

# **Brucellosis and Hunters**

**Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that affects many Yellowstone bison. Extra precautions are required when field dressing and processing bison carcasses. In people it's called Bangs disease or undulant fever.**

**The bacteria is concentrated in the reproductive tract and lymph nodes. Thorough cooking destroys bacteria that may be present in the meat, making it safe to eat. To protect yourself when handling your carcass, consider the following:**

- Assume every bison is potentially infected with brucellosis**
- Always wear protective gloves when handling the carcass or viscera**
- Avoid direct contact with materials from the reproductive tract or milk**
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth until you've had a chance to wash carefully**
- Be extra careful if you have open sores or cuts**
- Discard organ meats and cook all meat that you are going to consume thoroughly**

**It is unlawful to possess or transport the fetus of reproductive tissues of a bison away from the kill site. This shall not include specifically minimized tissues naturally attached to the carcass or a portion of the carcass as necessary for evidence of sex as follows:**

**Male: head with horns or penis**

**Female: head with horns or vulva**