

## Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

### What is CBPP and what causes it?

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (plur-OH-new-MOAN-ya), or CBPP, is an easily spread respiratory disease of cattle. It is caused by the bacteria *Mycoplasma mycoides mycoides* (my-COp-laz- MA my-COY-dees), a similar but different organism than *Mycoplasma bovis*, the bacterium associated with mastitis and shipping fever in cattle. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia is a serious disease in Africa causing death rates of up to 80%. Occasional outbreaks have also occurred in the Middle East, Asia and parts of Europe. The disease has been eradicated from the Western Hemisphere.

### What animals get CBPP?

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia primarily affects cattle. Younger animals (less than 3 years old) are more susceptible. Bison, yak and water buffalo have also been infected with CBPP.

### How can my animal get CBPP?

Animals are exposed to the CBPP bacteria by **aerosol** from the cough of infected cattle. Once inhaled, the bacterial infects the lungs of the animal. Another route of spread is by **direct contact** with the saliva, urine, or reproductive tissues or fluids, from an infected animal. The bacteria can spread **reproductively** during pregnancy from the cow to the unborn calf.

### How does CBPP affect my animal?

This disease develops relatively slow. After cattle are exposed to the bacteria, signs of illness do not appear until 1 to 3 months later and include

fever and lethargy. Affected animals will have severe respiratory signs such as coughing, labored breathing, outstretched neck and a wide stance of the front legs (due to difficulty breathing), as well as a loss in appetite and body condition, and decreased milk production. Animals with long-term (chronic) infections have less obvious signs of pneumonia, but may cough with exercise. Calves are more likely to show signs of arthritis and lameness than respiratory illness.

Some infected animals may appear to recover but continue to “carry” the bacteria with few or no signs of illness. These carrier animals can serve as a source of infection to other cattle.

### Can I get CBPP?

No. CBPP does not affect humans.

### Who should I contact if I suspect CBPP?

**Contact your veterinarian immediately.** Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia is not found in the United States. Suspicion of disease requires immediate attention.

### How can I protect my animal from CBPP?

CBPP is considered a foreign animal disease and has not been found in the United States since 1892. The best approach to prevention is prompt detection.

Monitor your animals frequently for any signs of disease, especially severe respiratory disease or lameness in young stock. Newly introduced or returning animals should be isolated for several weeks before placing them with the rest of the herd. Antibiotic treatment is not effective for CBPP.

The CBPP bacteria do not survive in the environment for long periods of time and are inactivated by most common disinfectants. Equipment and animal rearing areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to prevent disease spread.

### For More Information

CFSPH Technical Fact Sheets. Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/>



**CBPP**  
is a contagious,  
bacterial disease of cattle  
that causes severe  
respiratory disease.

Photo courtesy of FAO at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)