



# StockQuotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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

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

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## State Veterinarian Notes

**TUBERCULOSIS:** We've spent much of late March working with Montana cattle producers on tuberculosis (TB) testing related to an investigation of a TB positive herd in northwest South Dakota. As part of routine movement and commerce, 6 producers have been identified with some contact (adjacent or sale) with the affected herd.

Approximately 1,800 Montana cattle are quarantined while testing is performed to see if the disease has spread to/from Montana. More about this developing issue in the TB column (p4).

**BRUCELOSIS:** The brucellosis column (p3) goes into some detail on a recent performance audit of the brucellosis program. The program is structurally sound and we look forward to implementing the recommendations as much as practical.

The elk capture and test project has been completed for 2017. Because of concerns over movement of border elk south of Red Lodge, [FWP captured additional elk in that area, and fortunately all 20 were negative. Next year, we're investigating capturing elk west of Interstate 15 in Beaverhead County, with sampling in the far east in 2019.](#)

**INFLUENZA:** Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has again hit backyard flocks as well as commercial poultry facilities in Alabama and Tennessee. This latest strain is a North American wild bird lineage and again emphasizes the need for biosecurity and separation of domestic flocks from wild waterfowl. Both of Montana's cases of HPAI in 2015 had links to wild waterfowl. See the influenza column later in this issue which also discusses prior incursions of novel influenza affecting small animals (p5).

Please see the eCVI column (p2) for a reminder of a health certificate option that is free to use and can save time while improving the quality of documentation. This electronic option is especially relevant as costs for printing and mailing keep increasing as described in the following rule proposal for regarding fees for health books.

**RULE PROPOSALS:** We are proposing to change ARM 32.2.401 to institute a fee increase for large animal CVI books and CVI convoy replica books. The fees would increase from \$24 to \$32 and \$25 to \$38 respectively. This increase is commensurate with increased costs for printing, postage, and time necessary to handle and process these forms.

The second proposed rule change is primarily in response to the legislative audit (p3). The full text of the rule change proposals are on our website in the Administrative Rule Notices section. [Comments on both rules can be submitted through April 7th.](#)

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** The 65th legislature is well past its halfway point, so it may be appropriate to provide an update on budget and bills. We went into this session as zero based budget; unlike other state agencies that only needed to request increases to their prior fiscal year expenditures, the Department of Livestock (DOL) needed to justify all expenses and programs during 16 hours of testimony before the Joint Appropriations Committee. While burdensome, the process provided an opportunity for the legislature to hear about the value that DOL provides to Montana citizens through disease control, reduction of livestock theft, and ensuring a safe and wholesome supply of meat, milk and eggs. The committee approved most of DOL's requested budget including general fund for the brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area (DSA), meat inspection as well as Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL).

[The legislative committee also reviewed the organization of the department and com-](#)

*(Continued on page 6)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**Board of Livestock:**  
April 6

**Deputy Veterinarian Training:**  
June 22

**MVMA Meeting:**  
June 25-27

## WHAT'S NEW:

1. Rule proposal comment deadline (p1).
2. Brucellosis Performance Audit (p3).
3. Tuberculosis investigation from South Dakota (p4).

## A Simple Option for Electronic Health Certificates

We wanted to again highlight a simple, free alternative to paper health certificates. The fillable Adobe PDF eCVI (electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) is a PDF file that can be saved on a desktop or a laptop. The software needed is available as a free download

you have a client for whom you write frequent CVIs, save a copy with both veterinarian and consignor information pre-filled.

All red fields in the form must be completed before the document will allow you to sign and finish the CVI. Both small and large animal CVIs can be issued with this form. The form will expand to include animal detail fields consistent with the animal type selected (Figure 2).

Once all required fields have been completed, the next step is to sign the document. Signing the document locks all of the fields in the CVI except the import permit field, allowing you to add permit information after the fact. Completed CVI's can then be printed or emailed to your client for travel.

One of the limitations of this version is difficulty in entering large numbers of animals into the document. To make the PDF eCVI a more useful tool, we permit animal information to be included with the CVI as an Excel attachment, to take advantage of those times when animal ID information is already in an electronic format.

The Excel attachment must be included in the same email with the completed CVI and both files must have the same name. Currently we recommend that files be named using the state of destination abbreviation, the species, and the CVI number (e.g. SD\_beef\_81000123456789).

If you are interested in the PDF eCVI but haven't yet signed an end user agreement, contact Dr. Tahnee Szymanski at [tszymanski@mt.gov](mailto:tszymanski@mt.gov).

By Tahnee Szymanski

FIGURE 1: Screen capture of blank eCVI fillable PDF.

FIGURES 2 and 3: Large (top) and small (bottom) animal data fields on the eCVI.

and no internet connection is required to issue a CVI. Unlike paper certificates, DOL distributes the eCVIs to the state of destination so you don't have to.

Interested veterinarians must complete an initial end user agreement before receiving the eCVI master file. Additionally, veterinarians will receive instructions on how to complete a CVI and how to set up a digital signature.

HOW TO USE THE eCVI: First, save the file to a desktop or other computer folder where you can easily find it. Set up a digital signature.

Complete the veterinarian information in the form and save the file again. For multiple doctor practices, save a copy for each veterinarian who will be using the form. We recommend that you name the file based upon veterinary name for easy reference. Similarly, if

SPECIES	# OF HEAD	OFFICIAL PERMANENT ID	OTHER ID (REGISTRY NAME, NUMBER OR DESCRIPTION)	AGE	SEX	BREED	TB DATE OBSVD	TB TEST RESULT	BRUC TEST DATE	BRUC TEST RESULT	BRUC VACC TATTOO	EIA TEST DATE	EIA LAB NAME	EIA TEST RESULT	VA
TOTAL		Add New Row	Delete Last Row												

SPECIES	# OF ANIMALS	DESCRIPTION / BREED / MICROCHIP	AGE	SEX	RABIES VACC DATE	RABIES BOOSTER DUE	RABIES TAG NUMBER	RABIES SERIAL NUMBER	OT
TOTAL		Add New Row	Delete Last Row						

## Brucellosis Program: Performance Audit

The Montana brucellosis program is no stranger to review. In the six years since the inception of the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) the program has had three USDA reviews in addition to annual internal review. All reviews have found high compliance with regulations leading to low risk of undetected infection or transmission. The success of the DSA is due in large part to the hard work of DSA producers and veterinarians.

The Montana Legislative Audit Division conducted a performance audit of Montana's brucellosis program in the fall of 2016. Some of you may have received surveys asking for feedback. The audit was published in January of 2017 with four recommendations for DOL:

1. Improve oversight of compliance with brucellosis testing requirements.
2. Improve the oversight of and accountability for DSA herd management plans.
3. Expand documentation of brucellosis vaccination payments.
4. Use the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) adaptive management guidelines when lethally removing bison and clearly document the need for lethal removal.

**IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF BRUCELLOSIS TESTING REQUIREMENTS:** The audit recommended that DOL improve utilization of the brand inspection process for enforcement of animal health requirements. This approach is consistent with our current practices of leveraging DOL's brand enforcement personnel to aid in oversight. However, most inspections are conducted by local inspectors who are contractors, not department employees. Allowing local inspectors to withhold an inspection if animal health requirements are not met would likely require a change in Montana law (MCA 81-3-203). Local inspectors can inform enforcement personnel of compliance issues.

To address the need for a more consistent response to cases of noncompliance, we're developing guidance for our law enforcement personnel that includes citations for animal health violations.

**IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF HERD MANAGEMENT PLANS:** This recommendation addressed the lack of formal criteria for creating a management agreement (MA) with a produc-

er. We've updated our policy to reflect that DOL will develop an MA with any producer whose animals utilize DSA property and with any producer who requests a variance from DSA requirements. For example, a MA may be developed for a DSA producer who requests to test cattle at home outside of the DSA due to a lack of handling facilities at a summer grazing location.

Part of the second audit recommendation was to either review agreements annually, or to change the regulations that require DOL to do so. Currently, the number of agreements makes annual review difficult and in most cases changes to the agreements are not necessary. Changes to Administrative Rules of Montana were approved by the board and are currently open for comment through April 7. You can review the proposed changes at: <http://liv.mt.gov/public/arm.mcp>

**DOCUMENTATION OF PAYMENTS:** This finding was likely in response to DOL transferring vaccination certificates to the USDA office for data entry before receiving the certificates back for final filing and long-term storage. Documentation is important and DOL will continue to have access to full documentation that corresponds to reimbursements.

**BISON MANAGEMENT:** The audit division also recommended DOL follow Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) guidelines for lethal removals of bison or document circumstances in which lethal removals deviate from the adaptive management plan. They also emphasized the need for cooperation with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks through the use of public hunters for bison removal. We concurred with these recommendations because they describe DOL's existing practices. The bison program does not deviate from the IBMP which maintains the temporal and spatial separation of Yellowstone National Park bison from cattle. Its success is proven through the lack of a brucellosis transmission to cattle.

While we concurred with all the recommendations of this audit, we had some concerns that the background information in the report was misleading and at times incorrect. The complete audit with our response to the narrative can be found at: <http://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/Audit/Report/16P-06.pdf>

By Eric Liska



**FIGURE 4:** The legislative audit recommended that we enhance the use of brand inspectors to enforce compliance with DSA regulations.



## USDA Corner: Traceability Meeting in Billings

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), in collaboration with local State Animal Health Officials, is hosting public meetings across the United States to discuss Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) with the primary focus on traceability of the cattle and bison sectors.

The initial ADT framework contained basic foundational traceability components and was supported by the January 2013 regulation, "Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate." State and Federal Animal Health Officials are interested in hearing from the livestock industry, veterinarians, and other interested or affected stakeholders on their experiences with ADT, i.e. What areas are working well? What aspects are challenging, confusing, problematic, and how these obstacles can be rectified? In addition, APHIS would like to obtain stakeholder views on the longer-term issues, in particular the level of traceability that should be considered if we are to move beyond the basic traceability framework.

The meeting in this region will be held on May 24, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn Billings, 2465 Grant Road, Billings, MT 59102 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The goal of ADT is to know where diseased and at-risk animals are and when and where they've been. It helps ensure a rapid response when animal disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.

Again, Federal and State Officials welcome feedback and questions on all other aspects of traceability that need to be considered as we continue to implement a successful, practical and affordable system.

If you plan to attend a meeting, we ask that you register in advance by visiting <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/adt-meeting-registrations>. Same-day registration will also be available at each meeting site. ☒

By Tom Linfield

## Tuberculosis Investigation

On March 2, 2017, the South Dakota (SD) Board of Animal Industry announced the detection of tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in a beef herd in the northwest corner of the state. TB was detected in three animals at slaughter during post-mortem inspection. To date, 41 positive animals have been found in the herd of approximately 650 animals. The herd remains under quarantine as the herd owner, SD animal health officials, and USDA determine the best option for proceeding. The herd could remain under quarantine while undergoing a series of whole-herd tests, but this process could take multiple years to complete. The other option is whole herd depopulation with indemnity paid by USDA.

A multistate epidemiological investigation is underway to look at potential sources of disease introduction and extent of disease spread. Genome sequencing of the outbreak strain is most compatible with a strain associated with dairy cattle in Southern Mexico. This strain has not previously been identified in the United States and is not related to the recent Canadian outbreak, the strain associated with cervids in Michigan, or other strains sometimes found in the US associated with feeder or rodeo cattle of Mexican origin.

South Dakota has 13 contact herds totaling 8,000 head of cattle under quarantine. Additionally, they have sent out traces to 11 states. Montana has received six of these traces. These include:

- A Montana source herd that sold animals into the affected herd
- A Montana based herd that grazes adjacent to the affected SD herd
- Four Montana herds that have received cattle from the affected SD herd, either directly or purchased from an intermediate party such as a livestock market or cattle dealer.

To date, three of these traces involve follow up action. These herds have been placed under quarantine pending removal of exposed animals and/or whole herd testing. The herds under quarantine are located in Carter and Custer counties and account for

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# Influenza in Small Animals and Poultry

**CATS WITH INFLUENZA:** Last December an unusual influenza outbreak made news when shelter cats in New York City became ill with an H7N2 strain of avian influenza. The single human infection was a veterinarian who had prolonged, close contact with the cats. This was only the third time the CDC reported a human infection from an H7N2 avian influenza virus; symptoms in all three human cases were mild, and the individuals recovered quickly. The two previous cases were in people who had contact with wild birds or poultry. This outbreak was the first time H7N2 was isolated from cats. While not commonly thought of as a host for influenza, cats are known to be susceptible to infection with avian and human seasonal flu viruses. Signs of influenza in cats are usually mild, similar to other respiratory infections, and include sneezing or coughing with nasal or ocular discharge. In general, sick cats should be isolated. Owners should be advised to avoid close contact with the cat and encouraged to practice good hygiene after handling the cat or litter box. Influenza viruses are contagious cat-to-cat. There is no influenza vaccine for cats.

**CANINE INFLUENZA:** There are two strains of canine influenza that have been identified circulating in the United States. The first, H3N8, was originally isolated from racing greyhounds in Florida in 2004. This strain is very closely related to equine influenza and analysis suggests it jumped species from horses into dogs sometime in the 1990s and is now completely adapted to its canine host.

The second strain, H3N2 was first identified in Asia in 2006-2007 but was not isolated in the US until it caused a large outbreak in 2015. A small number of Montana dogs were infected in that outbreak. The H3N2 strain of canine influenza likely originated from an avian influenza virus that became adapted to infection in dogs. There are approved vaccines for the H3N8 strain of canine influenza, and there is an H3N2 vaccine that has conditional approval at this time. While morbidity from canine influenza is high, mortality is usually less than 10%. In most cases the clinical signs of canine influenza are similar to kennel cough caused by *Bordetella bronchispectica*. Dogs with more severe cases often develop high fevers and infections that progress to bronchopneumonia. Like other influenza viruses

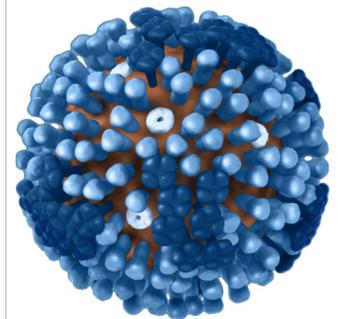
canine influenza is spread by aerosol and fomite transmission.

**ROLE OF IMPORTATION OF DOGS:** With the H3N2 strain of canine influenza likely originating in Asia, there has been some suggestion that it may have arrived in the US with a dog imported from that region. In a quirk of the federal bureaucracy, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regulates the importation of dogs and cats to the United States from foreign countries. Currently, to import a dog into the US, the CDC only requires proof of rabies vaccination if the dog is from a country where rabies is endemic.

No vaccine is required for dogs from rabies-free countries. The CDC has no vaccine requirements for cats imported from foreign countries. The CDC does stipulate that all dogs and cats may be subject to inspection at ports of entry, and if they are showing any signs of diseases that may be zoonotic they will be subject to quarantine and inspection by a veterinarian at the owner's expense. In addition to the limited CDC requirements, the USDA has also imposed rules on dogs entering the US from countries with screwworm. These dogs must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection from a veterinary official from the region of origin stating the dog was free of signs of screwworm within five days of import.

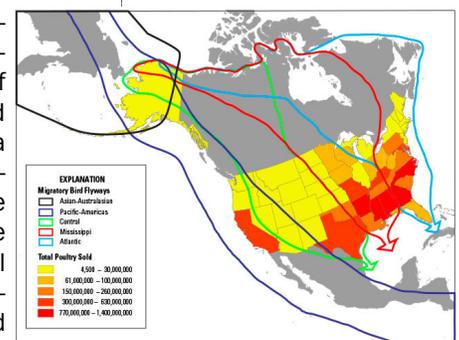
**AVIAN INFLUENZA:** With spring wild bird migrations underway, there have been a number of recent outbreaks of avian influenza in both commercial and backyard poultry flocks. Tennessee has confirmed two commercial flocks infected with H7N9. Both are commercial chicken flocks and are within 3 kilometers of each other. Alabama is investigating three cases of avian influenza and has confirmed H7N9 infection in a flock of guinea fowl that were tested at a flea market as part of the state's routine avian influenza surveillance. The additional 2 cases (one commercial and one backyard flock) are in northern Alabama and near the affected Tennessee premises. Wisconsin has confirmed an outbreak of low pathogenicity avian influenza (H5N2) in a commercial turkey flock. ☘

By Emily Kaleczyc



**FIGURE 5:** 3D model of an influenza virus.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/images.htm>



**FIGURE 6:** North American migratory bird flyways.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2015/3060/>

## State Veterinarian Update (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

bined several sections to reduce the number of administrative levels. If the currently proposed structure receives legislative and Governor's approval, the Meat & Poultry Inspection Section, Milk & Egg Section, Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Animal Health will become one division.

HB582, a dog breeder bill, is working its way through committees. During two prior legislative sessions, the DOL was asked to take on the regulation of dog breeder (puppy mill) facilities, however, we had requested additional resources to conduct the program. This time around, the regulation of dog breeder facilities is placed under the Board of Veterinary Medicine with an appropriation of general fund of \$25K for the two year budget period. ☒ mz

## Tuberculosis (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

1800 head of cattle. Look for additional updates in the coming weeks.

In response to this current investigation and the number of TB detections in the US with ties to Canadian cattle, a request has been made of the department to increase import requirements for Mexican origin (M brand-ed) cattle. We will present a proposed rule to the Board of Livestock at an upcoming board meeting.

If approved by the board, the proposal will go out for public comment. DOL hopes you will take the opportunity to provide feedback should the rule change proceed. ☒

By Tahnee Szymanski

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We're on the Web:  
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