

# BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

**A dozen facts you should know!**

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English  
Afrikaans  
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Western Cape  
Government

Agriculture

# A dozen facts you should know about



## Bovine brucellosis

*Brucellosis isn't a simple disease and can slowly eat away at the productivity of your herd. Here are a dozen facts that are important for you to know about this disease.*

**01.** It is a controlled animal disease in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, which causes chronic disease and there is no treatment to cure it in cattle.

**02.** It is a herd disease – if one animal in the herd is infected, the whole herd needs to be considered as potentially infected.

**03.** It is compulsory by law to vaccinate all heifers once between 4-8 months of age against brucellosis with either S19 or RB51 (Table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations). Vaccination helps protect your herd from disease, decreases spread and decreases the number of abortions.

**04.** S19 vaccine may only be used in heifer calves between 4-8 months of age – if it is used at a later age, the animal may persistently test positive on blood tests. RB51 vaccine may be used in any age non-pregnant female cows, as it will not cause positive test results. Do not vaccinate bulls with S19 or RB51 as they may become sterile.

**05.** Infected heifers and cows may abort, their milk yield may drop and their production may decrease due to prolonged inter-calf periods, retained afterbirths and uterine infections.

**06.** Cows and heifers infected with brucellosis often look healthy, which is misleading! If these animals remain in the herd, they continue to silently spread the infection and this causes economic and production losses.

**07.** The most prevalent mode of transmission is when an infected cow calves normally or aborts, as this process releases millions of bacteria into the environment that can easily infect other cattle.

**08.** Heifers that were born from infected cows often test negative before they have calved and only test positive after their first calving. Newly bought-in heifers pose a high risk and should ideally be kept separate from the rest of the herd until they have calved and can be tested for brucellosis.

**09.** People can become infected with brucellosis by drinking unpasteurised milk, slaughtering an infected cow and handling infected birth material and aborted fetuses. Symptoms are flu-like with fever, headache and body ache being common signs. If treatment is not sought, it can become a chronic illness that continuously relapses. Meat from infected animals slaughtered at certified abattoirs is safe for human consumption.

**10.** Brucella bacteria can also be spread through run-off water from infected neighbouring farms. Predators such as roaming dogs, jackals and crows may carry infected aborted fetuses and afterbirths to other farms. Flies that feed on infected material may spread the bacteria mechanically when sitting on the mucous membranes of animals.

**11.** Owners are responsible for the health of their animals and may be prosecuted under the Animal Diseases Act and the Consumer Protection Act if they propagate the spreading of brucellosis infection.

**12.** **The only person who can protect your cattle herd against brucellosis is YOU!** When you are buying cattle, insist on vaccination records and recent negative herd tests of the farm of origin. The seller must be able to declare that the cattle are vaccinated and the herd of origin tested negative against brucellosis. The seller should be able to provide proof of regular negative **herd tests**. It is always advisable to isolate any cattle bought into the herd for biosecurity reasons – to test for different diseases, to vaccinate and to treat against internal and external parasites.



**For further information,  
please contact your state  
or private veterinarian.**

# 'n Dosyn feite wat jy moet weet van



## Bees- brusellose

*Brusellose is nie 'n eenvoudige siekte nie en kan die produktiwiteit van jou kudde stadigaan wegkalwe. Hier volg twaalf belangrike feite wat jy van die siekte moet weet.*

**01.** Dit is 'n gekontroleerde diersiekte volgens die Diersiektewet, 1984 (Wet Nr. 35 van 1984). Dit is 'n chroniese siekte waarvoor daar geen behandeling in beeste is nie.

**02.** Dit is 'n kuddesiekte – as een dier besmet is, moet die hele kudde as potensieël besmet beskou word.

**03.** Dit is verpligtend deur die wet om alle verse eenmalig tussen ouderdom 4-8 maande teen brusellose te ent, met S19 of met RB51 (Tabel 2 van die Diersiekte-regulasies). Inenting help om die kudde teen siekte te beskerm, verminder die verspreiding en verminder die aantal abortsies.

**04.** S19-entstof mag slegs in verskalwers tussen die ouderdom van 4-8 maande gebruik word – indien dit op 'n latere ouderdom gebruik word, kan die dier aanhoudend positief toets in bloedtoetse wat verwarring van die ware siektestatus veroorsaak. RB51-entstof mag in nie-dragtige koeie van enige ouderdom gebruik word, aangesien dit nie positiewe toetsresultate sal lewer nie. Bulle moet nie met S19 of RB51 ingeënt word nie aangesien hulle steriel kan raak.

**05.** Besmette verse en koeie kan aborteer, hul melkproduksie kan daal en hul aanwasproduksie kan daal weens verlengde tussenkalfperiodes, nageboortes wat vassit en baarmoederinfeksies.

**06.** Koeie en verse wat besmet is met brusellose lyk dikwels gesond, wat misleidend is! Indien hierdie diere in die kudde bly, hou hulle aan om die besmetting stilweg te versprei en dit veroorsaak ekonomiese- en produksieverliese.

**07.** Die mees algemene metode van oordrag is wanneer besmette koeie normaalweg kalf of aborteer, aangesien hierdie prosesse miljoene bakterieë in die omgewing vrystel, wat maklik ander diere kan besmet.

**08.** Verse wat gebore is uit besmette koeie toets dikwels negatief voordat hulle kalf en toets eers positief ná hul eerste kalwing. Nuutaangekoopte verse hou 'n hoë risiko in en behoort apart van die res van die kudde gehou te word totdat hulle gekalf het en getoets kan word vir brusellose.

**09.** Mense kan besmet word met brusellose deur ongepasteuriseerde melk te drink, 'n besmette koei te slag en deur besmette kalwingsmateriaal en geaborteerde fetusse (kalwers) te hanteer. Algemene simptome by mense is griepierigheid met koors, hoofpyne en liggaampyne. Indien geen behandeling ontvang word nie, kan dit 'n chroniese siekte word wat herhaaldelik toeslaan. Vleis van besmette diere, wat by goedgekeurde abattoirs geslag word, is veilig vir menslike gebruik.

**10.** Brucella-bakterieë kan ook deur afloopwater van besmette naburige plase versprei. Roofdiere soos rondloperhonde, jakkalse en kraaie kan ook besmette geaborteerde fetusse en nageboortes na ander plase toe verplaas. Vlieë wat op besmette materiaal voed, kan die bakterieë meganies versprei wanneer hulle op die slymvliese van diere sit.

**11.** Eienaars is verantwoordelik vir hul diere se gesondheid en kan onder die Wet van Dieresiektes, 1984 (Wet Nr. 35 van 1984) en die Verbruikersbeskermingswet, 2008 (Wet Nr. 68 van 2008) vervolgt word indien hulle die verspreiding van brusellose-besmetting propageer.

**12.** **Die enigste persoon wat jou kudde teen brusellose kan beskerm, is JY!** Wanneer jy beeste inkoop, moet jy aandring op inentingrekords en onlangse **kuddetoetse** van die plaas van oorsprong. Die verkoper moet kan bewys dat die diere ingeënt en die kudde van oorsprong negatief getoets het vir brusellose. Verder behoort die verkoper ook bewys te kan lewer van gereelde negatiewe kuddetoetse. Dit is altyd aan te beveel dat enige diere wat in die kudde ingebring word, eers geïsoleer word vir biosekuriteitsredes – om te toets vir verskeie siektes, om inentings toe te dien en om te behandel teen interne en eksterne parasiete.



**Vir verdere inligting skakel asseblief jou naaste staats- of privaatveearts.**

# Idazini yezinto ekufuneka uzazi



## Nge-bovine brucellosis

*I-Brucellosis ayisosifo silula kwaye inokutshabalalisa imveliso yomhlambi wakho. Nantsi idazini yezinto ekufuneka uzazi ngesi sifo.*

**01.** I-Brucellosis siSifo seMfuyo esiLawulwa ngokomThetho weZifo zeMfuyo, 1984 (umThetho 35 ka-1984) kwaye alukho unyango lokunyanga iinkomo.

**02.** Sisifo somhlambi. Yiloo nto, xa kosuleleke isilwanyana esinye kumhlambi, ze wonke uthathwe ngokuba wosulelekile.

**03.** Kunyanzelekile ngomthetho ukugonyela zonke iimazi nge-brucellosis esisitofu sokugonya esibhalisweyo ngokusemthethweni. (jonga itheyibhile yesi-2 yeMimiselo yeZifo zeMfuyo). Izitofu zokugonya ezifumanekayo yi-S19 (OBP) okanye i-RB51 (MSD). Ukugonya kunceda ukukhusela umhlambi wakho kwisifo, sehlisa ukusasazeka kwesifo kwaye kwehlisa nenani lokuphunza.

**04.** Isitofu sokugonya i-S19 sifakwa kuphela akube amankonyana azimazi ephakathi kweenyanga ezi-4 nezisi-8 ubudala. Ukuba i-S19 isetyenziswa

kwiminyaka yobudala obungaphaya isilwanyana sinokuzinga sifunyaniswa isesichaphazelekileyo kwiimvavanyo zegazi. Isitofu sokugonya esiyi -RB51 sinokufakwa kwiimazi ezingamithanga kunye nakwiinkomo zabo nabuphi na ubudala kuba ngeke sibange ukuba iziphumo zegazi zithi sikhona. Uze ungazigonyi iinkunzi nge-S19 okanye nge-RB51 kuba zinokuphelelwa yinzala.

**05.** Iimazi ezimithiyo nezosulelekileyo yi-brucellosis kunye neenkomo zinokuphunza, oko kukhokelele kwimveliso eyehlileyo ngokwenani lamankonyana, imveliso yobisi ingehla kunye nokuzalwa kwamankonyana ngenxa yexesha elide elithathileyo ekwalekeliseni, ukungaphezi kwesisa-mva kunye neentsholongwane esibekekweni.

**06.** Iinkomo kunye neemazi ezosulelwe yi-brucellosis kaninzi zijongeka zisempilweni, oko kuyalahlekisa! Ukuba ezi zilwanyana zihlala emhlabini, ziyaqhubeka ngokusasaza ngokuthuleyo

usulelo oluya kubanga ilahleko enkulu yoqoqosho kunye neyemveliso.

**07.** Eyona ndlela iqhelekileyo yokusasaza kuxa amankonyana emfuyo eyosulelweyo ezalwe ngophunzo, nanje ngokuba le nkqubo ikhuphela izigidi zeebhaktiriya kokusingqongongileyo nezinkosulela ngokulula enye imfuyo.

**08.** Amathokazi azelwe ziinkomo ezosulelweyo kaninzi abonisa iziphumo zovavanyo oluthi akosulelekanga de abe nawo azele inkonyana yokuqala kube kukhona kubonakalayo ukuba oosuleleka. Iimazi ezisanda kudityaniswa nalo mhlambi zibeka ingozi yomngcipheko omkhulu kwaye kububulumko ukuba ahlaliswe ngokwahlukileyo kumhlambi de zizele amankonyana kwaye uvavanyo luthi azinayo i-brucellosis.

**09.** Abantu banokosulelwa yi-brucellosis ngokusela ubisi olungabulawanga iintsholongwane, ukuxhela inkomo eyosulelekileyo kunye nokuphatah izixhobo zokuzalisa kunye namathole angekazalwa (amankonyana). Iimpawu ezibonakala kubantu, ngumkhuhlane oyimfuxane, intloko ebuhlungu kunye nokuqaqamba komzimba. Ukuba ufunyaniso ngoxilongo alwenziwanga kuze kuthathwe unyango olungafanelekanga, inokuba sisifo esingapheliyo esibuyelela ngokuqhubekayo. Inyama evela kwimfuyo eyosulelekileyo echongwe njengenaso kwaye ibe ixhelwe kwizilarha ezisemthethweni neziqinisekisiweyo, ikhuselekile ukuba ingatyiwa ngabantu.

**10.** Ibhaktiriya ye-Brucella inokusasazeka kwakhona ngamanzi

agelezayo avela kwiifama ezingabamelwane nezosulelekileyo. Izilwanyana ezifana nezinja ezizulayo, oodyakalashe noonomyayi zinokuthwala inyama eyosulelekileyo (amankonyana angekazalwa aphunziweyo kunye nemigcantsi) phakathi kweefama. Iimpukane ezitya inyama eyosulelekileyo zinokusasaza ibhaktiriya ngokuzenzekelayo xa zihleli kwinqwaba yangaphakathi yezilwanyana.

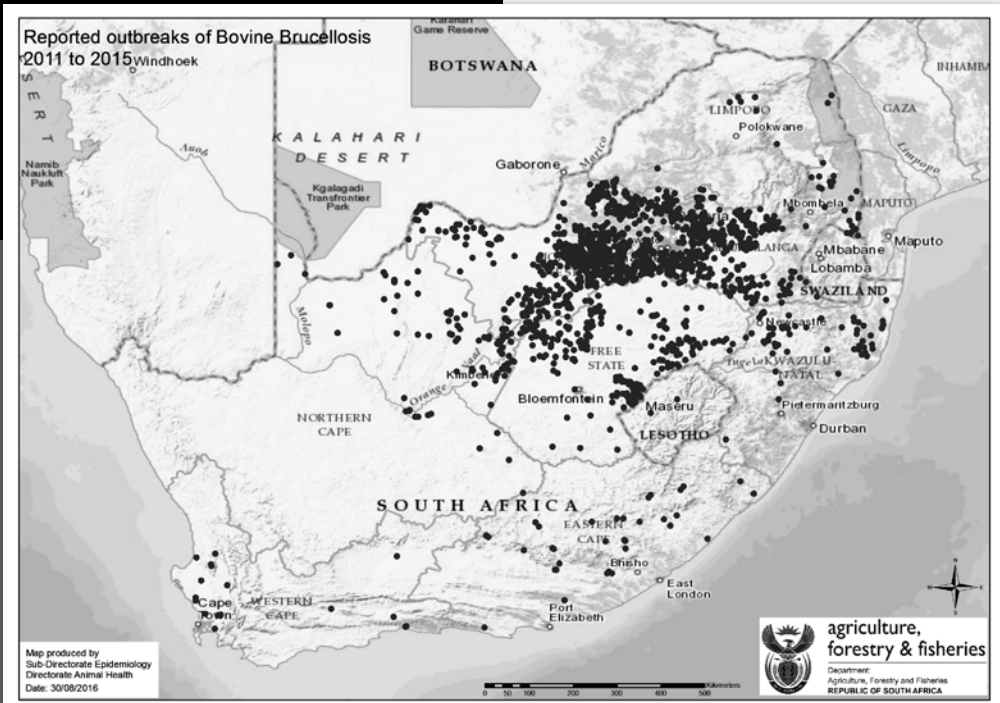
**11.** Abanini-mfuyo banoxanduva lwempilo yemfuyo yabo kwaye banokutshutshiswa phantsi komThetho weZifo zeziLwanyana, 1984 (umThetho 35 ka 1984) kunye nomThetho woKhuselo lwabaThengi, 2008 (umThetho 68 ka 2008) ukuba bandisa ukusasazeka kwe-brucellosis.

**12. Umntu ekukuphela kwakhe onokukhusela umhlambi wakho weenkomo kwi-brucellosis NGUWE!**  
Xa uthenga imfuyo, zingisa ngokufuna amaxwebhu abonakalisa amaxesha ogonyo lwempahla leyo neemvavanyo zakutsha nje zomhlambi zefama ovela kuwo. Umthengisi kufuneka akwazi ukubhengeza ukuba inkomo zigonyiwe kwaye indawo ovela kuwo umhlambi ifunyaniswe ingenayo i-brucellosis. Kufuneka umthengisi lowo akwazi ukunika ubungqina beziphumo **zeemvavanyo** ezithi umhlambi awunaso esi sifo. Kulicebo elihle ukuba nayiphi na inkomo esandul'ukuthengwa ihlaliswe yodwa kuwo umhlambi wemfuyo, ngelokukhusela imvelo ephilileyo, ze kuvavanywe ezinye izifo ezahlukileyo, ngokutofa kunyangwa izidleleli ezingaphakathi nangaphandle.



**Ngolwazi oluthe vetshe, nceda uqhagamshelane nogqirha wakho wemfuyo karhulumente okanye wabucala.**

# Distribution map



**We want you to fight brucellosis!**  
**Ons wil hê jy moet beesbrusellose beveg!**  
**Sifuna wena ulwe i-brucellosis!**



For more information, contact Sewellyn Davey: [SewellynD@elsenburg.com](mailto:SewellynD@elsenburg.com)

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