

This column features questions from readers submitted via the Web site. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards!*



question

Dear Sam,

I've purchased a small ranch near Daniel, Wyoming, and I want to raise some cattle. Not many, probably 15-20 head of cows. I've raised cattle in Iowa but know little of the rules and regulations for Wyoming. Also, what is the "Designated Surveillance Area" I keep hearing about, and how may it influence how the cattle are raised?

– Cookie, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Cookie,

You have an interesting time ahead. You never said if you own the cows or are purchasing them here, but that makes a difference, both in time and cost.

To move cattle to Wyoming from Iowa requires an import permit from the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLB) and a certificate of health inspection issued by a veterinarian in Iowa. You must have proof of ownership as Iowa does not have brand laws as Wyoming does. You won't be required to test your cattle for brucellosis as Iowa is a brucellosis-free state; however, because the state of Wyoming and the U.S. Department of Agriculture want to make sure brucellosis stays controlled, there are some special concerns. (*Brucella abortus*, which causes brucellosis, is a contagious bacterium that can cause cattle to abort their calves, among other things). Here are the extra steps:

Any female cattle entering Wyoming must be an "Official

Calfhood Vaccinate (OCV) for Brucellosis." That means she has been vaccinated against brucellosis between four and 12 months of age. She must have an official tattoo and an official ear tag to qualify. The vaccination must be given by a federally accredited veterinarian. Adult females that are not calfhood vaccinates can be quarantined and adults vaccinated for brucellosis. To vaccinate adults requires state and federal permission. This is time consuming and costly (\$20 to \$25 per cow). The cows must have blood tests, be found negative, and be vaccinated within 10 days to be validated as "Official Vaccinates." Adult "Official Vaccinates" must receive a special tattoo different than younger cattle. Adult vaccination of pregnant cows may cause abortion rates of 5 percent.

Once you have your cattle in Daniel, you are now within the "Designated Surveillance Area" (DSA). The DSA was created by the WLB to help prevent the spread

of brucellosis. This zone includes Park County west of Highway 120, Fremont County west of the Wind River Indian Reservation, all of Teton and Sublette counties, and Lincoln County north of Cokeville.

The DSA has very stringent rules that must be followed to prevent the spread of brucellosis. The comingling of elk and cattle within the DSA has been the reason Wyoming has had brucellosis outbreaks in the past. Within the DSA, all sexually intact female cattle must be OCV. All test-eligible female cattle must test negative for brucellosis before change of ownership, before interstate movement, or prior to leaving the DSA. There are few exceptions to these rules, and most relate to direct movement of cattle or for slaughter.

One thing I would do right away is contact the WLB and develop a herd plan for your operation. A herd plan, developed with WLB help, will outline management plans that will usually allow you to move and market

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ask Sam

your cattle easier. The plan will also outline means for keeping cattle and elk apart during the most dangerous times of the year, vaccination, testing, and overall protection from brucellosis exposure.

There are a lot of things that will be different in Daniel than in Iowa. Contact the WLB in Cheyenne at (307) 777-7515, your local Iowa veterinarian, and a Wyoming veterinarian in the Daniel area, for information. Protecting Wyoming cattle from exposure to brucellosis is a major undertaking and should be taken seriously.

Another good resource is the WLB Web page at <http://wlsb.state.wy.us/>. For specific information about brucellosis rules and regulations, see Chapter 2 at <http://wlsb.state.wy.us/rules.htm>. Chapter 8 has information about importation, including specifics about OCV for Brucellosis.

Good luck.

Sam

