

Bovine Anthrax

Anthrax

Anthrax is a highly contagious and infectious soil-borne disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, a relatively large spore-forming bacteria that can infect mammals.

Three types of Anthrax.

- **Gastrointestinal:** Caused when bacteria spores from an infected animal are ingested. The most common cause of anthrax in beef cattle.
- **Cutaneous:** Contracted via a skin wound. The most common way that anthrax is contracted by people.
- **Pulmonary:** Caused when the bacteria are inhaled.

1 The bacteria known as *Bacillus anthracis* produce spores that are dormant (not active) and can live in the environment, like soil, for a long time, even decades.

2 When spores get into the body of an animal or person (a place rich with water, sugars, and other nutrients), they can be "activated" and turn into active growing cells.

3 When they become active, the bacteria can multiply, spread out in the body, produce toxins (poisons) and cause severe illness and death.





A cow that died from anthrax with typical blood coming from its eyes, nose and mouth



Carcass revealing unclotted or partially clotted blood near the anal opening simulating anthrax affected dead animal.