



Animal Health Notes

November 25, 2019

Captive Elk Herds affected by CWD

Recently, two captive elk herds in South Dakota had animals test positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. A 20-month old female from a herd in Clark County tested positive in March 2019 after it became ill and was euthanized. The positive elk originated from a CWD Certified Herd in Meade County. The herd remained quarantined until it was depopulated this November. Test results for the rest of the herd are pending.

The Meade County herd had 2 mature elk showing neurologic signs euthanized in September with both testing positive for CWD. This herd was depopulated in mid-October with none of the five remaining animals testing positive for CWD. This herd had also been quarantined since March 2019.

In addition to the Clark County herd, three additional SD elk herds received elk from the Meade Co. herd over the past 5 years. Two of those herds have euthanized and tested negative all the elk originating from the Meade Co. herd and these herds have been released from quarantine. The third herd received elk from the Meade Co. herd 4.5 years ago and will remain under quarantine with a suspended CWD Certified status until 5 years has passed from the date of introduction of those animals, so long as the animals remain clinically healthy.

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board administers a voluntary CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) as part of the annual captive non-domestic (CND) mammal possession permit required for cervid ownership in the state. Although voluntary for SD producers, participation in the HCP is necessary for those wishing to export animals to other states. Participants in the HCP must test all mortalities 12 months of age and older as well as follow strict inventory reporting requirements in order to be eligible to export animals.

New Page for Veterinarians on SDAIB Website

The SDAIB website now has a page dedicated to information for accredited veterinarians. The page can be accessed from the top menu bar by clicking on "[Veterinarians](#)." The intent is for this page to be a one-stop shop for veterinarians to find regulatory and animal health information. Please contact the SDAIB with any suggestions for making improvements to this page.

Online Johne's Training Available

Johne's disease continues to be a problem for beef and dairy producers. South Dakota cattle producers may apply to SDAIB for a Johne's Disease Herd Classification Level. Producers who wish to participate in the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program must work with a Johne's Disease Certified Veterinarian to complete herd testing and the written risk assessment and herd management plan requirements for herd classification.

Approved courses are available on-line for veterinarians who wish to become Johne's Certified or who wish to update their Johne's Certification. The Johne's Re-certification course is not a requirement for maintaining certification but is a good overview of the new Johne's disease program standards.

The SDAIB has limited funding available to reimburse the fees paid by veterinarians who take the courses. Please contact the SDAIB if you are interested in becoming Johne's Certified or Recertified through these on-line courses.

[Johne's Certification Course for veterinarians](#)

[Recertification Module for Johne's Certified Veterinarians](#)

The "Open Cow" Rule

The Animal Industry Board has received several questions and complaints recently regarding the sale of cows which were previously purchased as non-bred, non-virgin cows. These animals may appeal to buyers who may be unaware of the rules or who are simply looking at a potential value with no regard to the disease risk.

Not only are these animals a risk for trichomoniasis but also for other potential communicable diseases such as BVD, Leptospirosis, and IBR. Any of these diseases could easily be spread to a receiving herd or neighboring herds.

Please remind producers of the rules prohibiting the purchase of non-virgin open cows for breeding purposes. The AIB staff will follow up on reports of these animals being exposed to bulls. If illegal activities are confirmed, quarantine and disease mitigation processes may be imposed.

Thank you for your assistance in helping your clients to comply with regulations and maintain the health of the South Dakota cattle herd.