



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

411 South Fort Street
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-4503
Phone: (605) 773-3321
Fax: (605) 773-5459

Sam D. Holland, DVM, State Veterinarian

ANTHRAX

1. Anthrax is usually an acute, febrile disease of virtually all warm blooded animals including man. In the usual septicemic form it usually has a rapid fatal course.
2. South Dakota is one of the recognized areas in the United States where repeat outbreaks occur.
3. This Anthrax organism can form spores when exposed to oxygen. These spores are very resistant to extremes of temperature, chemical disinfectants and desiccation and therefore may persist in the environment for long periods of time.
4. Epidemics tend to occur in association with periods of marked climatic or ecologic change such as heavy rainfall, flooding or drought.
5. Outbreaks of Anthrax are commonly associated with neutral or alkaline calcareous soils. In these areas the spores apparently revert to the vegetative form and multiply to infectious levels so that cattle, horses, mules, sheep and goats may readily become infected when grazing such areas.
6. These outbreaks occur usually when the minimal daily temperature is above 60 degrees F.
7. Even in endemic areas, Anthrax occurs irregularly, often with many years elapsing between occurrences on a given place or area.
8. There does seem to be evidence however that if there is an outbreak of Anthrax on a given year that there will also be some Anthrax the concurrent year.
9. There is an effective nonencapsulated Sterne-strain vaccine used for livestock immunization. This vaccine should be administered 2 to 4 weeks prior to the season outbreaks tend to occur.