

ANTHRAX: GUIDANCE FOR VETERINARIANS

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) confirmed an anthrax positive in a beef herd in Cassia County. Caused by the naturally occurring bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, anthrax spores can survive in soil for decades. Producers and veterinarians should remain vigilant when investigating sudden or unexplained livestock deaths.

QUARANTINE THE INFECTED HERD

- Implement a 30-day quarantine
- Prohibit movement of hides and/or wool
- Dispose of carcasses by burning them in place.
- Relocate exposed animals to a clean pasture.
- Vaccinate all susceptible livestock.
- Observe withdrawal times: 42 days for meat, 0 days for milk.
- If treating with penicillin, delay vaccination as directed.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Protective, impermeable clothing (rubber apron and boots)
- Long sleeves and pants
- Rubber gloves
- Respirator with HEPA filter

DISINFECTION OF EQUIPMENT

- Clean with hot water and detergent to remove organic material.
- Disinfect with 10% bleach (10-minute contact time).
- Do not use calcium-based disinfectants.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE SAMPLES

- Preferred—Whole blood (purple top) from jugular vein
- Other samples if whole blood is not available
 - Blood-soaked cotton swab or umbilical tape from fluids from body openings
 - Cotton swab soaked with fluid from the spleen (**only** if body was open before suspicion of anthrax)
- The University of Wyoming Veterinary Laboratory, Colorado State Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory, and the Idaho Health and Welfare Laboratory accept Anthrax sample submissions.

CONTACT US

Idaho State Veterinarian's Office
(208) 332-8540 or ID-DVM@isda.idaho.gov

SIGNS OF DISEASE

- Sudden death (most common)
 - +/- Lack of rigor mortis
 - +/- Blood around body openings
- Weakness or staggering
- Fever
- Difficulty breathing
- Bloody diarrhea

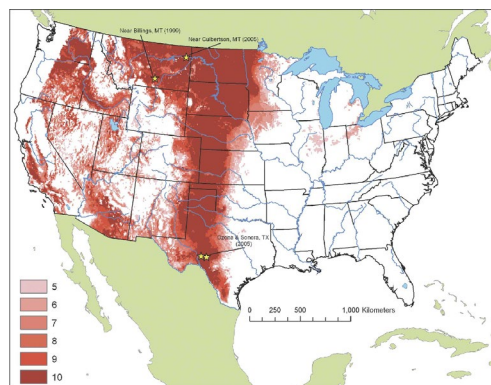
IF YOU SUSPECT ANTHRAX

- **DO NOT** open the carcass
- **DO NOT** move the carcass
- **REPORT** to the State Veterinarian

SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES

Cattle & bison | Sheep & goats
Horses & mules | Llamas & alpacas
Pigs | Farmed elk

ANTHRAX DETECTIONS



Map from Blackburn, J, et al, Modeling the geographic distribution of *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax disease, for the contiguous United States using predictive ecological niche modeling, American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 2007. 77:1103.