

# **BRUCELLOSIS**

## **Certified-Free Herd Plan for Cervids**

### **Missouri**

#### **1. Definitions**

(A) Anniversary Date – The herd anniversary date is based on the test date (month/day) of the second consecutive herd test in cervids with no evidence of brucellosis disclosed (that is, the test on which the herd was recognized as certified). Recertification tests must be conducted between 33 and 39 months from the anniversary date (month/day) established on the certifying test.

(B) Certified Herd – A Certified herd is one which has passed at least two consecutive negative brucellosis tests of all eligible animals conducted at 9 to 15 month intervals, has no evidence of, or exposure potential to, brucellosis and meets the standards of the Brucellosis in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules. Plus a completed herd plan for the herd must be on file with the Missouri USDA/APHIS/VS office.

(C) Official Identification – The identification of cervids by means of an official eartag (approved by APHIS) that provides unique identification for each individual animal. Official eartags include metal tags approved by APHIS that conform to the Alphanumeric National Uniform Eartagging System (i.e. 43ABC1234 or 43AB1234 bearing a US shield on the tag) or official radio frequency ID (RFID) eartags (i.e. 15 digit RFID tags bearing a US shield).

(D) Official Test – An approved brucellosis blood test conducted at an official laboratory to support the classification of Cervidae as brucellosis – negative, suspect, or reactor.

(E) Test eligible animals – All sexually intact cervids in the herd 12 months of age or older.

#### **2. Certification and Recertification**

(A) For Initial Certification – All sexually intact cervids in the herd 12 months of age or older must pass two consecutive annual brucellosis tests 9 to 15 months apart with negative brucellosis results. All animals must be bona fide members of the herd. Certified herds will be issued a certificate by the local State and Federal officials.

(B) Certification Period - The certification period will be 36 months from the anniversary date and not 36 months from the date of the reaccreditation test. To qualify for reaccreditation the herd must pass a test within a period of 33 to 39 months of the anniversary date.

(C) For Continuous Herd Certification - The recertification test must be conducted on the anniversary date or within a time period of 3 months prior to the anniversary date. If the reaccreditation test is conducted following the anniversary date, the certified status of the herd will be suspended until the recertification test is completed (animals are not considered to have a certified status for sale purposes while the herd status is suspended). If the recertification test is not completed within three months following the anniversary date, the requirements for reaccrediting the herd will be the same as for initial herd accreditation.

### 3. Animals to be Tested

(A) Testing of herds for certification or recertification shall include all cervids sexually intact 12 months of age and older.

(B) Brucellosis testing must be conducted at an approved laboratory using the tests specified by the Missouri State Veterinarian. The blood sample shall be collected by an Accredited Veterinarian of the owner's choice. Tests completed by a non-accredited veterinarian will not be accepted as official tests.

(C) All natural additions shall be officially identified and recorded on the test chart as members of the herd at the time of the certification or recertification test, even though not tested and under 12 months of age. Results for these animals should be marked as 'Too Young to Test'.

(D) All purchased additions shall be officially identified and recorded on the test chart as a purchased addition (as indicated with 'PA') members of the herd at the time of the certification or recertification test. The source herd the animals were purchased from shall also be recorded on the test chart.

**4. Additions** – Certified herd additions must originate directly from one of the following and have no exposure to captive cervids from herds of lesser status than the additions' herd of origin:

(A) From Certified Brucellosis-Free Cervid Herds – Animals originating from Certified Brucellosis-Free cervid herds do not need to be tested prior to movement. However, if the animals are not tested prior to movement, it is recommended that they are tested between 60 and 180 days after addition to the Certified herd.

(B) From Other Herds – Animals purchased from cervid herds not Certified Brucellosis-Free cannot be considered part of the certified herd until the following three blood tests have been conducted:

1. Within 30 days prior to movement from the herd of origin.
2. Between 60 and 180 days after addition to the Certified Brucellosis-Free herd; and
3. As part of the whole herd blood test on the recertification test following the second test.

***Purchased additions (not originating from a certified-free herd as in B above) that are added to a certified-free herd shall not receive certified status for sale or movement purposes until they have a negative result on a retest between 60 and 180 days after entry and until they have been included in a recertification herd test.***

**5. Breeding Loans and Fawn Raisers** – Any animals temporarily leaving a certified herd for the purposes of breeding, bottle feeding, etc. may only move to other certified-free herds. If they are exposed to or commingled with non-certified animals, they will lose their certified status and if returned home, the herd of origin will also lose its certified-free status.

**6. Status of Newly Assembled Herds** – A newly assembled herd shall assume the herd status of the herd from which the animals originated. Upon request and with proof of purchase, a new certificate with a new herd new herd number will be issued in the new owner's name. If the new herd is assembled from more than one herd, it shall assume the status of the herd with the lowest status. A newly assembled herd shall also assume the testing schedule of the herd whose status it assumes.

**7. Herds Consisting of Both Cattle and Cervidae** – If a herd consists of both cattle and cervidae, the requirements for herd certification must be consistent with those for cattle as outlined in the Brucellosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (i.e. a certified cattle herd must be tested every 12 months rather than every 36 months as with a cervidae herd).

**8. Authority to Test** – State laws and/or regulations shall provide authority to conduct a brucellosis test on any animal or herd at such times as may be deemed necessary by the cooperating State and Federal officials. These officials reserve the right to supervise any test conducted by an accredited veterinarian. Tests conducted by a non-accredited veterinarian will not be accepted as an official test.

## **9. Report of Brucellosis Tests**

(A) A report of all brucellosis tests shall be submitted on a VS Form 4-33 Brucellosis Test Record in accordance with the requirements of the cooperating State and Federal officials.

(B) The testing veterinarian must submit the test record and blood samples to an approved laboratory (such as the State/Federal Cooperative Brucellosis Laboratory in Jefferson City, MO) for the test to be considered an official test.

(C) This record should include the individual identification of each animal by recording **ALL man-made ear tag numbers or registration tattoos (including at least one form of official ID)**, age, sex, breed and the tube number.

**10. Change in Herd Veterinarian** – The owner agrees to contact the USDA/APHIS/VS office in Jefferson City, MO at (573) 636-3116 to report a change in the herd veterinarian. A change in the herd veterinarian requires an updated herd plan to be signed by the owner and the new veterinarian.

## **11. Other requirements**

(A) Complete records of all additions to the herd and sales from the herd must be maintained.

(B) Owners of certified herds are required to maintain environmental conditions consistent with generally accepted standards of good sanitation and herd management.

(C) The use of milk or other dairy products for feeding is prohibited unless such products are from a known safe supply or have been pasteurized.

(D) Only properly cleaned and disinfected vehicles may be used for transporting cervids into certified herds.

(E) The owner must provide necessary assistance and/or facilities to properly restrain all animals for testing in order to provide maximum protection to the animals and attending veterinarian.

(F) The owner agrees to make no claim whatsoever against the cooperating departments, or their representative for unavoidable injury to livestock during handling.

(G) Failure on the part of an owner to comply with the guidelines set forth in this document shall constitute sufficient cause for the revocation of the Certified-Free herd status.

# Brucellosis Certified-Free Herd Plan for Cervids Missouri

I have carefully read the Brucellosis Certified-Free Herd Plan for Cervids for Missouri (*January 2013 version*) and hereby agree to comply with all the stipulations as set forth, and to cooperate with the Missouri Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture in maintaining my entire herd as a Brucellosis Certified-Free herd.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Herd Owner's or Representative's signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Herd Veterinarian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Herd Owner(s) name(s) – **All names must be listed**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Herd Veterinarian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business/Farm/Herd Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinic Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physical Address of the Herd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinic Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (If different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinic Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing City, State, Zip (If different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

**\*Only names listed on the Herd Plan  
will be printed on the certificate**

**Keep a copy of this herd plan for  
your records and mail/email or fax to:  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 630  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Fax: (573) 751-6919  
Animal.Health@mda.mo.gov**

**For inquiries about the program contact:  
Dr. Sarah Reinkemeyer– Designated  
Epidemiologist (573) 751-3377**