

BNC Issues and Updates as of October 2016

*Provided at the USAHA Tuberculosis Committee meeting on October
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BNC Issues and Updates 2016

- ▶ During 2016, the Mexican/US Binational Committee on Tuberculosis, Brucellosis and Ticks (BNC) met in San Diego on Tuesday January 26, 2016 at the NCBA convention and also in Tijuana Mexico, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the CNOG convention.
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- ▶ The following comments represent the consensus agreement reached at these meetings of the BNC. October updates are provided as well.

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

▶ Action Items: January 2016

- ▶ The BNC is concerned about USDA APHIS's aggressive timeline regarding completing regionalization of the Mexican States. The BNC would like to know how USDA APHIS intends to complete Mexican regionalization within this time line.
 - ▶ **Response:** *APHIS is continuing to pursue a policy of pre-certification reviews conducted by SENASICA followed by an APHIS regionalization review. The intent is to classify as many regions as possible by the time of publication of the pending final TB/BR rule, and all Mexican regions within the following year. APHIS is on track to meet these goals. SENASICA has conducted pre-certification reviews with APHIS participation in at least 10 of the 16 proposed regions. APHIS has conducted 9 regionalization reviews, focusing on the high-exporting status. Pre-certification reviews are planned in Coahuila and Colima in CY 2016; APHIS reviews are currently planned in the Baja Peninsula region in December 2016 and Tamaulipas in January 2017.*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

▶ Action Items: January 2016

- ▶ The BNC is concerned that USDA APHIS is moving forward with Mexican State regionalization without a finalized TB/BR rule. Furthermore, BNC is concerned that comments from U.S. and Mexican stakeholders will not have time to be considered while regionalization is being conducted. Although, the BNC recognizes that these are two separate issues, they are inter-related.

- ▶ ***Response:** Consideration of public comment: APHIS is in the process of considering all of the comments received from stakeholders on regionalization under the proposed TB/BR rule. We do not consider that any of the comments will require substantive changes to the proposed approach, although some adjustments may be warranted. APHIS continues to promote transparency in the process of regionalizing Mexico for bovine TB by including a U.S. State animal health representative on each review and providing the review reports to the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials.*



BNC Issues and Updates 2016

▶ Action Items: January 2016

- ▶ When will USDA be ready to go back to Piedras Negras and Acuna to inspect the export cattle? If not, Coahuila would request that a long term lease be negotiated for the current pens in Del Rio and Eagle Pass.

- ▶ *Response: APHIS has finalized a long term lease for the current inspection facility in Del Rio, Texas, and expects to continue to work with the lessor on mutually agreed improvements into the future. APHIS is also looking to lease space on a longer-term basis in Eagle Pass, TX, with an expected end point in 2017. The federal lease process continues steadily, with a lease award expected in late 2016.*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

- ▶ Action Items: January 2016
- ▶ When will USDA be doing their onsite review of Coahuila to change the TB status
 - ▶ *Response: Coahuila review: SENASICA scheduled a pre-certification review of the Coahuila AP zone in July 2016 that was subsequently postponed at Coahuila's request. SENASICA has confirmed the dates for a pre-certification review the week of November 14-19, 2016.*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

- ▶ AGREEMENTS FROM THE BNC; MAY 2016
- ▶ Establish a working group to analyze how to implement the use of the SINIIGA ear tags in Mexican cattle at the US ports of entry.
- ▶ ***Response:** An electronic identification meeting was held in Tijuana Mexico on September 8, 2016. A separate meeting summary is available.*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

▶ AGREEMENTS FROM THE BNC; MAY 2016: Action items

- ▶ *The Mexican BNC members intend to use the electronic eartags but want assurance from APHIS and SAGARPA that they will be used.*
- ▶ *APHIS plans to initiate a pilot project to read Rodeo cattle identification because these cattle already have the RFID tags.*
- ▶ *Mexico industry asked APHIS to conduct a pilot project immediately using imported cattle that would follow all the criteria mentioned here at this meeting.*
- ▶ *An action plan timeline for implementing an electronic identification and certification system at the ports was requested and that it be provided to the BNC members after the Fed-Fed meeting on September 9, 2016. APHIS stated they could not provide a timeline at this time.*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

- ▶ AGREEMENTS FROM THE BNC; MAY 2016
- ▶ Establish a working group to plan a tick summit meeting in November (With 2 to 4 participants each from Mexico and the US)
 - ▶ *Response: The Tick Summit meeting is scheduled on November 29 in Weslaco, Texas.*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

▶ AGREEMENTS FROM THE BNC; MAY 2016

- ▶ Sonora requests that USDA/APHIS recognize their brucellosis status under current regulations before the next USAHA meeting
 - ▶ *Response: Sonora brucellosis: APHIS conducted a regionalization review of Sonora for bovine brucellosis status in May 2016. The review team concluded that Sonora is free of Brucella abortus in cattle. APHIS is taking a 2-pronged approach to ensure lifting of the testing requirements for cattle exported to the United States from Sonora as quickly as possible. We plan to list Sonora as Level I for brucellosis under the pending final TB/BR rule (test exempt); in the interim, we are pursuing rulemaking to add Sonora to the list of test-exempt regions in 9 CFR 93.406(d).*

BNC Issues and Updates 2016

▶ AGREEMENTS FROM THE BNC; MAY 2016

- ▶ Tamaulipas requests a response regarding the TB review conducted by SAGARPA in February, 2016. They want to know if that review qualifies them to maintain their TB status without further review by USDA.
- ▶ 5. The BNC members request that USDA report the origin of the exported cattle lots that are detected with ticks at the border to the SENASICA and the Mexican States. The BNC members would also like to know the phase of development of those ticks.