

Enclosure on following Page:

Email from Dr. Don Herriott,
Associate Director of Western Region, USDA-APHIS-VS
on risk of latent heifers

Zaluski, Martin

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Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 3:30 PM
To: Zaluski, Martin
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Subject: Testing GYA State Cattle

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Marty,

Subject: TAHC Rule on Testing GYA Cattle

We want to take this opportunity to support the work MT DOL is conducting with regards to Brucellosis management. It appears there is quite a bit of concern about the potential transmission of Brucellosis via the "heifer syndrome". Our analysis has determine the findings listed below.

1. Latent Heifer syndrome

- a. Cites this syndrome as the major reason for the rule changes. While there is some lack of clarity on which heifers are prone to be latent, the literature shows experimentally, that these heifers come from infected dams. Montana, for the state fiscal year ending June of 2012, tested ~ 42,000 head of the 73,000 head that populate their DSA. This gives them a 99% confidence level of finding these infected dams at prevalence as low as .0078%. Montana calculates "over the 6 years since 2007 an annual infection rate of 0.0077% (13,000 herds, 2004 NASS) " which is lower than necessary to qualify as a Class B or even A status. Dr. Zaluski points out, almost all the herds detected in Montana and, in our experience, in Wyoming have been found early enough, that the prevalence is quite low and within herd transmission does not seem to have taken place. The two herds that had within herd transmission were Morgan in Montana in 2007 and Roberts in Wyoming in 2008. Both herds were depopulated and all heifers were spayed.
- b. Therefore, we feel that the movement of latent heifers is unlikely and no more probable than allowed, by our rules, from a Class A or B state from herds not known to be affected.

Transmission from elk is a point source situation. We have been successful finding Brucellosis affected herds before almost any within herd transmission has occurred. The only exceptions that we know of are the two aforementioned herds. In the case of the Morgan herd, DSA rules now in place would have preempted the occurrence of the in-herd transmission.

We hope this information helps.

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