



JULY 22, 2005

## HEALTH UPDATE

**Bovine Anthrax Epizootic Continues in North Dakota**  
*Department of Health Offers Guidelines for Management of Needle Sticks  
by People Vaccinating Livestock*

The Anthrax epizootic continues along the Sheyenne River watershed in southeastern North Dakota. The State Veterinarian's office, as of July 21, has reported 31 premises in five counties with anthrax. To date, no human cases have been reported. Counties include Ransom, Lamoure, Barnes, Dickey and Sargent. Species affected include cattle, horses, bison, farmed elk and deer, and sheep.

As farmers and ranchers start to vaccinate livestock against anthrax, the Department of Health is receiving reports of needle sticks. Because the livestock vaccine is a live, unencapsulated bacterial vaccine, it does not cause anthrax in people. Needle stick management consists of good wound management.

Suspected cases of anthrax in humans should be reported immediately to the North Dakota Department of Health by calling 800.472.2180.

A new frequently asked questions fact sheet for people who work with livestock is posted at [www.health.state.nd.us/disease/](http://www.health.state.nd.us/disease/). The previous health advisory relating to anthrax (sent July 8, 2005) can be found at [www.ndhan.gov](http://www.ndhan.gov).

*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.*