



Farmed Cervid Brucellosis Testing Update

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Progress Report

- Update on USAHA's 2017 Resolution Approved in San Diego
- Changes made since 2017

Background

- Brucellosis interstate testing requirements is currently a state issue.
- Import rules for states vary.
- Common state rules require a negative Brucellosis test within 30, 45, 60 or 90 days before entry.

Background

- There is a voluntary Brucellosis Certification program administered by USDA APHIS.
- Requires whole herd testing every three years.
- Estimated 30% of all whitetail deer herds are certified.
- Only 7% of elk herds are certified. Thus, most farmed elk movement requires individual tests.

Testing Costs

- Either process makes Brucellosis testing a costly burden for interstate commerce.
 - Individual testing means special DVM trip with cost and expense, along with risk of stress and injury to animal and owner. Most elk bulls going into “rut” when moved.
 - Certification testing means additional time and stress spent handling animals and testing costs.

Disease Impact

- Over the last 50 years during the eradication of bovine brucellosis in cattle in the United States, only the elk and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) have been an impediment to the eradication.
- Whitetail deer, mule deer, and elk in the other 47 brucellosis free states have never been identified as being either a reservoir for the disease or a public health risk in regard to being infected with *Brucella abortus* or transmitting the agent.

Disease Impact

- The elk in the GYA are not privately owned or controlled, and it is illegal to trap, possess, or transport these free-ranging elk privately.
- Therefore, they cannot legally enter animal commerce channels and are not an issue in regard to interstate shipment of brucellosis-infected elk.
- No farmed elk or other cervid herds exist in the GYA area (verified by Drs. Barton, Logan and Zaluski)

Cervid Industry Requests Changes

Western States Animal Health Association

- In 2017, cervid industry discussed relief for elk, whitetail deer and other species with western state veterinarians.
- Western states have the biggest stake in Brucellosis.
- Received positive feedback.
- A resolution was presented to urge SAHO to eliminate Brucellosis testing for farmed cervid interstate movement.
- Resolution was approved by Western States Animal Health Association in New Mexico.

2017 USAHA- San Diego

- In 2017, the resolution was offered during the 2017 USAHA conference.
- USAHA urges state regulatory officials to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed elk, red deer, and other cervid species that originate outside of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

2017 USAHA- San Diego

- USAHA urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to eliminate brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movement of farmed elk, red deer, and other cervid species that originate outside of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) if and when a federal rule for Brucellosis is published.

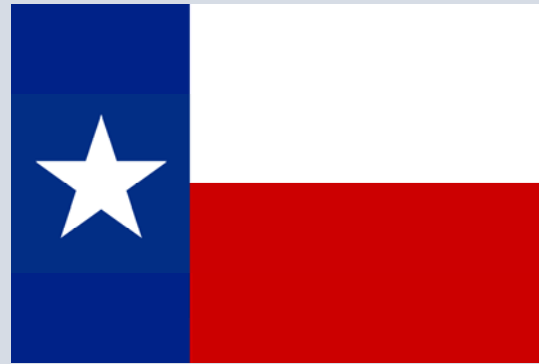
2017 USAHA- San Diego

- Resolution approved:
 - Brucellosis Subcommittee
 - Farmed Cervid Committee
 - USAHA General Assembly
- Well vetted.

Since 2017...

- The cervid industry has been working to request SAHO's to drop their state's Brucellosis Import Testing Requirement.
- Each state has its own process amending Administrative Rules.

Brucellosis Rules Repealed Thus Far...



Several States in Process....

- Several more states are in the process of amending administering rules and regulations.
- Two of the four largest importing states for farmed elk have dropped the requirement.
- We do not need all 50 states...

Federal Rule Impacts

- The cervid industry participates in the national stakeholder meetings regarding a future Brucellosis federal rule.
- Discussion consistently says no cervid component will be added, ensuring this is state issue.

Questions?

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