

## WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DEPT of LIVESTOCK ORDER ON A DESIGNATED SURVEILLANCE AREA FOR BRUCELLOSIS

A working group met in Helena Feb. 11 and in Bozeman March 8 to discuss the Department of Livestock's Official Order 10-01-D. The following recommendations were developed at the March 8 work group. In all, 36 people participated in the work group at one or both of the discussions.

Working group recommends using best scientific practices for surveillance, prevention, and transmission of brucellosis to livestock from wildlife and:

- Requesting a new Order on which MEPA has been conducted;
- Requesting adherence by the Board of Livestock and DOL to statutes to protect livestock;
- Providing at first annual DOL review of the current or amended DSA an action plan addressing wildlife disease management in cooperation with FWP;
- Requesting an implementation plan from DOL to be presented at the EAIC meeting in May;
- Requesting support for production of an oral vaccine for wildlife (currently being developed at Montana State University for brucellosis); and
- Providing an end date of 2012 for the DSA.

Regarding the current DSA order: For example, the following language is recommended to replace the current language in the order for clarity:

In Section II:

Replace II With: --Livestock producers in the 4-county area should use best management practices for livestock operations. Livestock producers who do best management practices no longer are required to be part of the DSA.

Best management practices include:

- Official Calfhood Vaccination
- Traceability
- Continued slaughter testing
- Change of ownership testing
- Active mitigation strategies, including spatial separation from wildlife using hazing and fencing stackyards.

Replace Section III. A. with: Testing of eligible animals every three years with appropriate public funding.

[Current Section IIIA is confusing and would be addressed by the individual herd plans. Current boundaries do not reflect cattle being in DSA for grazing while owner lives outside DSA.]

Sunset in 3 years (First Tuesday in Nov. 2012).