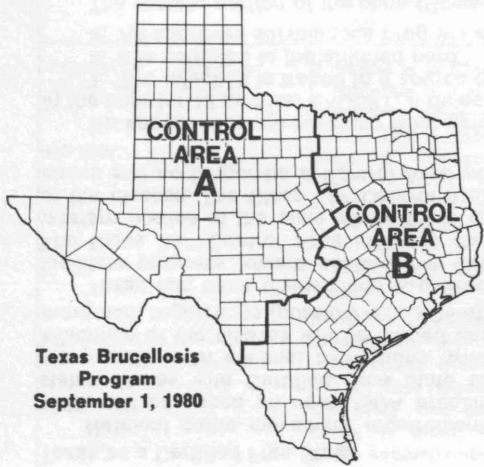


10-2-80 BDM

Information for Extension Educational Programs on the Texas Bovine Brucellosis Regulations

Class B Control Area



Texas Brucellosis
Program
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The information in this publication is for use in Extension educational programs and must not be used as a legal substitute for regulations or statutes.

THE PURPOSE of these regulations is to bring about the effective control leading to the eradication of brucellosis (Bangs disease) from cattle herds in the state of Texas to establish and maintain Texas as a Certified Free State.

National cattle movement requirements, beginning January 1, 1982, will be based on new USDA brucellosis classification of all states. States with Certified Free State status will be allowed to move cattle with minimal restrictions, whereas states with a high incidence of the disease will be placed under more stringent cattle movement regulations (possibly quarantine).

Texas has been divided into two Brucellosis Control Areas to facilitate progress toward achieving a Certified Free State status. The Class "A" Control Area includes contiguous counties in the western portion of the state where there is relatively low incidence of the disease. The Class "A" Control Area will achieve Class "A" status and no longer be a Control Area when the following criteria are met:

No known infection resulting from field strain *Brucella Abortus* in the area for 12 months, EXCEPT, if detected:

1. The infection is traced to a source outside the area
2. It is confined to the afflicted herd
3. An approved surveillance program is in progress

The eastern portion of the state (Class "B" Control Area) where there is a higher incidence of brucellosis must do the following to achieve Class "B" status:

1. An annual 12-month prevalence rate of herd infection for the entire area shall not exceed 1 percent
2. No county in the area shall have an annual prevalence rate exceeding 2 percent of the herds.
3. The area must maintain an annual prevalence rate not

to exceed five reactors per 1,000 cattle not in affected herds tested.

4. The area has an approved surveillance program in progress

The purpose of the dual control area program is to allow a group of contiguous counties in the Class "A" Control Area to become Class "A" (Brucellosis Free) when national requirements change January 1, 1982. The addition of counties or groups of counties to this area as they become free of brucellosis will cause the dividing line to move eastward as the infection rate is reduced in the Class "B" Control Area.

The test and permit requirements for cattle movement in each of the control areas are explained in the following table. The purpose of the requirements is to aid the Class "A" or "B" Control Areas to achieve Class "A" or "B" status by January 1, 1982. The regulations are based upon sound epidemiological principles. Increased surveillance, coupled with more accurate diagnostic techniques and more effective traceback of reactors, will help control the incidence of brucellosis with the ultimate goal being eradication of the disease.

What are test eligible cattle?

All cattle over 18 months of age are test eligible EXCEPT:

1. Steers and spayed heifers
2. Officially vaccinated beef heifers that are under 24 months of age and dairy heifers under 20 months of age unless:
 - a. They are in the last 3 months of pregnancy
 - b. They have already calved
3. Cattle from Certified Free Herds
4. Cattle from a Certified Free State

NOTE: All cattle 18 months of age that do not apply to the four exceptions above are considered TEST ELIGIBLE.

Requirements for Movement of Test Eligible Cattle Originating in the Class "B" Control Area

Current Cattle Location	Destination	Test and/or Permit Requirements
Farm or ranch in Class "B"	Another farm or ranch	<p>If farm or ranch is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit required IF no change of ownership 2. Negative test within 30 days before movement IF change of ownership <p>If farm or ranch is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before entry 2. "E" permit 3. Held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Farm or ranch in Class "B"	Market	<p>If market is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tested within 30 days before movement, OR 2. Tested at market before sale, OR 3. "S" branded at market before sale <p>NOTE: Test negative cattle from markets in Class "B" that go to farms and ranches in Class "A" must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be accompanied by an "E" permit b. Be accompanied by a Hold Order c. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later <p>If market is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tested within 30 days before entry, OR 2. Tested at market before sale, OR 3. "S" branded at market before sale <p>NOTE: Test negative cattle from markets in Class "B" that go to farms and ranches in Class "A" must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be accompanied by a Hold Order b. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Farm or ranch in Class "B"	Slaughter plant	<p>If slaughter plant is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit required EXCEPT "S" or "B" branded cattle must be accompanied by an "S" or "B" permit
Farm or ranch in Class "B"	Feedlot	<p>If feedlot is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before movement <p>If feedlot is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before entry 2. "E" permit 3. Held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Farm or ranch in Class "B"	Quarantined feedlot or quarantined pasture	<p>If feedlot or pasture is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit required (non-exposed cattle must be "S" branded upon arrival) 2. "S" branded cattle shipped from a farm or ranch must be accompanied by an "S" permit
Market in Class "B"	Farm or ranch	<p>If farm or ranch is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test at market allows movement back to farm or ranch within 30 days <p>If farm or ranch is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test at market allows entry to farm or ranch within 30 days 2. "E" permit 3. Held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Market in Class "B"	Another market	<p>If market is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test at first market allows movement to other markets within 30 days <p>NOTE: Test negative cattle from markets in Class "B" that go to farms and ranches in Class "A" must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be accompanied by an "E" permit b. Be accompanied by a Hold Order c. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later <p>If market is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test at first market allows entry into other markets within 30 days <p>NOTE: Test negative cattle from markets in Class "B" that go to farms and ranches in Class "A" must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be accompanied by a Hold Order b. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later

Market in Class "B"	Slaughter plant	<p>If slaughter plant is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit required, EXCEPT "S" or "B" branded cattle must be accompanied by an "S" or "B" permit
Market in Class "B"	Feedlot	<p>If feedlot is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test at market allows movement to feedlot within 30 days <p>If feedlot is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test at market allows entry into feedlot within 30 days 2. "E" permit 3. Held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Market in Class "B"	Quarantined feedlot or quarantined pasture	<p>If feedlot or pasture is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit required (non-exposed cattle must be "S" branded upon arrival) 2. "S" branded cattle must be accompanied by an "S" permit
Feedlot in Class "B"	Farm or ranch	<p>If farm or ranch is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before movement <p>If farm or ranch is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before entry 2. "E" permit 3. Held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Feedlot in Class "B"	Market	<p>If market is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tested within 30 days before movement, OR 2. Tested at market before sale, OR 3. "S" branded at market before sale <p>NOTE: Test negative cattle from markets in Class "B" that go to farms and ranches in Class "A" must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be accompanied by an "E" permit b. Be accompanied by a Hold Order c. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Feedlot in Class "B"	Slaughter plant	<p>If slaughter plant is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit
Feedlot in Class "B"	Another feedlot	<p>If feedlot is in Class "B":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before movement <p>If feedlot is in Class "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negative test within 30 days before entry 2. "E" permit 3. Held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Feedlot in Class "B"	Quarantined feedlot or quarantined pasture	<p>If feedlot or pasture is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No test or permit (must be "S" branded upon arrival)
Quarantined pasture	Quarantined feedlot, market or slaughter plant	<p>If feedlot, market or slaughter plant is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "S" brand and "S" permit
Quarantined feedlot	Another quarantined feedlot	<p>If feedlot is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "S" permit
Quarantined feedlot	Market	<p>If market is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "S" brand and "S" permit
Quarantined feedlot	Slaughter plant	<p>If slaughter plant is in Class "B" or "A":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No "S" brand or permit

Requirements for Movement of Test Eligible Cattle Originating in Other States

Current Cattle Location	Destination	Test and/or Permit Requirements
Out-of-state	Farm, ranch or feedlot in Texas	If farm, ranch or feedlot is in Class "A" or "B": 1. Negative test within 30 days before entry 2. "E" permit 3. Be accompanied by a Hold Order 4. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later
Out-of-state	Market in Texas	If market is in Class "A" or "B": 1. Negative test within 30 days before entry, OR 2. Tested at market prior to sale, OR 3. "S" branded at market prior to sale NOTE: Test negative cattle from out-of-state sold at Texas markets that go to farms, ranches or feedlots must: a. Be accompanied by a Hold Order b. Be held as an individual herd on site of destination until retested 45-120 days later c. If site of destination is in a different control area than the market, the cattle must also be accompanied by an "E" permit
Out-of-state	Slaughter plant in Texas	If slaughter plant is in Class "A" or "B": 1. No test or permit, EXCEPT "S" or "B" branded cattle must be accompanied by an "S" or "B" permit
Out-of-state	Quarantined feedlot in Texas	If quarantined feedlot is in Class "A" or "B": 1. No test or permit, EXCEPT "S" branded cattle must be accompanied by an "S" permit
Out-of-state	Quarantined pasture in Texas	Out-of-state cattle are not allowed to enter quarantined pastures Only cattle originating in Texas are allowed to go to quarantined pastures

Consider Merits of Calfhood Vaccination

Calfhood vaccination offers increased protection against brucellosis, increases the age at which heifers become test eligible, and makes them more valuable as replacement females as producers begin to demand all replacements they add to their herd be calfhood vaccinated.

What must I do to calfhood vaccinate?

Contact your local veterinarian or local Texas Animal Health Commission office. The federal-state program distributes vaccine to veterinarians and pays them on a fee basis to administer the vaccine to eligible female cattle.

Can I vaccinate them myself?

The vaccine must be administered by a veterinarian or an official of the Texas Animal Health Commission. The vaccine is fragile and must be handled under controlled conditions to establish a good immunity. The official ear tags and tattoo must be applied and official records must be kept. There is some personal danger involved when untrained people handle brucellosis vaccine.

What age heifers can be vaccinated?

Beef heifers must be vaccinated between 3 and 10 months of age (90 to 299 days) and dairy heifers between 3 and 6 months of age (90 to 179 days). *Vaccination at 4 to 6 months of age is recommended.*

What about "false positives" when calfhood vaccinated heifers are tested?

"False positive" reactions occur when the residual antibody activity from the vaccination is still high. This most commonly occurs when heifers are vaccinated when they are in the upper end of the eligible age for vaccination or over the legal age. *This is the reason it is recommended that heifers be vaccinated between 4 to 6 months of age.* The card test is now used only as a preliminary test to identify suspects because of its sensitivity in detecting infected animals. A series of supplemental tests at varying time intervals are conducted on animals that are positive to the card test to determine if the reaction is caused by pathogenic *Brucella abortus* or antibody titers from calfhood vaccination. The card test is used only to classify cattle as suspects unless the owner or his agent signs a written form allowing them to be classified as reactors based on the card test.

Evaluate Certified Brucellosis-Free Herd Merits

Cattle from a Certified Brucellosis-Free Herd are able to move within the control area, from one control area to another, and between states with no test requirements.

What must I do to attain a Certified Brucellosis-Free Herd?

- Complete and sign an application for a Certified Brucellosis Free Herd with the Texas Animal Health Commission.
- Test all cattle in the herd that are of an age to be tested.
 - Test all official vaccinates over 24 months of age for beef cattle and over 20 months of age for dairy cattle.
 - Test all official vaccinates regardless of age *if* in last 3 months of pregnancy or have calved.
 - Test all non-vaccinated heifers and bulls over 6 months of age.
- You must have two consecutive complete herd tests with negative blood tests of all test eligible cattle not less than 10 months nor more than 14 months apart in order to get initial certification.
- To maintain certification, a negative herd blood test of all cattle required to be tested must be conducted within 60 days of each anniversary date for continuous certification. Additions to a Certified Brucellosis-Free Herd must be added under guidelines established which depend on the status of herds from which the replacements are purchased.

Commonly Asked Questions

If cattle have a negative test when purchased, why do some movement regulations require that they be retested 45 to 120 days later?

A negative test means that no antibodies against the disease are detectable at the time the test was conducted. It is possible for an animal to have contracted the disease and for it to be in an incubation stage with no detectable antibodies at the time a test is conducted. For this reason, *it is a good management practice to isolate all additions to a herd and retest them 45 to 120 days later to allow adequate time for antibody production if they do have the disease.* This way, the entire herd is not exposed.

Will they continue to test cows at the slaughter plants?

Yes. The testing of test eligible cattle at slaughter remains one of the most valuable tools that the Texas Animal Health Commission has to locate possible brucellosis infection. Commission personnel are making periodic inspections of all state and federal inspected slaughter plants to insure proper procedures in animal identification, blood collection and submission of cattle identification.

How will ages of cattle be verified?

Cattle that still have their central pair of temporary incisors will be considered less than 18 months of age. Beef cattle with their first pair of permanent incisor teeth will be considered more than 24 months of age. Dairy cattle with their first pair of permanent incisor teeth will be considered more than 20 months of age.

How will I know if my neighbors' herds are infected?

When a herd is classified as infected, herd owners in the immediate community will be notified by means of an educational letter from the Texas Animal Health Commission by mail or personal contact. The herd owners also will be notified when the herd is removed from such a classification. The same procedures will be followed when applications are made for quarantined feedlots or pastures.

What must I do if some of my cattle are confirmed as reactors or identified as suspects?

The Texas Animal Health Commission employs area veterinarians who are trained to furnish quality epidemiologic services to aid herd owners. Information on the various alternatives in specific producer situations will be reviewed to develop an individual herd plan that is both practical and epidemiologically sound.

What must I do to ship test eligible cattle to other states?

Because of the diversity of individual state requirements, request that your veterinarian consult with the animal health agency in the state of destination.

For more information contact: Texas Animal Health Commission, Sam Houston Building, Austin, Texas 78711, 512/475-4111

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