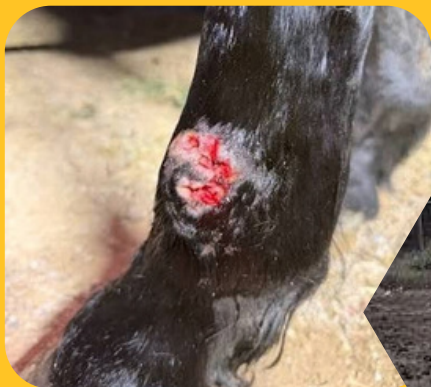




Pigeon Fever in Wyoming

What is Pigeon Fever?

Pigeon Fever is an infection caused by the bacteria *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Horses can be infected when the bacteria gains access to the body by small scrapes or wounds in the skin. This can happen through direct contact with contaminated soil or objects, or it can happen through infected insects that deposit the bacteria on broken skin. *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* lives in the ground where it can survive for long periods and it can survive in hay for shorter periods.



Prevention:

Environmental management is very important. Keep stables clean to minimize flies. Also use fly deterrents such as fly spray, sheets, and masks to decrease the chance of the bacteria being deposited. Groom horses daily and check them for any wounds.

Forms of Pigeon Fever:

There are 3 main forms of Pigeon Fever. These include external abscesses (most common), internal abscesses (less common), and ulcerative lymphangitis (most rare form).

Clinical Signs:

- External Abscess: most common
 - Mainly is found in the chest region but can be found anywhere on the body
- Internal Abscess: less common
 - Most commonly seen in the liver, spleen, kidneys, and lungs
- Ulcerative lymphangitis: most rare form
 - painful infection of the lymphatics, most often involving the hind limbs and causing swelling and oozing sores
- In addition to abscesses, clinical signs might include:
 - Fever
 - Lameness
 - Decreased appetite
 - Lethargy

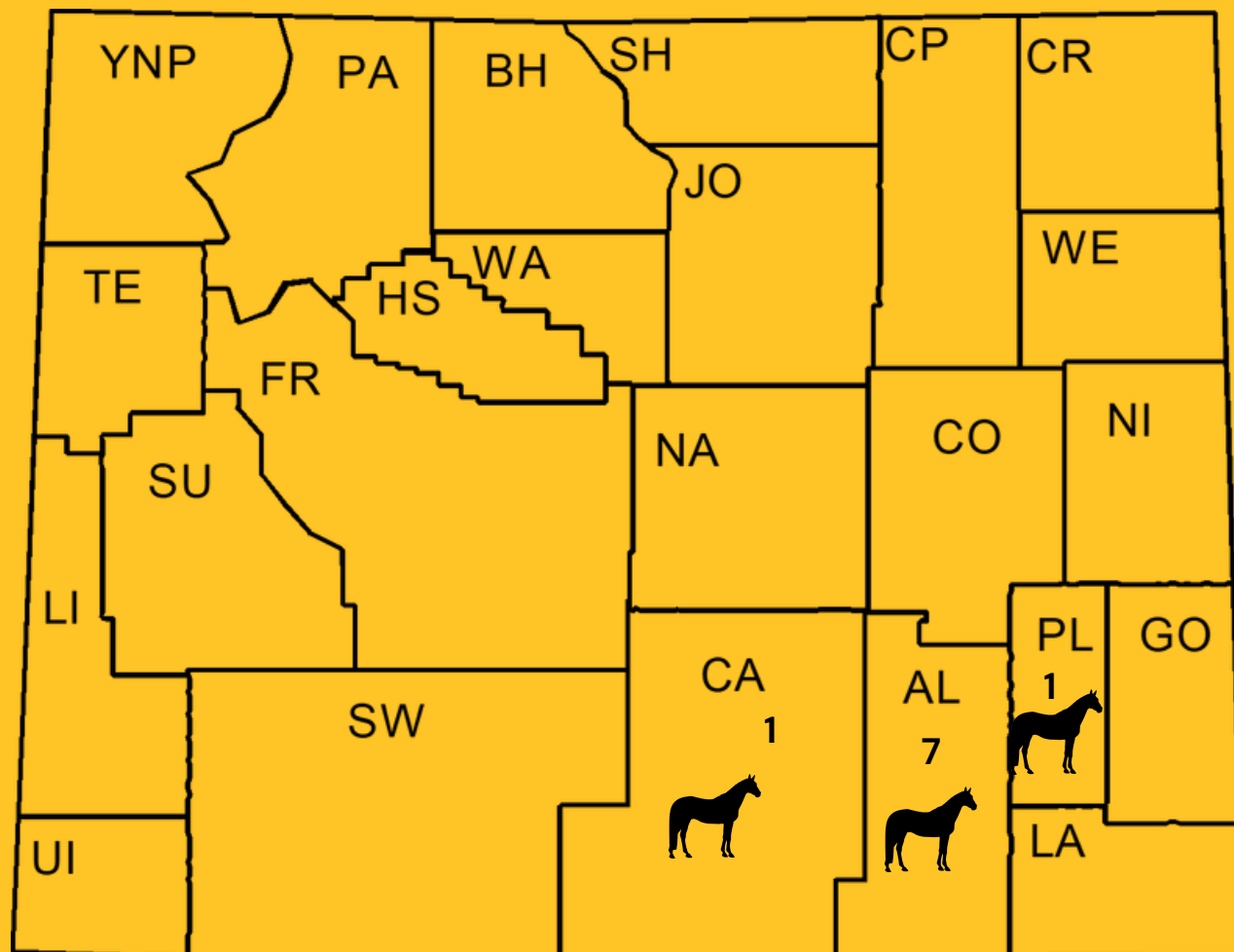
Seasonality of Pigeon Fever:

Pigeon Fever can occur year-round.

However, peaks of cases occur during the summer through fall.

In horses, the **incubation period** is 1–4 weeks.

Wyoming Cases August–October 2026



**For Questions or
Concerns**

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