

NB! Let's all play our part to protect each other, our cattle's health, our own health and our livelihoods.



For further information, contact your nearest animal health technician or State/private Veterinarian

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PLAY YOUR PART IN THE WAR AGAINST BRUCELLOSIS

Brucellosis is a controlled disease under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984)



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Bovine brucellosis, caused by *Brucella abortus*, is reported across all nine provinces of South Africa, especially in the central and Highveld regions. Bovine brucellosis mainly causes abortions in cattle and can infect most other mammals, including humans.



Figure 1: Picture of aborted fetus

Brucellosis may occur in persons who are exposed to infected animals, particularly through aborted and normal foetal material of infected cows and through the consumption of unpasteurised milk. Symptoms in infected persons include fever-like symptoms, night sweats, fever, extreme tiredness, depression, aches in bones and joints, especially the lower back, hip or knee joints.



Brucellosis Symptoms in infected persons

All female cattle between the ages of 4-8 months have to be vaccinated against brucellosis with a registered product to help protect the national cattle herd. Vaccination helps to decrease shedding of *Brucella* bacteria from infected animals. This helps to limit the spread of brucellosis within a herd and decreases the infection pressure. Always use vaccines according to the manufacturer's instructions. Contact your private veterinarian or state veterinary services for more information.



Vaccinations: brucellosis disease

- Vaccination is one of the important tools used to control and prevent brucellosis. Vaccination of all female calves between 4-8 months is required. Do not vaccinate male cattle.
- Know your status! Test your cattle herd for brucellosis.
- Only buy cattle from recently tested, brucellosis negative herds and ask for proof.



Cattle in the viewing pens Photo: Wayne Southwood

- Don't share grazing with untested cattle and ensure that your 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.

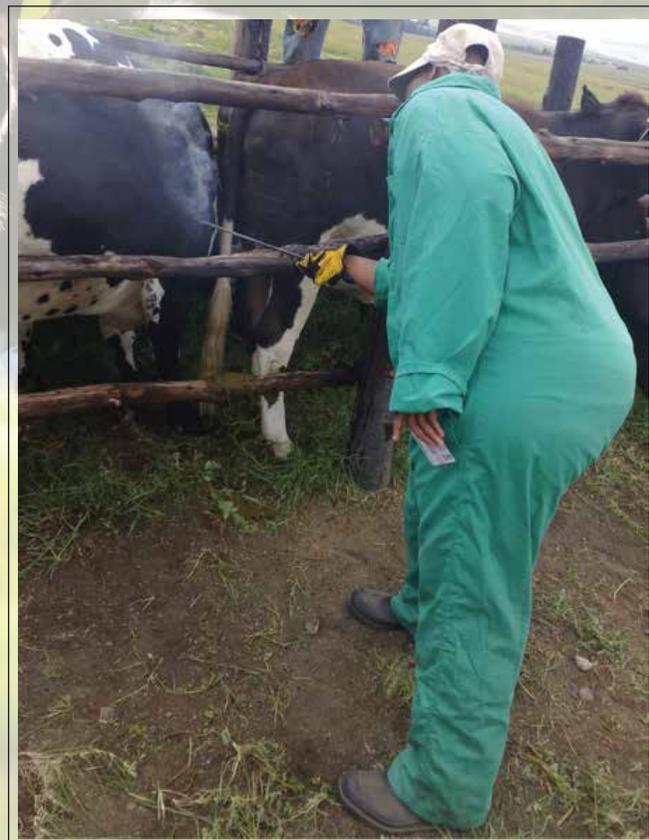


Figure 2: Picture of branding brucellosis positive cattle