2026 Resolution
130th Annual Meeting
October 15-21, 2026
Madison, WI

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED AS AMENDED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON

SUBJECT MATTER: Request For Timely Publishing of the Brucellosis Rule

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States to continue to solicit input for the proposed brucellosis rule from USAHA and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) prior to publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Specifically, we request an opportunity for Greater Yellowstone Area state animal health officials, NASAHO, and others to provide input in calendar year 2027.

USAHA urges the Secretary to publish by the end of calendar year 2028 a proposed brucellosis rule and the development of supporting documentation that reflects the current body of knowledge around brucellosis management associated with a wildlife reservoir. USAHA also urges the inclusion of language to clarify official identification for brucellosis vaccination in the brucellosis rule.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

While the Brucellosis Eradication Program has successfully eradicated the disease from domestic cattle and bison herds in the United States (US), a wildlife reservoir of bovine brucellosis remains in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). The presence of this wildlife reservoir requires ongoing livestock surveillance and regulatory responses to spillover events within the Designated Surveillance Areas (DSAs) of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Surveillance is a cornerstone of the DSA states' brucellosis programs, helping to prevent the reestablishment of the disease in livestock and providing confidence to trading partners that US domestic cattle and bison herds remain brucellosis-free. Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming continue to demonstrate that the level of surveillance is more than adequate to ensure that livestock originating from DSAs pose a negligible risk to trading partners.

In 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, initiated efforts to establish a new direction for the Bovine Brucellosis Program to modernize the program and address brucellosis management in the context of wildlife reservoirs. These efforts included an initial concept paper, an interim brucellosis rule, a draft brucellosis and tuberculosis rule that was published in 2015 but

never finalized, and, ultimately, a draft rule specific to brucellosis. Despite more than 15 years since this process was initiated, a draft brucellosis rule has not successfully progressed through the rulemaking process.

During this time, a substantial body of data and knowledge regarding the management of brucellosis in areas with a wildlife reservoir has accumulated. Brucellosis spillover events are point-source introductions that are typically detected early. Within-herd and other cattle-to-cattle transmission are not regular features of current brucellosis epidemiology and management. State animal health officials from the GYA states are concerned that even the most recent draft brucellosis rule (2023) may require further review and revision to reflect current scientific knowledge, epidemiology, and disease management practices.