

Wyoming Livestock Board
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July 15, 2016

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Brucellosis test now required for Big Horn County cattle entering South Dakota

South Dakota is now requiring a negative brucellosis test on Big Horn County cattle and domestic bison prior to importation into the state. On July 12, the South Dakota Animal Industry Board approved a Board Order, effective immediately, which states:

“ALL test eligible Cattle and Bison from Big Horn County Wyoming must be tested within 30 days prior to being moved into South Dakota including:

- 1) All Cattle and Bison of any age intended for breeding
- 2) All intact male and female cattle and bison 12 months of age and older”

South Dakota has become the third state to impose this requirement on Big Horn County cattle and bison. North Dakota and Montana also require that Big Horn County cattle and bison are brucellosis tested prior to entry.

The new board order is due to South Dakota state animal health officials’ concerns regarding potential exposure of cattle and domestic bison to brucellosis seropositive elk in Wyoming’s Big Horn County - an area where Wyoming has documented brucellosis in elk since 2012. Should an animal become infected in this area of Wyoming, it might move untested across state boundaries and could complicate epidemiological investigations that attempt to identify the true source of exposure.

Big Horn County is designated by the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) as a “Brucellosis Area of Concern” as a result of brucellosis seropositive elk being found on the western side of the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) Hunt Areas 39, 40, and 41 over the past four years.

WLSB pays veterinarians to do brucellosis testing on cattle and domestic bison moving or changing ownership within the Wyoming DSA and Brucellosis Area of Concern.

Producers are advised to check with their veterinarians to assure that they are in compliance with state-of-destination import requirements prior to exporting livestock to another state.

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