individually identified*. (this allows the individual official ID to not be listed on the CVI which helps expedite loading).
2. Montana will no longer accept breed registration tattoos as official identification.
3. All required official identification must be listed on the CVI unless animals are branded (and the animals comply with #1 above).
4. All animals (regardless of age) subject to disease testing or post entry quarantine requirements must be officially identified and listed on the CVI.

APPROVED TAGGING SITES: Under ADT, cattle required to be officially identified (sexually intact cattle ≥ 18 months of age, exhibition animals of any age, dairy females of any age, and dairy steers born after March 11, 2013) may move interstate without official identification if moved directly to an approved tagging site. Montana and surrounding states are working on getting facilities in their respective states approved as tagging sites as well as developing a consistent means of sharing the locations of tagging sites with the public. Look for additional information in the coming months. For now, if you have clients that are shipping animals interstate and have questions on whether a facility is an approved tagging site, contact the state of destination for confirmation.

The table below lists interstate requirements for traceability (ADT). Always check with the state of destination before shipping.

FEDERAL TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS BY TYPE OF MOVEMENT

Class of Cattle	Origin of Interstate Movement	Out of State Destination	Official Identification Required?	ICVI	Owner Shipper Statement
Sexually intact beef cattle 18 months of age and over; Sexually intact dairy cattle; Castrated dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013; Exhibition animals	Ranch Collection Point Veterinary Clinic Other	MARKET TAGGING SITE			✓
		MARKET NON TAGGING SITE	✓*		✓
		TAGGING SITE		✓	
		NON TAGGING SITE (RANCH)	✓	✓	
		SLAUGHTER	Backtag***		✓
	Market	MARKET TAGGING SITE			✓
		MARKET NON TAGGING SITE	✓		✓
		TAGGING SITE		✓	
		NON TAGGING SITE	✓	✓	
		SLAUGHTER	Backtag		✓
Sexually intact beef cattle <18 months of age; Castrated beef cattle of any age	Ranch Collection Point Veterinary Clinic Other	MARKET TAGGING SITE		✓**	
		MARKET NON TAGGING SITE		✓**	
		TAGGING SITE		✓	
		NON TAGGING SITE		✓	
		SLAUGHTER			✓
	Market	MARKET TAGGING SITE			✓
		MARKET NON TAGGING SITE			✓
		TAGGING SITE		✓	
		NON TAGGING SITE (RANCH)		✓	
		SLAUGHTER			✓

Market = Federally approved livestock facility; **Slaughter** = Federally approved slaughter plant; **Tagging Site** = State approved tagging facility

Official Identification = RFID tag, metal bangs tag, or silver metal USDA tag; **ICVI** = Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, AKA Health Certificate

- Montana's specific import requirements are outlined in the Traceability Requirements for Cattle Imported into Montana dated June 1, 2013.
- For cattle leaving Montana, always check with the state of destination. States may have additional requirements OR may accept an alternate approved form of official ID (e.g., brand inspection or breed tattoo) or ICVI (e.g., brand inspection).
- Brand inspections are required for all interstate movements of cattle out of Montana.

* Federally approved markets may accept animals without official identification if animals are restricted to slaughter ONLY.

** Animals moving from farm of origin to market do not require a CVI per CFR Part 78.9(a)(3)(i).

*** Animals moving direct to slaughter are exempt from official id requirements if moved with a backtag or if a backtag is applied upon arrival at slaughter

TRACEABILITY MATRIX: DOL has developed a table that outlines federal requirements by class of cattle and type of movement. Please note, the information included is only specific to federal requirements. Individual states may have additional requirements or may recognize alternate forms of identification or documentation. The matrix is also available on our website: http://goo.gl/J8uva. ¤

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM, with Tom Linfield, DVM.

Trichomoniasis Rule Proposal

DOL is proposing some (more) changes to the trichomoniasis program in response to feedback from producers and veterinarians after the Fergus County epidemiological investigation. Following approval by the Board of Livestock at their May meeting, a proposed administrative rule incorporating the recommendations was published on June 20th.

The major changes in the proposal focus on management of affected herds and include:

1. Under current rules, a herd quarantine excludes females over 120 days gestation and females separated from bulls by the same 4 month period. The determination of what animals on the operation meet these criteria has generally been assessed by the herd owner. Under the proposed rule, the determination of which females pose a negligible risk will require veterinary and/or DOL involvement. This will provide a more complete assessment of the risk posed by exposed and short bred females.
2. Because no two trich cases are alike and because management is a significant factor in the epidemiology of the disease, DOL is proposing that all affected herds be required to complete a herd management plan, similar to what is used in Montana's brucellosis program. A herd management plan is a document that outlines the existing management practices of the affected herd, provides best management practices for the affected producer to adopt, and may provide variances to quarantine or disease requirements based upon the adoption of these practices. It is a dynamic document that will be completed with producer and local veterinary input.
3. Under existing regulations, the quarantine of an affected herd is released when all non-virgin male cattle have completed three negative weekly tests. This does not take into account the risk posed by the exposed cow herd. Therefore, DOL is proposing that two separate quarantines be issued. One for the bull herd and one for the cow herd. The bull herd quarantine will be released following the removal of all positive males from the herd, the completion of all required testing, and the completion of a herd management plan. The quarantine of the female herd will be released when all non-virgin female cattle are classified as low risk by being determined to be: a) virgin, b) over 120 days gestation, c) separated from bulls by the same 4-month period, or through a variance granted in a herd plan based upon the epidemiological investigation or implementation of management practices. Additionally, the quarantine of the bull herd must have been released before female cattle will be released from quarantine.
4. DOL is proposing deadlines for all required testing. Currently, a "release of trichomoniasis test positive herd status will be when a negative whole herd bull test is completed prior to the next breeding season". Unfortunately, in rare cases, producers have an extended or year-round breeding season which makes the current deadline ineffective in getting timely case closure. Specific deadlines will ensure that additional positives are found and neighbor notification of all exposed herds is completed in a timely manner.
5. Current penalties for violations of trichomoniasis regulations are "quarantine and testing", with monetary fines being levied only for violation of import requirements. DOL is proposing to expand monetary penalties to violations of other sections of the trichomoniasis regulations.
6. Finally, we made a number of "housekeeping" changes to remove redundancies and make the rule easier to read.

The comment period on the proposed change will remain open until July 18. These rules are available for your review on the http://goo.gl/EpFz9. Please take a moment and look over the proposed changes and submit comments to our office. ¤ By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

TRICH LAB SUBMISSION FORMS REASON FOR TEST:

If you have recently ordered trich forms (SV-69A) from our office, you may have noticed that we added a "Reason for Test" to the form. Providing this information helps us assess whether standing regulations are responsible for the detection of positive animals. Please be sure and complete "Reason for Test" on your submission. Thanks!

Trichomoniasis tags changed to BLUE on Sept 1st.

Color schedule is as follows:
*Sep 1, 2013 - Tag color changes to **Blue***
*Sep 1, 2014 - Tag color changes to **Yellow***
*Sep 1, 2015 - Tag color changes to **Green***
*Sep 1, 2016 - Tag color changes to **White***
*Sep 1, 2017 - Tag color changes to **Orange***
*Sep 1, 2018 - Tag color repeats **(Blue)***

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

Staff Corner: Cinda Young-Eichenfels

Cinda joined the DOL Animal Health team as a technical writer with a BA in English. Previously she worked for the Secretary of State's Office as Assistant Editor of the Montana Administrative Rules. She will be assisting Animal Health write their administrative rules; and will also be overseeing the special permits provided by the Animal Health Division.

Cinda loves horses (and all animals) and has a small ranch west of Winston with a menagerie of fun critters. Her broad experience in technical writing and administrative rules make her a great addition to the team. ¤

State Vet Update *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

printing small animal health certificates books, and the federal form VS-7001 that can be download on the internet is not accepted by some states because it is not a controlled form.

Additionally, the Animal Health Division has developed a variety of "special" permits and licenses in response to veterinarian or animal owner requests over the years. Special permits, including the Annual Equine Import Permit, Seasonal Grazer permit, and numerous others, often provide added flexibility and extended dates for animal movement. While the most frequently used standard permits will continue to be offered free of charge, "special" permits will be offered for a fee commensurate with the additional workload they take to process. These changes will be published as draft administrative rules in the next several months. ¤ mz

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