



Anthrax: Guidance for Producers

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

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Anthrax is an ever-present risk to livestock in Utah. The spores can survive decades in the soil, and only become infectious when soil conditions are ideal. The map to the right shows the locations in the western United States where anthrax spores might be found.

If you suspect anthrax:

- **DO NOT** open or handle the carcass
- **DO NOT** move the carcass
- **CONTACT** your veterinarian

Signs of Disease

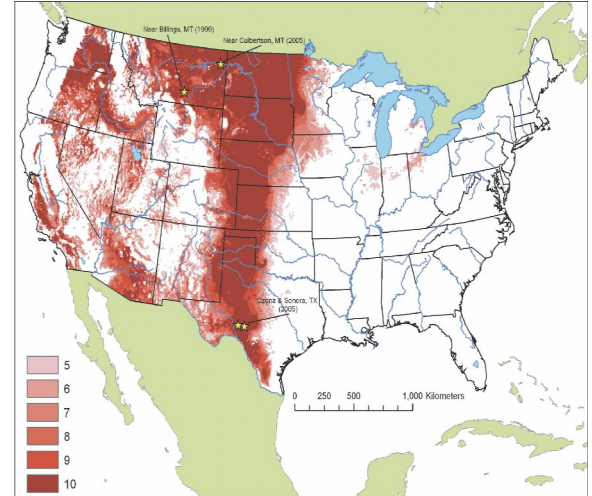
- Sudden death (most common)
 - +/- Lack of rigor mortis
 - +/- Blood around body openings
- Weakness or staggering
- Fever
- Difficulty breathing
- Bloody diarrhea

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Protective, impermeable clothing (rubber apron and boots)
- Long sleeves and pants
- Rubber gloves
- Respirator with HEPA filter

Disinfection of Equipment

- Hot water and detergent to remove blood, dirt, hair, and other materials
- 10% bleach with a 10-minute dwell time
- Avoid calcium-containing disinfectants



Map from Blackburn, J, et al, Modeling the geographic distribution of *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax disease, for the contiguous United States using predictive ecological niche modeling, *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 2007. 77:1103.

Quarantine of Infected Herds

- 30-day quarantine
 - After the last death OR after vaccination
 - No movement of hides/wool
- Dispose of carcasses by burning in place
- Move exposed animals to new pasture
 - May treat with penicillin before vaccination (delay vaccination for 2-5 days)
- Vaccination of all susceptible animals
 - 42-day meat withhold
 - No milk withhold

Susceptible Species

- **Cattle and bison**
- **Sheep and goats**
- **Horses and mules**
- **Llamas**
- **Pigs**
- **Farmed elk**