



Current Report

PUBLISHED BY OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES

BRUCELLOSIS: BUYERS AND SELLERS GUIDE

OSU COLLECTION

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Individual Questions

Q. What are the symptoms of Bangs disease?

A. Aborted or weak calves and retained afterbirths.

Q. Do all affected animals show these symptoms?

A. No. It is not unusual for infected animals to calve normally; however, the placenta and uterine discharges are a source of infection to other animals.

Q. How long will the organism live outside cattle?

A. The Brucella organism is killed in 4-6 hours in direct sunlight; it will live several days longer in cool, damp, shaded areas.

Q. Can my cattle become infected from drinking from a contaminated pond or stream?

A. It would be rare as the organism does not live long outside the animal.

Q. Will cows react to the test shortly before or after calving and not be infected?

A. No. With the test currently being used, this is not a problem.

Q. Will a bull become infected, and if so, will he spread the infection to other cattle?

A. Yes. He can become infected but usually plays a very small part in the spread of the disease.

Q. Is it possible for a vaccinated animal to become infected?

A. Yes. The vaccination produces immunity in about 70 percent of the heifer calves vaccinated.

Q. Can cattle become infected by vaccination?

A. Yes, but the average is four animals in 100,000 and those affected

cannot spread the infection. Vaccination is desired.

Q. Can breeding stock from a brucellosis-free certified herd be sold without a blood test?

A. Yes. Certified free cattle can be sent anywhere in the United States without blood test.

If there are further questions about any aspect of brucellosis that have not been answered, please contact your local county director or veterinarian.

How to Avoid Brucellosis Problems

Prevention is more important in Bangs than most other disease affecting cattle because there is no practical treatment or cure. Preventing brucellosis is a matter of being careful about additions to your herd. All herd additions should have a negative test at purchase, be isolated, and retested negative 60 days later before adding to the herd. An infected cow introduced into a noninfected herd could rapidly spread the disease in the once "clean" herd. This is exactly where most infections originate; additions are responsible for at least 90 percent of the new herds found infected.

Brucellosis calfhooed vaccination is a very useful tool in the controlling of the spread of brucellosis. Vaccinated animals are more resistant to infection; however, it must be remembered it is not 100 percent effective. If vaccine is to be used effectively, a minimum of 80 percent of the herd should be vaccinated. In order to avoid vaccination problems, animals must be vaccinated between the ages of three to eight months.

* Dr. J. H. Brashear, State Veterinarian; Dr. Brian Espe and Dr. B. W. Behring, Federal Veterinarians provided technical information.

GUIDE TO BRUCELLOSIS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF BREEDING CATTLE

BUYERS GUIDE

<u>Movement from -</u>	<u>To -</u>	<u>Requirements*</u> ⁽¹⁾
Farm or ranch in Oklahoma	Oklahoma farm or ranch	Brucellosis test within 30 days before movement.
Sale barn in Oklahoma	Oklahoma farm or ranch	Brucellosis test plus a release form (VB-23) from the sale barn.
Farm or ranch in another state	Oklahoma farm or ranch	Brucellosis test within 30 days before movement and an official health certificate from a veterinarian.
Sale barn in another state	Oklahoma farm or ranch	Brucellosis test within 30 days before movement and an official health certificate from a veterinarian.

SELLERS GUIDE

<u>Movement from -</u>	<u>To -</u>	<u>Requirements</u>
Oklahoma farm or ranch	Another Oklahoma farm or ranch	Brucellosis test within 30 days before movement.
Oklahoma farm or ranch	Sale barn in Oklahoma	No brucellosis testing before movement to sale barn. Testing will be done before animals are released from sale.
Oklahoma farm or ranch	Farm or ranch in another state	Must have health certificate from a veterinarian. Each state's requirements may vary as to requirements for brucellosis test so contact your veterinarian.
Oklahoma farm or ranch	Sale barn in another state	* ⁽²⁾ Owner's statement which must include destination, purpose of movement, number of animals, origin of animals and name and address of owner or shipper.

*⁽¹⁾ These are the minimum requirements. All cattle added to your herd should be isolated, retested in 60 days before mixing with your established herd.

*⁽²⁾ These are what is necessary to be in compliance with federal regulations. Some states may have more requirements so it is advisable to check with the state of destination prior to movement.