

What is the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA)?

The DSA is an area in southwest Montana where brucellosis infected wildlife (Yellowstone National Park wild bison and infected elk) exist and can expose cattle and domestic bison to the disease of brucellosis. As a result, cattle and domestic bison in the region are required to participate in Montana’s brucellosis testing program.



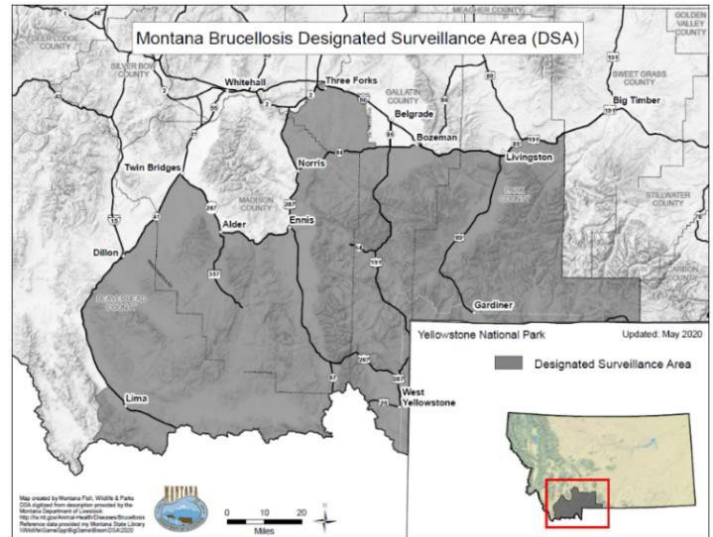
What is the purpose of the DSA?

To prevent an infected animal from moving out of the area and to limit disease transmission. These regulations promote trading partner confidence in the disease-free status of Montana’s livestock.

What is required for cattle and domestic bison in the DSA?

Specific DSA Regulations can be found in Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 32.3.433 through 32.3.437 or on the Department of Livestock web site (LIV.MT.GOV) but generally include:

- A negative brucellosis test prior to change of ownership or movement out of the DSA.
- Official identification prior to leaving the DSA.
- Brucellosis vaccination.



What are the consequences of not having a DSA?

The DSA is required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to maintain Montana’s Brucellosis Class Free Status. Without the DSA, Montana would lose Brucellosis Class Free status. Loss of Class Free status would lead to required testing of livestock exported from anywhere in the State (not just southwest Montana) and cost the livestock producers millions of dollars for testing as well as revenue from lost sales due to a negative stigma. Montana would also face varied testing requirements imposed by states that receive Montana cattle and domestic bison.

How is the boundary of the DSA established?

Through partnership with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), wild elk are captured and tested for brucellosis on an annual basis. Each year one or two capture locations are selected. The boundary of the DSA is based upon the known range of brucellosis infected wildlife.

Are DSA regulations followed?

In fiscal year 2023: 95% of all DSA livestock movements and sales had the required tests for movement or change of ownership per DSA regulations.

How many cattle & domestic bison utilize the DSA?

The DSA is used by about 460 herds totaling about 129,000 animals. This is 7.7% of Montana’s beef cattle inventory.

How much brucellosis testing is done each year?

	FY22	FY23	FY24
Annual brucellosis tests*	106,115	96,355	93,096
Annual DSA specific test	98,129	88,080	84,852
Annual cost of testing	\$656,051.00	\$641,741.00	\$631,647.00

*Includes slaughter, export, and bull stud testing, etc.