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

Dec 2015

Volume 8, Issue 4

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Deputy Veterinarian Training:
Jan 20, Jun 30, Sep 22, Helena

Board of Livestock:
Jan 15, Helena

MVMA Summer Meeting:
Jun 22-23, Bozeman

State Veterinarian Notes

Fall brought a number of personnel changes to the Department of Livestock. In late September, I assumed the duties of interim executive officer of the Board of Livestock, and Dr. Tahnee Szymanski took a greater role in administering the Animal Health Division. My new duties brought new challenges including management of budget, personnel, and administration.

In Late December, Leslie Doely, who many of you know through the brucellosis program at the Animal Health Division, was promoted to Brands Enforcement Division Administrator (Congrats Leslie!). So, time has flown by and I apologize for not sending email updates during this busy time. The Board of Livestock is in the process of hiring a permanent executive officer, so time commitments should soon become manageable.

We've been fortunate this year to avoid any brucellosis positive herds in the state. However, Wyoming has recently disclosed two affected herds; one in Park County and one in Sublette County. More on the topic in the brucellosis column (p3).

In our continual effort to keep administrative rules current, Animal Health Division is working on a number of proposals. Rules that are currently open for public comment address reporting requirements for feral swine, TB testing of rodeo cattle, fees, and semen import rules. A review of these proposed rules and several others that are in the draft stages are in the Proposed Administrative Rules section (following column).

We're also making some changes to the 6-Month Horse Passport Program to make compliance easier on horse owners, while improving documentation of animal movement. To make this happen, we're replacing the much maligned itinerary with a requirement for an entry permit within ten days of every trip into the state. More on this in the Horse Passport section (p5). ¤

mz

Proposed Administrative Rules

Over the next several months, the Montana Department of Livestock will be looking to revise several administrative rules. The following rules and tentative schedule are as follows:

JANUARY 2016:

32.2.401 Animal Health Division Fees – The cost for alternative livestock tags has increased, and we are changing the current fee to reflect this change. Also, in 2011, MDOL established an authorized testing agent program for pullorum typhoid testing of poultry. MDOL is establishing a fee for participation in that program.

32.3.212 Import Requirements for Cattle – We are proposing to change the tuberculosis (TB) testing requirement for rodeo cattle from a negative test within 6 months to 12 months. This will be in line with surrounding states and will still sufficiently address the risk of TB in this class of cattle.

32.3.22 Import Requirement for Semen – We are proposing to remove outdated language from this administrative rule, including testing protocols for resident bulls at Certified Semen Services (CSS) facilities. The proposed rule will defer to the established protocols for these facilities.

Mandatory reporting of Feral Swine – This rule would establish reporting criteria for feral swine in Montana. Establishing reporting criteria for feral swine is required by a law created by the last legislature. The law grants MDOL additional authority to address incursions of feral hogs.

(Continued on page 6)

WHAT'S NEW:

1. Federal TB/Brucellosis published for comment (p 3).
2. Upcoming Administrative Rules (pp 1,6).
3. Rabies program changes (p 2).

Rabies Compendium

The management of rabies exposure in Montana largely follows the Rabies Compendium (National Association of State Public Health Veterinarian's [NASPHV] Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control). Some significant changes to the document are slated for release in early 2016. At a recent national meeting, several of the upcoming changes were presented. Most significantly:

The length of quarantine time for unvaccinated dogs and cats that have been exposed to rabies will be reduced from six months down to four months. This change is based on data published by Kansas State University and reflects a better understanding of the incubation period of the disease.

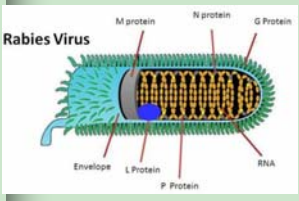
Animals that have been exposed to rabies should be vaccinated within 96 hours of exposure. Recent data suggests that the delay of vaccine administration in an exposed animal may prolong the incubation period. In case of delayed vaccination, consideration may be given to extending the quarantine period from four months back to six months. Note that this change relates to animals exposed to a possible rabid animal, rather than an animal that bites or otherwise exposes a human. In the latter case, the quarantine/observation period is still ten days, and these animals are not to be vaccinated during the observation period.

Exposed dogs and cats that are past due for vaccination will no longer be placed under extended quarantine. These animals will be boostered and a 45-day observation period wiil be recommended.

Exposed animals past due for a vaccination without appropriate documentation of past vaccination will continue to be treated as non-vaccinates. The owners of these animals will have the option of 1) a four-month quarantine or 2) demonstration of an amnestic response following vaccination using serological testing which would indicate prior vaccination.

We're excited that these changes reflect recent literature about response to vaccination and will work to implement changes quickly when the Compendium is officially updated. More information will follow after the updated compendium is published.¤

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM



Rabies Virus

Source: http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-_b7SnjMEf28/UYE18e64sSI/AAAAAAAAUlQ/03eXgGxC-dg/s400/rabies+virus.jpg

Tuberculosis Epidemiology

Montana was recently involved in a tuberculosis (TB) epidemiological investigation that resulted in TB testing of a Montana cattle herd. In September, a Montana origin bull tested as suspect on a TB caudal-fold test (CFT) in Nebraska. Confirmation was done using USDA approved serologic testing (bovine interferon gamma assay [Bovigam]) on 9/17/2015 and 9/28/2015.

According to the USDA guidance, an animal positive on two successive Bovigam should be classified as a reactor. The guidance does however, allow for exceptions to a reactor classification if justified and documented by USDA epidemiologists.

The animal was approx. 20 months of age, had a previous negative TB test prior to moving to Nebraska, and had been dosed with ivermectin immediately prior to the initial caudal-fold test. It was suspected that the response to ivermectin may have caused the non-negative test results. The perceived value of the bull was at least 30 times the federal maximum indemnity of $3,000, and the index of suspicion of this being a false positive was high.

The bull was, therefore, retested using a comparative cervical skin test (CCT) at 60 days post caudal-fold test. If at that time, the bull responded to the test, it would be slaughtered and samples collected for culture. If, however, the bull was negative and all exposed animals at the Nebraska premises and Montana ranch of origin also tested negative, the bull would be classified as negative. The bull tested negative on November 16 and all exposed animal testing was completed on November 23. The bull has since been released from quarantine.

The advantage of the serologic test is a single blood draw/handling event versus handling an animal two times to complete a CCT. However, the use of gamma is already limited and not all countries, specifically Canada, recognize it as an official test. Likewise, many state animal health officials are leaning towards limiting the use of Bovigam.

Montana intends to use the CCT as a primary confirmatory test and will only consider the gamma for unique circumstances. ¤

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

Brucellosis Update

TB/BRUCELLOSIS RULE: In 2010, the USDA began to rewrite regulations for the bovine tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis eradication programs. On December 16, 2015 USDA published the proposed rule and program standards. This proposed rule addresses:

- Program requirements and State status.
  - ◊ Each state must submit an animal health plan for TB and brucellosis.
  - ◊ 3 different classifications are proposed for Country status as well as State or area(s).
  - ◊ Creates "Program Standards" which replace the UM&R to describe the details necessary for the implementation the program.
- Recognizes management areas such as Designated Surveillance Areas (DSAs) and TB zones within the U.S. as well as outside the U.S.
  - ◊ DSAs and TB zones do not hold a different status than the state.
- Surveillance
  - ◊ Addresses the National and state level TB and brucellosis surveillance.
- Affected herd management and epidemiologic investigations:
  - ◊ Moves away from depopulation as an affected herd management method
- Interstate movement controls
  - ◊ Abandons state status system from (Class Free, A, B or C), in favor of Program Status (consistent, provisionally consistent, inconsistent).
- International import requirements.
  - ◊ Regional risk based on prevalence (6 levels for TB and 3 for brucellosis).
- Establishes Federal primacy for international requirements.
- Lab approval and testing standards.
  - ◊ Standards are already in place but the proposed rule brings most memos and SOPs together into a single document/program.

Public comment on both the proposed Program Standards and the regulations can be submitted at the Federal eRulemaking Portal through March 15:

http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0044

BRUCELLOSIS IN WYOMING HERDS:

Wyoming has discovered two brucellosis affected herds within their DSA.

One is a Park County, Wyoming herd in which an open cull cow was discovered on serologic testing and later confirmed as culture positive. This cow was raised in Meagher County Montana. No other positive cattle were discovered in this herd after completion of the initial herd test.

The second herd is in Sublette County where 5 serologic positives were found in a group of 70 cull cows. Three of these were culture positive for *B. abortus*. An additional six serologic positives were found following the completion of the herd test. This affected herd is in close proximity to an elk feedground.

MONTANA UPDATE:

No affected herds have been detected in the state in 2015. A single large domestic bison herd remains under quarantine since 2010. This herd undergoes annual entire herd testing.

Live Elk Capture Study (Montana): Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks completed a summary of the five-year elk capture/surveillance project in September. This report as well as past annual reports can be found on the FWP website: http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/elk/brucellosis/default.html.

Of the twelve seropositive elk initially collared in the Blacktail area of Beaverhead County in the first year of this project (2011), only three remain. These three elk will be euthanized and samples taken for testing for *Brucella* at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Of the five seropositive elk found in the Sage Creek area capture in 2012, only one remains.

Due to the success of the initial five-year study, the project will continue with capture and testing of elk near the eastern border of the current DSA in early 2016. This capture study helps to verify the DSA boundary. Knowing the extent of brucellosis positive elk helps to protect Montana's cattle industry, individual producers and continues to assure trading partners that Montana cattle remain free of brucellosis. ¤

By Eric Liska, DVM

Elk on a feedground in Wyoming.

Source: http://wyofile.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/high-density-feeding.jpg

Elk released after capture and collaring.

Source: http://bloximages.chicago2.vip.townnews.com/helenair.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/b/3a/b3a0912e-2475-11e2-81f9-

Seneca Valley Virus

Senecavirus A (commonly known as Seneca Valley Virus or SVV) clinically presents like Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and is an emerging disease pathogen affecting swine. In recent months, several SVV cases, including Montana-origin adult slaughter swine, have been reported in the U.S. Isolates have been reported in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, Illinois, Louisiana, and California in pigs with a variety of clinical signs.

Test results have been negative for FMD, swine vesicular disease virus (SVDV), and vesicular exanthema of swine virus (VESV). They were however, positive for SVV.

Senecavirus A was first isolated in 2002 and more recently identified as a picornavirus (family Picornaviridae, genus Senecavirus, species Senecavirus A). The family Picornaviridae also contains the FMDV and the SVDV. Many other countries have also documented SVV infections, including but not limited to, Brazil, Canada, Australia, Italy, and New Zealand.

Only swine are known to be affected by SVV and swine are thought to be the natural host. There is no evidence of SVV causing disease in humans. Swine infected with SVV will exhibit clinical signs similar to other vesicular diseases of swine – vesicular lesions on the snout (Figures left) and coronary band/hoof of breeding age animals and increased mortality in neonatal piglets (< 7 days), with or without diarrhea.

In breeding age swine, gross lesions include multifocal, round, discrete erosive and/or ulcerative lesions on distal limbs, especially around the coronary bands. Lameness is common, and crusting and sloughing of the hoof wall may occur. Fluid filled vesicles and multifocal chronic superficial and/or deep ulcers have been described in and around the oral mucosa, snout, and nares. Other more general signs can include fever, lethargy, and anorexia.

Neonatal piglets appear to be infected shortly after birth and start deteriorating rapidly. Mortality rates in neonatal piglets have recently been reported at 40–80 percent. Pathological evaluations of affected piglets did not identify common gross or microscopic lesions attributed to causing mortality. Some signs include dehydration (may or may not present with diarrhea; necropsied piglets had stomachs full of milk). A common finding in affected herds is the detection of large amounts of SVV from multiple piglet tissues, including brain, blood and lymphoid tissues, indicating a widespread infection.

The transmission route(s) and pathogenicity for SVV are not well understood. Another picornavirus, FMDV, is known to spread readily by direct contact with infected individuals, fomites, or exposure to aerosolized virus, but it is unknown if these same modes of transmission also apply to SVV. SVV has also been linked to idiopathic vesicular disease during concurrent infection with porcine circovirus and porcine enterovirus.

Because of the similarities to diseases that are FADs, swine with vesicular lesions must be immediately reported to the state (406/444-2043) or federal animal health official (406/449-2220). Vesicular diseases cannot be reliably differentiated without diagnostic testing. SVV-positive animals can be sent to market once lesions heal.

In the event swine with vesicular lesions are found in slaughter channels, FSIS or State-inspected slaughter facilities will notify the appropriate federal or state health officials, who, in consultation with the foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD) and FSIS or state inspectors, will determine how to further process affected animals. Options may include: 1) quarantine/sampling and holding animals until test results received from the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL); 2) allowing animals to be slaughtered after sample collection; 3) allowing slaughter of affected animals only at the end of the slaughter day; 4) allowing routine slaughter without restrictions and without testing based on the foreign animal disease diagnostician's (FADD) findings and federal or state animal health official recommendations. Additionally, animals could potentially go to another slaughter facility, provided testing has been completed and FADs have been ruled out prior to movement.

To report suspected cases, or for additional information on SVV, please contact USDA-APHIS-VS (406/449-2220) or MDOL (406/444-2043). ¤

By Tom Linfield, DVM

Assistant Director, USDA-APHS-VS

SVV coronary band / hoof lesions.

Source: USDA

SVV snout lesions.

Source: USDA

6 Month Horse Passport

We have updated the 6-Month Horse Passport program. Prior to this change, the veterinarian called the state of destination at the beginning of the season to inform the state of the owner's intent to travel there. A written itinerary with the intended destination had to be submitted by the owner prior to and after the travel season.

Effective immediately, DOL will no longer require a preliminary or final travel itinerary for 6-Month Horse Passport holders. And we're streamlining the process on our end as well. Horse owners wanting to use a 6-Month Horse Passport to travel into (or return to) Montana should follow this process:

1. Submit an application and a $5 payment (non-refundable)
2. Obtain a preauthorization number
3. Work with their veterinarian to:
   - Conduct a health exam and complete a 6 Month Passport health certificate
   - Test their horse(s) for EIA (Coggins)
   - Provide the preauthorization number to the veterinarian to record on the passport certificate
   - Call 406/444-2976 prior to each entry into the State of Montana to obtain a 10 day permit number.

When the owner calls, we will ask for the preauthorization number, health certificate number, Coggins information and destination. The pre-authorization form clearly states that it is not valid for travel unless accompanied by a current passport certificate, Coggins, and a permit number.

Because the horse owner is required to have an import permit every time they travel into Montana, their travel is documented at our office and they do not need to submit an itinerary; This addresses the main shortcoming of the program which was the lack of documentation of travel.

A fillable application is available on our website and an electronic payment system is coming in January.

Please note, that as this newsletter is going to print, the states participating in the passport program have requested an additional review, so there may be some additional tweaks in the future. ¤

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Diagnostic Sample Shipping

We published an article in last June's Animal Health Newsletter (Vol.8 Issue 2) about sample submission to the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL) as we had been experiencing delays regarding submissions sent from our clients via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Unfortunately, packages continue to be delayed, and some additional guidance may be helpful.

In July of this year, a package containing a specimen for rabies testing was delayed for 9 days at the Billings Post Office and this necessitated initiation of rabies vaccinations for the client involved. At this serious turn of events, we made several more calls to postmasters. As we investigated, we found that some of our packages were being directed to a special holding area at the Billings PO and that USPS personnel weren't always aware of these packages or weren't sure of how to further process them.

Many of these packages had a "Biohazard" label on the outermost packaging and we believe that this is contributing to the processing slowdown.

We have reviewed the Department of Transportation (DOT), International Air Transport Association (IATA) and USPS guidelines, which we follow for labeling our kits for specimen return and for mailing out our referral specimens. We have determined that biohazard labels are not necessary on the outermost package exterior of any submissions to MVDL (they ARE, however, required on the secondary packaging inside the outer container).

We'll continue to remove the biohazard stickers from our kit mailers, but some clients are reapplying them and some postal workers are requiring them as well. Please let us know if this occurs; there is more communication work to be done!

We have compiled a *MVDL Specimen Shipper's Guide* and placed on our website at www.liv.mt.gov/lab to provide guidance for our clients for the packaging and labeling that is required on typical submissions.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns related to a submission for the MVDL, please feel free to call us at 406/994-4885. ¤

Tess Moore, QA Manager, MVDL

Biohazard labels should only be placed on the secondary packaging inside the outer container (not on external package).

Administrative Rules *(cont'd)*

(Administrative Rules continued from page 1)

MARCH 2016

32.3 Subchapter 12 Rabies – Rule changes following the expected publication of a new rabies compendium (see rabies column on page 3).

32.3.218 Special requirements for Sheep – This proposal will define a test eligible age for *B. ovis* testing to ensure consistency between our *B. ovis* certified flock program and animals for import into Montana.

32.3.221 Alternative Livestock Import Requirements – Clarification that brucellosis testing is only required for sexually intact animals.

32.3.225 Camelids – Provide an exemption for tuberculosis testing of camelids for exhibition.

32.3.2006 Identification – The age at which animals must be officially identified will be reduced from 2 years to 18 months to be consistent with federal traceability (ADT) standards.

32.3.216 Horses – To be consistent with current department policy, we will be establishing Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) requirements for stallions imported into Montana,.

JUNE 2016

32.3.2001 Brands and Earmarks – Establish the V brand for trich positive bulls. The V brand is currently only defined in the trichomoniasis subchapter.

32.3 Subchapters 3 Pseudorabies and 4 Brucellosis – Due to terminology changes over the years, this rule contains language indicating that the private veterinarian is responsible for completion of epidemiological investigations. This is work that would be done by the state veterinarian's office in cooperation with the private practitioner. ¤

By Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

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