



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2016 Resolution

120th Annual Meeting

October 13-19, 2016 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 19

APPROVED

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER:

Review of State Brucellosis Management Plans

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

All states are essentially free of bovine brucellosis, and the disease has largely been eliminated from the United States (US) cattle population, despite occasional 'spillover' infection from infected wildlife reservoirs. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published an Interim Rule in 2010, which effectively removed state status for bovine brucellosis. Eleven infected cattle or domestic bison herds have been detected within the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) as a result of the testing required within the DSA since 2010, effectively identifying and mitigating disease risk to the US cattle population.

Under the 2010 Interim Rule, the Greater Yellowstone area (GYA) states are responsible for defining the boundaries of the DSA, conducting surveillance "sufficient to prevent the spread of brucellosis...", and implementing a Brucellosis Management Plan (BMP), approved by USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). USDA-APHIS-VS last reviewed GYA state BMPs in 2012.

State required testing of DSA cattle and domestic bison herds appears to be effective in identifying infected herds at low prevalence. Affected herds are being identified prior to leaving the DSA, no herds have been found infected outside of the DSA, and no cases of herd-to-herd transmission have been documented since the 2010 rule and implementation of DSA required testing.

However, surveillance in wildlife outside of the Wyoming DSA has identified seropositive elk annually for the last four years, and the boundaries of the DSA have not been expanded accordingly. The finding of seropositive elk in areas outside of a DSA may indicate current or past infection, the implication of which is that cattle and domestic bison herds in the area may also be at risk of infection. Lack of timely action in expanding DSA boundaries in response to finding exposed wildlife may result in exposed or infected cattle or bison leaving the area undetected.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

to conduct reviews of Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) state Brucellosis Management Plans and their implementation, at least once every three years. In addition, USAHA also encourages GYA states and USDA-APHIS to continue to conduct wildlife surveillance outside of Designated Surveillance Areas (DSA), and for the states to adjust DSA boundaries accordingly to include geographic areas where there is a potential risk of transmission of brucellosis from wildlife to cattle or domestic bison.