

**Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team**  
**Cody WY (Holiday Inn)**  
12 April 2012

- I. Frank Galey brought the meeting to order and folks introduced themselves.
- II. Dannele Peck announced that Jim Logan had won the Outstanding Agriculturist/Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from Gamma Sigma Delta (the Ag Honor Society).
- III. Jim Logan gave an update on brucellosis cases:

There are 2 ranches still under quarantine in Park County. One is a cattle herd that will have a pre-calving test in May- if negative that will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> negative test and quarantine will be lifted (contingent on fall assurance test).

The second is a bison herd that still has not had a whole herd negative test. We have been testing and removing reactors; some have been under home-separation others have been moved to terminal feeding and slaughter.

There is one DSA suspect- it was sold though a WY market, was negative at market but subsequent testing at WSVL revealed suspect titers. It has been found in S. Dakota; follow up testing has yielded varying results. Follow-up will depend on result interpretation and may include herd test and/or tissue culture of the cow.

RH: Urged the cow be taken to WSVL for tracking results over time

BM: Noted the cow had lumpy jaw which may cause disparate results

- IV. J.Lo. then discussed indemnity: We are pursuing indemnity for 2 producers who had animals removed after the 2011 legislature appropriated \$500,000 for B. testing & containment. The new (2012) indemnity statute allows for indemnity of individual livestock removed for B, TB & Scrapie but does NOT cover whole herd depopulation. The rules for indemnity will be drafted soon (they will be shared with the BCT); federal indemnity must be exhausted before state funds are used.
- V. Ch. 8 rules. J. Lo: Public comment ended Mar. 7. There have been no substantive changes to the brucellosis sections for cattle/bison imports.
- VI. Federal Rules. J.LO: We are still operating under the interim rules. Final rules (combined with TB) will be out this summer. Note that if we were operating under the old rules, WY would have lost status and we'd be testing state-wide.

The WY B. Area Mgmt Plan has been approved; it is now in the CFR that we must have an MOU with APHIS. Thank you to WGFD for their assistance with the data.

- VII. UW Projects:

Dannele Peck passed out a proposal regarding costs of converting to stocker operations (see website) that graduate Shane Roof will be working on.

AS: Supports these efforts. Is concerned with the term “typical”; there is great variability in operations. He prefers to see a range of numbers. Noted that the ratio of BLM, USFS and private lands within an operation are critical.

JB: It would be good to have background of what is needed then a spreadsheet the producer can review with an extension agent. One obstacle is the tools producers need to analyze risk of converting from a Multi-generational cow-calf operation to buying yearlings every year. This is a risk these producers are not familiar with.

RH: What will bankers say? Do you have enough water? Do you have enough feed for 200 # gain? Will turn out dates work. We (RH) did this and it almost broke us. With stocker op you're victim of the market at both ends- when you buy and sell (vs. C-c only when sell). Playing the futures market is very risky!

AS: all producers in the DSA have considered this option.

Brant Schumaker discussed the RB51 booster study (see power point).

MZ: How many animals/group; any abortions yet?

BS: 600 total (200/group). No abortions have been worked up- we have two so far (going to the lab today). Heifers are boosted Ap-May (1 mo before bulls turned out)

Jeff Adamovicz: Discussed immunologic studies (see power point). We have 21 new calves (7 per group) to be OCV in Oct to start the immunology study at WSVL.

J.Lo: can we make this a challenge study?

JA: If we had the \$ we'd send them to Ames, IA for challenge.

FG: Ames has the only facility (BSL-3 Ag) where challenge studies of large animal can occur (due to select agent rules).

JB: Can you create a scenario to do this where brucellosis is endemic?

FG: Makes sense, but it is still illegal.

BM: What tests will you use for T-cell response?

JA: Multiplex response of cytokines including IFN gamma; looks for ability of T-cell to prevent apoptosis. Note- positive animals are very valuable in assay development.

MZ: Use Strain 19 as challenge?

JA: Yes- prefer to use 2308, but can't.

Elk Seroprev. Study Mandy Kaufmann and Kari Boroff (see powerpoint).

MZ: Costs are easy to calculate; how do you determine benefits?

MK: By reducing elk seroprev. you reduce risk of transmission to cattle. That is the benefit.

JC: Does this include National Forest? Offered assistance of either district.

DP: Want to find cheapest too to reach the goal; then the next and next etc.

VIII. WGFD Surveillance Hank Edwards (see powerpoint).

AS: Need to look at Cokeville area to determine if it should be in DSA.

TP: Area 99 seroprev?

HE: only 1-2; is NW of Muddy Feedground. New positive area= Hunt Area 27 based on 1 positive elk.

Brandon Scurlock (see hand out): Low Density feeding has been implemented everywhere we have enough space. Early cessation of feeding on 9 FGs with low co-mingling risk. 5 were successful; couldn't do it on Gros Ventre because 1 producer remains.

AS: Muddy has risk to producers nearby. Need to discuss when you use Test and Slaughter as a tool. What is the long-term goal?

JB: When started T&S stopped vaccinating; how much of increase due to lack of vaccination?

BS: Didn't want confounding results of vaccination.

RH: If no T&S need to consider vacc again.

BS: Comparing abortion rate of vacc and nonvacc – no difference detected yet.

JB: Muddy is only FG with significant risk to cattle. If Prev going up, risk also going up. At what level do we let it rise before remove elk?

TP: We've seen benefit of T&S; should think about using it.

ST: Also some value in monitoring. Should we ask WGF Commission to discuss it?

AS: Yes; we need to understand the goals of the Commission.

TK: MK risk analysis may provide this data.

MK: By fall should have some data.

FG: In fall we will ask WGF Commission to discuss based on data.

BW: Wait another year until more data.

AS: All I want is a plan- some kind of goal.

HE: No vacc because 1. Want to see how fast prev increases. 2. It muddies the water in diagnosis.

MZ: Any consideration of immunocontraception in elk?

ST: Changes the paradigm of using hunting to control WL populations.

IX. MT elk seroprev Neil Anderson (see ppt)

X. GYCC Jose Castro (see PPT). Also invited us to one of their meetings (held spring and fall)

XI. Interagency Brucellosis Management (see minutes)

XII. CABS and vaccine development Frank Galey

AS: Are multiple efforts redundant?

FG: This is collaboration- working on different aspects; trying to id several candidate vaccines.

To support this effort it was requested to get the USAHA resolution to the team so members can urge support.

XIII. Brucellosis Research at Montana State University, Bob Garrott (see ppt)

SW: How far did cow elk move?

BG: very little pre-wolf; now 5-6 miles. Deep snow but good forage- pre-wolf was good habitat, now is a trap.

RH: Was N elk herd moved out by wolves?

BG: Pre-wolf never left winter range; now some have become migratory. Elk will move from 1 winter range to another due to wolves.

AS: seroprev of elk?

BG: 3-5%; it is higher post-wolf

FG: Fits with safety in higher numbers

BG: Yes, but hunting patterns changed a lot at the same time. Issue of refugia ranches. Elk aggregate earlier and once they get there don't leave. Center pivot irrigation also makes private land more attractive. West-wide issue

AS: Are we seeing this in Park Co?

BN: Yes, N of Cody, traditionally migratory herd; now nonmigratory. Elk that migrate subject to lots of predation. Also expanding down Greybull where no hunting occurs.

TP: Wolves following elk?

BN: Not down Greybull, yes on Clark's fork.

BG: Elk also attracting wolves that then attack livestock. Wolf control lowers the impact.

ST: Designating wolf as Trophy Game etc. out for public comment. If Commission passes, WY has done all that is required and wolf can be delisted by Sept and hunted by Oct. ST assured BCT that they could target areas where wolves were believed to be exacerbating the Brucellosis.

#### XIV. Public Comment

Dick Givens (Cody Rancher): In past there was little co-mingling, now have elk coming into HA121. Until 5 years ago no elk in lower end of rattle snake canyon; last 2 years elk calving there; 2 w/in 100 yard of his house. Due to wolves. Also outfits, now elk are taking chances with hunters to avoid wolves. Mature bulls no longer keep cows in harems all the elk are in 1 big group and are more flighty since wolves.

Lloyd Dorsey(GY Coalition): See GreaterYellowstone.org – shows work being done on Brucellosis. Lots of changes coming t landscape: predators, Bruc, CWD,. Need to phase out feedgrounds before CWD gets there. See film, "Feeding the Problem" on the website. Also Bruce Smith's book, "Where Elk Roam".

Fencing should be used more- can save \$ using fencing instead of feeding. Consider a pilot phase-out.

#### XV. Meeteetse Hunter Access Program Alan Osterland (see ppt)

JT: Program worked great. After Sept. 15 much fewer elk in w/cattle. (other ranchers confirmed this)

#### XVI. United States Livestock Producers (USLP) Beef Cattle Warranty Program Jim Magana and Dwane Gangwish (see ppt and brochures)

AS: Do you have to AV?

JM: Not with Herd test, must OCV

MMcD: If get partial indemnity will USLP pay the difference?

DG: Yes

JB: If producer has detailed herd plan without indemnity, can this be used to depopulate a herd? (Incentive to improve herd plan).

JM: New Farm Bill moves away from direct payment; may underwrite some portion of insurance.

BM: If do a herd plan do get better rate?

DG: Yes- we'd want a WY program.

AS: Hole in program: APHIS went away from depopulating herds; will only occur when producer can't feed under Quarantine.

JM: Other part of the program is for Quarantine related costs.

DG: No break-over point where Depop is cheaper than Quarantine. State Vet must order the depop. to trigger this outcome.

JM: WSGA has this same information.

#### XVII. Legislative Update, Representative Roscoe

JR: Actions taken in 2012 legislature include: 1. \$500,000 from general fund to State Auditor for bruc testing and containment to be spent as directed by the Governor. 2. \$1,650,013 (\$1,268,013 gen fund; \$382,000 federal) to WLSB for their Bruc program. 3. Up to \$500,000 of unexpended money from unexpended 2011 Bruc testing money to be deposited into the animal reimbursement program account. The legislature also funded CABS and some vaccination research at UW.

Rep. Roscoe cautioned that Natural gas has fallen from \$4 to \$2 which means possible 4% budget cuts for state agencies.

RH: WLSB tried to pass a Voluntary trace-back program that got held up in the Senate, yet it is mandatory in the DSA. The BCT should make a recommendation supporting the tracing program.

JL: The SD State Vet just called and other states want assurance we can trace our cattle.

AS: This is Not a Bruc issue but I support it. APHIS will push it. WLSB wanted a program producers could use if APHIS mandates ID.

RH: If we have our program we can run it to fit our needs; if not we've got to do it the way APHIS mandates.

#### XVIII. Public Comment

Mark McCarty (Park Co Producer): Lived through brucellosis last year- in Feb 2011 one of our cows went to slaughter and was positive. Led to whole herd test that revealed 3 positives. Then we had a negative test and 30 days later 1 positive. Led to 3-4 months of Quarantine; turns out the last positive cow was a false positive. We need a better diagnostic test and better vaccine- a vaccine that prevents Infection. Must focus on the science for better tests and vaccines. We'll never prevent elk-cattle transmission. When you're under Quarantine it limits your marketing dramatically. You can't take advantage of seasonality or market fluctuations. Need other avenues for those under Quarantine.

AS: Write letter to WLSB suggesting ways we can improve the Quarantine process.

Eric Givens: If you get a positive it also ruins your wt. gain. In last 2 years 3 Meeteetse producers have been affected and we'll see it again. 5 years ago there were no elk east of highway 120 now there is a resident elk herd. And, the problem is spreading. I have an ultrasound business so I talk with lots of other producers; they have similar problems. Some ranches been here over 100 years and saw the last wolf killed in 1913; now seeing the same elk patterns.

JM: Jt Ag meeting in May 7&8, we could weigh in on ID/traceability issue; also CABS and every organization this group represents.

Sam May, Meeteetse producer: Runs bison operation, echoes the need for science. Couple weeks ago had 1500 elk in w/ the bison. Will be under Quarantine for 4-5 years. Producers need to know about WLSB and options under Quarantine.

RH: Asked if anyone had a disagreement with a voluntary traceability program. IF not maybe we could have a letter of support.

BL: Would like to see a copy of the bill.

FG: Asked WC to send out a copy of the bill (this was done).

JL: Fed Rule will be out later this year. We commented on the proposed rule. It is safe to assume there will be an ID requirement on breeding livestock that move interstate.

AS: There are some bad things in that Rule.

RH: Legislature did not want to make marketability part of ID – but it is.

AS: Refocus back to reviewing BCT recommendations. Need to get down to how to move forward.

FG: Lets make that part of the Sept meeting.

JL: Thanked the producers who attended and commented. We need to advertise our meetings better. Offered to have WLSB promote the meeting. Noted that press releases may or may not get published in a given newspaper.

XIX. Frank Galey adjourned the meeting.