



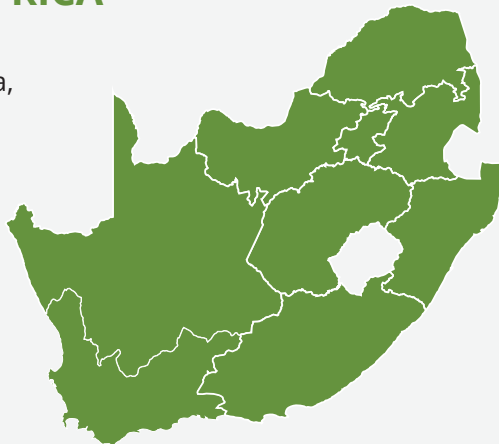
## WHAT IS BRUCELLOSIS?

- Brucellosis is a bacterial disease of animals and is transmittable to humans. *Brucella abortus* causes the majority of bovine and human brucellosis cases in South Africa, whereas the usual carriers of *Brucella melitensis* are goats and sheep
- Pregnant livestock may abort, with *Brucella* bacteria being shed in the birth fluids and potentially in their milk
- The disease is a controlled disease under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984)
- Brucellosis is a herd disease. If one animal in a herd tests positive for brucellosis, the whole herd is considered infected and can be placed under quarantine



## STATUS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Brucellosis is reported across all nine provinces of South Africa, especially in the central and Highveld regions.



## HOW DO PEOPLE AND ANIMALS GET BRUCELLOSIS?

Infection is acquired through ingestion or direct contact such as touching, splashes onto mucous membranes or inhalation of contaminated animal products. Infection with *Brucella* species is not passed from person to person

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The bacteria are also present in the aborted fetuses and membranes of cows with brucellosis

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The bacteria may be present in the air and dust of contaminated stables

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People who accidentally prick themselves with a needle while vaccinating for brucellosis

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Cattle with the brucellosis (strain 19) vaccine, can get the disease

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Brucellosis may also be contracted by blood transfusion



## SYMPTOMS IN LIVESTOCK

- Pregnant animals abort at a late stage of pregnancy
  - Calves/lambs which are born alive are very weak and usually die shortly after birth
  - Milk production drops
  - Livestock may develop large swellings on their joints
- Bulls/rams have decreased fertility and may become sterile



## SYMPTOMS IN HUMANS



People can get brucellosis from drinking unpasteurised milk



Symptoms in humans are often vague and may resemble many other diseases. Symptoms may include: fever, headaches, pain in muscles and joints, weakness, coughing, depression and cold sweats



People who have brucellosis can be treated

## MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION

- Test for brucellosis regularly and whenever symptoms appear
- Vaccination (with registered product like S19 or RB51). Female calves between 4 - 8 months must be vaccinated
- Only buy cattle from recently tested, brucellosis negative herds and request proof. Ideally, always quarantine newly acquired animals and test them again before mixing them with the rest of your herd
- Do not share grazing with untested cattle and ensure that fences are intact
- If you have brucellosis in your herd, follow the advice of your state veterinarian to get rid of the infection as quickly as possible (branding, separation, vaccination and slaughter). Delays in action against the disease will increase losses and prolong quarantine



### Useful links:

#### Legal Aspects:

<http://nahf.co.za/brucellosis-legal-aspects-2018-12-11/>

#### Fact list:

<http://nahf.co.za/wp-content/uploads/ENGLISH-A-dozen-things-you-must-know-about-bovine-brucellosis-1.pdf>

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