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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 32**

**Approved**

**SOURCE:**

**COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**

**Standardization of State Cattle and Bison Import Requirements Regarding Brucellosis**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States (US) cattle and bison herds met the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) standards to establish freedom from brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) infection in 2008. The last reservoir for *Brucella abortus* in the US is the elk and wild bison herds in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), where the state borders of Wyoming (WY), Montana (MT), and Idaho (ID) join.

The WY, MT, and ID state animal health officials (SAHOs), state and federal wildlife management agencies, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) established their respective Designated Surveillance Area for Brucellosis (DSAs) in 2010 based on the distributions of seropositive elk and bison, and those agencies continue to monitor and adjust the DSAs based on known distributions. Implementation of the states' DSA programs involves brucellosis transmission control through temporospatial separation of livestock and wildlife, and robust surveillance measures within their respective DSAs to minimize the risk of brucellosis transmission and rapidly detect and contain the disease when transmission does occur. The USDA-APHIS-VS ruminant health staff critically review each state's DSA activities on a rotating, triennial basis (most recent reviews: WY – 2020, ID – 2021, MT – 2022 in progress).

In 2014, USDA-APHIS-VS, Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) released a report of a formal assessment (Portacci et al. 2014) that estimated the risk of brucellosis escape from the combined DSAs to be 0.027 per year (roughly interpretable as an escape expected every 37 years). The USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH assessment also evaluated the costs and benefits of post-movement requirements and found that the costs of those requirements exceed the costs of outbreak responses near the end of the brucellosis eradication campaign and far exceed the costs of spillover containment responses conducted by ID, MT, and WY.

Currently, 12 states impose additional brucellosis requirements on cattle from parts of or all of ID, MT, and WY. These requirements impose costs and logistical complexities on commerce not justified by risk assessments and cost benefit analyses. To date, all

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brucellosis detections have demonstrated exposure within DSA boundaries and have been detected prior to entry into interstate commerce. Since the inception of the DSAs in 2010, most brucellosis spillover to domestic livestock has been detected prior to shedding by infected animals. Triennial review of state brucellosis programs by USDA-APHIS-VS has failed to find significant deficits.

**RESOLUTION:**

In the absence of significant program deficits found during the triennial review process, the United States Animal Health Association urges state animal health officials to eliminate state and region-specific brucellosis import requirements for cattle and bison beyond assurance that shipments meet state of origin Designated Surveillance Area requirements.