



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

By Rachelle Cloete

Brucellosis

and your management system

When it comes to proper livestock management, the identification of every animal in your herd is important right from the outset. It is essential that you mark your animals with a high-quality tag and a unique number which cannot be duplicated. Make sure that you capture the animal's details and all other production details regarding his/her history, in a management system.

Tests conducted by the state veterinarian or a private veterinarian, can be accurately linked to specific animals. A good management system also assists the producer in recording test results and information about the abattoir where his animals are slaughtered.

It is very important to keep records of the animal's initial immunisation information. Record the information and make sure you are able to use the name of the product, expiry date and serial number for further reference or audits.

Insist that suppliers give you the necessary certification before you release the "beautiful infected bargain" which you bought at the auction into your herd. Brucellosis raises many concerns in the South African livestock industry. Make sure you record everything you buy from reliable suppliers in your register. It may be of great help when you have to trace information if heifers, cows or bulls prove to be latent brucellosis carriers.

Characteristics of a good management system
Identification of individual animals and recording of data next to the number: Make sure your animals are marked with a tag containing a unique number. Duplication of numbers can cause problems when positive blood tests are linked to animals whose identity is questionable or tags may be swapped between tests and results.

Duplication and data integrity: The processing environment has its challenges and the numbers may easily be entered or written down erroneously. Therefore it is convenient to enter the tags from a stock list in your management system. When the animal's number is entered into the system, make sure the tag numbers are not duplicated.

Recording of immunisations to comply with legal requirements: If all the animals are on an auditable management system, the planning, management of immunisations and compliance to legal requirements become all the more easier. A list of these records can be printed and one can plan when to obtain the correct inoculants, determine the immunisation date and time, and prepare the animals accordingly. The name, serial number and expiry date of the inoculants may be recorded or written down at the same time.

Recording of blood tests and monitoring of disease status: Make sure every blood test, regardless of the result, is recorded in the system. Use a management system which allows you to add test results to your database by means of the Internet. This will eliminate unnecessary extra work when adding results.

Certification and declarations from producers when animals are sold: Insist on certification. There is nothing as damning as when the brucellosis axe falls in your herd. This disease can be eradicated from your herd and controlled through good management practices and the necessary precautions.

Recording, disease management and record-keeping: This is key to combating infections or the spread of diseases in your herd. It assists in preventing and combating financial losses, risks and the dangers of brucellosis infections in your herd.



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