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NEW BRUCELLOSIS INFECTION FOUND IN STATE

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Ongoing tests have turned up four new positive cases of brucellosis among a cattle herd in the Jackson area, state officials announced today.

The four cows were members of a herd that had come into contact with one that tested positive in July of this year. The contact herd was released to summer grazing at the time and so had not been tested until now. All four of the infected animals have undergone preliminary tests, and two of them went on to culture tests in the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. Tests conducted there have confirmed the positive results.

“Wyoming’s livestock producers continue to operate in the face of serious challenges,” Gov. Dave Freudenthal said. “It is important that we remember when this happens that testing is doing its job, and we will continue doing everything we can to see the state regain its class-free status.”

Wyoming can regain its brucellosis-free status by complying with the provisions of Class A status, which it is currently under, for one year if no new infection is found within that time. With the newly found infection, the one-year provision restarts.

The state received Class A status earlier this year, when the second of two infected herds were found in the state. Essentially, the requirements for states with Class A status are that all test-eligible cattle shall be tested for brucellosis within 30 days prior to change of ownership or interstate movement. If cattle are going directly to slaughter from the farm or ranch of origin *and* the identity of the herd of origin is maintained, they are exempt from this test requirement.

At this point, the owner of the infected herd can choose to depopulate or to quarantine the herd until a series of negative test results come back over an extended period of time.