



# Protecting You and Your Family from Brucellosis

- Twenty eight people in Northern Ireland, most of whom worked with breeding cattle, contracted brucellosis during 2002
- The germ enters the body through breaks in the skin, by being swallowed or inhaled, or from splashes to the face
- The risk is greatest for those assisting at calving, vets and abattoir workers
- Brucellosis causes abortion in cattle, but in humans the infection causes severe and often intermittent, flu-like symptoms. If you contract the disease you may be unable to work for long periods
- If you think you have the infection seek early medical advice so that appropriate treatment can begin
- Herd owners must take the recommended precautions and report any abortions immediately to their Divisional Veterinary Officer
- More detailed advice is available from HSENI

Helpline. 0800 0320 121  
Textphone: 028 9054 6896  
Website: [www.hseni.gov.uk](http://www.hseni.gov.uk)

**Taking heed of these recommendations will make a difference in bringing this debilitating disease under control**

This document is endorsed by the members of the Northern Ireland Brucellosis Advisory Group:-

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland  
Veterinary Service, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
The Ulster Farmers' Union  
Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone  
The Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practicing in N. Ireland  
The Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (NI)  
The Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association

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