

# Brucellosis



## What it is –

- Brucellosis in cattle is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Brucella abortus*.
- The disease, also known as "Bang's disease", causes abortions and stillbirths in cattle.
- It can be spread between animals and to humans through contact with milk, the aborted fetus, or other reproductive tract discharges.
- Bison and elk can also be infected with and transmit brucellosis.

## Control –

- Since 1934, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), livestock industry and state animal health agencies have worked on eradicating brucellosis from livestock.
- All states are now free of brucellosis in domestic cattle herds.
- Bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) remain a reservoir of infection.
- The three states bordering the GYA have established Designated Surveillance Areas (DSAs) around their portion of the GYA where they manage the risk of exposure to cattle using high levels of surveillance and appropriate disease response when brucellosis is found in a herd.

## Additional Resources:

- [Brucellosis Fast Facts](#)
- [B. abortus Factsheet - CFSPH](#)
- [Bovine Brucellosis – USDA APHIS](#)
- [Brucellosis in Cattle – Merck Manual](#)