



Stock Quotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Board of Livestock Meeting:
October 18, 2018

United States Animal Health Association Annual Meeting:
October 18-24, 2018

MVMA Meeting:
January 25-26, 2019

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

State Veterinarian Notes

This issue covers a number of important developments affecting the Animal Health Bureau and the Department of Livestock (DOL).

WELCOME TO ANNA FORSETH: We are pleased to welcome a new veterinarian to the Animal Health Bureau. Anna Forseth is a recent graduate with strong public health and swine experience. She will be a valuable addition to the group and will help move the department forward in a number of critical areas. Please see the staff column on [PAGE 4](#).

EQUINE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: The DOL is working with a private vendor on a major enhancement to the Six-Month Horse Passport Program. As you may be aware, the Passport, in place since at least 2002, is an extended health certificate that allows owners who travel frequently with their horses an option to reduce costs while maintaining documentation of travel. The new system will require owners to obtain a travel document online prior to their trip. Travel information will be available to animal health officials of source and destination states. You can read more details on the system on [PAGE 3](#).

LABORATORY STUDY COMMITTEE: A small group of legislators authorized by House Bill 661 has been studying options for a new Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL). As part of this effort, the legislative committee hired an architect and engineering firm to draft designs for a new facility with several alternatives including a standalone MVDL, or a facility that accommodates several other diagnostic facilities such as the Department of Agriculture Analytical Lab and Fish, Wildlife & Park's Wildlife Lab. This authorization is an opportunity for

updating MVDL capacity that has been operating in a building built nearly 60 years ago and which received one of the lowest scores from a Montana State University physical facilities audit. In mid-August, the engineering firm published the highly anticipated combined lab study (<https://goo.gl/4cVB4M>), which described a number of potential scenarios. A standalone MVDL is projected to need 8600 ft. of space, and cost \$26M. This proposal calls for a sizable investment, but consistent with what other states have funded; Nebraska's veterinary diagnostic laboratory cost approximately \$46M, and South Dakota's cost \$60M. Unfortunately, as of late September the lab study committee has not taken action on the report.

BRUCELLOSIS: After an extended public comment period, the Board of Livestock approved two rule changes relating to brucellosis management. The rules address the boundary of the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and vaccination requirements. The rule on boundary expands the DSA in the most southwestern portion following a finding of a seropositive elk through the elk monitoring study conducted by Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Likewise, vaccination requirements were also expanded and will now affect ten counties in southwestern Montana to provide increased assurance for stray migrating elk. Please see [PAGE 5](#) for more information.

One other issue that bears watching is the current status of Brucella on the bioterrorism (Select Agent) list. The federal government will be soliciting input into whether *B. abortus* should remain on the list. This assessment needs to happen bi-annually based on a presidential executive order. The DOL has strongly supported the 'delisting' by filing public comment, and working with our congressional delegation, national organizations, and our state agricultural associations. Your comments will be critical during the upcoming review.

✉ By Martin Zaluski

WHAT'S NEW:

1. African Swine Fever (page 2)
2. Horse Passport (page 3)
3. Brucellosis (page 5)

African Swine Fever



FIGURE 1: Quora of swine feeding.

Staff Photo

The presence of African Swine Fever (ASF) in China has the United States swine industry on high alert. Since the first detection of the virus in China in August 2018, ASF has been detected at 18 farms or slaughter facilities in six different provinces, with some cases 600 miles apart. Additionally, Belgium has recently reported the detection of ASF; a first in Western Europe. The continued spread of ASF and the challenges associated with slowing or stopping its spread emphasizes the need for the U.S. swine industry to remain vigilant.

The geographical spread of the ASF virus has occurred over long distances in a short period of time, suggest the emergence of the virus isn't associated with the movement of live animals, but rather through the movement of infected fomites (infected pork products, animal feed, etc.).

With no vaccine to protect animals, researchers say the lethal virus – which can survive for more than a year in dry-cured ham – is likely to spread rapidly among China's 433 million pigs and reach other countries, potentially even the U.S. The ability to contain and eradicate ASF, should it reach the U.S.; is going to be heavily dependent on how early we detect the disease.

ASF is a serious, highly contagious disease. Fortunately, there is no zoonotic risk associated with the virus . The virus can be transmitted directly, indirectly, and through biological vector transmission. This includes contact between sick and healthy animals, contact with contaminated objects, ingestion of infected meat, and through the bite of an infected tick. The virus is contained in tissues, blood, bodily fluids and fetus and is able to survive for months in meat products and animal feed.

The incubation period for the disease is 3-15 days with several forms of disease recognized: peracute, acute, subacute, and chronic.

Clinical signs of ASF vary widely, but often include high fever, decreased appetite, and weakness. Skin may be blotchy, reddened, or have blackened lesions. Infected pigs may exhibit diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, and diffi-

culty breathing. Pregnant sows may abort. High mortality in a herd is the most significant sign that warrants a call to a veterinarian. Lesions associated with the disease include: enlarged gastrohepatic and renal lymph nodes, enlarged congested and friable spleen, areas of red-purple skin discoloration, excess pleural, pericardial, and/or peritoneal fluid, petechial hemorrhages on mucosal surfaces, and mesenteric edema.

Concerns for potential introduction of the virus into the United States include:

- Importation of contaminated feed ingredients.
- Introduction of contaminated pork products brought into the United States by travelers from China and other countries with current ASF infections.

Recent research ([Pork Industry Focuses on Feed and AFS](#)) has demonstrated that the ASF virus has tremendous survivability in certain feed ingredients. The research was designed to model conditions associated with trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific shipping to US ports and onto locations likely to manufacture feed for swine.

ASF can be transmitted to pigs through feeding of uncooked garbage containing contaminated pork products. The Swine Health Protection Act regulates the feeding of food waste containing any meat products to swine, ensuring that all food waste fed to swine is properly treated to kill any disease organisms. In Montana, swine garbage feeding operations require a license and annual inspection.

For additional information on ASF:

- [Iowa State University on African Swine Fever](#)
- [The Center for Food Security & Public Health on African Swine Fever](#)
- [ASFORCE Project](#)

✉ By Tahnee Szymanski

Horse Passport

Look for an update for frequent equine travelers in 2019. In the new year, Montana will join over 30 other states in a major enhancement to the Six-Month Horse Passport which allows for interstate travel for several months after a veterinary exam.

NEED FOR EXTENDED EQUINE HEALTH CERTIFICATE: Horse owners traveling in the spring and summer have long requested an alternative to the requirement for a standard certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) - health certificate. Standard health certificates expire 30 days after the veterinary exam, therefore, a horse owner may be subject to a significant expense to comply with regulations that are in place to limit the spread of disease and allow for tracing of animal movements. In response to these concerns of cost from horse owners, and to promote compliance with documentation regulations, a number of states including Montana, have developed an extended health certificate called the Six-Month Horse Passport.

SIX-MONTH HORSE PASSPORT: To be eligible to use a Six-Month Horse Passport, the horse must have a veterinary exam, a current Equine Infectious Anemia test (Coggins), and have the ownership/identification verified with a lifetime brand inspection. Until recently, we asked horse travelers to fill out an itinerary at the end of the season that provided their travel history. However, the lack of timeliness and compliance with providing this documentation resulted in a change in the program. Prior to each trip into Montana, horse owners must now call the DOL import office to obtain an import permit to ensure that current documentation history of travel is available should a disease investigation be necessary.

The current system is functional, but imperfect. It is time-consuming for the veterinarian, requires the owner to call our office prior to each trip, and for the most part is still paper-based. Additionally, we have some reservations that horses that are the most frequent travelers to events attended by other equines are subject to the most infrequent veterinary exams, and thereby least stringent travel requirements. However, to strike a balance between maintaining movement documentation in a manner that is not overly burdensome, we are participating in the new and improved Six-Month Horse Passport system.

MAJOR UPDATE COMING IN 2019: We have been working with GlobalVetLink, a company known for digital solutions to agriculture needs, including processing veterinary feed directive (VFD) applications and electronic Coggins, to develop an entirely web-based system that will

replace the Six-Month Horse Passport. The new process, called the Extended Equine CVI (EECVI) will share many of the features of the existing system but will be entirely digital - a critical component will be equine owners will logging into a web portal and obtaining a travel permit prior to each trip. The system also includes a strong veterinary education component, requires the owner to monitor the equine for symptoms of illness before travel, and requires an additional veterinary exam in case of fever or other concerns. The process will vary slightly between states based on requirements for official identification, but generally be as follows:

Owner:

- Obtains proof of ownership through lifetime brand inspection (non-brand states will not include this), and verifies that the animal is permanently identified with either a microchip and/or a digital Coggins
- Schedules a veterinary exam

Veterinarian:

- Examines the horse.
- Confirms the brand inspection and horse identification.
- Confirms a negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test. If the EIA test is not valid for at least six more months, a new EIA test can be drawn, or the system will shorten the expiration date of the EECVI to the date when the EIA test expires.
- Educates the owner on taking temperature and general signs of equine sickness that must be evaluated prior to each movement.

Prior to Travel, The Owner:

- Assesses the horse for signs of illness - if the horse has shown signs of sickness within seven days of movement, a veterinarian must clear the horse prior to interstate movement (If the DVM has concerns about compliance, they are advised to not issue an EECVI).
- Login to the web portal and provide horse information, origin and destination, and date of travel.
- Retain the travel permit (in either paper or electronic format) issued by the system.

The movement information entered into the web portal is shared with the source and destination states and is also available to other states the horse traveled to that season. More importantly for your clients, the EECVI will be accepted by the majority of our neighboring states. The DOL will be providing more information as the launch date gets closer. ☘ By Martin Zaluski



FIGURE 2: Mare.

Staff Photo

Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

Some important changes coming up for the issuance of health certificates in Montana! The Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD) has announced the deployment of a new application for the electronic issuance of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). The new application, [AgView](#), replaces the mCVI app that many of you were using. This new platform has several new features including:

- The ability to issue CVIs on desktops/laptops
- Clinic accounts for multi-doctor practices
- Accounts for support staff to use when creating documents

The application is now live and available on the Google Play Store or the App Store on iOS devices. If you have previously been using the mCVI app, you should have received communication from IIAD with instructions on how to switch over. If you need any help during the transition, please feel free to contact our office at (406) 444-2043. Sara Starkey or Dr. Szymanski will be happy to help.

To register for an account, visit www.agview.com and click on "Register now!" Only one person per organization/clinic (the initial administrator) needs to register for a new AgView account. Subsequent users within your organization/clinic will be set up by your initial administrator.

A significant change with the deployment of AgView is that effective January 1, 2019, the application will no longer be free of charge. IIAD will begin charging \$3 per CVI issued at that time. We recommend that you consider trying the new framework ahead of January 1 to see if it works for your practice. CVIs can be created offline and when submitted are automatically forwarded to both the state of origin and the state of destination. Additionally, the ability to save veterinarian and producer information, along with common certification statements creates substantial time-savings.

The DOL is committed to the advancement of electronic options for CVI. As part of this effort, effective January 1, 2020, we will no longer be printing paper CVI booklets for distribution to veterinarians and no longer accept paper CVIs after January 1, 2021. If you haven't already begun to look into options for electronically issuing CVIs, we will be providing information over the next several months on electronic options available to you. We encourage you to try several different products out to find the best fit for your practice. ☒ By Tahnee Szymanski

Welcome Dr. Anna Forseth



FIGURE 4: Dr. Anna Forseth

Staff Photo

The Animal Health Bureau is excited to announce a new position. Dr. Anna Forseth will be joining the Bureau in October to work on emergency preparedness, avian influenza, and other zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Forseth was raised on a farrow-to-finish swine operation outside of Three Forks (Samson Family Farm). She attended Montana State University and received a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science before earning her DVM from Colorado State University in 2016. Following graduation, Anna spent two years with the Swine Medicine Education Center in Ames, Iowa as a post-doc veterinarian working on swine research, teaching and clinical consultation. During this time, she also worked with Smithfield Hog Production-Midwest. This December, Dr. Forseth will complete her Master's degree in Veterinary Preventive Medicine from Iowa State University.

Both Anna and her husband, Rocky, are excited to come home to Montana. Outside of work you will find them, with their six-month-old baby, Olie, working with their cows in Fairfield, riding horses, shooting trap, or visiting family and friends around the state.

Please help us in welcoming Dr. Forseth to the Animal Health Bureau!

Brucellosis

The Department of Livestock (DOL) has recently completed the rulemaking process on several rules that impact brucellosis management in Montana. One was the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) boundary adjustment in Beaverhead County. Another was a change to the brucellosis vaccination requirements for cattle and domestic bison in nine counties. The third was regarding regulations pertaining to the importation of domestic bison. All of these rules will take effect on October 6, 2018. For more information on changes please visit the Department of Livestock's Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Notice page: <http://liv.mt.gov/Home/ARM-Notices>.

DSA Boundary Adjustment: The language in the initial proposal was modified in the final adoption. The proposed change to the DSA boundary was due to the detection of seropositive elk outside of the current DSA in this year's live elk capture conducted by Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Based upon public comment and through consultation with FWP, the proposed boundary has been revised to exclude areas where the elk from this year's capture do not range (see image). The DOL agreed with this revision because:

1. The final boundary adjustment is recognizable by DOL law enforcement, local landowners and livestock producers, and is therefore enforceable.
2. None of the elk captured west of the final boundary adjustment were serologically positive.

Even though the DSA boundary adjustment will not be enforced until early October, many of the producers that utilize this area have taken a proactive approach through contact with DOL and through the request of meetings with producer groups as well as grazing associations. Nearly 20 producers have contacted the DOL to create individual management agreements outlining their requirements and/or variances. The DOL expects that this boundary adjustment will result in another 7-10,000 annual tests to meet DSA requirements. In response to this and the continued expansion of testing within the DSA, the DOL is requesting additional general fund from the legislature in the upcoming session. Whole herd testing, will not be required under DSA regulations, has become a popular practice as producers recognize the importance of finding positive animals early. The DOL supports these tests and is committed to continuing our testing reimbursement program for them.

Brucellosis Vaccination: As previously discussed, the DOL had also proposed to increase the area in Montana in which brucellosis vaccination is required. Vaccination of animals outside the boundary of our DSA creates a buffer of assurance. While the DOL and FWP work to ensure that the boundary of our DSA reflects the distribution of seropositive wildlife on the landscape, we cannot conduct surveillance

on the entire boundary on an annual basis. Having vaccinated animals on the periphery of the DSA provides protection from changes in wildlife distribution on the landscape. The language in the initial proposal was modified in the final adoption. Instead of language that describes the counties required to vaccinate (contains or borders a DSA), the final language that is to be adopted lists the counties that are required to vaccinate cattle for brucellosis. The final language of the rule reads as follows:

1. All sexually intact female cattle and domestic bison 12 months of age or older in Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Park, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass Counties must be official vaccinates. (a) Variances or exceptions to requirements will be considered on an individual basis by the administrator.

Big Horn County was not included in the initial rule proposal, but has been added in the final adoption notice following public comment. Big Horn County, Montana borders Wyoming's brucellosis area of concern. Wyoming's brucellosis area of concern is an area in Bighorn County, Wyoming where brucellosis positive elk have been found. Other significant changes to the language of this rule are that December 1 is no longer the cutoff date for vaccination of females and the language of the rule only refers to official vaccination. The previous language specified that females must be calft vaccinates. These changes allow greater flexibility for producers in management of replacement heifers and new additions to the herd. The DOL is working on development of an education and outreach plan for producers in the newly designated counties. This will include a phased in approach to enforcement of these regulations. Look for additional information in the coming months.

Domestic Bison Importation: Finally, domestic bison importation regulations are now included in ARM 32.3.212 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CATTLE AND DOMESTIC BISON. Domestic bison will now have the same brucellosis and tuberculosis related test and vaccination import requirements as cattle. The elimination of a separate bison ARM and the combining of cattle and domestic bison into one reflects the brucellosis and tuberculosis class free status of both in the United States. Cattle and domestic bison are defined as program animals in federal brucellosis and tuberculosis regulations. Therefore, the combination of the two species in state regulation was recommended and adopted.

α By Eric Liska

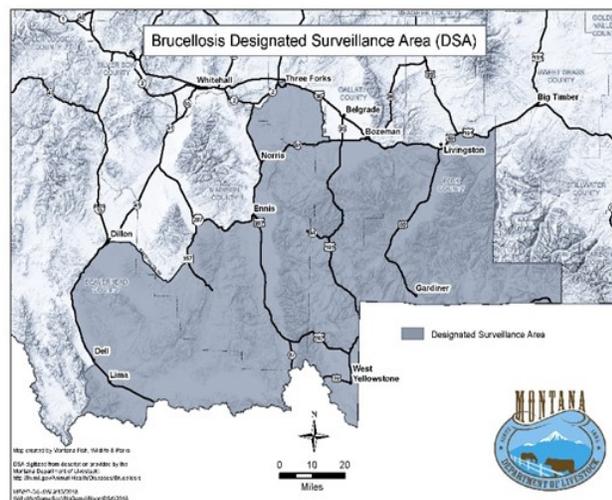


FIGURE 5: Map of DSA Surveillance Area

http://liv.mt.gov/Portals/146/brucellosis/2014.08.22_DSA_Map.pdf

Contract Veterinarians For Meat Inspection

This request was shared through the MDOL update email list a few weeks ago, so forgive the repetition. The DOL administers Montana's State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program through the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau. As part of this program, the DOL relies on private veterinarians who work as on-call independent contractors. When a state meat inspector identifies an issue with an animal or carcass at slaughter, a contract veterinarian is called out to make a carcass disposition decision. This process involves inspecting the animal or carcass and deciding about its safety and wholesomeness as food.

The DOL pays contract veterinarians a per-animal fee as well as mileage for this work. There are several areas of the state for which the DOL does not currently have a contract veterinarian to cover local slaughter establishments. These high need areas are: Sidney, Superior, Columbia Falls, Choteau, and Vaughn. If you would like more information, or you are interested in becoming a contract veterinary meat inspector, please contact Dr. Emily Kaleczyc (406-444-5366, ekaleczyc@mt.gov).
✉ By Martin Zaluski

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



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**Montana Department
of Livestock**