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EC1901 Recommendations of the United States Livestock Sanitary Association for Brucellosis Eradication in Domestic Animals

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

E.C.
1901

LIVESTOCK SANITARY ASSOCIATION FOR BRUCELLOSIS
ERADICATION IN DOMESTIC ANIMALS. APPROVED BY U. S.
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY. A UNIFIED FEDERAL PLAN.

December 4, 1947

Amended October 15, 1948

Brucellosis continues to be one of the most serious infectious diseases of cattle in this country. Although good progress has been made in the past in many areas, the program must be enlarged if the disease is to be controlled and eradicated. The control and eradication of brucellosis require the full cooperation of the cattle owners and the livestock sanitarians. Cattle owners must be informed as to the part they must play in the program.

It is generally admitted that the problem of the control of brucellosis in man is dependent upon the reservoir of the infection in animals and that the most effective method for reducing human brucellosis is the control of the disease in animals. It is evident that a major effort needs to be directed to bringing the disease under control in animals with consideration of all and not just several important species that may act as reservoirs or a means of transmission to man.

Therefore, your Committee on Brucellosis submits for your consideration the following report:

Legislation

Recommendations for Congressional Action

Authorization for the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to promulgate regulations governing interstate movement of animals affected with or exposed to brucellosis.

Recommendations for State Legislation

1. In the initial stages of brucellosis control in an area, the State shall sponsor a program when 65 percent of the livestock owners holding at least 51 percent of the cattle have placed their cattle under any one or a combination of the four plans set forth below. Those owners not participating shall not be compelled to come under the program. As brucellosis control and eradication advance in a given area, the point will eventually be reached where the incidence of infection is very low. At that time, the few remaining vestiges or pockets of infection must be eliminated. When 75 percent or more of the livestock owners holding 95 percent or more of the cattle in a given area sign up under any one or a combination of the four plans, the livestock sanitary official may require the remaining livestock owners to individually select and come under one of the four plans described herein.

2. Reports to State and Federal cooperating agencies of all activities, such as agglutination tests and vaccination, in connection with the disease, on forms furnished by the State or Federal cooperating agencies must be compulsory.

3. A permanent brand with the letter "B" not less than 2 inches high and 2 inches wide on the left jaw of all reactors, excepting registered purebred cattle or cattle eligible to registry otherwise permanently identified, and quarantine of such reactors to the premises where found, limiting movement of these animals by permit of State officials, to slaughter at points where State or Federal inspection is maintained, except in case of valuable purebred animals, which must be branded and may be allowed to move on permit of State officials, to other herds where Brucella infection is known to exist.

4. All services in connection with brucellosis control to be made available to the owner without expense to him so long as funds for such purposes are available, except for the handling of his cattle. When State and/or Federal funds are not available, it is recommended that the breeder shall continue his program at his own expense with his private veterinarian, and under the supervision of State and Federal veterinarians.

5. Only vaccine approved and manufactured under license of United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, shall be used in any brucellosis control program.

6. Authorization for those engaged in the project to enter premises, etc.

7. All phases of official brucellosis control programs to be conducted under supervision of full-time employed State, Federal, county, or municipal veterinarians. This provision does not intend to eliminate the practicing veterinarian, but is intended to promote and include his services and to provide for supervision of his activities by regularly employed veterinarians.

8. Permanent identification of all vaccinated cattle with tattoo "V" in the right ear, preceded by numeral of the quarter of the year and followed by the last number of the year. A calf vaccinated in December 1947 would be marked "4V7", or hot iron brand on the right jaw, "CV" for vaccinated calves, and "AV" for vaccinated adults. Special ear tags should also be used in the right ear of all vaccinated animals, to aid in recognizing them.

9. A future date should be set after which no female cattle or breeding bulls more than 6 months of age shall be sold and/or moved except for slaughter, unless such cattle either

(a) have been tested for brucellosis and found negative within 30 days prior to the date of sale, or

(b) are dairy cattle and breeding cattle under 24 months of age, or feeder cattle under 30 months of age and were vaccinated against brucellosis with an approved vaccine when they were not less than 6 months nor more than 8 months of age and were identified as provided in paragraph 8 and reported at the time of vaccination to State and Federal cooperating agencies, excepting beef cattle in range or semi-range areas which may be vaccinated at not less than 6 months nor more than 12 months of age, or

(c) are in a brucellosis-free accredited herd or area at the time of sale. Accredited herd certificates shall be issued only by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, and State livestock sanitary officials, under provisions adopted by the United States Livestock Sanitary Association and approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

10. Legislation should be broad enough to authorize promulgation of regulations by State livestock sanitary authorities after hearings before representative livestock producers, public health authorities, and veterinarians to include the following methods of procedure for eradicating brucellosis:

Plan A. Test-and-slaughter; with or without calf vaccination.

Test-and-slaughter has the advantage of being a short-time program, since many lightly infected herds may be freed and remain free of the infection after a limited number of tests. Where negative herds are surrounded by heavy infection, the advantages of calf vaccination should be explained.

Test-and-slaughter is recommended for infected herds in which the immediate removal of reactors will not cause serious economic losses, provided owners appreciate fully the necessity of following recognized sanitary procedures. These procedures must include prompt removal of reactors, thorough cleaning and disinfection of barns or buildings in which reactors have been kept, and retests at frequent intervals not to exceed 30 days until the disease has been eradicated.

Test-and-slaughter is apt to be unsuccessful unless all of these procedures are followed. However, it has been successful in thousands of herds where suitable precautions have been observed.

Calf vaccination should be encouraged in infected herds and areas, but shall not be a substitute for sound sanitation and management, and it should be explained that failure to follow sound management practices, so far as replacements are concerned, accounts for most of the breaks in clean herds. Owners should be warned that as is true in many other disease control programs, occasional herds do not respond satisfactorily.

Plan B. Test, calf vaccination; temporary retention of reactors until they can be disposed of for slaughter without excessive loss to the owner under provisions of the law.

The objective should be to dispose of reactors for slaughter as soon as possible. Full recognition is given to the fact that vaccinated calves will not all be resistant. However, with a high percentage of vaccinated animals having an increased resistance to brucellosis, the percentage in favor of vaccination is sufficient to support its wider use.

Plan C. Calf vaccination without test of any part of the herd.

This plan to be confined to those herds in which the movement of animals is restricted to special permits issued by State livestock sanitary officials.

Plan D. Adult vaccination, only when approval is received in writing from State and Federal cooperating agencies prior to the time of vaccination, which should be confined to herds where there is evidence of rapid spread of virulent infection indicating the need for emergency measures, and only after

the owner has been informed in writing that the vaccinating of his adult animals may not prevent the spread of infection. In herds where adult vaccination is adopted, the herd must be subjected to the agglutination test prior to vaccination, reactors identified as provided for in paragraph 3, and vaccine administered only to negative animals within 10 days after the completion of the official test.

11. Reactors will be classified as under present policies of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, except that calves vaccinated from 6 to 8 months identified as outlined in paragraph 8, and reported at the time of vaccination to State and Federal cooperating agencies, shall not be classed as reactors until after reaching the age of 2 years. Feeder cattle vaccinated from 6 to 12 months of age will not be classed as reactors until after reaching 30 months.

Educational Policies

Education should be promoted as follows:

All properly verified facts concerning the disease and methods of control should be kept before the public under the direction of those trained in disseminating information. This should include bulletins and leaflets more attractively illustrated, based on and confined to our present knowledge of the disease which has been properly verified by research and practical application; motion pictures; news releases; radio programs; and all known methods of publicity.

Frequent group meetings should be held, led by regularly employed State or Federal cooperating veterinarians, in the interest of eliminating confusion.

All properly verified useful information which becomes available through research should be disseminated, in connection with the control of brucellosis in other animals, including swine, goats and sheep.