
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 35 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON

SUBJECT MATTER: CONTINUED USE OF RB51 VACCINE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the implementation of a national Brucellosis Eradication Program in 1934, *Brucella abortus* has been eliminated from cattle and domestic bison populations, resulting in all 50 United States (US) states, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands being considered Brucellosis Class Free. *B. abortus* infected wild elk and wild bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) pose a continued threat to cattle and domestic bison in areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, however, the surveillance programs in these states has been effective in preventing disease spread.

Widespread administration of brucellosis vaccine in cattle and domestic bison populations was a critical tool in the brucellosis eradication program. Cattle that are vaccinated with Strain RB51 are identified using an official identification ear tag and a vaccination tattoo. In many cases, the tattoo becomes illegible, either due to improper application or degradation over time. However, official identification correlated with vaccination certificates are sufficient to prove vaccination. If proof is not available, the animal can be vaccinated as an adult with RB51 without risking false positive test results.

The RB51 vaccine has been a highly successful aid in the completion of the national brucellosis eradication effort.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges state animal health officials and cattle industry representatives to reconsider the need for mandated use of RB51 brucellosis vaccine except where *Brucella abortus* infected wildlife is a documented risk.

Further, the USAHA urges state animal health officials to consider rescinding interstate requirements that may be based on brucellosis vaccination status, or documentation of vaccination status, except as determined necessary by state animal health officials for animals moving into, within, or out of the Greater Yellowstone Area.