

To whom it may concern,

Regarding our discussion at the May meeting on the testing for brucellosis and tuberculosis, I also would like to see some changes, and while the current proposed language is much better, I think it could be improved. The current proposal is that producers can now test anytime before their one year anniversary month, and if they want to change that month, they can test anytime in addition to get that anniversary month changed. However, for some of us, that would mean having to pay for testing twice in the initial year. I would suggest that we just have an annual test, meaning we can test anytime within a calendar year. Now someone mentioned that if we did that, someone could then test say, in December 2021 and then January 2022 and not have to test again till December 2023, which would be about 2 years without a test. But my question would be who would do that? It wouldn't save any expense and even if someone did do that, would it really be that problematic, since neither of those diseases is an issue in Idaho anyway? If there is still objection to that suggestion, then my only other thought is that maybe there could be a way we could request the anniversary month from the department, and they would agree to wait for that month without suspending our permits.

I would also like to bring up something another producer mentioned to me. There seems to be a change regarding when a producer fails a test. Previously, producers were allowed to bring in samples to the lab for another test if they failed, but this producer said that wasn't allowed anymore and we would just have to wait a whole month for the state tester to come back out. None of this of course is in the rules, but if we need to clarify that so we have recourse when we have issues, that would be helpful.

Thank you for your consideration!

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