

Anthrax update: quarantine released

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's office has released four quarantines associated with the recent anthrax cases in Logan County; no premises remain under quarantine.

The original case was announced Aug. 8. In all, approximately 55 cattle died due to the anthrax outbreak.

Anthrax can develop naturally in soil; the spores can become active in association with periods of marked climatic or ecologic change such as heavy rainfall, flooding or drought which can then expose the anthrax spores to grazing livestock.

Outbreaks of anthrax are commonly associated with neutral or alkaline soils. In these areas the spores apparently revert to the vegetative form and multiply to infectious levels so that cattle, horses, mules, sheep and goats may readily become infected when grazing such areas.

Anthrax is a serious disease because it can cause the rapid loss of a large number of animals in a very short time. Often, animals are found dead with no illness detected. Appropriate carcass disposal was used to prevent further soil contamination. The response efforts of local authorities were very effective in the control of the disease.

Producers should consult their veterinarians and vaccinate their livestock, if deemed appropriate.

Humans or animals can become infected by coming in contact with infected animals or soil. Anthrax infection can be treated with antibiotics, especially if caught in the early stages.

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