

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: By Chairman Bob Ream, on March 16th 1989, at 3:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All members present with the exception of:

Members Excused: Rep. Ben Cohen, Rep. Fritz Daily, Rep. Ralph Eudaily, Rep. Marian Hanson

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Doug Sternberg, Legislative Council and Maureen Cleary, Committee Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: Chairman Ream introduced Mr. K. L. Cool, new Director of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, to the Committee. Mr. Cool addressed the Committee with a brief overview of his background.

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 32

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. REAM: Opened to the Committee, noting that Mr. Ron Marcoux assisted in drafting the resolution.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Mr. Ron Marcoux/ Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena

Ms. Janet Ellis/ MT. Audubon Legislative Fund, Helena

Mr. Jerry Jack/ MT. Stockgrowers Association, Inc., Helena

Ms. Lorna Frank/ MT. Farm Bureau, Helena

Proponent Testimony:

Mr. Marcoux: (See Exhibit #1)

Ms. Ellis: (See Exhibit #2)

Mr. Jack: (See Exhibit #3, #4, #5)

Ms. Frank: Although in concept we agree with this bill. We feel that the purchase of additional land around the park is a

questionable answer to the existing problem. This may not control the elk or bison in the park. We believe that Montana must keep it's brucellosis free status. By purchasing more land there is always a possibility the herds could migrate out and co-mingle with livestock. We feel that other means of control could be viewed to solve this problem.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent:

none

Opponent Testimony:

none

Questions From Committee Members:

REP. REAM: I would ask Mr. Marcoux to respond to the idea of land acquisition. MR. MARCOUX: I have to agree that the real answer to the problem is to balance the population. Discussion along those lines in the past have not been very fruitful. The starving animals, is a very sensitive issue and our hope in purchasing winter range would be to reduce that impact. By allowing elk to move down we would have the opportunity to balance those numbers of animals in relation to the forage. We could deal with the issue of large concentrations of elk in areas that cause this type of problem. And concentrate our efforts on the late migrants. Working on reducing those numbers. This would eliminate some of that starvation impact. We view the winter range purchase as providing the tool to actually enhance the quality of the herds. Our intent in purchasing the winter range is not to provide a bison range. REP. REAM: A large part of the problem in administering the late season hunt is the land ownership pattern in the area. I view creating some additional opportunities for harvest with that late season as one advantage of having winter range. I see that in the resolution as turning the problem back to the Federal government. They are the one's that have laid the problem on the state of Montana. If they could put some resources into it, and not just state resources, we could deal with this situation. MR. MARCOUX: In relation to feeding, the more we focus on that as a solution, the more we get away from the long-range solutions that really needs to be dealt with.

REP. ELLISON: What I envision for that area is establishing resident elk herds. This would be available to the hunters in the early season, as well as in the later season. Giving the sportsmen a better opportunity for harvest. MR. MARCOUX: I think Rep. Ellison makes a good point, if we did not have the park elk moving into the area we would be managing the rest of the herd. That would be realistic in the short and long term. But as long as we have migratory

herds, our options for that native herd are limited.

REP. DEBRUYCKER: All of our replacement cattle are vaccinated, in my area. Where the cattle that were infected with brucellosis, that had been discovered in the state recently, were they vaccinated? MR. JACK: It was my understanding that those cattle were vaccinated. Some are willing to do some extensive testing to gather additional data, due to that outbreak.

REP. KELLER: Are there statistics that show, even with vaccination, there is still always the possibility of infection? MR. JACK: That is correct, there is about a 60% efficacy rate with vaccination.

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Ream: closed to the Committee.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 32

Motion: Rep. Raney motioned a "do pass"

Discussion:

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: Rep. Raney motioned a "do pass" on several amendments. (See Standing Committee Report for detail)

Recommendation and Vote: THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A "DO PASS AS AMENDED" FOR THIS BILL.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 5:00 p.m.



REP. BOB REAM, Chairman

BR/mc

6105.min

DAILY ROLL CALL

FISH AND GAME

COMMITTEE

51st Session - Legislative Council

Date 3/16/89

| NAME | PRESENT | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Bob Ream, Chairman | ✓ | | |
| Jim Elliott, Vice-Chair | ✓ | | |
| Robert Blotkamp | ✓ | | |
| Ben Cohen | | | ✓ |
| Fritz Daily | | | ✓ |
| Gene DeMars | ✓ | | |
| Bob Pavlovich Bob Gervais | ✓ | | |
| Bob Raney | ✓ | | |
| Bill Strizich | ✓ | | |
| Roger DeBruycker | ✓ | | |
| Orval Ellison | ✓ | | |
| Ralph Eudaily | | | ✓ |
| Marian Hanson | | | ✓ |
| Betty Lou Kasten | ✓ | | |
| Vernon Keller | ✓ | | |
| John Phillips | ✓ | | |
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ROLL CALL VOTE

FISH AND GAME

COMMITTEE

DATE 3/16

BILL NO. HR 32

NUMBER _____

| NAME | AYE | NAY |
|----------------|----------------|-----|
| Rep. Biotkamp | Ø ✓ | |
| Rep. Cohen | Ø | |
| Rep. Daily | Ø | |
| Rep. DeMars | ✓ | |
| Rep. DeBrucker | ✓ | |
| Rep. Ellison | ✓ | |
| Rep. Eudaily | Ø | |
| Rep. Elliott | ✓ | |
| Rep. Gervais | ✓ | |
| Rep. Hanson | Ø | |
| Rep. Kasten | ✓ | |
| Rep. Keller | ✓ | |
| Rep. Phillips | Ø | |
| Rep. Raney | ✓ | |
| Rep. Ream | ✓ | |
| Rep. Strizich | Ø ✓ | |
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TALLY

(11)

maureen Cleary

Secretary

Bob Ream

Chairman

MOTION: rep. raney "do pass"

rep. raney "amend"

rep. ellison strike "potentially"

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 16, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Fish and Game report that House Joint Resolution 32 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended .

Signed: Bob Ream

Bob Ream, Chairman

And, that such amendments read:

1. Title, line 7.

Following: "SERVICE"

Insert: ", U.S. FOREST SERVICE, AND MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH,
WILDLIFE, AND PARKS"

2. Page 2, line 3.

Following: "bison"

Insert: "and elk"

3. Page 2, line 19.

Following: "Service"

Insert: ", U.S. Forest Service, and Montana Department of Fish,
Wildlife, and Parks"

4. Page 3, line 15.

Following: "Service;"

Insert: "the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service;"

HJR 32
March 16, 1989

EXHIBIT #1
DATE 3/16/89
HB HJR 32

Testimony presented by Ron Marcoux, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks supports House Joint Resolution 32. A primary reason for the problems we are currently facing in the Yellowstone Ecosystem with elk and bison, is the "natural regulation" policy of the National Park Service which does not provide for management or population control within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. This situation was intensified by high populations of elk and bison due to a succession of mild winters and the fire and drought conditions which occurred last year.

This resolution promotes long-term solutions which we support, such as providing more historic winter range for elk in the Yellowstone Valley, and urging the Park to provide for regulation of elk and bison numbers within park boundaries.

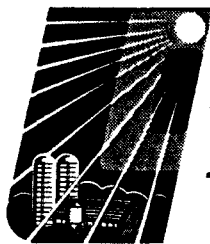
We still do not believe that artificial feeding will resolve the current or future problems and will likely aggravate an already difficult situation.

Proposed Amendments to HJR 32
Montana Audubon Legislative Fund

EXHIBIT #2
DATE 3/16/84
HB HJR 32

1. Page 1, line 7.
Following: "SERVICE"
Insert: ", National Forest Service, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife,
and Parks"
2. Page 2, line 3.
Following: "bison"
Insert: "potentially"
3. Page 2, line 19.
Following: "Service"
Insert: ", National Forest Service, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife,
and Parks"
4. Page 3, line 15.
Following: "Service;"
Insert: "the Chief of the National Forest Service;"

NEWS FROM



LIVESTOCK CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

64M CORPS AVE., SUITE 204
MADISON, WI 53726
PHONE 608-221-4848

MAR 15 1989

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Mr. Gary Langley
Montana Stockgrower
Box 1679
Helena, MT

59601

March, 1989

* LCI ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 11-13, 1989

The LCI Annual Meeting will be held April 11-13, 1989, at the Marriott in Des Moines, Iowa. If you have not received registration information, contact LCI. Phone: (608) 221-4848

* AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is a nonregulatory organization created in 1983 by USDA-APHIS, to collect, analyze and disseminate information on the epidemiology and economics of animal health and productivity, according to Dr. Anita Bleem, information dissemination group leader of NAHMS.

"Between 1983 and 1987, NAHMS pilot projects monitored the health of beef and dairy cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry in California, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee", stated Bleem.

The NAHMS is moving from a series of individual state programs to a national project. The first livestock class to be monitored will be swine. All aspects of swine production will be examined; however, intensive prospective data will be collected from farrowing sows and preweaning pigs. Approximately 1,200 swine herds in fifteen states will participate in the national survey. Dairy cattle will be the next species examined, with national implementation scheduled for 1991, according to Bleem.

"By utilizing the practical advancements made possible by NAHMS, American agriculture can assure consumers of a safe, high quality product," said Bleem.

For more information write to: National Animal Health Monitoring System, USDA-APHIS-VS, 555 S. Howes St., Suite 300, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

* SOUTH AMERICAN UPDATE ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

According to the 1988 winter edition of the "Foreign Animal Disease Report," published by USDA-APHIS-VS, Brazil reported 96 herds infected with foot-and-mouth disease; Argentina reported 82 infected herds; Bolivia and Ecuador reported 22 infected herds each; and Columbia reported 177 infected herds.

According to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Chile is considered free of foot-and-mouth disease. However, the United States does not recognize Chile as free of the disease. The last slaughtering of diseased animals there was on August 20, 1987. On September 30, 1987 Chilean animals that had reacted to the VIA (virus infection-associated antigen) test for FMD were also slaughtered.

* FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE UPDATE ON HOG CHOLERA

According to the 1988 winter edition of the "Foreign Animal Disease Report", published by USDA-APHIS-VS, hog cholera was reported by the following countries during the first six months of 1988: Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, and Madagascar.

*** 1988 LCI INTERNATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE**

The Proceedings of the 1988 LCI International Identification Symposium, held December 7-8, 1988 in St. Louis, Missouri, are now available. Speeches, as well as discussions from the meeting are included in the publication. To order, send a check in the amount of US \$20 per copy to: Livestock Conservation Institute, 6414 Capps Ave., Suite 204, Madison, WI 53716.

*** "GREAT AMERICAN MEATOUT" SCHEDULED**

The "Great American Meatout" sponsored by the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM), Bethesda, Maryland, is scheduled to begin March 20, 1989.

This event is a month long series of over two-hundred scheduled events which include public relations stunts and interviews with urban media to discourage meat consumption. Several celebrities who will speak out for the vegetarian lifestyle, will appear at some of the meatout activities, according to Alex Hershaft, meatout coordinator.

FARM also sponsors a meatless dinner for members of Congress every year. Last year, one-hundred twenty congressmen or their representatives attended. (Information obtained from the February 9, 1989 edition of Agri-View.)

*** BRUCELLOSIS FOUND ON HOLLAND'S LARGEST DAIRY FARM**

All of the animals on the largest dairy farm in the Netherlands (800 dairy cows and 100 bulls for beef production) have been slaughtered following an outbreak of brucellosis. The animals became infected in the summer of 1987 when twenty Charolais calves were imported from France, eight of which, though they tested negative for the disease five months after importation, aborted their calves. Brucellosis was later identified with a new blood test being used by the regional animal health service. #3

(Animal Pharm, January 20, 1989)

EXHIBIT

DATE

3/16/89

HB

HJR 32

*** QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA DECLARED BRUCELLOSIS FREE**

Queensland, Australia was declared brucellosis free on January 1, 1989, having met the conditions of the National Standards and Rules for Brucellosis Freedom. Queensland's brucellosis eradication program began in 1970, using vaccination to control the disease. By 1983 vaccination ceased and the state was declared provisionally free of the disease in 1984. (Provisionally free means that the annual area prevalence is less than 0.1 percent after assessment of all herds.) A monitoring program will continue for five years.

(Animal Pharm, January 20, 1989)

*** USDA SETTLES SIX ANIMAL AND HEALTH COMPLIANCE CASES**

The United States Department of Agriculture settled six cases during December to enforce federal animal and plant health laws and regulations with fines totalling \$4,500. In addition, port inspectors collected \$23,175 in civil penalties from 813 international travelers caught smuggling potentially hazardous agricultural products into the country. Two veterinarians had their accreditation suspended due to violations of brucellosis regulations, according to the USDA Office of Information.

*** MAILINGS TO COMMITTEES (SEND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE FOR EACH MAILING REQUESTED)**

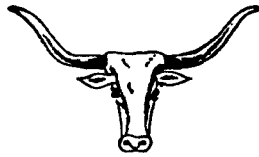
- ___ 88-10-7: Interstate Movement of Breeding Cattle (National Cattlemen)
- ___ 89-1-1: Pseudorabies Progress Report, December issue (LCI publication)
- ___ 89-1-3: Sulfamethazine Residues in Milk (College of Vet. Med., U of FL)
- ___ 89-1-5: Certified Drug Free (National Hog Farmer)
- ___ 89-1-7: Rarity of Tylosin Resistance in Human Pathogenic Bacteria (AASP)
- ___ 89-1-9: Sulfamethazine Residues in Hogs Reduced (News Release from AVMA)
- ___ 89-1-11: The Joy and Tragedy of Pigs (The Animals Agenda)
- ___ 89-1-12: We Need Answers on Animal Welfare (Pork '89)
- ___ 89-2-2: Pseudorabies Progress Report, January issue (LCI publication)
- ___ LCI videotape, "Cattle Handling and Transportation" (Cost: US \$29.95)

MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1679 — 420 NO. CALIFORNIA ST. — PHONE (406) 442-3420 — HELENA, MONTANA 59624

OFFICERS:

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| EDWARD J. LORD | PHILIPSBURG | SECOND VICE PRESIDENT |
| JEROME W. JACK | HELENA | EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT |
| KIM ENKERUD | HELENA | NATURAL RESOURCES COORDINATOR |



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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| CLARENCE BLUNT | REGINA | WM. T. HARRER | FORT BENTON |
| BILL CHRISTENSEN | HOT SPRINGS | KNUTE HEREIM | MARTINDALE |
| LYNN CORNWELL | GLASGOW | EARL LINDGREN | JOLIET |
| M.E. EDDLEMAN | WORDEN | ROLAND MOSHER | AUGUSTA |
| NANCY ESPY | BOYES | GREG RICE | HARRISON |

March 14, 1989

EXHIBIT #4

DATE 3/16/89

HB. HR 32

TO: Chairman and Members of the House Fish and Game Committee

FROM: Jerry Jack, Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: House Joint Resolution 32

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. I am Jerry Jack, Executive Vice President of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

We rise in support of the concept of this resolution, providing the Committee rethink the statements made on lines 24 and 25 of page 2 of the bill. As was stated in earlier portions of this resolution, it is recognized that livestock in Montana can be threatened by brucellosis. In fact, I would like to draw your attention to what has recently happened in Wyoming. The Parker Land and Livestock Ranch Company, near Dubois, Wyoming, recently had an outbreak of brucellosis in their cattle herd which numbers approximately 600 animals. In talking with representatives of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, the following facts have been made known:

- 1) There is hard evidence at this time that no adjacent cow herds have any reactor cows within their herds;
- 2) The Parker Ranch is a closed herd since they have not bought or traded any animals into it within recent times.
- 3) The Ranch Corporation has observed² their livestock mix with both bison and elk on their summer range.
- 4) The Ranch Corporation has observed bison and elk mixing with their livestock on their winter feed grounds.
- 5) Because of the severity of last year's drought coupled with unprecedented fires, there has been an abnormal migration of elk and bison into areas where livestock are commonly found.

Because of these factors, it is highly likely that the cattle herd has been contaminated through either elk or bison.

With regard to Montana, our industry has spent (between 1952 and 1989) approximately \$30 million to eradicate brucellosis in Montana. This monumental effort could well be undone if we purchase additional winter

range beyond what is now recognized as the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park since it is also recognized that at least some remnant portion of the elk may contain brucellosis. We also question whether this purchase of additional winter range will actually correct a long term problem since there is no current method of controlling populations of either elk or bison. Certainly, the Stephens administration must be commended for its efforts to control the bison as they have left the Park this year. However, extensive acquisitions of lands for winter game ranges have already been made to accommodate elk wintering needs. In 1951, the Porcupine Wildlife Management Area was purchased. The Dailey Lake Game Range was purchased within the last five years. Since that time, elk populations have increased to the point where these game ranges can no longer accommodate wildlife populations. The question is "Will this not again occur in the future as carrying capacities of newly purchased winter ranges are exceeded because of a lack of control over animals that return to the Park in the spring?"

As some of the members of the Committee are undoubtedly aware, my Association has been very concerned about the continued purchase of private properties through the enactment of House Bill 526 in 1987. We recognize the right of a willing seller to sell private lands to entities who can pay for the purchase, including Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Our concern with this resolution is primarily oriented to the fact that we believe purchasing additional habitat north of Yellowstone Park provides a concentration area for elk and bison that could lead to similar situations regarding brucellosis that have recently occurred in Wyoming.

In closing, I am also concerned about lines 10 through 12 on page 3 where consideration is to be given to feeding elk if they are determined to be in eminent danger. Even National Park Service Director William Mott recognizes that a long term solution of over-population is not correctly solved by feeding the animals. I quote from the Forest Service Daily News Digest of February 27 in which Mr. Mott said, "Our scientists who have studied this for over 25 years feel, in their opinion, we should not attempt a feeding," adding that feeding would only induce the animals to congregate and help spread disease.

I also want to hand out to the Committee periodicals concerning brucellosis which I have highlighted in yellow. As you can see by these periodicals, brucellosis eradication is of concern not only in the United States but in other areas of the world as well. My Association clearly understands the concern of the general public concerning the starvation of large numbers of game species in the State of Montana. The real key hinges on addressing and regulating elk and bison populations within Yellowstone National Park. Had this been done in the past, there might not have been a necessity to purchase additional habitat outside the Park boundaries.

I hope you will take these comments into consideration when you debate this resolution. Thank you.

JWJ:ejr
Attach.

MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1679 — 420 NO. CALIFORNIA ST. — PHONE (406) 442-3420 — HELENA, MONTANA 59624

OFFICERS:

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| CLARENCE BLUNT | REGINA | WM. T. HARRER | FORT BENTON |
| BILL CHRISTENSEN | HOT SPRINGS | KNUTE HEREIM | MARTINSDALE |
| LYNN CORNWELL | GLASGOW | EARL LINDGREN | JOULET |
| M.E. EDDLEMAN | WORDEN | ROLAND MOSHER | AUGUSTA |
| NANCY ESPY | BOYES | GREG RICE | HARRISON |

March 7, 1989

The Honorable Stan Stephens
Governor, State of Montana
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

EXHIBIT #4
DATE 3/16/89
HB #232

Dear Governor Stephens:

The Montana Stockgrowers Association would like to offer the following comments concerning elk and bison management as they affect private lands near Yellowstone Park.

We have always supported the hunting of bison as they leave Park boundaries and would urge that this type of control continue. Between 1952 and 1989 approximately \$30 million was spent by the livestock industry to eradicate brucellosis in Montana. Our Association would hate to see this monumental effort be undone by not controlling bison that are known carriers of this dreaded disease. Moreover, brucellosis can cause undulant fever in human beings as well.

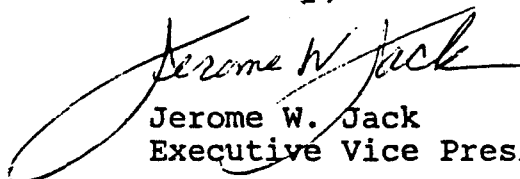
We wholeheartedly support the proposal of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission to not start artificially feeding the game animals. Such interference is unnecessary at this late date and will lead to artificially high populations in the future if the practice is started.

We remain concerned about the purchase of additional private lands to support elk and possibly bison. We question whether this will not lead to increased populations since, as additional winter range is acquired, the animals will soon maximize their carrying capacities on these winter ranges. Eventually, a severe winter will once again return to Montana, elk and bison will die since they are not harvested to any great degree so once again the process will require the need for additional land purchases for game. In fact, there have already been extensive acquisitions of lands for winter game ranges to accommodate elk leaving the Park. The Porcupine Wildlife Management Area was acquired in 1951 as well as the Dailey Lake Game Range. These purchases were to provide winter habitat. Since that time, elk populations have increased to the point that they can no longer accommodate the numbers which now graze there.

In closing, our Association urges you to continue to control bison to prevent the spread of brucellosis. My industry has a great deal at stake since Montana is well recognized as one of the leading premier seed stock areas for purebred animals in the nation. Moreover, we cannot ignore the impacts to commercial breeders nor humans, should they come in contact with an animal that might carry brucellosis. Please stand firm in your commitment to control these game animals as they migrate from the Park.

Thank you for your support and assistance in this controversial matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerome W. Jack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jerome W. Jack
Executive Vice President

JWJ:ejr

CC: Secretary of Interior Hodel
Senator Max Baucus
Senator Conrad Burns
Representative Ron Marlenee
Representative Pat Williams
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission
Les Graham, Executive Director, Montana Department of
Livestock

BRUCELLOSIS

Progress Report

EXHIBIT #5
DATE 3/16/89
HB H2E32-

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A Quarterly Publication of the
Brucellosis Committee of

MAR 15 1989



**LIVESTOCK
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INSTITUTE**

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MADISON, WI 53716
PHONE 608-221-4848

AGRICULTURE
579
Helena, MT

Volume 8, No. 1

February, 1989

This issue will feature success stories in brucellosis eradication from Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, and Texas.

* ARKANSAS HERD ILLUSTRATES THE ROLE OF NATURAL IMMUNITY

Arkansas had a cow-calf operator that had a market reactor March 16, 1988. On his initial herd test (April 5, 1988), nine reactors were found out of the total of twenty tested. When the dentition of the cattle was checked it was found that all of the negative cattle showed either a few tooth stubs or no teeth at all. None of the cows had been calfhood vaccinated.

Following the removal of the nine reactors, subsequent herd tests (May 4, September 2, and November 28, 1988), no further infection was disclosed.

The owner had mentioned that there had been reproductive problems in the herd for the past several years. He had purchased no herd additions in the past five years. The market reactors had been the only test eligible animals to leave the herd during that time period. The infection was probably in the herd for a long period of time. In the case of this herd, age played a role in conferring natural immunity against brucellosis.

(Information provided by Dr. Taylor Woods, Arkansas state veterinarian.)

* FLORIDA RANCHER HAS SUCCESS WITH WHOLE HERD VACCINATION

One particular Florida rancher has been certified brucellosis free after utilizing whole-herd adult vaccination.

Three herd groups were developed to restrict constant interchange of cattle between herds:

Hillsborough herd was quarantined in June, 1980 because it was adjacent to an infected herd. Testing of two separate groups started October, 1980, with thirteen reactors in 407 head tested. Continuous annual testing disclosed as many as thirty-seven reactors each year. In September, 1985, adult vaccination of the entire herd was done. The first negative herd test was in May, 1986. The quarantine was lifted in October, 1986 and the herd was certified free in August, 1987.

Pasco herd was quarantined in September, 1985, when sixteen reactors were found in a herd test of 275 head. Adult vaccination was accomplished in March, 1986. The first negative test was in April, 1987. The quarantine was lifted in November, 1987, and the herd was certified brucellosis free in April, 1988.

Hernando bull herd was quarantined in October, 1985, because one reactor was found on a September, 1985 test of seventy head.

The quarantine was lifted in September, 1986 and the herd was certified brucellosis free in July, 1988. The breeding herd has been certified since June, 1982.

(Information provided by Robert T. Sylvester, D.V.M., assistant chief, Bureau of Brucellosis & Tuberculosis, Florida Department of Agriculture)

*** KENTUCKY HERD UNDERGOES 53 MONTHS OF TESTING**

On March 14, 1984, first point testing at Bluegrass Stockyard in Lexington, Kentucky, diagnosed brucellosis in a consignment of five cows from a farm in nearby Clark County. Traceback to the farm of origin revealed 109 reactors on the first test of herds containing 300 head located on two different premises that were ten miles apart and belonged to the same owner.

The owner was offered the option of receiving indemnity for depopulating the exposed remnant of the herd but elected to attempt to test out the herd. After a total of 196 reactors were removed in the first ten months of testing, the two herd units were combined onto a single farm.

Between February, 1985 and October, 1987, the herd was tested sixteen times yielding reactors on each test to total sixty-five reactors which were removed. The last reactor was removed in October, 1987. The first negative herd test occurred in December, 1987 and was followed by negative tests in February and August, 1988. The owner also culled heavily during the period after the first negative test, the culls being sent to slaughter.

A major reason for the lengthy test-out period was the inability to identify and remove the heifer calves of reactor cows. Many of the reactor animals found during the last half of 1987 were heifers that had not yet calved, had negative titers after vaccination, and were showing positive titers at the time of test.

(Information provided by S.N. Finch, DVM, brucellosis epidemiologist, Frankfort, Kentucky.)

*** TEXAS HERD OWNER CLEANS UP**

Robert and Peggy Bahr, herd owners from Sante Fe, Texas, have cleaned up their herds through adult vaccination, the use of the ELISA test, and isolation of suspect and reactor cattle. Their herd history is as follows:

Herd #2 is the main unit, initially numbering 173 cattle. The first test was March 25, 1987. Seventy-seven reactors and three suspects were found and sold. An additional twenty-one suspects were found in the second test, and were isolated, forming a new herd called Herd #1, which was to be an isolation herd exclusively for suspect cattle. Herd #2 was tested a total of six times. The last test on November 17, 1988 was the test for certification. The quarantine was lifted January 15, 1988.

Herd #3 was formed by the purchase of 153 cattle. The first test was August 18, 1987 which disclosed eight suspects. The suspects were isolated from Herd #3 into Herd #1. Herd #3 was tested a total of three times. No more suspects were found. The last test was the certification test on November 17, 1988. Herd #3 was grouped with Herd #2 for this test. The quarantine was lifted on May 3, 1988.

Herd #4 was made up of fifty-one registered herefords. The first test was December 8, 1987. Two reactors and one suspect were found, with the suspect grouped into Herd #1. Herd #4 was tested a total of four times with no additional suspects found. The final test, the test for certification, was November 3, 1988. The quarantine was lifted May 3, 1988.

The Bahrs prevent reinfection through the following methods:

- They try to buy only certified brucellosis free cattle.
- They vaccinate all calves.
- They adult vaccinate purchased additions that have not been calfhood vaccinated.
- They keep all new purchased additions in isolation until they are tested.

(Information provided by Peggy Bahr, herd owner, Sante Fe, Texas)

VISITORS' REGISTER

Fish and Game. COMMITTEE

BILL NO. House Joint Resolution 32 DATE March 16

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