

Minutes
WYOMING BRUCELLOSIS COORDINATION TEAM
Lander, WY (Best Western)
15 Sept. 2011

I. Welcome and Introductions F. Galey introduced a special guest: Watty Taylor the Montana Stockgrower's President.

II. Update on Current Brucellosis Cases J. Logan said that there were 3 livestock cases (2 cattle, 1 bison) in the end of 2010/beginning of 2011. All are believed to have elk as the source. The 1st cattle herd has had 3 negative herd tests and is released from Quarantine. The bison herd remains under quarantine as there is still extensive testing to be done before it can be released. The 2nd cattle herd has had 3 whole herd tests but on the last test had a single reactor. We are following a Quarantine Release Protocol that our trading partners have approved. He then reminded us that the WLSB requires official identification on any sexually intact animals that spend anytime in the DSA. This includes out of state animals that come in for summer grazing (he is working with Utah to make sure this occurs).

III. Update on Other States' Cases W. Taylor told about the MT case. A group of 150 bred heifers was tested (presale) and had 6 Reactors (none had aborted). The herd was close to a previously infected herd and this is the 2nd case in 2 years.

There is also some plans to bring 40 YNP quarantined bison to the Spotted Dog between Helena and Missoula. By law they must have a management plan. There is concern about wolves, elk hunting and lack of plans for population control. There is also talk about moving 40 bison to Ft. Beck and Ft. Belnap reservations which has jurisdictional and communication issues. Waddie also commented that WY has better communication than MT and he appreciated being invited to the meeting. MSGA does have a zoonotic disease insurance program for producers being developed by Watts and Associates.

J. Logan and D. Dufficy reviewed the Texas cases. In Jan 2011 20 head from a closed herd went to a livestock auction market and 3 were reactors. At whole herd test, 30% were reactors. The herd was depopulated (all trace-outs and contacts were negative). They also killed a feral pig which was culture positive for *B. abortus*. More recently, they found a herd that moved back and forth to Mexico with a single reactor at slaughter. This herd was depopulated.

IV. Federal Brucellosis Rules update J Logan told us that the USA is still operating under the interim rule. This gives us more flexibility as our state free status is no longer at risk each time we have a case. It also slows us to remove herds from quarantine more rapidly. It does require any state with a wildlife source to develop and MOU with APHIS on how the disease will be handled. WGFD was very helpful in supplying data and shape files for WY to do this. A. Sommers asked if TX has to develop such and MOU. We have since learned that they do not (feral swine are considered a dead end host for *B. abortus*).

J. Logan will also forward the team a copy of the proposed Depopulation Matrix and has asked team members to review it and send in comments.

V. Proposed import requirements (Chapter 8) for cattle/bison J. Logan told us that there are proposed changes to these rules out for public comment until Oct. 7.

VI. RB51 Adult/Booster Vaccination Field Trials B. Schumaker reviewed his ongoing studies on the safety and immune response to adult vaccination with RB51.

VII. WLSB B-11 request for use of appropriated funds J. Logan: The WLSB has also asked the Governor for permission to use funds granted to the state auditor for brucellosis testing and containment via the B 11 process. This would allow the WLSB to support WGFD elk testing, adult vaccination and chute-side test studies and animal identification actions to decrease the risk of transmission. The BCT voted unanimously to support this request. We have since learned that the Governor supports using funds from the existing WLSB budget for these purposes and saving the state auditor funds in case of a larger outbreak.

VIII. WGFD Surveillance update H. Edwards gave a power point presentation on the plans for upcoming surveillance.

IX. Test and Slaughter and other Pilot Projects S. Talbott reviewed pilot projects. Test and Slaughter's final report was issued in Sept. 2009. We have made great strides in reducing co-mingling. B. Scurlock gave a power point presentation. VITS estimate there are 1,000 elk abortions a year. Strain 19 may be reducing the number of abortions. BMAPs are updated every 5 years (on WGFD website). WGFD will trap Muddy and Scab creek feedgrounds for surveillance this winter

A. Sommers suggested that when seroprevalence reach a certain level we should resume test and slaughter. We need to have this discussion before we get to that level.

X. Park County BMAPs T. Wooley gave a power point presentation. A problem that remains is hunter access. Absentee landowners create elk refuges.

XI. Wyoming Wolf Management Plan as it relates to elk movement. S. Talbott: WGF Commission has adopted a wolf management plan that incorporated the Governor's recommendations. It has been submitted to USFWS and will require changes to Wyoming statutes. Then USFWS can file a delisting petition. B. Nesvik gave a power point presentation. The plan (and USFWS) requires 10 breeding pairs outside YNP. On occasion, wolves have displaced elk into conflict and they have changed the way elk use the habitat. WGFD has documented a large predator impact on elk recruitment (wolves, bears, or both)

XII. Legislative Initiatives. J Hines and J. Roscoe: We will need wolf legislation as previously mentioned. J. Logan: WLSB is taking a proposal to the Interim Ag Committee to pay indemnity for single animals when they are submitted for diagnostic necropsies. J. Rieman: The Governor has already seen requests that exceed 10 times the amount of funding available.

Adjourn