

State Veterinarian Report to the Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team

For May 22, 2018 meeting

Composed by Jim Logan on May 18, 2018

Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) Brucellosis Update

At this time Wyoming has no herds under quarantine for Brucellosis.

The herd that had been under quarantine in Sublette County since October 2015, completed all required herd testing and was released from quarantine on June 1, 2017.

Brucellosis Area of Concern

The WLSB voted at its February 26, 2018 meeting to refine the boundaries of the Brucellosis Area of Concern (BAC) that had been in place since August of 2014 and included all of Big Horn and Sheridan counties. The BAC was established by the board, with the Governor's approval, to address Brucellosis seropositive elk found in WGFD Hunt Area 40. The revised BAC is the exterior boundaries of WGFD Hunt Areas 39, 40, and 41 in Big Horn County. The new boundaries were established by the board and approved by the Governor following extensive cooperation between WLSB and WGFD personnel using elk movement data to determine temporal and spatial Brucellosis exposure risks. The intent of the board and staff is to employ the science that we now have along with risk assessments to determine the level of testing required.

Dr. Thach Winslow, Wyoming Assistant State Veterinarian, will further explain this in his presentation.

Lincoln County Request

The WLSB had been requested by the Lincoln County Commissioners and cattle producers in southern Lincoln County to revise the southern boundary of the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) from where it currently is (Highway 30 established in 2010) back to where it was originally at the southern boundary of The Bridger-Teton National Forest north of Cokeville. Producers have raised concern about their level of testing and expressed their thoughts that the elk seroprevalence level in that area is very low.

After considering the information presented by WLSB personnel, WGFD personnel, and the producers, the WLSB voted (split vote) to leave the DSA boundary as it currently is, and directed the state veterinary staff to work with the producers to draft language for the Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules to allow some flexibility in test requirements for areas of the DSA where risk levels are deemed to be low. Drs. Logan and Winslow are scheduled to meet with Cokeville area producers on July 11.

Lander Area Elk

WLSB and WGFD personnel have held two public meetings in Lander to discuss with cattle producers and the public the concern with elk and cattle commingling in the Lander area (Sinks

Canyon area and Northfork area). Elk and cattle have commingled extensively during the prime risk season for Brucellosis exposure (Feb 1-May). We do not have enough surveillance on elk in the Lander area to know whether there is a Brucellosis exposure risk or not. WGFD has done some surveillance recently, but the numbers are not sufficient to determine if Brucellosis is in these elk. We have had a small number of cattle and some cattle abortion samples tested and no Brucella has been found.

This issue remains a concern and the WLSB and state veterinarians urge more surveillance testing to be done in the area.

Ongoing Brucellosis Efforts

We are continuing to work with producers and veterinarians in and out of the DSA to educate them about Brucellosis issues and to encourage risk assessment and herd plan development.

Brucellosis CFR and UMR

Dr. Logan is leading a National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (National Assembly/NA) committee with three other state veterinarians to advise USDA APHIS on suggested revisions and updates to the federal Brucellosis rules. There is another committee, led by Texas state veterinarian Dr. Andy Schwartz, to address federal TB rules. The National Assembly voted in April to forward the recommendations of both committees to the APHIS Administrator and Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Jack Shere. Dr. Shere stated that he would likely stand up a committee with representation from the NA to draft revised rules for both diseases.