



# Wyoming Livestock Board Newsletter

State of Wyoming

## From Director Jim Schwartz

I have 14 years of service with the State of Wyoming. In February, 1997, I was selected as Deputy Director for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. In September, 2006, I became the Director for the Wyoming Livestock Board. My last day is fast approaching at the Wyoming Livestock Board. It has been my pleasure to serve as the first director for this agency. This position has been extremely challenging while having its' share of rewards. I have worked for several board members in the past 4 ½ years, producers that have given themselves to serve the livestock industry. Past presidents, Rob Orchard and Phil Marton were great to work with on numerous issues. Current President Eric Barlow and Vice President Brent Larson will

direct significant improvements in our agency in the future. All board members serve a six year term which requires a significant amount of dedication. As I look through the past history of this board, we have had great board members since it all began-we all owe a debt of gratitude to the board members that have ever served on this board-it is a tough job! I was blessed by livestock industry that strongly supported our brand program and worked hard to get us back on our feet. In addition, the brand inspectors and Lee Romsa, Brand Commissioner, were critical in this endeavor to obtain economic stability in the program. This agency does have one of the most effective and efficient "animal health" systems in the nation. Our State Veterinarian,

Dr. Jim Logan, is dedicated and totally committed to the livestock industry. Our Assistant State Veterinarian, Dr Bob Meyers, and our Field Veterinarian, Chris Strang, strongly compliment the agency's commitment to the livestock industry. I have had mixed emotions in the past few weeks regarding leaving of this position but a good friend from Niobrara county told me, "*Change is good, don't look back, only focus on the future*". I am trying to absorb this advice but I will truly miss the staff of the Wyoming Livestock Board and all the producers that have been part of my life. I know that our paths will cross again!

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## Thank You, Jim Schwartz—Job Well Done.

Jim Schwartz was the first "Director" of the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) beginning in 2006. Prior to statutory changes that allowed the WLSB to hire a director, the duties of Chief Executive Officer were handled by the State Veterinarian. Having served in that role, I know firsthand the time commitment and challenges that the director position presents.

Jim dedicated the past five

years to the Wyoming livestock industry, and has worked unselfishly to help improve the Wyoming Livestock Board's functions to serve the industry. He guided us through some difficult times and his knowledge and wisdom of state government process have served us well. Jim's connections in the state have helped to facilitate positive efforts in animal health and brand inspection/recording, and he has led us to the implementa-

tion of computerizing the agency.

Jim Schwartz has been a dedicated Director of the Wyoming Livestock Board and we will miss him. I expect that Jim will continue to be a valued advocate for agriculture and livestock in whatever endeavor he pursues next.

Thanks, Jim, and good luck!  
By: Dr. Jim Logan

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## Regulatory Issues

Wyoming Accredited veterinarians are reminded that official USDA-APHIS and Wyoming Livestock Board test charts, vaccination certificates, and certificates of veterinary health inspection must be completed properly and legibly and must be signed by the veterinarian who has performed the official work.

There are legal requirements surrounding most of the testing done at the regu-

latory serology unit. “The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) regulatory serology unit must have the official, complete, and appropriately filled out forms in order to begin testing,” comments Becky Wills, Regulatory Serologist at the WSVL. The rules specifically state that no testing will begin without the official forms. Non-compliance could result in the lab not being able to offer tests for EIA, Brucel-

losis, and other official regulatory tests. Please cooperate with the WSVL on official testing and ensure that your forms are properly completed.

By: Dr. Jim Logan

## Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1)

The outbreak of EHV-1 neurologic syndrome relating to the Ogden, Utah National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) event in late April and early May appears to be contained. The horse industry, veterinarians, and state veterinarians in the Western states cooperated to quickly monitor all horses that had been at the event and returned to states of origin. Several horses showed disease symptoms following the NCHA event and owners, veterinarians, and regulatory personnel rapidly isolated, quarantined, and restricted movement to control disease spread.

A total of 90 confirmed EHV-1 or Equine Herpes Myeloencephalitis (EHM) cases were reported in ten (10) states (Arizona, California, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Utah, and Washington). Of the 90 confirmed EVH-1/EHM cases, 54

were horses that were at the Ogden, Utah event. Thirteen horses associated with the incident died or were euthanized. There have been no reports of new cases associated with the Ogden event.

One case of EHV-1 neurologic disease has been confirmed in Wyoming. This is NOT related to the NCHA event in Ogden, which was the apparent index of a Western states outbreak of the disease. The unrelated Wyoming case is in a remote area of Johnson County in a ranch horse. One other horse at the ranch was euthanized for neurologic symptoms after the known positive horse began exhibiting signs and was tested. The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL) ran both serologic and PCR tests to confirm the diagnosis.

The EHV-1 virus is considered endemic

wherever horses are found and typically causes a relatively mild respiratory disease known as Equine Rhinopneumonitis. It may also cause weak foal syndrome and is known to cause late term abortions in pregnant mares. When the virus crosses the blood-brain barrier, it will cause the neurologic form of the disease.

We have had sporadically reported cases of EHV-1 neurologic syndrome in Wyoming (and the rest of the country) for decades in addition to the more typical respiratory and reproductive disease symptoms. It is recommended that horse owners should maintain an annual vaccination program for their horses including EHV-1, Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, and West Nile protections.

By: Dr. Jim Logan





## Vesicular Stomatitis

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease that affects cattle, horses, pigs, and occasionally goats and sheep. It occurs mainly in mid to late summer months in the Western Hemisphere making it important for producers and veterinarians to discover clinical signs immediately. Early clinical signs include excess salivation, and blisters which can occur on the mouth, teats, nose, and hooves. The blisters burst exposing raw tissues which are extremely painful. VS does not normally cause animals to die. However, there will be problems with production because animals infected with VS might refuse to eat or drink due to the discomfort from the lesions. This can cause the animal to lose weight.

Often dairy cows will reduce milk production. Lameness may occur when blisters occur on the hooves. Animals nursing who have blisters on their teats may refuse to let their young nurse. The clinical signs of VS are almost identical to those of foot-and-mouth disease which is a foreign disease.

Vesicular Stomatitis is spread through direct contact with an animal positive for VS. If one animal in a herd tests positive for VS, it is very likely that it will be spread to others in the herd. If an animal is showing clinical signs of VS it is important to inform a veterinarian. The only way to diagnose VS is when a

state veterinarian submits a sample of the livestock for laboratory analysis. VS is a reportable communicable disease and must be reported to state authorities within 24 of diagnosis or suspicion. Operations that contain affected animals are quarantined for 21 days after the last lesion on the last affected animal has healed. The quarantines can last a long time considering VS is highly contagious. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for VS but, owners can protect their livestock by separating and controlling the movement of infected and exposed animals.

By: Jori Lorenzi— Summer Intern

## The Rise of the Goat Industry and Q-Fever

In a short time, we have seen the goat industry become Wyoming's fastest growing livestock industry. At the same time, Wyoming is not the only place seeing a rising demand for goat products, the goat industry is also the fastest growing agriculture industry in Australia right now. With this surge in demand for goat meat and dairy products, we will likely see an increase in prevalence of Q-fever outbreaks. Q-fever is a zoonotic disease that is found in cattle, sheep, and goats and is caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*. It is normally non-

pathogenic to livestock, but it can also cause abortions in sheep and goats. The infection in humans can range from a slight cold up to chronic infections.

As would be expected, producers, veterinarians and workers at abattoirs are at a higher risk of exposure than other people. However, with this current organic movement that can be seen across America, consumption of raw milk has increased. *C. burnetii* is excreted in higher amounts during lactation and can be found in raw milk. This will

likely cause an increase in Q-fever outbreaks. The pasteurization process kills the bacteria and makes milk safe to drink.

With the increased number of goats and the turn around in lamb prices, it will be interesting to see what role Q-fever will play in the future. Will America start vaccinating high-risk individuals like other countries do? Or will we continue to follow current standards and try to prevent its spread with biosecurity? Only time will tell.

By: Chris Kelly—Summer AH Intern





## Update on Trichomoniasis 2010-2011

The Trich year 2010/2011 was a busy one. We had thirty-four bulls (34) test positive out of 8,398 head tested (0.4%). This is the most bulls tested in a season, ever. While thirty-four (34) individual positive cases is about average, Wyoming did set a record for most premises across the state that had Trich. Sixteen (16) total ranches had one or more bulls test positive. These record numbers might be in part due to new Trich rules requiring contact herds to test their bulls. In keeping with the new rule, the WLSB sent out one hundred twenty-five (125) letters to known contacts of Trich positive herds informing them of the requirement to test their bulls. The direct result of this, undoubtedly, is the record number of Trich tests being done. More bulls getting tested as a result of this rule boils down to more Trich infected herds being discovered. This, hopefully, will lead to a decrease in positive bulls and affected ranches over the next few years and an overall decrease in the prevalence of the disease. The accompanying map shows the Trich numbers for each county in the state. Also included are comparable numbers from the previous two seasons.

Another statistic of interest and noted on the map page, is the number of bulls tested using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratory test procedures. This number has only been tracked and counted since the beginning of the 2010/2011 season so numbers are not available for previous years, but 1,984 bulls tested using PCR, or nearly 23% of all tests, represents considerably more PCR testing than what has been done in the past. You might notice that the number for PCR and the number for Culture tests adds up to more than the number of bulls tested. This is due to some bulls being tested more than once and both methods being used in one or more test samples from a bull. Right now, there is no method set up to sift this out and determine how many were tested using both procedures or just one or the other.

Wyoming Livestock Board veterinarians have conducted several Trich certification courses for private veterinary practitioners, and seminars for livestock producers to discuss Trich, the disease, and Wyoming's program to control it. If you have producer groups you feel

may benefit in receiving more information about Trich, please contact Dr. Bob Meyer, Assistant State Veterinarian, @ (307) 777-6440 to discuss the possibility of setting up a seminar in your area.

A note to veterinarians submitting Trich samples to the lab... please write the **complete** tag number onto the submission form! We had a case recently where bulls on an allotment needed to be identified as to ownership and confirm whether the bulls had been Trich tested this year. It was made more difficult to answer those questions because the veterinarian doing the testing only put the last three digits of the five digit tag number on the test chart, and the bull's yellow trich tags from last year were re-used. If the full tag number had been recorded, we would have been able to find the test record quickly and easily. If the yellow tag from last year had been removed and this year's green tag used, there would not even have been a question about the bulls' Trich test status.

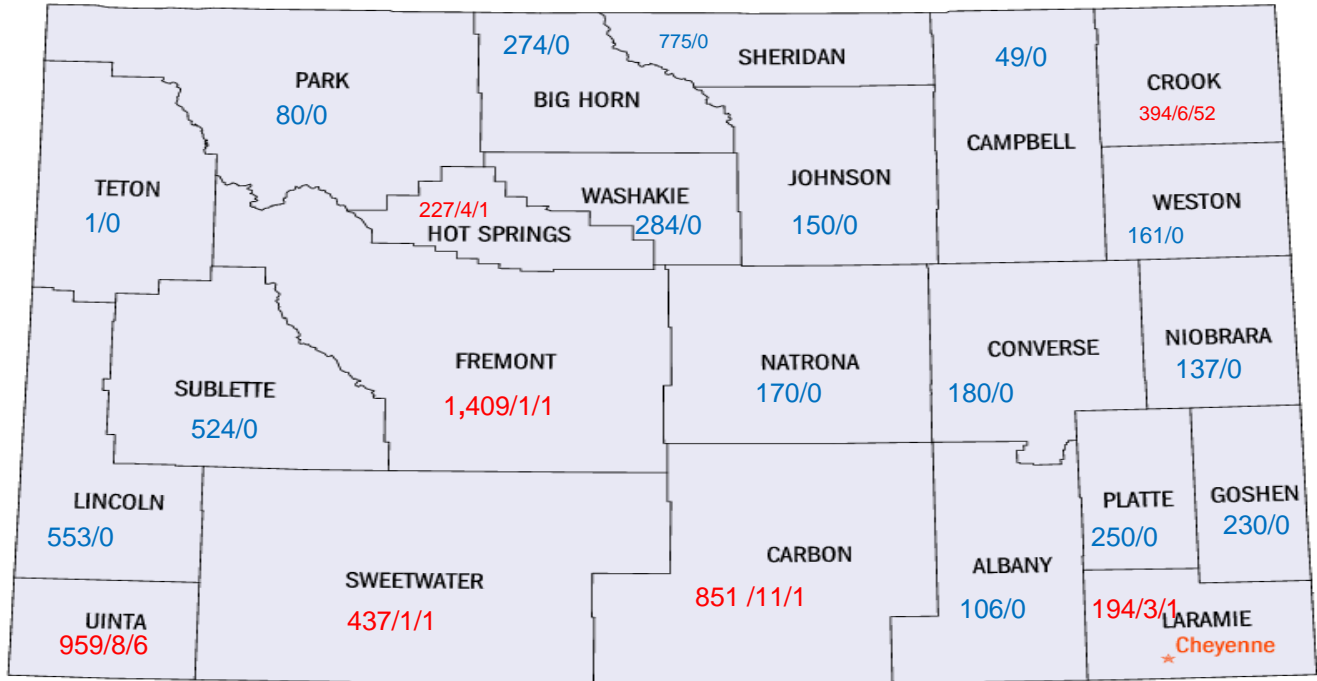


Check out our Website:  
<http://wlsb.state.wy.us>





# Trichomoniasis by the Numbers



September 1, 2010 through June 28, 2011

The first number in counties on the map indicates **total** number bulls tested in the county, second number indicates the number Positive out of that total and third number indicates number of Premises with Trich in that county.

Laramie County case was cattle from Platte County wintering in Laramie County. One trich positive bull in Uinta County is a bull on leased pasture that originated from Montana and owned by producer from Washakie County.

Numbers from Same time periods in Previous years	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total number bulls tested in State of Wyoming:	8,398 Head	7,749 Hd	7,550 Hd
Number bulls tested negative:	8,364 Head	7,734 Hd	7,452 Hd
Number bulls tested positive:	34 Head	17 Hd	98 Hd
Number bulls certified clean after 3 tests:	220 Head	261 Hd	545 Hd
Subsequent positive bulls after initially tested negative:			
Positive on 2 <sup>nd</sup> test, after negative on 1 <sup>st</sup>	0 Head	4 Hd	15 Hd
Positive on 3 <sup>rd</sup> test, after negative on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 Head	2 Hd	7 Hd
Total Premises with trich positive bulls:	16 Prens	9 Prens	
Total tests done with PCR or Culture:			
PCR	1,984 Head	Not Available	
Culture	6,733 Head		

Positive Bulls/Premises in 2010: Crook (1/1), Hot Springs (5/1), Lincoln (7/4), Uinta (2/2) and Washakie (2/1)  
 Positive Bulls in 2009: Albany (7), Fremont (20), Lincoln (17), Sublette (6), Sweetwater (6), Uinta (31), & Weston (1)

By: Douglas Leinart



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## Brucellosis Update

Three cases of Brucellosis were found in Park County during late 2010 and early 2011. Two cases were in cattle herds and one herd was domestic bison. All three cases have been determined to be from wild elk sources. One cattle herd has been released from quarantine and will have a confirmatory test this fall after summer grazing. The other cattle herd will be tested during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, and if results are negative, we will be able to release the quarantine and will then have a confirmatory test this fall.

The domestic bison herd will likely remain under quarantine for some time because we have not yet had a negative herd test on the herd. In order to release a Brucellosis quarantine, we must have three consecutive negative herd tests at least 30 days apart. Additional testing on the bison herd will be done in July.

During the initial testing conducted on the affected herds, no additional herds were found to be infected and there had been no inter-herd transmission. The producers and veterinarians in Park

County were very cooperative with WLSB and AHPIS personnel, and the requisite testing was accomplished quickly. I want to especially recognize and thank Dr. Bill Gould of Meeteetse and the staff of the Meeteetse Conservation District for all their help in the Brucellosis response.

By: Dr. Jim Logan

