



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE – ANTHRAX Mendel Miller, DVM, State Veterinarian September 2, 2026

PIERRE, S.D. – Anthrax has been confirmed in a South Dakota beef herd currently located in Meade County. This is the first confirmed case of anthrax in 2026. According to South Dakota’s State Veterinarian, Dr. Miller, Mendel, the cow/calf herd initially began experiencing deaths while pastured in Butte County, where exposure is believed to have occurred. The cattle were later moved to Meade County where they continued to experience symptoms.

The adult cattle in the herd have been vaccinated in response to the diagnosis.

The Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at South Dakota State University confirmed the disease from samples submitted by the herd veterinarian. In response, the Animal Industry Board (AIB) has quarantined the affected herd, notified the neighboring herd owners, and will quarantine any additional herds impacted.

“Veterinary oversight is important when faced with disease concerns, and the Animal Industry Board will continue to work with ranchers and private veterinarians to quickly respond to anthrax,” said State Veterinarian Dr. Miller. “Anthrax vaccine has proven effective and allows ranchers to take steps to protect their herd.”

If Anthrax is suspected, contact your local veterinarian or the Animal Industry Board at 605-773-3321. If sudden death occurs in your herd, do not move the suspect carcasses until a diagnosis is made. The proper handling of affected carcasses by burning and burying them is important to help prevent additional impacts.

Anthrax is a devastating disease for livestock which can cause rapid loss of animals in a short amount of time. Anthrax spores survive indefinitely in soil and significant weather events, such as drought, floods, and high winds, can cause exposure leading to infection.