

BRUCELLA ABORTUS

SPECIES AFFECTED

Cattle

DESCRIPTION

Bovine brucellosis, caused by the bacterium *Brucella abortus*, is an economically important cause of abortions in cattle. *B. abortus* also affects other species including bison, buffalo and elk; some species are maintenance hosts for this organism. Infections in wildlife can hinder eradication efforts in cattle. In addition, *B. abortus* is a human pathogen. In humans, brucellosis can be a serious, debilitating, and sometimes-chronic disease that may affect a variety of organs. Most cases are the result of occupational exposure to infected animals, but infections can also occur from ingesting contaminated dairy products. In addition, *B. abortus* could be used in a bioterrorist attack.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Brucellosis testing is required when performing "Mature" vaccinations. Testing may also be required if importing animals from "Class A" states or other countries.

VACCINATION INFORMATION

Brucellosis vaccination of all female cattle must be performed between 4-12 months of age by an accredited veterinarian. Juvenile vaccination requires:

- 2 mL dose of vaccine
- Orange "Bangs" tag applied to right ear
- Brucellosis vaccination tattoo applied to right ear ("R" - "V-Shield" - "Last digit of year")

Cattle over 12 months of age residing in Oregon herds may be "mature" vaccinated after 12 months of age. Not all states will accept mature vaccinated cattle. Mature vaccination requires:

- 1/2 dose of vaccine
- Silver "Brite" tag applied to right ear
- Mature vaccination tattoo applied to right ear ("M" - "V-Shield" - "Last digit of year")
- Brucellosis test submitted to accredited laboratory

IDENTIFICATION

The official identification for brucellosis vaccination in cattle is the vaccination tattoo. Additionally, vaccinated cattle must be identified with either an official ear tag (Juveniles - Orange "Bangs" tag; Mature - Silver "Brite" tag) or USDA approved breed registry tattoo.

STATE STATUS

CLASS FREE since January 14, 1993.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Brucella abortus is a mandatory reportable disease in Oregon.

