



John Paterson, Editor
Extension Beef Specialist
johnp@montana.edu
406. 581. 3492

Clint Peck
Director of Beef Quality Assurance
cpeck@montana.edu
406. 671. 0851

Rachel Endecott
Extension Beef Specialist
rachelendecott@montana.edu
406. 874. 8286

Mo Harbac
Research and Education Coord.
406. 994. 4323

Dennis Cash
Extension Forage Specialist
406.994.5688
dcash@montana.edu

Marc King
MSU Extension County Agent
406. 932.5146
mking@montana.edu

Web pages:
www.Mtbqa.org
www.Animalrangeextension.montana.edu
www.mtbeefnetwork.org/

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Summit Gaining Interest

A regional foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) summit set for Wednesday, December 12 in Billings is gaining tremendous regional interest. Organizers say livestock producers and animal health officials from at least 10 states have already registered for the one-day program to be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center.

The agenda for the Foot and Mouth Disease Summit will focus on measures to prevent the threat of FMD and strengthen the livestock industry's defenses against this potentially devastating disease. The program set to begin at 8:00am will look at the implications of an FMD outbreak and the national FMD picture. The summit will conclude at 5:30pm following a discussion on future FMD control efforts in Montana and the formation of a state FMD working group.

"We have put together a long list of national and regional experts on FMD and emergency animal disease response," said Charlene Schuster, Billings, Mont, executive director of the Montana Beef Council. "This summit is designed to address the issues related to preventing, detecting and responding to a FMD crisis in this country."

The summit is a joint effort of the Montana Beef Council and the Montana State University Beef Quality Assurance program. The program has been assigned seven (7) "continuing education" credits for Montana veterinarians.

FMD is a severe, highly communicable viral disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer, and other cloven-hooved ruminants. FMD is not recognized as a human disease and the United States has been free of FMD since 1929.

The disease is characterized in animals by fever and blister-like lesions followed by erosions on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats, and between the hooves. Many affected animals recover, but the disease leaves them debilitated. In cattle it causes severe losses in the production of meat and milk.

The summit will include information generated from other FMD cases and investigations, outline government crisis planning and present an opportunity to discuss critical issues related to preventing, detecting and responding to a FMD outbreak in this country.

“Livestock producers are concerned about FMD and it shows by the tremendous amount of regional attention news of this program is generating,” said Clint Peck, Billings, Mont, director of Montana Beef Quality Assurance. “We invite anyone interested in discussing this important national animal health issue to join us in Billings in December.”

There’s no registration fee for the event, but RSVP’s are required. Contact Schuster at 406-656-3336 (charlene@montanabeefcouncil.org) or Peck at 406-896-9068 (cpeck@montana.edu).

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Summit

Region V Federation of State Beef Councils

Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Colorado

Wed. Dec. 12, 2007, Billings Hotel & Convention Center

8:00 – Introductory Remarks

8:30 – Implications of FMD outbreak

- Probability/possibility
- Impact/effect

9:00 – National FMD Picture

- Current national plan
- National vulnerability assessment

10:00 – Break

10:30 – National, state and local government roles

- States FMD vulnerability assessment
- States FMD outbreak response plan
- Inter-agency coordination/communication plan

Noon – Keynote Speaker (“Strengthening Herd Biosecurity”)

1:00 – Industry perspectives

- Beef/dairy cattle
- Sheep/swine
- Other livestock/wildlife

2:30 – Breakout sessions

- Transportation/movement issues
- Remedial/corrective actions

- Livestock markets/marketing issues
- Legal authority/local veterinarian’s role
- Depopulation/disposal/indemnification

4:00 – Reports/discussion from breakout sessions

5:00 – Outcome/future efforts

- 2008 FMD Working Group