

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 2-23-95  
Bill No. AB 22  
Or.  
Subject

SCOTT FROEHLME  
(Name)  
173 E DOTY  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
MAYKON 53703  
(City & Zip Code)  
IND. LIVESTOCK DEQUEWERS ASSOC.  
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 3-23-95  
Bill No. AB 22  
Or.  
Subject

John Manske  
(Name)  
30 W. M. Flynn  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
Madison WI 53703  
(City & Zip Code)  
WI Federation of Cooperatives  
(Representing) Member Equine & Livestock Co-op

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill No. AB 22  
Or.  
Subject

Dr. Howard Krueger  
(Name)  
14343 W. Golf Air Dr.  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
EVANSVILLE 53536  
(City & Zip Code)  
Wisconsin Vet Medical  
(Representing) ASSOCIATION

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

### Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: MARCH 23, 1995  
Bill No. A.B. 22  
Or  
Subject

William Geary  
(Name)

E10890 PENNY LANE  
(Street Address or Route Number)

BARABOO, WI 53913  
(City & Zip Code)

Equity Coop Livestock Sales  
(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for Information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

### Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 23 March 95  
Bill No. AB 22  
Or  
Subject

T. H. HOWARD  
(Name)

DATCP  
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON, WI  
(City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for Information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

### Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: Mar. 23, 1995  
Bill No. AB 22  
Or  
Subject

Rep. Ainsworth  
(Name)

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

- Speaking in favor:
- Speaking against:
- Registering in favor:
- Registering against:
- Speaking for Information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

# Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: March 23, 1995  
Bill No. AB-22  
Or  
Subject

Paul Zimmerman  
(Name)

7010 Mineral Point Road  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI 53705  
(City & Zip Code)

Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms  
Room 210 West  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

## Assembly Committee on Agriculture

DATE March 23, 1995

Moved by Ainsworth Seconded by Skindrud

AB 22 SB \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_

AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

Passage

Introduction

Adoption

Rejection

Indefinite Postponement

Tabling

Concurrence

Nonconcurrence

Confirmation

	Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
1.	Ott, Alvin (Chair)	X			
2.	Ward, David (Vice-Chair)	X			
3.	Ainsworth, John	X			
4.	Zukowski, Robert	X			
5.	Otte, Clifford	X			
6.	Skindrud, Richard	X			
7.	Hahn, Eugene	X			
8.	Olsen, Luther	X			
9.	Gronemus, Barbara		X		
10.	Baldus, Al		X		
11.	Reynolds, Martin		X		
12.	Springer, Thomas		X		
13.	Wilder, Michael	●	X		
14.	Dueholm, Robert		X		
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					
Totals		8	6	0	0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION FAILED



State of Wisconsin  
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor

## Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Alan T. Tracy, Secretary

2811 Agriculture Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin 53704-6777

PO Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708-8911

Hearing Testimony  
Assembly Agriculture Committee  
Room 417 North  
March 23, 1995

Chairman Ott and Committee Members:

My name is Tom Howard, administrator of the Division of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

The Department is testifying today in support of AB 22 and wishes to thank Representative John Ainsworth for sponsoring this legislation.

Ch. 95.49, Wisconsin Statutes, provides for mandatory brucellosis testing of all cattle and American bison prior to movement, exhibition or sale within the state, if these animals have not been calfhood vaccinated against brucellosis. The statute was enacted at a time when bovine brucellosis control had not yet been achieved in southern and western states, and when free states such as Wisconsin were at continuing risk of re-introducing the disease through animal imports.

Bovine brucellosis is a destructive disease of cattle and other ruminant species that can be transmitted to humans through certain kinds of contact with infected animals or consumption of unpasteurized dairy products. For these reasons, a cooperative federal-state brucellosis eradication program has been conducted since 1934. This program is nearing the goal of brucellosis eradication, now expected to be achieved during federal FY 1998. Dramatic progress has been made against the long standing focus of infection in the Gulf Coast states, Florida, and Texas that put the rest of the country at risk.

Attached to this written testimony is a copy of a recent USDA Veterinary Services report that describes the current national situation, including a 1995-to-prior-year comparison that illustrates the rapid progress toward eradication during that period.

It is because of this environment of rapid progress, including changing national policies that include relaxed standards for movement of cattle between brucellosis-free states and reduced emphasis on calfhood vaccination in free states, that the department supports the repeal those provisions of Ch. 95.49 pertaining to cattle movements within Wisconsin. The pace of change in this program nationally is so quick that we believe

imposition of standards for intrastate cattle movement through the statutes is too inflexible a way to manage this program, will impose extra costs on Wisconsin producers, and will diminish the credibility of Wisconsin's program among all segments of the cattle industry.

#### Brucellosis surveillance in Wisconsin

The key to effective control of any animal disease is early identification of infected herds. In cooperation with USDA Veterinary Services, the department uses two powerful tools for surveillance of Wisconsin cattle herds. Every one of Wisconsin's nearly 28,000 dairy herds is tested by the Brucellosis Ring Test method semi-annually, and every intact breeding animal slaughtered under state or federal meat inspection in the state is tested at the time of slaughter and can be traced to its premises of origin. Over 700,000 market cattle tests are performed annually in Wisconsin, including tests of both Wisconsin cattle and out-of-state animals slaughtered here.

For comparison, about 135,000 private brucellosis tests are conducted annually for all purposes, including show, sale, out-of-state movement, export, germ plasm movement, etc. Only a portion, estimated to be less than 50%, of these latter 135,000 tests, would be affected by repeal of the intrastate testing statute. Surveillance will continue to be more than adequate to detect any incursion of brucellosis, and will be equivalent to that in some other brucellosis-free states and superior to that in most.

#### Calfhood vaccination

The present statute was clearly intended to be an incentive for brucellosis calfhood vaccination, and served this purpose very well. Calfhood vaccination of heifers has been an important part of the national control strategy, and continues to receive considerable emphasis in those states where brucellosis is still present.

Vaccination protects about 70% of heifers vaccinated, depending on the level of challenge to their immunity. Brucellosis is transmitted between cows at the time of abortion or calving, so the disease spreads rapidly in confined herds even if animals have been calfhood vaccinated. We should not think of calfhood vaccination as an absolute barrier against brucellosis, rather, as a tool to raise the relative resistance of animals in higher risk herds and areas.

Although vaccination aids in the control of brucellosis, the use of vaccine confounds our surveillance and raises costs to both producers and government. Less than 1% of vaccinated animals become permanently "infected" by the living vaccine strain of brucellosis bacteria. In Wisconsin, such animals detected by herd or slaughter surveillance result in over 100 herd

investigations and individual animal quarantines annually, averaging over \$500 in direct costs to the state per case.

National brucellosis policy was recently changed to reduce the emphasis on calfhood vaccination in free states. The department recommends to Wisconsin producers and their veterinarians that each herd owner's circumstances determine whether or not calfhood vaccination should be continued. Herds that may be sold during the next 3-4 years into interstate markets (about 12 states still require calfhood vaccination as a condition of entry), or that buy and sell animals, should continue the practice. Brucellosis vaccination is not likely to be cost-effective for closed herds that sell only milk and/or slaughter animals. Calfhood vaccination is of no value in international export markets, since importing nations either do not require vaccination or forbid the importation of vaccinated animals.

Wisconsin presently vaccinates just under 50% of its estimated annual heifer crop. The experience of other free states and Canada suggests that calfhood vaccination will decline exponentially as we come closer to eradication. If Ch. 95.49 remains as it is, Wisconsin will be in the paradoxical situation of encouraging through the statutes a practice that is being de-emphasized in other free states, resulting in extra costs for producers, and raising the cost to government of brucellosis surveillance because of the test responses of some vaccinated animals. It will also impose more stringent conditions on animals moving intrastate than on those being moved into Wisconsin from other free states.

#### Intrastate regulation in other brucellosis-free states

The department has surveyed the intrastate cattle movement requirements of other states. Responses were received from 33 states, Guam and Puerto Rico. In general, states that are not free of brucellosis still require testing before movement of cattle within their borders. Only three free states (PA, UT, VA) impose test requirements similar to Ch. 95.49.

#### Regulatory credibility

Taxpayers are telling government that it must deliver services effectively and efficiently. Long-standing programs such as brucellosis eradication must be adapted to both changing conditions and fiscal austerity. In this climate, it is neither very credible nor fiscally sound for the department to emphasize compliance with Ch. 95.49, when there are more urgent priorities such as illegal animal imports, pseudorabies control and eradication, and surveillance for brucellosis and tuberculosis in non-traditional livestock species. The department allows the importation of cattle from other free states and Canada without a prior brucellosis test. Intrastate movement should have the same latitude.

## Non-traditional livestock

Brucellosis does occur in American bison, deer, elk and reindeer, species that have become increasingly popular as alternative livestock. The department supports development of this alternative agriculture, but believes it is prudent to retain in Ch. 95.49 statutory authority for the department to impose a test requirement prior to any movements of these species. There is obviously no Ring Test Surveillance of these herds, relatively few animals are being slaughtered, and those that are are treated as "game animals" under ATCP 55 meat inspection rules. Game animals are defined as deer, buffalo, and other non-domestic animals used for food. These animals do not have to be inspected at the time of slaughter unless the meat is being sold to a licensed retail establishment. Consequently, opportunities for slaughter surveillance for brucellosis are presently few.

While emphasizing that the department wants to support these new livestock enterprises, we recognize that re-introduction of brucellosis through non-traditional livestock is a risk, and that present surveillance of these herds is not as effective as surveillance of cattle. We believe it is in the interest of both these producers as well as the cattle industry that Ch. 95.49 include language authorizing the department to enact intrastate testing requirements for bison, cervid species, and other ungulates that are being moved between premises other than zoological parks.

## Conclusion

I want to assure the committee that the recommendations contained in this testimony are the product of careful consideration by Division of Animal Health staff in consultation with our federal colleagues and peer agencies in other states, U.S. Animal Health Association, and the Livestock Conservation Institute. Having come from a background of international trade, I recognize the value of Wisconsin's brucellosis-free status and would do nothing to jeopardize it. The department does believe this legislation would give us the regulatory flexibility to manage the Wisconsin brucellosis program through administrative rules that are responsive to a dynamic national program, changing animal agriculture, and the need to operate our animal health programs as efficiently as possible.



BRUCellosis AFFECTED HERDS UNDER QUARANTINE  
 JANUARY 31, 1995  
 by Affected Herd Rate

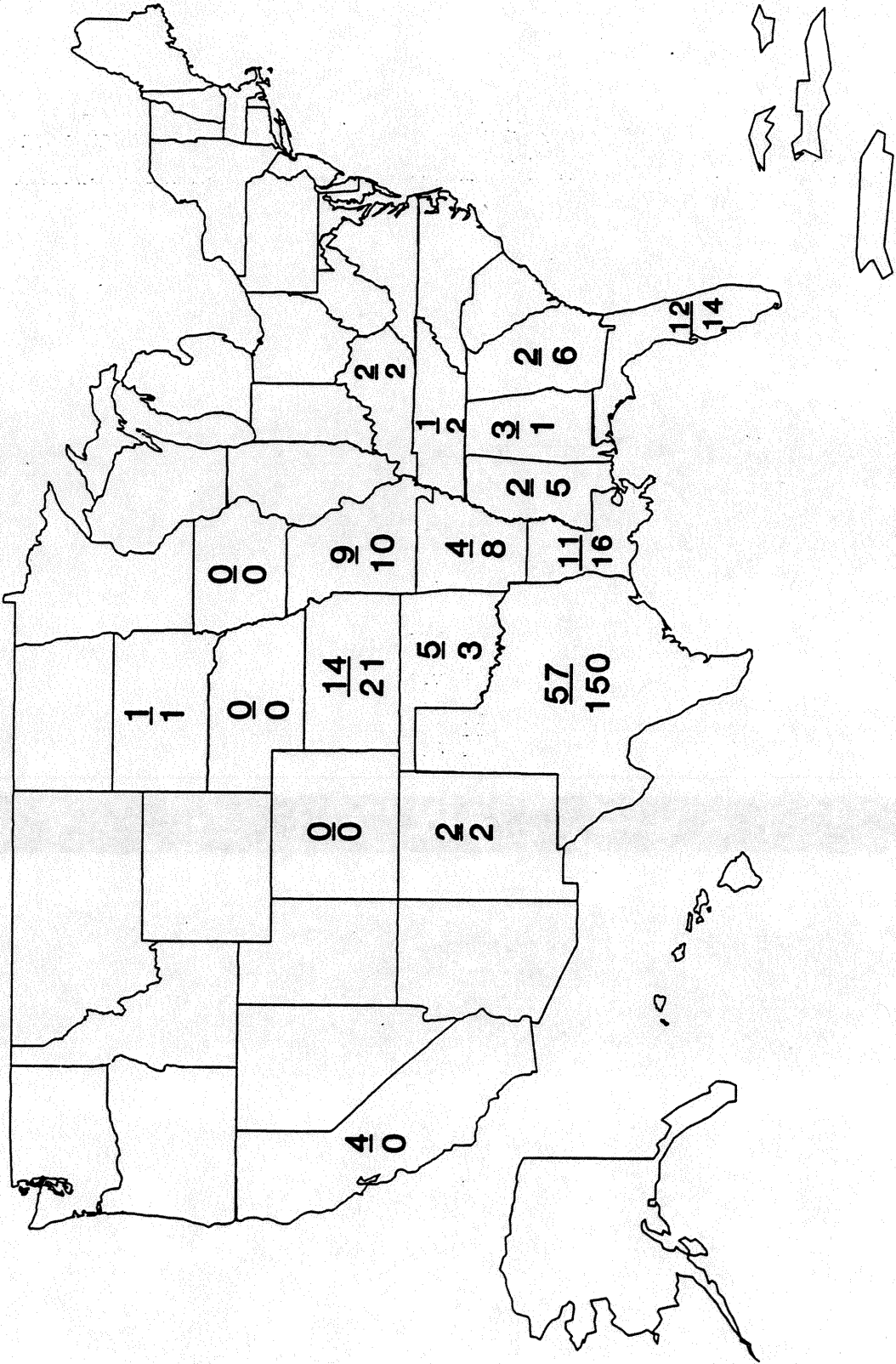
STATE	CLASS	REGION	TOTAL CATTLE HERD POPULATION	NUMBER OF AFFECTED HERDS	AFFECTED HERD RATE PER 1000
North Dakota	FREE	C	15,300	0	0.00
New York	FREE	N	21,000	0	0.00
Oregon	FREE	W	23,000	0	0.00
Ohio	FREE	N	42,000	0	0.00
Puerto Rico	FREE	S	30,000	0	0.00
North Carolina	FREE	S	30,000	0	0.00
Rhode Island	FREE	N	300	0	0.00
New Jersey	FREE	N	2,100	0	0.00
New Hampshire	FREE	N	1,100	0	0.00
Pennsylvania	FREE	N	33,000	0	0.00
Alaska	FREE	W	130	0	0.00
Washington	FREE	W	21,000	0	0.00
Virgin Islands	FREE	S	119	0	0.00
Wisconsin	FREE	N	51,000	0	0.00
West Virginia	FREE	N	17,000	0	0.00
Montana	FREE	W	12,700	0	0.00
Virginia	FREE	N	29,000	0	0.00
South Carolina	FREE	S	15,000	0	0.00
Vermont	FREE	N	4,100	0	0.00
Utah	FREE	W	7,800	0	0.00
Nevada	FREE	W	1,700	0	0.00
Wyoming	FREE	W	6,000	0	0.00
Minnesota	FREE	N	39,000	0	0.00
Maine	FREE	N	3,100	0	0.00
Maryland	FREE	N	6,800	0	0.00
Indiana	FREE	N	30,000	0	0.00
Illinois	FREE	N	31,000	0	0.00
Arizona	FREE	W	4,800	0	0.00
Delaware	FREE	N	660	0	0.00
Hawaii	FREE	W	900	0	0.00
Massachusetts	FREE	N	2,000	0	0.00
Idaho	FREE	W	13,000	0	0.00
Michigan	FREE	N	19,000	0	0.00
Connecticut	FREE	N	1,500	0	0.00
Colorado	<del>FREE</del>	W	13,000	0	0.00
Iowa	A	C	45,000	0	0.00
Nebraska	A	C	29,000	0	0.00
Tennessee	A	S	66,000	1	0.02
Kentucky	A	S	52,000	2	0.04
South Dakota	A	C	22,000	1	0.05
Mississippi	A	S	29,000	2	0.07
Georgia	A	S	29,000	2	0.07
Oklahoma	A	C	62,000	5	0.08
Alabama	A	S	33,000	3	0.09
Arkansas	A	C	33,000	4	0.12
Missouri	A	C	71,000	9	0.13
California	A	W	25,000	4	0.16
New Mexico	A	W	9,000	2	0.22
Texas	A	C	147,000	57	0.39
Kansas	A	C	36,000	14	0.39
Louisiana	A	C	20,000	11	0.55
Florida	A	S	20,000	12	0.60
United States		TOTAL	1,256,109	129	0.10

Colorado achieved FREE status  
 in Feb. 1995. 22

**BRUCELLOSIS AFFECTED HERDS**

**AS OF JANUARY 31, 1995 - 129**

**AS OF JANUARY 31, 1994 - 241**



DATE: 28 September 1995

TO: Representatives John Ainsworth, Barbara Gronemus, Al Ott  
Senators Alan Lasee, Gary Drzewiecki

FROM: Tom Howard

SUBJECT: Brucellosis calfhooed vaccination of cattle and other  
species

cc: Secretary Tracy  
Joe Tregoning  
Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt

\*\*\*\*\*

Because of the discussion of brucellosis calfhooed vaccination that occurred during hearings on AB 22, and the growing interest in non-traditional livestock, I am enclosing a copy of a recent memo from Dr. Gerald Toms, USDA Veterinary Services Epidemiologist for the northern region. Please note that USDA Veterinary Services is continuing to recommend elimination of incentives for Strain 19 vaccination of cattle within the northern region.

The RB51 vaccine described in Dr. Toms' memo is still under development, but is the most promising candidate vaccine to replace Strain 19 ever to appear. Its development is being driven by two considerations: (1) the continuing high cost of "false positive" cattle Strain 19 vaccinates to their owners, state and federal governments, and (2) the need to control brucellosis in certain very sensitive wildlife herds, such as the Yellowstone Park bison herd and Glacier Park elk herd.

Completion of RB51 vaccine research and approval of the vaccine for use in cattle is probably about 2 years away.

*Dr. E. H. ...*  
*[Signature]*

August 23, 1995

Brucellosis Vaccination

Area Veterinarians In Charge  
Northern Region  
Veterinary Services

Through: Dr. William Buisch  
Director  
Northern Region  
Veterinary Services

*W. Buisch*  
*9/2/95*

IT IS OUR POLICY TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF VACCINATION WITH BRUCELLA ABORTUS STRAIN 19 WITHIN THE NORTHERN REGION OF VETERINARY SERVICES. This is done by supporting the states in the removal of all their regulations that require or encourage the use of Brucella abortus Strain 19 vaccination. There should no longer be any direct financial support by states in the northern region for vaccination with Brucella abortus Strain 19. There is a need to continue to discuss the problems with false positive brucellosis tests caused by vaccination with Brucella abortus Strain 19. This costs the involved herd owner, Veterinary Services and the cooperating state agency through additional investigations and followup herd testing.

IT IS OUR POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPEMENT AND USE OF RB51 BRUCELLOSIS VACCINATION WITHIN THE NATIONAL ERADICATION PROGRAM. The main advantage to RB51 brucellosis vaccination is that it causes a negligible response on the serological tests done for antibodies to Brucella abortus. This is true whether or not the RB51 vaccine is used on cattle previously vaccinated with RB51 or Brucella abortus Strain 19 vaccine.

The research done to date suggests that the RB51 vaccine offers comparable immunity to that with the use of Brucella abortus Strain 19 vaccine. The RB51 vaccine appears to be safer. Both vaccines are live. The RB51 strain is rough while the Brucella abortus Strain 19 is smooth. There has been an association between virulence and smooth strains of brucella. The safety of RB51 vaccination in males and pregnant females is being evaluated. There is some indication that Brucella abortus Strain 19 vaccine may replicate more in buffalo with possibly more resulting pathology in some animals? So the safety of RB51 is being considered carefully for use in buffalo.

The use of RB51 is being considered especially for cattle, buffalo, elk, red deer, sitka deer, reindeer, caribou, and swine. There may be protection by RB51 against Brucella abortus in cattle, buffalo, elk, red deer and sitka deer. There may be protection by RB51 against Brucella suis in swine, reindeer, and caribou. The possibility of oral administration of RB51 for use in wild animals is being evaluated.

There is a pilot serial of RB51 at Colorado serum company. There are field trials and research projects underway to evaluate the safety and efficacy of RB51 in cattle and other species. They are considering releasing RB51 with a conditional license if the data is reasonable and all the approvals are received. This would leave it up to each state veterinarian to decide whether RB51 would be used there. Some states have laws or regulations that define brucellosis vaccination as being done only with Brucella abortus Strain 19 vaccine. These matters concerning RB51 vaccination will receive considerable attention by the U. S. Animal Health Association and other industry groups involved.

It is possible that RB51 might even be protective against Brucella melitensis. There is a good antigenic relationship between Brucella abortus and Brucella melitensis. The rough RB51 strain is a mutant of the smooth 2308 challenge strain of Brucella abortus. This mutant strain is apparently very stable and does not disassociate to the virulent parent strain.

Research has proven that the immunity with Brucella abortus strain 19 is cell mediated rather than serological. This is hard to fully appreciate for those of us who have seen the correlation between vaccination and the resulting titers with Brucella abortus strain 19 especially with the old high dosage vaccine. The immunity by the rough RB51 is strictly cell mediated against the smooth biovars of Brucella abortus. So this immunity takes place with only negligible test responses to antigens for smooth strains of Brucella abortus.

The RB51 vaccine if approved offers real possibilities for use in adult vaccination, and circle vaccination as well as the possible use in area immunization of wild animal populations including feral swine.

*Gerald F. Toms*

Gerald F. Toms  
Program Epidemiologist  
Northern Region  
Veterinary Services

cc: Regional Epidemiologists

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 1995