

State Veterinarian Report to the Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team

Submitted by: Dr. Jim Logan

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The Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) currently has one designated Brucellosis affected herd under quarantine for Brucellosis in Park County with one adjacent contact herd also under quarantine for herd testing. The “index” herd will remain under quarantine until the herd has undergone three consecutive, negative, whole-herd tests after the reactors have been removed from the herd. The contact herd could be released from quarantine *if* their herd test is negative. The cultures from WSVL will be forwarded to NVSL for further genotyping. Dr. Logan has put out a press release regarding the situation.

WLSB veterinary staff is also currently investigating a potential case of Brucellosis in Sublette County. Blood test results indicate that we may have a positive herd. We are waiting on tissue culture results from animals that will be submitted to the WSVL before designating the herd officially. If this is an “affected herd,” we will likely have additional contact/exposed herds that will need to be quarantined until tested.

Dr. Logan is keeping the Governor's Office and the WLSB updated on all this as things progress. He has also asked the Governor's Office for help in assuring the Brucellosis indemnity funds can be accessed.

There is no longer a domestic bison herd under quarantine for a case of Brucellosis that was identified in November 2010 in Park County! This herd has undergone testing with any suspicious or reactor animals removed. The herd needed to have three, consecutive, whole-herd negative tests (at least 60 days apart with the last two separated by a calving season) in order to be released from quarantine. The third whole-herd test began in October and was completed in November. WSVL reported the last test on the herd (Sunday, Nov. 15) was negative on all samples. This is the last group to be tested to complete the third, whole-herd, negative test and, therefore, the requirements have been met for quarantine release of the herd. A hold order will be placed on all heifers currently in the herd until test negative post-calving (2013, 2014, and 2015 heifers). The ranch will conduct annual assurance testing for at least the next year, and has plans to continue testing the entire herd - other than calves - annually. The quarantine was released on November 18, 2015.

Staff veterinarians have been working with producers, markets, and veterinarians in and out of the DSA to educate them about Brucellosis issues and to encourage risk assessment and herd plan development. We hope to attain more samples from Big Horn and Sheridan counties this fall. We held meetings in Lovell (Oct 14) and Sheridan (Oct 12) with producers, veterinarians, and WGFD personnel to discuss the disease risks and surveillance testing needs. Attendance was fair and producers and veterinarians expressed interest in the disease and a willingness to participate in herd plans and risk assessments.

Due to findings of brucellosis in free-ranging elk in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming during the fall of 2012, the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) initiated voluntary brucellosis testing of test-eligible, adult cattle originating from Big Horn and Sheridan counties. A total of

7,923 cattle have been tested since initiation of the surveillance program in both Sheridan and Big Horn counties. 1,507 of this total number have been tested on ranches so far this year - 1,014 in Big Horn County and 493 in Sheridan County. There are still some test charts from which the tests have not been enumerated so the final numbers will be higher.

Information from Hank Edwards at WGF D Lab: Brucellosis surveillance in the Bighorn Mountains is well underway. As of 11/10/15, we have logged in 483 blood samples from all of the elk hunt areas within the Bighorns. Of the 483 samples, 370 (71%) are suitable for testing and were collected from either yearling or adult elk. All samples have been tested, and all are negative for brucellosis. Most hunting seasons in the Bighorns will remain open until late November/mid-December, so we are still expecting more samples over the next month or so.