

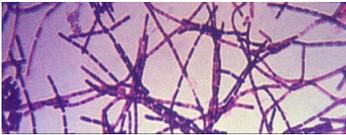


# Animal Health Notes

May 4, 2017

## ANTHRAX VACCINATION REMINDER

Anthrax prevention in South Dakota cattle herds should be high on the priority list. This disease can be costly but can also be prevented. Annual vaccination is recommended, and spring branding or processing may be the optimal time for this.



While Anthrax cases can appear throughout the year, they generally occur in hot, humid conditions on pasture with high soil alkalinity. Suspect anthrax in cases of sudden, unexplained death loss, and report to the state veterinarian's office. Suspicious carcasses should not be opened to prevent further contamination with spores.

Whole blood is the best sample to forward to the diagnostic lab for preliminary rule-out (portions of ear are not suitable samples). AIB field veterinarians have a limited supply of field test kits that may assist in timely preliminary diagnostics and herd management decisions.

Protocol when anthrax is confirmed on a South Dakota Farm:

1. Herd placed under quarantine – the quarantine can be released 30 days after the last animal death due to anthrax.
2. Immediate disposal of carcasses by burning and burial.
3. Treat and vaccinate as advised by the State Veterinarian and private veterinarian.

### **Additional Information:**

Visit our website @

<http://aib.sd.gov/cattle.html#ant>

Or SD Department of Health @

<https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/diseasefacts/anthrax.aspx>

## EQUINE VACCINATION REMINDER

Spring is a busy time for horse owners. Timed events, community roping events, brandings, or other gatherings usually lead to some commingling of the horses, either at the event or in some cases during the travel. This may expose horses to disease risk they wouldn't encounter when staying home with their herd mates. Routine vaccination of these horses for West Nile Virus, Equine Encephalitis, Equine Herpes Virus, Equine Influenza and even an annual vaccination for rabies should be considered good preventative health care.



Also, it is a good

time to stress to clients the importance of good biosecurity and avoiding the sharing of feed and water containers as a way of keeping their animals free of disease.

## RABIES VACCINATION REMINDER

The majority of rabies cases reported each year occur in wild animals such as skunks and bats. In South Dakota, the skunk strain is most common. Domestic animals account for a small percent of the reported rabies cases nationally. In South Dakota, cattle, cats, dogs and horses are the domestic species most often reported as rabid.

In addition to timely vaccination of dogs and cats, it is also important to consider vaccination of large animals such as horses and show stock that may have frequent contact with people.