

A Survey of Buffalo and Elk Herds to Determine the Extent of *Brucella* Infection

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WHEN Buffalo and Elk were being slaughtered in two National Parks to reduce the size of the herds during the winter of 1946-47, an opportunity was taken to conduct a serological survey by using the tube agglutination test to determine the extent of *Brucella* infection. The Buffalo and Elk herds roam in separate parks which are situated about 150 miles apart. When culling the respective herds the animals were hunted by attendants and selected animals shot. The hunter carried a supply of sterile bottles. After shooting them he severed the jugular vein and filled a vial from the free flowing blood. This blood was shipped to one of our Branch Laboratories where the serum was removed and forwarded for examination. Because of the conditions under which animals were slaughtered, no attempt was made to isolate *Brucella abortus*.

One hundred and eighty-six samples were received from Elk of both sexes and all ages. All of these were negative.

Thirty-seven samples of Buffalo serum were received, the majority being taken from mature males, 6 (16.2%) were positive, 5 (13.5%) were questionable and 26 (70.3%) were negative. A point of interest is that 5 of the 6 positive samples were from male Buffalo.

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to express his thanks to the Superintendents of the National Parks who arranged for the collection of the blood samples, and to Dr. R. C. Duthie, Veterinary Research Laboratory, Lethbridge,, Alta. who arranged to have the clear serum decanted.

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