

DSA Beef Producer Information Sheet

The action items contained in this herd plan are a list of best management practices and mitigation actions that aid in the prevention of transmission of brucellosis from infected wild elk to cattle herds. The suggested actions are designed to detect any recent infections and contain the spread of disease. Participation in this plan will demonstrate your commitment to help prevent brucellosis from recurring in Idaho. This plan is not intended to represent a legal contract.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. Report, as soon as possible, to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) any commingling during the period of January 1 to June 15. **For the purposes of this herd plan commingling shall mean “Any wild elk which are intermixed with the cattle herd in any manner; they are on the cattle winter hay feed line; or they are located in the same fenced pasture as the cattle”.**

- The state agencies (ISDA and IDFG) will cooperate to remove the wild female elk as rapidly as possible when commingling occurs on cattle feedlines during the period of January 1 to June 15.
 - A commingling event during the time period of January 1 to June 15 **may** evoke an investigation of the event by ISDA personnel. A discussion will be held between the owner and ISDA personnel to discuss whether brucellosis testing is necessary or prudent, and various management practices which may help to reduce future commingling. The costs of any additional surveillance or increased management (i.e., adult vaccination) will be paid by ISDA if funding is available. All decisions regarding implementation of additional measures and/or management practices shall be made after such discussions.
2. Notify IDFG immediately when elk damage stored feedstuffs.
(IDFG: Dustin Cureton 208-390-0609)
3. Maintain a 100% brucellosis vaccination program for your heifers.
4. If your cattle leave the DSA, make sure they are identified with official identification.
5. Cattle that have been located within the DSA between January 1 and June 15 must be tested for brucellosis within 30 days prior to:
- Change of ownership
 - Interstate movement
 - Leaving the DSA

NOTE: Unless they are moving directly to an approved Idaho livestock market or a federally-inspected slaughter plant that will test the animals for brucellosis on arrival. (Variances or exceptions to the brucellosis testing requirements may be considered on an individual basis by the state veterinarian.)

6. Adhere to all animal health regulations when buying, selling, importing, or exporting cattle.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Prevent to the extent of your ability commingling of cattle with female elk, especially during the critical exposure period of January 1 to June 15.
2. Fence your haystacks to minimize the attraction of wild female elk. ISDA will furnish all materials at no cost for building game-proof fencing for haystacks/yards.
3. Avoid having sexually intact female cattle near elk calving areas from January 1 through June 15.
4. If you find evidence of a wild elk abortion near your cattle, call ISDA or APHIS-VS and they will clean it up and disinfect the area as soon as possible. Keep cattle away from the area until it has been disinfected.
5. If you have a cow or heifer abort, call your veterinarian, APHIS-VS or ISDA to collect the fetus and placenta, if available, and draw blood from the aborting animal to submit to the Idaho Animal Health Laboratory for testing. Segregate the cow or heifer from the rest of the herd until the test results are known.
6. Have any cow or heifer that tested pregnant in the fall but comes up open in the spring tested for brucellosis. Test and sell dry cows prior to breeding.
7. Purchase replacement cattle from sources that are known to be free of Brucellosis.
8. Maintain accurate herd records, including calving rates.
9. Wait until after June 15th to turn out onto summer grazing if there are wild female elk in the allotment. (This turn out date is flexible depending on elk brucellosis seroprevalence and exposure risk.)
10. To prevent transmission of brucellosis from cattle to cattle, keep your cattle from cattle owned by others during calving.

If you are interested in booster vaccinating your cattle for Brucellosis at the States expense, as funding allows please contact one of the persons listed below.

Cathy Hallowell, ISDA Livestock Investigator: (208) 680-5517

Kelly Mortensen, ISDA Livestock Investigator:(208)690-9679

Dr. Debra Lawrence, DVM: (208) 332-8563

Notes: