



## **The Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science (CABS)**

*A Scientific Synthesis to Inform Policy and Research*

The Consortium for the Advancement of Brucellosis Science, called CABS, consists of a science team, with members from around the United States (including California, Texas, Louisiana, Virginia, Maryland, Iowa, Wyoming, and Montana), and stakeholder advisory team comprised of leaders from the Federal Government as well as from the 3 states in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). This consortium is designed according to the model provided by the USDA-NIFA CAP grant programs. The mission of CABS is to evaluate current research, identify gaps, secure funding, award research grants on a competitive and transparent basis, and conduct outreach for the advancement of brucellosis science for domestic and wild animals. Research will focus on development of vaccines, and diagnostic tests.

Brucellosis is a devastating disease that affects humans and a variety of animals throughout the world, including much of Europe, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and even the Arctic. The last remaining reservoir for *Brucella abortus* in the United States is in the wild bison and elk in the GYA. In the last few years, the disease has spilled over from those affected wildlife to cattle populations in the states surrounding the GYA, thus threatening the ultimate success of the Brucellosis Eradication Program nationwide.

The goal of the CABS is to work toward successful disease control and prevention. In-depth research projects under CABS will be conducted at veterinary disease labs in the United States, including the \$25 million University of Wyoming (UW) BSL3 laboratory currently in construction.

This is a collaborative research effort, with stakeholder consensus, and an adaptive research approach with results to be widely disseminated to policy makers, scientists, and stakeholders.

The CABS project has been designed to further the efforts of the Laramie Agenda, a major meeting with the leading scientists from around the world, which took place in Laramie, Wyoming in 2005. This CABS consortium was proposed at that meeting. Development of improved vaccines and tests for elk, bison, and cattle was estimated to cost \$40 million or more and take up to 20 years to undertake.

Approximately \$1.8 million per year for the next 5 to 10 years is required to initiate the research projects and operations. Brucellosis has cost the USA and producers billions of dollars since eradication efforts began. Despite the fact that this disease remains a national issue for industry and federal agencies, including USDA-NIFA; federal agencies increasingly view this as only a regional issue and thus are reluctant to provide research funding. Therefore, direct federal funding of CABS is requested now and into the next Farm Bill, for this important nationwide research and development effort.