

Fiscal TOPICS

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Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Fund

Purpose and History

The Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Fund was created in the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) to pay for expenditures related to the testing of animals for brucellosis and tuberculosis and for administration of the Brucellosis Program. Brucellosis is a contagious and communicable disease caused by the *Brucella* bacteria and is also referred to as Bang's disease or contagious abortion. The disease can attack other animals but mainly is found in cattle, bison, and swine. Brucellosis can be transmitted to humans and may be called undulant fever due to the severe fever that results. Brucellosis is spread when a susceptible animal comes into direct contact with an infected animal. This can happen when the owner of a herd buys a new animal that was exposed to the disease prior to being purchased.

Iowa works closely with the federal Department of Agriculture in the Cooperative State Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program. Iowa has a Class Free status, meaning that there has been no known brucellosis in bovine animals for a period of twelve months. States with a Class Free status have fewer restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle. Other state classifications include Class A, Class B, and Class C. The Class C designation indicates the highest rate of brucellosis, and states or areas that do not meet the minimum standards for Class C are placed under federal quarantine.

Funding for the Brucellosis Eradication and Tuberculosis Fund is generated by a property tax levy on each county. Each year the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the Board of Supervisors in each county of the levy amount needed to pay for the expenditures related to the Brucellosis Eradication Program. The current levy amount is .0033 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value of all taxable property in the county. The county remits the tax levy receipts to the Treasurer of State in two installments on December 15 and June 15 of each year.

Expenditures paid through the Fund include personnel, supplies such as ear tags, and laboratory test fees. The DALs works closely with the federal Department of Agriculture to maintain the Brucellosis Class Free status.

Funding History

The annual funding received by the DALs for this Program varies from year to year; however, the average amount received for the past ten years is \$386,000.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code section [165.18](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [64](#).

More Information

Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Animal Industry Bureau:
<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry.asp>

Federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/brucellosis/

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