



Stock Quotes: Animal Health Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

State Veterinarian Notes	1
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update	1
Reportable Diseases in Montana	2
Outbreak Preparedness Plan	3
Electronic Certificates	4
Brucellosis	5
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update Cont'd	6

Quarterly Newsletter from the Animal Health Bureau of the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

State Veterinarian Notes

We've had a busy fall preparing for the Legislature and testing herds linked to a tuberculosis positive steer found at slaughter. As you may recall, of the 99 herds linked to the positive animals, 17 are in Montana. Fortunately, this testing is nearly complete.

The legislative session kicks off on January 7. A significant milestone of MDOL for each session, the budget presentation in front of the Joint Appropriations Committee, is scheduled for January 15. If you'd like to speak to legislators regarding MDOL budget and services, you are welcome to attend and provide public comment.

The transition to electronic documentation is continuing on three fronts. 1) Starting in early January, you will be able to view your diagnostic laboratory results 24/7 on our new web portal (See Lab Update). 2) On January 1, the paper based Six-Month Horse Passport will be replaced with a Global-VetLink web portal. The new system allows an equine owner to obtain a valid movement permit for six months after receiving an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection - EECVI. The EECVI will be broadly accepted with 24 states participating at launch, and 16 additional states implementing after completing necessary rule changes or administrative approvals. MDOL will no longer issue paper Six-Month Horse Passports after January 1, and will only accept paper passports if they were issued in 2018. See <https://www.globalvetlink.com/products/eecvi/> for more info. 3) We received some feedback on our prior announcement of moving towards exclusive use of electronic health certificates for outgoing movements. While we foresee some unique circumstances where paper certi-

icates will continue to be accepted, we are not able to meet the demands of the animal health community with paper records going forward. It's worth noting that the major concern, the lack of cell service in many areas of Montana, is not a barrier because numerous electronic options don't depend on internet service to function.

α mz

Laboratory Update

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is excited to announce that beginning January 1, we will begin rolling out live access to an innovative new web portal for laboratory submissions and reporting. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the services initially available through the portal and share information on how to begin using the portal.

First, the portal provides a robust, easy to use interface for viewing and printing test results online. Once logged in, you will be able to view your most recently updated cases, search the database by submitting veterinarian (for multiple doctor clinics), owner name, animal ID, date range, or case number. A few simple clicks will generate a full report. The same high-resolution, full-color report currently received for reports sent via email will be available immediately. You will be able to access reports and check the status of pending tests at any time. The opportunity to provide detailed reports with a single click is designed to be user friendly, and so easy that anyone can navigate!

The web portal also allows you to manage your contact information. A change of email address or an update to your log-in password, can be managed online very easily.

Finally, the portal will provide a single web location for all laboratory-related information and activity.

Continued on Page 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Board of Livestock Meeting:
TBD

Deputy Veterinarian Training:
January 16, 2018

MVMA Meeting:
January 25-26, 2019

WHAT'S NEW:

1. Reportable Diseases in Montana (page 2)
2. Outbreak Preparedness Plan (page 3)
3. Brucellosis (page 5)

Montana Small Animal Reportable Diseases

While the bulk of regulatory work focuses on livestock species, diseases that affect small animals, especially zoonotic diseases, also deserve our attention. The table below provides a brief summary of reportable diseases in Montana that affect small animals. It is important to periodically review this list and to remember your responsibility as a Montana veterinarian to report these cases when you diagnose them. Reports can be made via

phone (406-444-2043) or by email (tszymanski@mt.gov). Additionally, we are always looking for feedback on what disease should or should not be included on this list. In coming editions of the newsletter, we will provide more detailed data and information about the most common reportable diseases of small animals in Montana.

✉ By Tahnee Szymanski

<u>Disease:</u>	<u>Reportability:</u>	<u>Quarantine Issued:</u>	<u>Incidence in Montana:</u>	<u>Comments:</u>
<i>Brucella canis</i> *	Within 24 hours	Not typically	2-4 cases per year	
Mange (<i>Psoroptes ovis</i> , <i>Chorioptes bovis</i> , <i>Sarcoptes scabiei bovis</i>)	Within 24 hours	Yes	<i>Psoroptes ovis</i> recently detected in Montana wildlife.	Can request assistance with mite identification.
Screwworm (New and Old World)	Within 24 hours	Yes	Foreign Animal Disease (FAD)	2017 Outbreak in Florida Keys
Rabbit hemorrhagic disease	Within 24 hours	Yes	FAD	
Tuberculosis *	Within 24 hours	Yes	No known cases	Georgia recently diagnosed bovine tuberculosis in an imported dog.
Plague *	Within 24 hours	No	1-3 cases per year	
Rabies *	Within 24 hours	Yes	12-24 cases in wildlife per year	Primarily skunks and bats w/occasional spillover
Tularemia *	Within 24 hours	No	1-3 cases per year	
West Nile Virus *	Within 24 hours	No	Highly variable (horses)	Diagnosis primarily used for informing public health
Campylobacteriosis *	Within 30 days	No	Sporadically reported in small animals (SA)	
Cryptosporidiosis *	Within 30 days	No	Sporadically reported in SA	
Echinococcosis *	Within 30 days	No	No known cases	
Heartworm	Within 30 days	No	2-4 cases per year	Some evidence of disease transmission within Montana.
Leptospirosis *	Within 30 days	No	8-12 cases per year	Reported with increasing frequency
Salmonellosis *	Within 30 days	No	Sporadically reported in SA	
Myxomatosis	Within 30 days	No	No known cases	
* Zoonotic disease				

FIGURE 1: Reportable Diseases of Small Animals

Outbreak Preparedness Plan

The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) participated in a simulated Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) exercise May 7-10, 2018, the purpose was to identify the capabilities and deficiencies of the state's response to a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD). Following this exercise, the MDOL Outbreak Preparedness Plan of Action was created and presented to the Board of Livestock on December 5. This article will highlight action items from that plan.

1. *Understand what the Incident command structure will look like with varying levels of state and national involvement.* Incident Command is a response structure commonly recognized by multiple government (state and federal) and non-governmental agencies nationwide. The individuals involved in Montana's response at the federal level will be dependent on the location(s) of positive cases in the country as well as the size of the outbreak. Proactively identifying the roles and responsibilities of personnel within the state, assuming minimum outside assistance, will best prepare Montana to manage the response.

2. *Determine a depopulation plan and train staff to deploy in a depopulation event.* There are multiple species-specific depopulation options to deploy in an outbreak event. However, there are criteria to consider to better assure selection of the most appropriate method: species of animal, number of animals, animal location, disease agent, time, resources, carcass disposal method, among others. Depopulation method decisions should not be made at the time of the outbreak due to the complexity of the process.

3. *Investigate carcass disposal options.* There are carcass disposal options including burial, burning, compost, rendering, and others. There are regulatory restrictions on mass carcass disposal options and certain methods may be more effective for specific species.

4. *Define Montana's post-outbreak surveillance and vaccination plans.* These plans will guide our state's management of positive cases and can have a large impact on our ability to control regional cases.

5. *Adapt Secure Food Supply Plans to Montana's livestock industries.* Secure Food Supply (SFS) Plans will permit continuity of business for livestock producers after a foreign animal disease (FAD) is diagnosed in the U.S.

if that producer can also verify a negative disease status. There are four species-specific programs: pork, beef, milk and poultry (turkey, egg, broiler). The plans focus on the implementation of biosecurity and records management before and during the outbreak. SFS plans are being implemented throughout the country. Deployment of the SFS plans, first requires a defined surveillance and vaccination plan.

6. *Identify all resources needed for a response.* MDOL recognizes the need for interagency and industry support following the diagnosis of a FAD in the U.S. Proactively identifying these resources will improve the speed of the response and will minimize gaps in communication.

7. *Develop a SOP for communication between field staff and the laboratory.* During the FMD exercise we learned that there is opportunity for improved communication with the diagnostic laboratory. Keeping the lab in the line of communication allows them to be prepared as well as to provide important technical input regarding sample collection and submission.

8. *Investigate the testing capabilities and limitations of the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MVDL).* The Animal Health Bureau (AHB) will review the list of Montana's reportable diseases with lab staff to verify our capabilities and limitation for these diseases at the species level. This information will guide implementation of tests at the MVDL in the future.

✉ By Anna Forseth



FIGURE 2: Image of the Secure Food Supply Plans

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Secure-Food-Supply/index.php>

Electronic Health Certificates

In the previous issue, MDOL announced that effective January 1, 2020, we will no longer be printing large animal health certificate books and effective January 1, 2021, we will no longer be accepting paper certificates issued for animals exported from Montana. Thank you for your thoughtful feedback on this announcement. On one of the comments, MDOL agrees that we should set limited parameters by which paper certificates be allowed and will be working in the coming months to define those.

Additionally, MDOL is providing a comprehensive look at the available options for issuing electronic certificates of veterinary inspection. We recommend you consider multiple options before deciding on a primary source for electronic certificates. Depending on practice model, some formats will perform better than others, and you may find you have need for more than one option at your disposal.

The eCVI, a fillable PDF form that is saved on your desktop, is what we consider the entry level electronic certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI). For those with no electronic CVI experience, the eCVI is a great starting point. The required Adobe software is available free of charge and because it is a file on your desktop, provides a failsafe option. This format looks the most like a traditional paper CVI and works very well for small numbers of animals or for large uniform groups. For a large group with diverse official identification, MDOL will accept a spreadsheet attachment. For additional information on the eCVI or to obtain the user agreement, please contact Sara Starkey at ssstarkey@mt.gov.

The table below includes currently available options and a brief summary of key features! If you would like additional guidance or help getting started, we are happy to assist.

✉ By Anna Forseth

<u>Program</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Internet Required at Issuance</u>	<u>Large Animal</u>	<u>Small Animal</u>	<u>Able To Import Animal IDs</u>	<u>Automatically Sends to State/Country of Destination</u>
<i>eCVI</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Can attach a document	No, email to MDOL for distribution.
<i>AgView</i>	\$3/certificate	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Global Vet LINK* (GVL)</i>	Fees vary depending on features	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Can copy and paste or enter range of IDs	Yes
<i>Veterinary Services Process Streaming (VSPS)</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	With provided template	No. But states log in to access certificates.
<i>Veterinary Export Health Certificate System** (VEHCS)</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	With provided template	May require Endorsement.
<i>Vet Sentry</i>	\$2.85/certificate	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Fort Supply FaST eCVI</i>	Software \$814.49. No fee/certificate	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

*As of January 1, 2019, six-month passports for horses can only be issued through GVL.
 ** International certificates only, limited species and destination countries at this time.

FIGURE 3: Current options for Electronic CVIs

Brucellosis

All 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are brucellosis Class Free, which drives national discussion about the need for continued use of RB51 vaccine in parts of the country. In October of 2018, a resolution from the United States Animal Health Association was passed urging states to review the necessity for continued brucellosis vaccination requirements and specifically addressing import related requirements in areas with no known risk (outside of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA)). These discussions are primarily based on the lack of risk of transmission to livestock, but human health is also part of the conversation. Although, the most common cause of human RB51 infection is exposure when vaccinating animals, RB51 has been in the news regarding human illness due to the consumption of unpasteurized dairy products.

With the success of the national brucellosis eradication program, it seems reasonable to re-evaluate brucellosis requirements. The discussion includes the following points:

- The disease no longer exists outside of the GYA States where *B. abortus* infected wildlife exist and periodic transmissions to livestock occur;
- The vaccine can pose a human health risk to veterinarians, laboratory workers, and the public; and Brucellosis vaccination, in areas without a documented risk from wildlife, arguably represents an unnecessary cost to livestock producers.

This money may be better spent on the prevention or eradication of diseases that pose a greater risk to the producer's herd than brucellosis such as Johne's, BVD, trichomoniasis, etc.

In October of 2018 the department finalized changes to Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) that reflect the lack of risk in much of our state. The change requires brucellosis vaccination of female cattle in 10 of our 56 counties. These ten counties contain or border a portion of a Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) or Wyoming's brucellosis area of concern. Because the entire boundary of the DSA cannot be monitored constantly, elk movement patterns can change without warning, and livestock outside of the DSA are not in the brucellosis surveillance program (the DSA), six counties were added to the current vaccination rule. While vaccination is not 100 percent

effective at preventing infection, it is quite effective at preventing abortion which helps slow the spread of the disease.

The new "vaccination rule" ARM 32.3.436 Brucellosis Vaccination, requires that female cattle and domestic bison 12 months of age and older in **Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Park, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass Counties** must be official vaccinates.

What does the vaccination rule mean for you and your clients?

- Producers that seasonally graze their livestock in any of the ten counties should be made aware that their female livestock must be official vaccinates. Enforcement for unvaccinated young females (2018 born) will begin immediately. Older females must be adult vaccinated by 2021. Vaccination of pregnant females is not recommended.
- Producers should keep this regulation in mind when purchasing females.
- Producers outside of these counties should be made aware that vaccination is not required. and money may be better spent on diagnosis, investigation, mitigation or eradication of other diseases that may have more of a fiscal impact.
- Other states have vaccination requirements and will continue to maintain them.
- For animals that are vaccinated, proof of vaccination (identification, legible tattoo, and certificate) is important.

The department is a strong advocate for state and national policy and regulation based on sound science. We believe the "vaccination rule" reflects this discussion, the brucellosis free status of the U.S., and lack of risk in areas without infected wildlife.

α By Eric Liska



FIGURE 4: Simmental cows
Staff Photo

Laboratory Update Cont'd...

There are direct links to our fee schedule and user guide, the information and forms on our existing website, and another online portal that allows direct, electronic payment of laboratory fees.



Figure 5: MVDL Web Portal

I fully expect this portal to change the way that we share information and interact – for the better! Immediate, easy, 24/7 access to any test result is something that I have wanted to offer for a long time. Setting up access and starting to use this service is quite simple, and we will post instructions on our website prior to rollout in January. Basically, you will need to contact the laboratory to request web access and set up your initial log-in password. Your user name will be your account number, which

is listed on the hard-copy statements, but can also be provided to you on request. Once we link your initial password with the account, you will be able to log in and use the portal.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we are committed to continuous improvement of client services through necessary adjustments and enhancements to this web portal. If you have feedback after using it please let us know! I want this to be as convenient and useful as possible. One enhancement that I will only touch on here, but which is close to completion, is true online submission/accessioning. When we go live with this feature, you will be able to enter case information (including large numbers of electronic animal ID's on herd submissions) and order specific tests directly from the web portal. This is a ground-breaking feature that has the potential to revolutionize laboratory submissions, eliminate sources of data-entry error, and make old-style paper submission forms obsolete. Be on the alert for further information on next stages of web portal development in future newsletters!

✉ By Steven Smith

Animal Health Contact Information:

Marty Zaluski, DVM
State Veterinarian, Administrator
(406) 444-2043
mzaluski@mt.gov

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
Assistant State Veterinarian
(406) 444-5214
tszymanski@mt.gov

Eric Liska, DVM
Brucellosis Program Veterinarian
(406) 444-3374
eliska@mt.gov

Anna Forseth, DVM
Program Veterinarian
(406) 444-2939
anna.forseth@mt.gov

Samantha Novak
Alternative Livestock
(406) 444-2977
snovak@mt.gov

Import Permit Office
(406) 444-2976

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



Animal Health Bureau
P.O. Box 202001
Helena, MT, 59620-2001
Return Service Requested
Phone: 406-444-2043
Import line: 406-444-2976
Fax: 406-444-1929

Montana Department
of Livestock