



Montana Department of Livestock **Approximate Timeline* for an** **Epidemiological Investigation** **– Affected Herd**

<u>Days</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Description</u>
0	Reactor found	Animal(s) test result in the reactor** range on a blood test for brucellosis.
	Producer Notification	DOL notifies the local veterinarian and owner/manager. Reactor(s) ID provided so animal(s) can be found and segregated.
	Verbal Quarantine	Issued for all sexually intact cattle and/or domestic bison.
1-4	Confidentiality	DOL is obligated to keep test information confidential per MCA 81-2-115.
	Confirmatory Test/ID Confirmation	A State or Federal Veterinarian will collect an additional sample(s) from the reactor animal(s) for retest. If retest results are the same (or similar) to the initial, then we are confident that we have the correct animal.
	Meet with producer	APHIS/DOL meet with the owner/manager: learn about operation, answer questions about what happens if the reactor animal cultures positive, introduce idea of herd plan, begin gathering neighbor and animal movement/epidemiologic information.
5-6	Written Quarantine	DOL issues written quarantine.
7-10	Diagnostic Purchase	\$250 dollars is available from USDA. Salvage of meat possible if tissue collection for culture is done at an approved slaughter plant.
7-30	Culture attempt	Reactor animal is euthanized, tissues are collected and sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA for culture attempt.
	Whole Herd Test (Index Test)	If not already complete. Length of time to complete whole herd test will depend on the herd size, weather, available help, etc.
	Neighbor Identification	Continue work with the owner/manager to gather public grazing information. Additional information can be gathered from other agencies and data bases. Contact local veterinarians and DOL brands enforcement personnel.
	Gather Trace and Movement Information	Utilize DOL animal movement data (brand info, health certificates, etc.). Work with owner/manager to gather any additional information that may minimize the scope and impact of the epidemiological investigation.
14-60	Culture Results	Culture of <i>B. abortus</i> It can take up to 4 weeks. If “No Growth” then the herd will likely be released from quarantine. If <i>B. abortus</i> is cultured the herd is designated as an affected herd.
60-74	Affected Herd Plan	Create with owner/manager. The Herd Plan outlines the quarantine and the testing plan to allow for release. The herd plan is signed by DOL, the herd owner/manager, and USDA.
60+	Affected Herd Testing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Index test (Day 0) 2. Post-removal test: Cannot start until 30 days after reactor is euthanized for culture AND after index test is completed. This test is often done at the time that a scour vaccine is administered. 3. Peri-parturiant (around calving) test: Cannot begin until 30 days after post-removal test is completed. Often done at the same time as branding/spring vaccinations.
Post-calving	Release Quarantine	If the peri-parturiant test is negative.
182-365	Assurance Test after Quarantine release	6-12 months following release of quarantine. Test of all sexually intact animals 6 months of age and older.

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Epidemiological Investigation
– Adjacent Herd

0-60	Neighbor Notification	If <i>B. abortus</i> is confirmed, animals that border on the affected herd are placed under quarantine until a whole herd test is performed (sexually intact cattle and domestic bison 6 months of age and older).
0-60	Adjacent Herd Plan	Adjacent herds are also placed on a herd plan with an assurance test required in 6-12 months.
-90-60+	Neighbor Testing	In many cases, DSA neighbors have already performed a voluntary whole herd test prior to notification. Herd testing completed since the end of the last risk period until discovery of the positive animal may be accepted. However, if they have not, they can have their private practitioner, USDA, or MDOL perform the testing. The herd remains under quarantine until testing is completed.
60+	Trace Herds	DOL notifies the State Veterinarian(s) and USDA notifies the Federal Area Veterinarian in Charge of the state(s) that have received sexually intact animals from the affected herd. USDA works with the State Veterinarian(s) and may require testing of the herd(s) that imported sexually intact animals.
182-365	Assurance Test	Test of all sexually intact animals 6 months of age and older.

**This description is a generalization only. Every epidemiological investigation can be different. Steps and timeline can and will be variable.*

***A "Reactor" is an animal that has test results that are high enough that infection is likely.*

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