



Animal Health Notes

July 24, 2018

Anthrax

Another Hamlin County herd has been affected by Anthrax. Five cows in a herd of 20 were lost due to the disease. Recent cases include 3 in Hamlin County with 2 in Bon Homme County and 1 in Clark County. None of the affected herds were vaccinated for Anthrax.

Control methods in herds where Anthrax is diagnosed or suspected include:

1. Immediate Disposal of affected carcasses – Burn and bury
 - Follow the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources [Air Quality Guidelines for Open Burning](#)
 - Minimal movement of carcasses within the pasture/property
 - **DO NOT** add Lime to the pit as this actually creates an environment more suitable for the bacteria to survive
2. Vaccinate and treat prophylactically with an injectable oxytetracycline 200 product; booster the vaccine in 7 to 10 days
3. Quarantine of the remainder of the cattle for 30 days after the disposal of the last carcass
4. Cleaning and disinfection of machinery, equipment, clothing, and other contact materials
5. Notification of immediate neighboring producers

Knowing that Anthrax is endemic in SD, the sporadic occurrence of outbreaks, and the potential it has to cause significant losses is reason to not be complacent and always recommend including Anthrax vaccination as part of a spring herd health program.

Any suspicious cases of Anthrax should be reported immediately to the SD Animal Industry Board.