



## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 13, 2025

**TO:** Industry Partners & Iowa Licensed Veterinarians

**FROM:** Dr. Jeff Kaisand, State Veterinarian

**RE:** Important Animal Health Updates

---

Industry partners,

We have two important animal health updates to share with your organization and stakeholders.

### **Asian Longhorned Tick**

There has been a confirmed case of *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda in bovine in Van Buren County, located in southeast Iowa. *Theileria* is a protozoan parasite carried by the Asian Longhorned Tick (ALHT); the parasite infects red and white blood cells and causes bovine infectious anemia. According to USDA records, this is the first time *Theileria* and the ALHT have been confirmed in Iowa.

There are no approved treatments for *Theileria* in the United States. The best way to protect livestock is through tick control methods and proper biosecurity to prevent blood-borne spread between livestock.

If producers observe signs of anemia, lethargy, fever, jaundice, abortion or difficulty breathing in their livestock, they should contact their herd veterinarian. Veterinarians should include *Theileria* among the list of differentials for livestock displaying these clinical signs. Veterinarians should collect appropriate samples and submit to Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for diagnosis.

*Theileria* primarily affects ungulates, including cattle, sheep and deer. There is no known impact on public health in the U.S.

Additional resources are available at:

- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/asian-longhorned>
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bovine-theileriosis-infosheet.pdf>
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/alert-asian-longhorned-tick.508.pdf>

## **Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Fund**

During the 2025 session, Iowa legislators voted to eliminate the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Fund and the associated programs in Senate File 646. Effective July 1, 2025, Iowa taxpayers will no longer be assessed a property tax levy to support the fund and vaccine reimbursements.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will continue reimbursing Iowa veterinarians for brucellosis vaccinations **administered through June 30, 2025**. Veterinarians should submit vaccine vouchers to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship by July 31 to receive reimbursement.

Costs for brucellosis **vaccinations administered on or after July 1, 2025**, will not be reimbursed.

If you have questions or need assistance submitting your vaccine voucher, please contact Blake Ehler at [blake.ehler@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:blake.ehler@iowaagriculture.gov).

**Jeff Kaisand, DVM**

State Veterinarian

Animal Industry Division