

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 43 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BRUCELLOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: BRUCELLOSIS IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA (GYA)

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The state and federal governments and the livestock industries have spent billions of dollars since 1935 to eradicate *Brucella abortus* infection from cattle in the United States; and the presence of *B. abortus* in the United States has significant economic impact upon the livestock industry and may have an impact on international trade.

The efforts to eradicate *B. abortus* are leading to a national herd that is nearly free of the disease. The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) commends the agencies of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) and the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (USDI) on efforts to implement the Interagency Bison Management Plan and to attempt to achieve agreement regarding a new Greater Yellowstone Interagency Bison Committee (GYIBC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The USAHA supports the efforts of the GYA state and federal agencies in their efforts to prevent exposure of livestock to brucellosis from elk and bison in the GYA and supports the efforts of the GYA state agencies to control brucellosis in bison and elk in the GYA.

The only known remaining focus of brucellosis caused by *B. abortus* in the United States is in the bison and elk in the GYA and all signatory parties to the original GYIBC MOU (Secretaries of the USDA and USDI, and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming), which created the GYIBC, agreed that the objective is to eliminate *B. abortus* from the GYA. A plan to eliminate *B. abortus* from bison and elk in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and other areas of the GYA, consistent with the objectives of the original GYIBC MOU, is urgently needed.

Wyoming lost its Brucellosis Class Free classification in 2004 due to transmission of *B. abortus* from elk to cattle and *B. abortus*, due to transmission from elk, was confirmed in an Idaho cattle herd in 2002. Confirmation of another case in an Idaho cattle herd, with transmission appearing to be most likely from elk, is pending at this time,

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior (USDI) and the Governors of the states of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming to take all steps and actions necessary, including, but not limited to, providing fiscal and human resources to: 1) conduct brucellosis surveillance, control and elimination activities; 2) to provide fiscal resources for necessary research; 3) to assure collaboration among all relevant state and federal agencies; and 4) to provide strong direction to these agencies to expeditiously eliminate the last known vestige of *Brucella abortus* from the United States.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

APHIS/VS agrees with the actions and steps included in this resolution. VS is providing resources for brucellosis surveillance and control activities. Eradication activities cannot occur until the other agencies agree on a disease eradication plan. To assure collaboration among the relevant agencies, VS is working and will continue to work with these agencies to develop MOU's and agreements on a plan of action that includes eradication of brucellosis from the GYA. VS is willing and able to take the lead once a brucellosis eradication plan has been agreed to between the agencies.