

Public Health Significance of Brucellosis

- Brucellosis is considered an occupational disease of farm and abattoir workers, butchers, inseminators and veterinarians.
- They are at risk through direct contact with infected animals or through exposure to a heavily contaminated environment. Infection may occur by inhalation, ingestion, skin contamination especially via cuts or abrasions.
- Humans are often infected due to direct animal contact or ingestion of dairy products that has not been pasteurized. These include raw milk, butter, ice-cream or cheese.
- Signs in humans include: fever, chills, profuse sweating, weakness and infertility.



Best to drink milk that has been pasteurized or heat-treated.

Veterinary Services Division MANDATE

- Keeping exotic diseases out of Jamaica
- Safeguarding the Livestock Industry
- Facilitating Trade
- Improving Public Health
- Enhancing Food Safety
- Promoting Animal Welfare

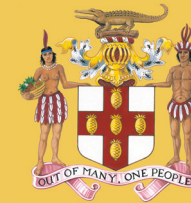
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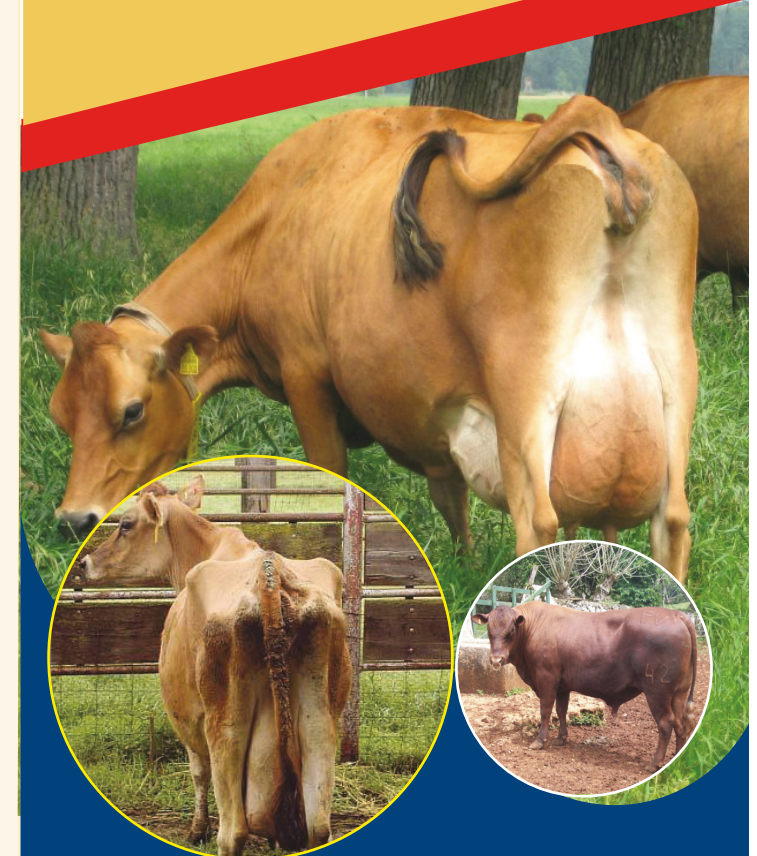
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Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries

VETERINARY SERVICES DIVISION



Brucellosis in Cattle

"Ensuring healthy animals for a healthier you"

What is Brucellosis and what causes it?

Brucellosis is an infectious bacterial disease caused by *Brucella* spp. (Bru-CELL-a). Brucellosis is primarily a reproductive disease in cattle and humans, but can also cause arthritis or udder infection (mastitis).

An animal may have the bacteria but show no signs of illness.



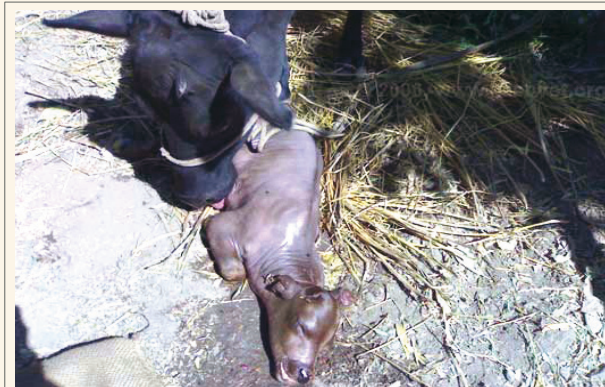
How can my cows get Brucellosis?

- Contact with infected birthing tissues and fluids (e.g., placenta, aborted fetuses, fetal fluids, vaginal discharges)
- Contact with infected semen
- Ingestion (oral)
- Direct contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth), or breaks in the skin
- Contaminated objects (fomites) such as, equipment, clothing, shoes, grasses, feed or water
- Humans mainly get infected by consuming raw milk or unpasteurized dairy products

What kinds of signs will my cattle show if they get brucellosis?

Signs of the disease in heifers/cows include:

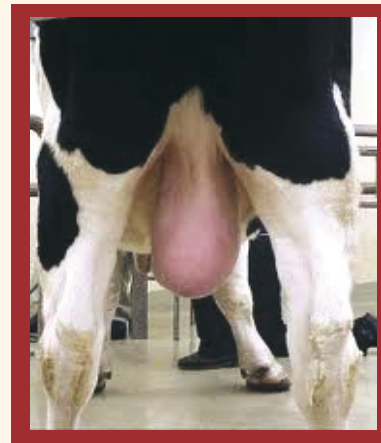
- reproductive problems resulting in abortions. Infections may also cause stillborn or weak calves, retained placentas and reduced milk yield.



Aborted calf resulting from Brucellosis

Signs of the disease in bulls include:

- inflammation of reproductive organs, such as the testicles, epididymis as the bacteria are in the semen.



Swollen scrotum of a bull infected with Brucellosis

- Decreased libido and infertility.
- Generally, long-standing infections may result in arthritis and hygromas of the joints in some cattle.

How can I protect my herd from Brucellosis?

- Get your cattle tested for Brucellosis. This can be done at the Veterinary Services Division.
- Purchase cattle from brucellosis-free areas or herds known to be negative. Replacements should be isolated for no more than 30 days and retested before being added to the herd. Keep heifers separate from cows.
- Clean and thoroughly disinfect areas exposed to infected cows, their blood, urine, blood, milk and other discharges.



Taking a blood sample for brucellosis testing