



***Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*)**



What is *M. bovis*?

Mycoplasma bovis is a newly emerging bacterial disease in Wyoming pronghorn. *M. bovis* is a known disease of cattle and bison, and occasionally seen in white-tailed deer and mule deer. This disease was first recorded in pronghorn, February of 2019 in the northeast Wyoming near Gillette.

*Note this is **not** the same disease as *Mycobacterium bovis* (bovine tuberculosis) which is also abbreviated *M. bovis*.

Where is *M. bovis* found?

M. bovis occurs globally in cattle and has been documented in Wyoming in both cattle and commercial bison. Documented cases in wildlife are rare consisting of white-tailed deer, mule deer and most recently pronghorn. Pronghorn mortalities from this disease are typically observed in late winter and early spring.

How is it spread?

Animal to animal transmission is through close contact with nasal and respiratory secretions.

What are some clinical signs of disease?

Clinical signs in pronghorn generally stem from severe pneumonia and can include labored breathing, lethargy, anorexia, coughing and nasal discharge. Affected animals are usually found lying sternally and are unwilling/unable to move; animals in this condition are very unlikely to recover. Finding multiple pronghorn carcasses on the landscape could be an indicator of a *M. bovis* outbreak.

How does this disease affect me?

Mycoplasma bovis is not known to infect humans.

How does it affect pronghorn populations?

The long-term impact to pronghorn populations are unknown. Localized outbreaks have been serious with significant mortalities (400+ animals), but losses have stopped once the weather improved.

Information for livestock producers:

Mycoplasma bovis can pose a large economic threat to cattle producers due to the pathogen's involvement in the multifactorial bovine respiratory disease complex. Disease symptoms observed in cattle and bison include pneumonia, mastitis, arthritis, fever, otitis, nasal and ocular discharge. Contact your veterinarian if you suspect *M. bovis* in your herd.

For additional information on *Mycoplasma bovis* or any other wildlife disease, please contact the WGFD Wildlife Health Laboratory at 307-745-5865.