

FINAL RULE

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 2, 2020

BRUCELLOSIS IN CATTLE

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Uniform Methods and Rules" means the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rules for the eradication of brucellosis.
- B. "VS Form 1-27" means a USDA federal document for the movement of livestock.
- C. "VIC" means Veterinarian in Charge.
- D. "S-Brand" means an S shaped hot brand that identifies cattle as brucellosis exposed, untested or positive and shall be sold for slaughter only.
- E. "Slaughter" means animals butchered and processed into meat products
- F. "Quarantine Feedlot" means a confined area under State brucellosis quarantine that has been approved by the State animal health official and the APHIS AVIC and is maintained for feeding cattle and/or bison of unknown or brucellosis-exposed status, with limited provisions for pasturing or grazing.
- G. "B-Brand" means a "B"-shaped hot brand that identifies cattle as brucellosis positive and shall be sold for slaughter only. B-branding is to be used in the disposition of cattle that may be eligible for federal indemnification or other compensation.

II. VACCINATION OF BRUCELLOSIS INFECTED CATTLE HERDS

- A. Every cattle herd in which *Brucella abortus* field strain infection has been confirmed, as determined by the designated epidemiologist(s); and every herd that would be qualified for depopulation with indemnification, as determined by the Federal VIC and the Arkansas State Veterinarian and the designated epidemiologist(s), fall under the jurisdiction of this rule. Factors to be considered in the qualification of a herd for federally funded depopulation are: the number of reactors disclosed on the first test; the persistence of reactors of subsequent tests; the danger of exposure to surrounding herds; other matters as considered by the regulatory officials, such as public health risk.
- B. All herd owner/manager(s) have three options in the management of their infected herds:
 - 1. Complete herd depopulation. This option is contingent on the availability of state-federal funds for indemnification, and the qualification of the herd(s) to receive that indemnity.
 - 2. Adult (whole herd) vaccination of bovine females in their infected herd(s), with follow-up testing and quarantine releasing requirements as provided in this rule and the Uniform Methods and Rules.
 - 3. S-brand and sell for slaughter or to an approved quarantined feedlot on a VS Form 1-27 all sexually intact animals within 30 days of the formulation of the herd plan. Bull and heifer calves may be neutered (castrated or spayed) in lieu of S-branding and selling them. (Verification of neutering must be made before the quarantine will be released.)

3. Once infection has been ascertained, the herd will be placed under a state quarantine.

4. Other species showing symptoms should be isolated from cattle or destroyed.

B. Infected Herd Quarantine

1. Quarantine may be issued by state and federal animal health regulatory officials and accredited veterinary practitioners. One copy of the quarantine will go to the county sheriff's office.

2. The quarantine shall include all cattle except for steers and spayed heifers (identified with a S-brand in the left jaw, and a spay tag in the left ear) in all herds and premises maintained by the recipient of the quarantine.

3. Exceptions to herd quarantine procedure:

a. Exceptions will be made for those herds for which there is proof (as judged by the section veterinary medical officer [VMO] and State Epidemiologist or State Veterinarian) that the herd is indeed separate and distinct from the infected herd.

b. Individual herds may be released from quarantine if a complete negative herd blood test is accomplished and permission is granted by the section VMO and the State Epidemiologist or State Veterinarian.

4. a. All heifers present while there is active infection in the herd shall remain under quarantine until one of the following criteria are met:

(1) They are spayed, or

(2) They are S-branded, or

(3) They have been tested negative twice:

(a) After they have reached 18 months of age, and

(b) At least three (3) weeks after they have calved.

b. The entire herd shall remain under quarantine as long as those heifers are intermingled with it.

5. The following deviations concerning heifers are applicable:

a. Heifers in Rivanol negative MCI reactor herds in which no infection is disclosed on the farm will not be placed under these restrictions.

b. Heifers in Rivanol positive MCI reactor herds will be placed under quarantine with the rest of the herd; but, if no infection is found on the farm, enforcement of the restrictions on heifers will be up to the discretion of the VMO or the State Epidemiologist or State Veterinarian.

c. Any heifer calves born after the removal of the last reactor from the herd will not be restricted.

6. Movement of animals out of a quarantined infected herd.

b. All intact non-calfhood vaccinated females 6 months of age and older. All heifer calves, between the ages of 4 and 12 months, of known negative dams, shall be tested at the time they are calfhood vaccinated.

2. Testing Procedure:

a. A herd plan (to expedite eradication activities) shall be agreed upon and signed by the herd owner or manager and the section VMO, State Epidemiologist, State Veterinarian or veterinary practitioner.

b. All test eligible cattle shall be gathered and restrained at regular intervals as specified by the herd plan, and with the approval of the State Epidemiologist and section VMO.

c. After a herd is adult vaccinated, there will be an interval of no more than four (4) months from the date of the adult vaccination until the regular testing regimen begins again.

d. Disclosure of reactors:

(1) The card (Buffered Brucella Antigen) test may be run on the farm under a shelter with an ambient temperature of no more than 75 degrees and no less than 70 degrees, provided:

(a) The owner or manager of the herd signs a card test agreement (LR-4)

(b) A duly authorized representative of the Livestock and Poultry Commission runs the test, or if it is done under the supervision of a section VMO.

(2) Final confirmation, or declaration, of test results will be done at the Brucellosis Laboratory in Little Rock.

(3) Retest of reactors is prohibited without the permission of the State Veterinarian or State Epidemiologist.

e. Disposition of reactors:

Except under special determination by the State Epidemiologist or State Veterinarian, all reactors must be B-branded and tagged within fifteen (15) days from the date of laboratory confirmation, and slaughtered within fifteen (15) days after the date of branding and tagging. Heifer calves off of reactor dams shall also be B-branded and tagged. Bull calves off of reactors must be castrated, and heifer calves may be spayed in lieu of B-branding.

f. Disposition of suspects (there are two options):

(1) They may be isolated from the main herd and retested in thirty days from the date of the incriminating test, or as determined by the State Epidemiologist or State

Veterinarian, for further serological, and perhaps microbiological, evaluation, or,

(2) they may be S-branded and sold for slaughter or consigned to a quarantined feedlot.

g. Any cattle herd in which "S" or "B" branded cattle shall appear shall be immediately quarantined and all associated cattle subject to immediate brucellosis testing at owner's expense.

3. Quarantine Releasing Criteria:

A minimum of three (3) consecutive negative complete herd tests, with the last one coming at least six (6) months after the removal of the last reactor from the herd, will be required for the

- C. Exposed cattle that are consigned to slaughter or to a quarantined feed lot under the provisions of this rule shall be branded (with hot brand or freeze brand) on the right jaw with the letter "S". An acid brand or "Blue Ear" marking is not acceptable. The hot brand shall be in substitution of the "Blue Ear" marking.
- D. All eligible exposed cattle received at livestock auction barns must be Brucellosis blood tested and branded as provided above. No "owner option" will be permitted.
- E. Any cattle herd in which "S" branded cattle shall appear shall be immediately quarantined and all associated cattle subject to immediate Brucellosis testing at owner's expense.
- F. All known exposed cattle in interstate movement consigned to slaughter or a quarantined feed lot shall be branded with "S" prior to their entry into Arkansas.

VI. PENALTIES AND AUTHORITY

- A. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this rule may result in administrative penalties as provided by law.
- B. Authority. ACA §§ 2-32-501 et seq.; 2-33-107(a); 2-40-103.