

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 9      APPROVED**

**SOURCE:                      COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:          Brucellosis Testing in Farmed Cervidae**

---

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Over the last 50 years of bovine brucellosis eradication in cattle in the United States, elk and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) have been an impediment to the completion of the Program. 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.

The elk in the GYA are not privately owned or controlled, and it is presently 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.

In 2013, the United States Animal Health Association membership approved a resolution to eliminate interstate *Brucella* testing requirements for whitetail deer and mule deer.

**RESOLUTION:**

1. The United States Animal Health Association 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.
2. The United States Animal Health Association 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 GYA.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. At this time, we are continuing to review the comments we received

concerning the proposed rule for brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis, and we will consider this resolution as we determine our next steps.