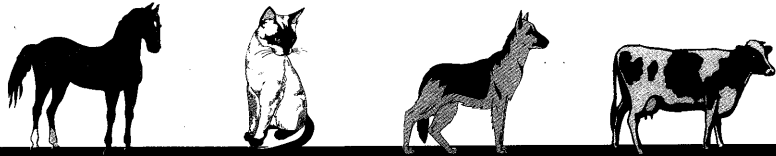




The Voice of the Montana Veterinary Medical Association

EST. 1907

www.mtvma.org



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February 2, 2010

Montana Board of Livestock
Department of Livestock
Attn: Public Information Officer
PO Box 202001
Helena MT 59620-2001

Dear Board of Livestock Members:

On behalf of the Montana Veterinary Medical Association I am writing to provide you with the language from a resolution our members passed during our most recent Winter Meeting. The resolution states the position of our membership in regards to state surveillance and vaccination requirements to help mitigate the threat of Brucellosis.

Below is the language of the resolution as passed during our General Membership Meeting on January 30, 2010 in Bozeman.

Whereas there is risk of transmission of *Brucella abortus* from brucellosis-infected wild elk and bison to livestock in the Greater Yellowstone Area of Montana, and

Whereas focusing on an area of increased risk follows established epidemiological principles, and

Whereas Montana's surveillance approach is consistent with Idaho and Wyoming surveillance plans, and the Federal Concept Paper on Brucellosis, and

Whereas establishing surveillance standard promotes consistency for export requirements of Montana livestock and therefore, helps assure the marketability of the livestock herd of the State of Montana,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Montana Veterinary Medical Association supports the following:

- The Montana Department of Livestock Official Order 10-01-D regarding Surveillance
- Requirements for Brucellosis and Establishing a Designated Surveillance Area (DSA), and
- The Official Calfhood Vaccination of eligible female cattle and domestic bison, and
- Continued funding for brucellosis surveillance and risk mitigation activities within Montana's DSA, and
- Providing funding to livestock producers for animal handling expenses associated with the necessary surveillance.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this resolution. If you have question or feedback please contact our office at, 406-447-4259 or by e-mail at, info@mtvma.org

Sincerely,

Paul McCann, DVM, Havre
MVMA President

cc: Martin Zaluski, DVM, Montana State Veterinarian

STATE OF KANSAS
Kansas Animal Health Department

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner

708 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas 66603-3714

Phone 785-296-2326 Fax 785-296-1765

Email - gteagarden@kahd.ks.gov

web site - www.kansas.gov/kahd

February 3, 2010

Marty Zaluski, DVM
State Veterinarian
Animal Health Division
Montana Department of Livestock
P.O. Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001

Dear Dr. Zaluski,

Thank you for the copy of your DSA Official Order 10-01-D. Establishing a designated surveillance area (DSA) in the area where cattle may be exposed to brucellosis infected elk relieves the concerns that I have had regarding imports of breeding stock from Montana.

Your pro-active approach of addressing the high risk areas of transmission of brucellosis infection in wildlife to domestic herds appears to be based on sound epidemiological principals and science. Vaccination alone is not the answer to your exposure to the infected wildlife population and separation is easier said than done.

The Kansas Animal Health Department is not comfortable with the brucellosis "free" status of Montana under the old classification standards because of this added risk of transmission from wildlife. As you know, even though Montana has been designated "free" in the past, Kansas has had restrictions on breeding cattle coming from the very area that you have designated as a DSA.

Your order accomplishes the same goal as our added restrictions. It gives us a comfort level, because of the elevated surveillance, that breeding cattle from your entire state can be considered low risk of brucellosis infection, thus will not be a threat to the Kansas herd.

The DSA order gives us more confidence in the health status of Montana's herd. Thank you for this new approach.

Sincerely,



George Teagarden
Livestock Commissioner



Wyoming Livestock Board

"Safeguarding Wyoming's Livestock Industry Today and for the Future"

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Dave Freudenthal
Governor

James L. Schwartz, Director - Chief Executive Officer
Jim Logan, DVM - State Veterinarian

Walter E. Cook, DVM
Assistant State Veterinarian

I have read the Montana Department of Livestock's DSA Official Order 10-01-D. This is a proactive approach to address the ongoing risk of Brucellosis transmission from wildlife. The Official Order builds confidence in the health status of Montana origin cattle, when being exported to receiving states. Through the Official Order, Montana has established a standard for disease surveillance and management that is necessary to satisfy Wyoming to continue to import Montana origin animals without further restrictions.

Establishing a surveillance area based on possible exposure to infected elk is based on sound epidemiological principles of risk based surveillance. Brucellosis vaccination of livestock and separation of livestock and infected elk are important risk mitigation practices, but by themselves are insufficient to assure marketability without further testing requirements. Brucellosis testing at the time of sale and periodic whole herd testing are important components of a comprehensive Brucellosis surveillance program.

Montana's Brucellosis surveillance plan is consistent with the approach taken by Wyoming when we established our DSA in 2000. It is a risk-based approach that focuses on enhancing cattle Brucellosis surveillance in an area of increased risk. Montana's approach is consistent with the principles described in the Federal brucellosis Concept Paper supported by the USAHA. If Montana limited testing to that required by the Federal Brucellosis Class Free classification system, Wyoming would implement restrictions and testing requirements to a defined area in the GYA.

Jim Logan, DVM
Wyoming State Veterinarian

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From: [Roehr, Keith](#)
To: [Zaluski, Martin](#)
Cc: [Striegel, Nick](#); [Heckendorf, Carl](#)
Subject: Surveillance Requirements for Brucellosis and Establishing a Designated Surveillance Area
Date: Friday, February 05, 2010 3:27:22 PM

Marty,

Thank you for your time and setting up our meeting today. We also appreciate your provision of the background, organization and content of the Official Order No. 10-01-D, the Surveillance Requirements for Brucellosis and Establishing a Designated Surveillance Area. We believe the order provides a method for adequate disease control and biosecurity to serve to protect the livestock producers of Colorado.

The only additional requirement that we may consider would be that of individual animal identification on all intact cattle that import to Colorado from the Designated Surveillance Area or perhaps from the DSA counties on the whole. Given the intent of future plans from USDA concerning Animal Disease Traceability, those requirements may become universal for all livestock moving interstate.

I have pasted below the Information Sharing and Analysis protection that shields our livestock health information from the Colorado Open Records Act.

[35-50-120. Information sharing and analysis.](#)

(1) Except as set forth in subsection (2) of this section, information obtained and maintained by the commissioner pursuant to this article and rules promulgated pursuant to this article and the results of surveillance and investigations may, in the discretion of the commissioner, be closed to public inspection, except as provided by court order, during the investigatory period and until the matter is dismissed without further action or until a quarantine is issued.

(2) As to any enforcement actions taken or the imposition of civil penalties, complaints of record made to the commissioner and the results of the commissioner's investigations may, in the discretion of the commissioner, be closed to public inspection, except to the person in interest, as defined in section [24-72-202](#) (4), C.R.S., or as provided by court order, during the investigatory period and until dismissed or until notice of hearing and charges are served on a respondent or other official action is taken.

Source: L. 2005: Entire article R&RE, p. 460, § 1, effective December 1.

Let me know if you need any other information or if you have other questions. Thanks again, see you in Reno.

Keith A. Roehr DVM
Colorado State Veterinarian
303-239-4166 office
303-239-4164 fax