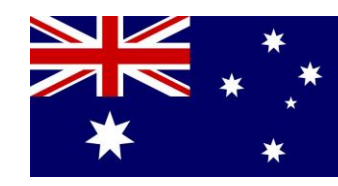


Current status of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis



Australia

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1970

Australia's Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign commences

1989

Australia declares freedom from bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) in all terrestrial species

1997

Australia declares freedom from bovine tuberculosis in accordance with the WOA Code

2002

Australia's last cases of bovine tuberculosis reported

Now

Australia remains free from bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis



Photos of helicopter mustering and caudal fold test taken during BTEC program sourced from, More, S.J., Radunz, B. and Glanville, R.J. (2015) *Lessons learned during the successful eradication of bovine tuberculosis from Australia*, *The Veterinary record*.

DIAGNOSIS, SURVEILLANCE, CONTROL

Australia uses general surveillance to demonstrate its ongoing freedom from bovine tuberculosis. Cattle meat inspection at abattoirs (abattoir surveillance) is the primary mode of surveillance for bovine tuberculosis. Over 5.8 million cattle and buffalo are inspected annually. Because bovine tuberculosis is a nationally notifiable disease in Australia, suspicious granulomas identified when cattle carcasses are inspected at slaughter establishments, including export abattoirs, are submitted for testing to exclude tuberculosis as a cause. Australia's animal health status, including information on eradication and monitoring for tuberculosis is reported in the *Animal Health in Australia Systems and Annual Reports* [*Animal Health in Australia System Report*](#). Australia reports its status to the World Organisation for Animal Health, with this information published on the World Animal Health Information System ([WAHIS](#))



Australia declared freedom from bovine brucellosis (*B. abortus*) in 1989, and various methods of ongoing passive surveillance are employed to demonstrate ongoing freedom. No case of *B. abortus* infection has been detected in any species in Australia for over 20 years.

Several different methods are used to demonstrate continued freedom from *B. abortus*:

- Abortion Investigations – there are several different incentivised programs to encourage producers and veterinarians to investigate bovine abortions. 111 investigations were conducted in 2023 to rule out *B. abortus*, as a causative agent.
- National Animal Health Information System – Bovine brucellosis surveillance data are collected, analysed and disseminated for animal health monitoring and compliance, as bovine brucellosis is a nationally notifiable disease.

Australia's freedom from bovine brucellosis is maintained by appropriate biosecurity measures for imported live cattle, embryos and semen.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Maintaining Australia's bovine tuberculosis-free and *Brucella abortus* status is supported by stringent measures and monitoring. There are several challenges to maintaining this status

- Maintaining import measures to manage biosecurity risks
- Maintaining laboratory diagnostic capability
- Maintaining awareness of diseases in younger generations of veterinarians and farmers who may not have seen bovine tuberculosis
- Continued submission from abattoir surveillance programs
- Encouraging submission of appropriate samples across the private sector
- Continuing to maintain an emergency response capacity/capability

