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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. <u>04</u> Series of 2025

SUBJECT : SURVEILLANCE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR Q FEVER (Coxiella burnetii) IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), sometimes referred to as the Bureau, is established under Act No. 3639, or "An Act Creating the Bureau of Animal Industry...," and is tasked with the prevention, control, and eradication of dangerous communicable diseases affecting domestic animals;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order (EO) No. 338, titled "Restructuring the Department of Agriculture, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes," the Bureau is responsible for investigating, diagnosing, and reporting on communicable and emerging exotic animal diseases in the country, particularly those affecting livestock and poultry, while establishing an effective surveillance system;

WHEREAS, measures are to be implemented to prevent the entry of exotic and communicable animal diseases into the country and to regulate the international and inter-regional movement of animals, in accordance with international standards, guidelines, and protocols;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Republic Act No. 7160, or the "Local Government Code of 1991," veterinarians in the Local Government Units (LGUs), sometimes referred to as Local Animal Health Authorities,¹ are required to take all necessary measures to prevent, control, eradicate, or treat all forms of animal diseases within their jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the Local Animal Health Authorities shall serve as the frontline responders in veterinary activities particularly during outbreaks of highly infectious and deadly animal diseases, which can significantly impact animal populations, public health, and livelihoods of farmers and farm owners;

WHEREAS, under Administrative Order (AO) No. 10 issued by the Office of the President (OP) in April 2011, the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are designated to establish a functional and sustainable mechanism for the effective prevention and control of zoonotic diseases;

WHEREAS, the reporting system for notifiable zoonotic diseases between the human and animal health sectors is detailed in Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-02, or the "Guidelines to Operationalize the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Zoonosis (PhiICZ)," issued by the DOH,

¹ BAI MC No. 30, Series of 2024.



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the DA, and the DENR, which mandates that all suspected and confirmed cases identified by the BAI be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, who shall promptly inform the other agency Secretaries involved;

WHEREAS, DA AO No. 05, Series of 2019, titled "Guidelines on the Local Transport/ Shipment of Animals, Animal Products, and By-Products," establishes in Section 5.4 the additional mandatory requirements for the local transport of animals. In the event of a serious endemic or emerging animal disease outbreak in the country, specific guidelines may be implemented for the local movement of certain animals to help contain the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, Q Fever is classified by the BAI as one of the priority animal diseases, as per BAI Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 30, Series of 2024, titled "List of Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Priority Animal Diseases and Procedures on Animal Disease Reporting;"

WHEREAS, Q Fever is a zoonotic disease that occurs worldwide and was officially detected in the Philippines last June 2024. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. Humans can be infected through direct contact with infected animals or through inhalation of contaminated dust particles or aerosols originating from animals, especially ruminants;

WHEREAS, domestic ruminants, including cattle, goats, and sheep, are the primary reservoirs of Q Fever. While affected animals can be asymptomatic, they may exhibit reproductive issues such as abortions, stillbirths, retained placentas, infertility, and weak newborns. As a result, surveillance for antibodies and antigens related to Q Fever is crucial for detecting its presence or confirming its absence among ruminant species in the affected area to enable prompt disease control measures;

WHEREAS, on 10 November 2025 (Sunday), imported goats arrived at Sitio Bullhorn, Barangay Aranguren, Capas, Tarlac, for mandatory 30-day quarantine. Physical assessments and sample collections were done, following the standard procedures of the National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division (NVQSD) which yielded a number of positive reactors for Q Fever. Control measures established by the NVQSD were applied to the animals that tested positive for screening and confirmatory testing;

WHEREAS, on 14 January 2025 (Tuesday) and 23 January 2025 (Thursday), the Department of Health (DOH), along with its regional and local counterparts, invited the Bureau to an interagency coordination meeting attended by several concerned agencies, including the BAI and the DA – Regional Field Office (RFO) III to discuss Q Fever concerns. The BAI updated the participants of the negative retesting results for Q Fever after extended quarantine, isolation, and supportive treatment of animals; and,

WHEREAS, on 27 January 2025 (Monday), the AHWD, NVQSD, and Veterinary Laboratory Division (VLD), along with representatives from the DA-RFO III, Tarlac Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO), and Capas Municipal Veterinary Office (MVO), convened to assess the status of Q

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Fever in the Province of Tarlac, including the animal census in the affected areas, and discuss the proposed field surveillance in the Municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIOSAMIA M. SEVILLA, MSc, Officer-in-Charge, Director, Bureau of Animal Industry, in accordance with the authority vested by existing laws, do hereby order the promulgation of the following:

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. To identify the presence of Q Fever in female ruminants in Barangay Aranguren, Capas, Province of Tarlac.
- 1.2. To assess the prevalence of Q Fever among ruminants in Barangay Aranguren, Capas, Province of Tarlac.
- 1.3. To identify any possible risk factors for the occurrence of Q Fever;
- 1.4. To develop preventive and control measures for Q Fever.

Section 2. DISEASE DESCRIPTION

2.1. **Q Fever** – refers to a zoonotic disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*, primarily affecting ruminants such as buffalo, cattle, sheep, and goats, which serve as the main reservoirs for the disease. It can lead to sporadic or outbreak-related abortions and the birth of dead or weak offspring, typically followed by recovery without complications. Additionally, Q Fever may cause infertility or issues like metritis in cattle. *Coxiella burnetii* infection can persist for several years, potentially for life. While sheep, goats, cattle, and buffalo often remain subclinical carriers, they can shed the bacteria in various secretions and excreta. Humans usually contract the disease by inhaling contaminated aerosols from these animals or their products.

Section 3. CASE DEFINITION

2.1. **Probable** – refers to a ruminant (i.e., sheep, goat, cattle, or buffalo) in Barangay Aranguren, Capas, Tarlac, exhibiting clinical signs suggestive of Q Fever may show reproductive issues such as unexplained abortions, pregnancy loss at any stage, stillbirths, retained placenta, weak newborns, and elevated rates of metritis and endometritis. Additionally, there may be unexplained fertility challenges, including repeat breeding, increased calving-to-conception rates, and embryo loss.



- 2.2. **Suspected** refers to a probable case tested for Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) that yields a positive result.
- 2.3. **Confirmed** refers to a suspected case that tested positive for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

ARTICLE II SURVEILLANCE PLAN

Section 4. SURVEILLANCE TEAM

4.1. The surveillance team shall be composed of the following:

4.1.1. Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)

- 4.1.1.1. Provide technical assistance and offer any available field supplies;
- 4.1.1.2. Conduct screening and confirmatory testing for Q Fever;
- 4.1.1.3. Develop guidelines and other related issuances for the control of Q Fever at the National level;
- 4.1.1.4. Coordinate with livestock agencies, collegial bodies, industry groups, and the DOH for suspected and confirmed cases; and,
- 4.1.1.5. Report and verify confirmed cases of Q Fever.

4.1.2. Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) III

- 4.1.2.1. Provide technical assistance, such as but not limited to sample collection, and offer any available field supplies;
- 4.1.2.2. Develop supplemental guidelines and other related issuances for the control of Q Fever at the Regional level.
- 4.1.2.3. Coordinate with the LGU of the Province of Tarlac;

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- 4.1.2.4. Provide logistical support, such as, but not limited to, transportation, accommodation, and meals; and,
- 4.1.2.5. Report probable and suspected cases of Q Fever to the BAI.



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4.1.3. Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) of Tarlac

- 4.1.3.1. Lead the sample collection of the surveillance team in the Province of Tarlac;
- 4.1.3.2. Develop supplemental guidelines and other related issuances for the control of Q Fever in the Province of Tarlac.
- 4.1.3.3. Validate data, especially the distribution and number of animals, by the Municipal/ City Agriculture or Veterinary Office;
- 4.1.3.4. Implement management and response measures;
- 4.1.3.5. Provide logistical support, such as, but not limited to, field supplies, transportation, accommodation, and meals; and,
- 4.1.3.6. Report probable cases of Q Fever to the public and animal health sectors, including, but not limited to, DOH and its regional counterparts, the BAI, and the DA-RFO.
- 4.1.4. **City/ Municipal Veterinary/ Agriculture Office (CVO/ MAO)** (i.e., Municipality of Capas)
 - 4.1.4.1. Coordinate with smallhold, semi-commercial, and commercial farms and barangay officials.
 - 4.1.4.2. Develop supplemental guidelines and other related issuances for the control of Q Fever at the City or Municipal level.
 - 4.1.4.3. Conduct a census of the distribution and number of animals;
 - 4.1.4.4. Assist the surveillance team with sample collection;
 - 4.1.4.5. Provide logistical support, such as, but not limited to, field supplies, transportation, accommodation, and meals;
 - 4.1.4.6. Assist in the implementation of the management and response measures; and,
 - 4.1.4.7. Report probable cases of Q Fever to the PVO.



- 4.1.5. **Barangay** (i.e., Barangay Aranguren)
 - 4.1.5.1. Assist the surveillance team during house-to-house visits;
 - 4.1.5.2. Ensure the safety and security of the surveillance team;
 - 4.1.5.3. Provide logistical support, such as, but not limited to, transportation, accommodation, and meals;
 - 4.1.5.4. Assist in the implementation of the management and response measures; and,
 - 4.1.5.5. Report probable cases of Q Fever to the CVO/ MAO.

Section 5. DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

5.1. Serological Analysis

- 5.1.1. Individual serum samples shall be tested using commercial Q Fever Indirect ELISA kits recommended by the WOAH Reference Laboratory (ANSES French Agency for Food, Environment & Occupational Health Safety, Animal Q Fever Unit, France).
- 5.1.2. The ADDRL shall follow the protocol of the manufacturer, and the interpretation of results will be as follows:

Result	Interpretation
S/P % ≤ 40%	Negative
40% < S/P % ≤ 50%	Doubtful
50% < S/P % ≤ 80%	Positive
S/P% > 80%	Strong Positive

5.1.2.1. For ID Screen ® Q Fever Indirect Multispecies, IDvet®

5.1.2.2. For IDEXX Q Fever (Coxiella burnetii) Antibody Test Kit

Result	Interpretation
S/P % < 30%	Negative



30% ≤ S/P % < 40%	Suspect
S/P % ≥ 40%	Positive

5.1.2.3. For the sensitivity and specificity of the available ELISA test kits:

ELISA Kit	Sensitivity	Specificity	
IDvet® ID Screen Q Fever ²	99%	98%	
IDEXX Q Fever Ab test kit ³	100%	95%	

5.2. Molecular Analysis

- 5.2.1. Fecal and vaginal swab samples from serologically positive animals shall be utilized for the molecular detection of *Coxiella burnetii*.
- 5.2.2. If there is an abortion and stillbirths, samples shall also be collected from aborted fetuses, placentas, and vaginal discharges immediately after abortion or parturition.
- 5.2.3. For DNA Extraction:
 - 5.2.3.1. DNA from the samples shall be extracted with the appropriate commercially available extraction kit/s (i.e., QIAmp DNA Mini Kit and QIAamp Fast DNA Stool Mini Kit) and the protocol of the manufacturer shall be followed.

5.2.4. For PCR:

5.2.4.1. DNA product shall be analyzed using q-PCR from a commercially available kit (ID Gene[™] Q Fever Triplex) recommended by WOAH Reference Laboratory or detection of the insertion sequence

^{99-104.} https://doi.org/10.1002/vms3.337



 ² Conan, A., Becker, A., Alava, V., Chapwanya, A., Carter, J., Roman, K., Avsaroglu, H., & Gallagher, C. (2020). Detection of *Coxiella burnetii* antibodies in sheep and cattle on a veterinary campus in St. Kitts: Implications for one health in the Caribbean region. *One Health*. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2020.100163</u>
 ³ Vourvidis, D., Kyrma, A., Linou, M., Edouard, S., & Angelakis, E. (2020). Sero-epidemiology investigation of *Coxiella burnetii* in domestic ruminants throughout most Greek regions. *Veterinary Medicine and Science, 7*(1),

IS1111, *Coxiella burnetii* superoxide dismutase (sodB) and/ or outer membrane protein (com1) genes.⁴

5.3. Animal diagnostic samples shall be tested for screening and confirmatory at the Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL). Other considerations shall adhere to BAI MC No. 44, Series of 2024.⁵

Section 6. SAMPLING PLAN

6.1. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

- 6.1.1. Samples shall be collected only from ruminants, specifically cattle, buffaloes, goats, and sheep, in the Q Fever-suspected Barangay Aranguren of the Municipality of Capas, Tarlac (*See Appendix A*).
- 6.1.2. Female animals susceptible to Q Fever or exhibiting clinical signs associated with the disease shall be selected for sampling.

6.2. Ruminant census in suspected disease-affected barangays:

6.2.1. The CVO/ MAO shall conduct a census of ruminants (i.e., goat, sheep, cattle, and carabao) from the suspected disease-affected barangays (*See Appendix B*). The PVO shall validate the population submitted by the CVO/ MAO. Details such as location, species, sex, and number of animals shall be collected in each household or farm.

6.3. Sample size determination in suspected disease-affected barangays:

6.3.1. Using the results of the ruminant census of the suspected disease-affected barangays, the sampling size shall be determined following Cannon and Roe (1982)⁶ sampling frame for livestock surveys. The surveillance activity shall assume 2% prevalence and 95% confidence interval to establish disease freedom.

⁵ "Guidelines on Receiving Animal Diagnostic, Feed, and Other Samples for Animal Laboratory Testing and Releasing of Animal Laboratory Testing and Releasing of Animal Laboratory Test Results by the Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)."

⁶ Cannon, R. M. & Roe, R. T. (1982). *Livestock disease surveys: A field manual for veterinarians*. Bureau of Resource Science, Department of Primary Industry.



⁴ Berri, M., Laroucau, K., & Rodolakis, A. (2000). The detection of *Coxiella burnetii* from ovine genital swabs, milk and fecal samples by the use of a single touchdown polymerase chain reaction. *Veterinary Microbiology*, 72(3-4), 285-293. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-1135(99)00178-9</u>

6.3.2. If the ruminant population is above the number indicated in the population size of Cannon and Roe (1982),⁷ round up to the next population size.

6.4. **Distribution of samples in barangays with ruminant population**:

- 6.4.1. The epidemiological unit is the sitio.
- 6.4.2. The probability proportional to size sampling method shall be used in each target barangays with ruminants.

6.5. Sampling within the barangays that tested positive for Q Fever:

6.5.1. Generate random numbers from any random generator website or software. Each animal shall have a unique animal ID number based on the order in the census list. The animal ID number shall determine which animals owned by farmers or farm owners are to be collected with blood and other samples.

6.6. Case example:

6.6.1. Population in the suspected disease-affected barangay: 100

Farmer	Number of Animals	Animal ID Number	
1	10	001-010	
2	20	011-030	
3	10	031-040	
4	10	041-050	
5	15	051-065	
6	20	066-085	
7	15	086-100	
Total:	100		

6.6.2. Sample size: 78 animals

6.6.3. Using the random number generator, 78 numbers will be generated from 001-100.

⁷ Cannon, R. M. & Roe, R. T. (1982). *Livestock disease surveys: A field manual for veterinarians.* Bureau of Resource Science, Department of Primary Industry.



6.6.4. The following random numbers were generated:

001	002	003	004	005	006	007	009	010	011	012	013	014	015	016
017	019	020	021	022	023	026	029	030	031	033	034	035	038	040
041	043	044	045	046	047	049	050	051	052	053	054	055	056	057
059	061	062	063	064	065	067	068	070	072	073	074	076	077	078
079	080	082	083	084	085	087	088	089	090	092	093	094	095	097
098	099	100												

6.6.5. Using the results in Section 6.6.4., the blood samples shall be collected from the following sitio:

Rand	om Nu	mber	Number of Samples	Sitio	Interpretation
001 004 007	002 005 009	003 006 010	9	1	Nine (9) samples shall be collected from Sitio 1. Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 009, and 010.
011 014 017 021 026	012 015 019 022 029	013 016 020 023 030	15	2	Fifteen (15) samples shall be collected from Sitio 2. Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 019, 020, 021, 022, 023, 026, 029, and 030.
031 035	033 038	034 040	6	3	Six (6) samples shall be collected from Sitio 3. Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 031, 033, 034, 035, 038, and 040.
041 045 049	043 046 050	044 047	8	4	Eight (8) samples shall be collected from Sitio 4. Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 041, 043, 044, 045, 046, 047, 049, and 050.
051 054	052 055	053 056	13	5	Thirteen (13) samples shall be collected from Sitio 5. Based on the order listed in census form,



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057 062 065	059 063	061 064			blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 059, 061, 062, 063, 064, and 065.
067 072 076 079 083	068 073 077 080 084	070 074 078 082 085	15	6	Fifteen (15) samples shall be collected from Sitio 6. Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 067, 068, 070, 072, 073, 074, 076, 077, 078, 079, 080, 082, 083, 084, and 085.
087 090 094 098	088 092 095 099	089 093 097 100	12	7	Twelve (12) samples shall be collected from Sitio 7. Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 087, 088, 089, 090, 092, 093, 094, 095, 097, 098, 099, and 100.
		Total:	78		

6.7. A detailed sampling plan has been developed for Barangay Aranguren, Capas, Tarlac (*See Appendix C*).

Section 7. SAMPLE COLLECTION

7.1. Types of samples to be collected and the appropriate storage:

Samples	Storage	Considerations			
Serum	Serum tube or red top blood collection tube	Prevent hemolysis in samples.			
		• Store samples at room temperature until serum separation, but no longer than 24 hours.			
		• Once separated, refrigerate the tubes between 2°C and 8°C.			
		• Transport samples in a cooler with ice packs.			
Vaginal Swab	Bacterial Transport Media (BTM) with cotton swabs	• Collect samples by sterile technique.			



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		 Insert the swab about 5 centimeters into the vagina. Gently rotate the swab for 30 seconds while rubbing it against the vaginal wall. Carefully remove the swab. Place the swab in the BTM and cut off the excess cotton. Leave the cotton swab inside the BTM, submerging the cotton tip in the gel. Store the sample in the refrigerator.
Fecal Matter	Zipper storage (Ziploc) bag	 Insert the index and middle fingers into the rectum of the ruminant. Spread the fingers to allow air to enter the rectum. A lubricant, such as oil, may be used to facilitate the procedure. Freshly excreted fecal droppings/manure can be collected.
		 Remove 4 to 6 grams of fecal matter. Place the fecal samples in a zipper storage bag. Then, place the first zipper storage bag inside the clean second Ziploc bag (double-bagged).
Organ Swab Placenta Vaginal discharge Fetus- spleen Lungs Liver	BTM with cotton swabs	 If an abortion occurs, swab each organ separately. Collect samples by sterile technique. Carefully expose the target organs and open them aseptically to collect swabs of the internal contents. Place the swab in the BTM and cut off the excess cotton. Leave the cotton swab inside the BTM, submerging the cotton tip in the gel. Store the sample in the refrigerator.

7.2. Other considerations during sample collection:



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- 7.2.1. Write legibly and label samples properly.
- 7.2.2. Complete the Modified Surveillance Form for Q Fever (*See Appendix D*). All sections of the form should be filled out accurately and comprehensively to facilitate effective documentation, monitoring, and response efforts.
- 7.2.3. When collecting blood, serum, and other samples (excluding birthing materials), the surveillance team shall wear disposable gloves, masks, and protective goggles.
- 7.2.4. For the collection of birthing materials, such as aborted fetuses, placentas, and vaginal discharges, the surveillance team must wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- 7.2.5. Scrubs or clothing should be changed frequently and should not be reused unless they have been washed properly.
- 7.2.6. Boots shall be disinfected, and disposable gloves and masks shall be changed regularly, especially before moving to different areas, houses, or farms.
- 7.2.7. Only healthy individuals without underlying health conditions are permitted to collect samples.

ARTICLE III MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 8. ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

- 8.1. Probable and suspected animals shall be immediately isolated in a designated isolation area.
- 8.2. If a herd has probable, suspected, or confirmed cases of Q Fever, apparently healthy animals should be quarantined in a designated area for 30 days and closely monitored for clinical signs or sudden death.
- 8.3. Isolation and quarantine areas shall be located in separate buildings, pastures, or lots to make sure animals do not share airspace or fence lines.
- 8.4. If separation of animals is not feasible, a buffer zone of at least 5 meters shall be maintained to minimize the risk of contact and transmission of other livestock,



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outside animals, or wildlife. The larger the distance between areas, the more effective the prevention measures shall be; or,

- 8.4.1. The LGU, whether at the provincial, city, or municipal level, shall identify a suitable site within the surveillance zone to be used for the isolation and quarantine of animals.
- 8.5. For isolation and quarantine areas located in pastures or lots, a double fence system is recommended. The fences should be at least 5 meters apart, with a wider gap being more beneficial.
- 8.6. For animals raised in pastures or fields where fencing isn't feasible, animals shall be caged or tethered, ensuring that healthy animals do not interact with them. It is also important to maintain a safe airspace of 5 meters or more between isolated and apparently healthy animals.
- 8.7. Access to isolation and quarantine areas shall be tightly regulated. Farm workers and animal handlers are required to change their clothing and footwear and wash their hands thoroughly and frequently, particularly before entering and exiting these areas.
- 8.8. Avoid human traffic and unregulated access in and out of the farm, pasture, or lot.
- 8.9. Gloves, masks, and eye-protective goggles or face shields shall be worn when handling bodily fluids, birthing materials, manure, and contaminated equipment and beddings.
- 8.10. Apply control measures against ticks and other parasites. Consult with private veterinarians or the Tarlac Provincial Veterinary Office for guidance.

Section 9. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- 9.1. Regularly clean and disinfect buildings, solid surfaces, and equipment to prevent the buildup of potentially contaminated materials.
- 9.2. Ensure all debris is removed before applying disinfectant.
- 9.3. Use the following recommended disinfectants: 70% ethanol or Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QACs or Quats)-based disinfectants with a 30-minute contact time. For sodium hypochlorite, use a 1:100 dilution of household bleach to achieve over 90% reduction in infectivity.
- 9.4. If the recommended disinfectants are unavailable in the area, consult with private veterinarians or seek guidance from the Tarlac Provincial Veterinary Office.



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- 9.5. Prohibit the burning of animal waste, birthing materials, and related materials (e.g., soiled beddings, used gloves, etc.), as it can increase the risk of aerosol transmission and is not permitted under current national and local sanitary and environmental laws and policies.
- 9.6. Handle animal manure with the highest safety practices, as it can transmit disease.
 - 9.6.1. It is mandatory to establish a designated manure or deep pit for disposing of animal manure, especially from isolated animals. Ensure that no animals can access the manure or deep pit, maintaining a distance of at least 5 meters or more from the isolated, quarantined, and apparently healthy animals.

Section 10. TEST AND CULL

- 10.1. Animals tested positive for confirmatory testing shall be culled.
- 10.2. If a confirmed test result is obtained from one of the animals in a herd, selected animals from that herd shall undergo screening tests. If any of these screening tests are positive, confirmatory testing shall follow.
- 10.3. All animals in a herd with a confirmed case of Q Fever shall be tested, subject to approval by the BAI. The BAI reserves the right to adjust the number of animals to be tested, provided valid reasons are specified.
- 10.4. If the majority (50% + 1) of the animals in a herd test positive in the confirmatory test, all animals in the herd shall be culled. If fewer than half of the animals test positive, cull those that are confirmed positive and adhere to the Quarantine Guidelines for apparently healthy animals, unless the Tarlac PVO directs otherwise regarding culling the entire herd.
- 10.5. In the case of abortion or stillbirths, samples shall be collected from aborted fetuses, placentas, and vaginal discharges right after the event (*See Section 7.1*). Coordinate with the ADDRL and AHWD for the proper handling and transportation of these samples.
- 10.6. All animals shall be euthanized in accordance with the existing animal welfare guidelines or as approved by the Committee on Animal Welfare (CAW) as mandated by the Republic Act No. 8485/ 10631, or the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998."



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Section 11. MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

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- 11.1. Limit the introduction of new animals. However, if necessary, they should be sourced from Q Fever-free or low-risk herds or, if possible, tested negative for PCR. Newly arrived animals shall be quarantined and housed separately for 30 days and at least 5 meters away from the healthy animals, during which they should be closely observed for clinical signs or sudden death before being introduced to the healthy herd.
- 11.2. During the surveillance period, animals, particularly cattle, buffalo, sheep, and goats, are prohibited from traveling outside of Barangay Aranguren, unless formally approved in writing by the Tarlac LGUs, particularly of the PVO.
- 11.3. Animals, including but not limited to cattle, buffalo, goats, and sheep, from barangays affected by Q Fever are prohibited from being transported outside the Province of Tarlac until the outbreak and its spread have been controlled or contained. A formal communication in writing from the NVQSD is required to lift the temporary local prohibition.
- 11.4. Any additional considerations regarding the movement of animals shall adhere to national and local regulatory and registry frameworks.

Section 12. DISPOSITION OF CONFIRMED POSITIVE ANIMALS

- 12.1. The disposition of deceased and culled animals shall comply with all relevant sanitary and environmental laws and regulations at both national and local levels.
- 12.2. The City/ Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO/ MENRO) and the City/ Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO/ MDRRMO) are responsible for selecting the designated sites and assisting in the disposition of culled confirmed positive animals and those died suddenly.
- 12.3. The selection of the disposition site shall meet the following criteria:⁸
 - 12.3.1. Adequate topsoil to cover the site;
 - 12.3.2. Appropriate soil type;
 - 12.3.3. Effective water drainage;

⁸ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). (2024). Chapter 4.13. Disposal of dead animals. In WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code. <u>https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-</u> manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_disposal.htm



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- 12.3.4. Prevailing wind conditions;
- 12.3.5. Convenient transport access;
- 12.3.6. Availability of meteorological data;
- 12.3.7. Distance from sensitive public areas; and,
- 12.3.8. Consideration of future use impacts.
- 12.4. Mass burial of culled and deceased animals shall be at least 12 feet deep, accommodating 2 layers of 3-foot carcasses, or deeper, but not exceeding 2 feet from the water table, depending on the number of animals planned for burial. The site should be topped with 2 feet of topsoil.
- 12.5. Modifications to animal burial procedures may be implemented based on the advice of the Local Animal Health Authority, especially the Provincial Veterinarian or the City/Municipal Veterinarian or Agriculturist, whichever is available, provided they are formally documented in writing.
- 12.6. Lime shall be applied first, followed by the carcasses, then topped with soil, and an additional layer of lime. Finally, a complete layer of at least 2 feet of topsoil.

Section 13. REPORTING AND COORDINATION SYSTEM

- 13.1. The appearance of clinical signs and sudden death shall be promptly reported to the Barangay Animal Health Workers (BAHWs) or Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) and LGU Veterinarians and Agriculturists.
- 13.2. Animal disease reporting shall follow the general framework (*See Appendix E*).
- 13.3. Reporting systems and the release of test results shall comply with other existing national and local laws and policies, particularly of BAI and DA.



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ARTICLE IV REPEAL, SEPARABILITY, AND EFFECTIVITY

Section 14. AMENDMENT CLAUSE

14.1. The provisions, annexes, and appendices of the MC may be amended or supplemented as may be deemed necessary in order to effectively implement and realize the objective of the MC.

Section 15. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

15.1. In case any provision of the MC shall be declared invalid, ineffective, or unenforceable, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

Section 16. REPEALING CLAUSE

16.1. All other existing Orders, Circulars, Issuances, and Rules and Regulations that are in conflict with or inconsistent with any of the provisions of the MC are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 17. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE

17.1. The MC shall take effect immediately upon signing but shall still be published in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation and a copy filed with the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR) at the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

Done this 11^{th} day of <u>February</u> 2025.

DIOSAMIA M. SEVILLA, MSc Officer-in-Charge, Director



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APPENDIX A MAP OF THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC





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APPENDIX B CENSUS OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN TARLAC⁹

Barangay Aranguren (Total Number of Animals: 153)							
Citio	Number of Animals Based on Species						
51110	Buffalo Cattle Goat Sheep						
Bullhorn			17				
Kamatis	55	12	64	5			
Total:	55	12	81	5			

⁹ The MVO of Capas, Tarlac, provided the census of animals on 28 January 2025 (Tuesday) via text message.



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APPENDIX C SAMPLING OF FEMALE RUMINANTS IN BARANGAY ARANGUREN

	Nui	nber of Fem	Total			
Sitio	Buffalo	Cattle	Goat	Sheep	Number of Animals	Animal ID
Bullhorn			15		15	001-017
Kamatis	49	11	58	5	123	018-153
Total:	49	11	73	5	138	

Total number of ruminants in the suspected		150 animala
disease-affected barangay	•	100 dillillais
Total number of female ruminants in the suspected disease-affected harangay ¹⁰	:	138 animals
Sample size	:	92 animals

The following 92 animal IDs were generated randomly:

001	003	004	006	007	008	009	010	011	013	014	015	019	021	023
024	025	028	029	030	032	033	034	037	041	042	044	045	047	049
050	051	054	056	057	058	066	067	069	076	077	078	079	080	081
082	084	085	086	090	091	094	095	096	098	099	100	101	102	103
105	108	109	110	111	112	114	116	117	118	120	121	123	124	125
126	127	129	132	133	135	137	138	139	141	145	146	148	149	150
152	153													

Based on the 138 animal IDs generated randomly, the blood samples shall be collected from the following sitio:

Rand	lom Nu	mber	Number of Samples	Sitio	Interpretation
001 006 009 013	003 007 010 014	004 008 011 015	12	Bullhorn	Twelve (12) samples shall be collected from Bullhorn . Based on the order listed in census form, blood samples shall be collected from animal ID No. 001, 003, 004, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 013, 014, and 015.
019 024	021 025	023 028	80	Kamatis	Eighty (80) samples shall be collected from Kamatis . Based on the order listed in census form,

¹⁰ According to the MVO of Capas, Tarlac, female animals in Barangay Aranguren are estimated to make up 90% of the total ruminant population.



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029	030	032		blood samples shall be collected
033	034	037		from animal ID No. 019, 021, 023,
041	042	044		024, 025, 028, 029, 030, 032, 033,
045	047	04.9		034, 037, 041, 042, 044, 045, 047,
045	047	049		066 067 069 076 077 078 079
050	051	054		080, 081, 082, 084, 085, 086, 090,
056	057	058		091, 094, 095, 096, 098, 099, 100,
066	067	069		101, 102, 103, 105, 108, 109, 110,
076	077	078		111, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 120,
079	080	081		121, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 122, 122, 122, 125, 127, 129, 120, 141
082	084	085		132, 133, 133, 137, 138, 137, 141, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 152, and
086	090	091		153.
094	095	096		
098	099	100		
101	102	103		
105	102	100		
105	100	109		
110	111	112		
114	116	117		
118	120	121		
123	124	125		
126	127	129		
132	133	135		
137	138	139		
141	145	146		
148	149	150		
152	153			
		m 1	0.2	
		Total:	92	



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APPENDIX D MODIFIED SURVEILLANCE FORM FOR Q FEVER

SECT	ION 1. General Fa	rm	Info	rmation			
1.	Name of the Farm	:					
2.	Type of Operation	:		Commercial		Semi-commercial	
				Smallhold		Others (Specify):	
3.	Name of the Owner	:					
				Last		First	Middle
4.	Complete Address	:					
				Sitio		Barangay	City or Municipality
				Province		Region	
5.	Global Positioning	:					
	System (GPS)			Longitude		Latitude	
6.	Contact Details of the	Far	mer	or Farm Owner			
	Phone Number	:					
	E-mail	:					
7.	Name of the Farm	:					
	vetermarian			Last		First	Middle
8.	Contact Details of the	Vet	terin	arian			
	Phone Number	:					
	E-mail	:					
9.	Date of Surveillance	:					
10.	Type of Commodity	:		Dairy	□ Meat		Mixed (Dairy and Meat)
				Draft	□ Other	's (Specify):	
11.	Type of Ruminants	:		Cattle	Breed (Spe	ecify):	
				Buffalo	Breed (Spe	ecify):	
				Goat	Breed (Spe	ecify):	
				Sheep	Breed (Spe	ecify):	
				Others (Specify):			
12.	Number of Animals in	n th	e Far	m			
	Total Number	:					



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13.	Age Group Present									
	□ Calves/ Lambs/ Ki	ids	🗆 Juv	veniles	[] .	Adults			Mixed
SECT	TION 2. Animal Mo	veme	ent							
14.	Source of Animals (Fil	l out if	new animals	have been int	troduced to	o the	herd in the p	ast 3 week	rs.)	
	Farm Source	:								
	Address	:								
				Sitio			Barangay			City or Municipality
		_	P	rovince			Region			
15.	Contact Details of the	Farm	Source (If	applicable)						
	Phone Number	:								
	E-mail	:								
16.	Destination of Transp	orte	d Animals (Fill out if anim	mals on the	e farn	n were trans	ported to a	ther	farms, live animal
	Form Source		nur unimui ju	chilles in the	pust 5 wee	KS.J				
	Farm Source									
	Address	:								
				Sitio			Barangay			City or Municipality
			P	rovince			Region			
17.	Contact Details of the	Dest	ination of T	ransporte	d Animal	s (If	applicable)			
	Phone Number	:								
	E-mail	:								

SECIIC	ON 3. Animal Health Status						
18.	Has the farm experienced any instances of abortion among ruminants in the past year (2023-2024)?						
	□ Yes, when (<i>Specify</i>):	□ No					
19.	If yes, how many animals experienced abortion? (Spe	cify)					
20.	Have you observed any of the following symptoms in	animals? (Please check all that apply.)					
	□ Fever (<i>lagnat</i>)	□ Lethargy (nanghihina)					
	□ Respiratory issues (<i>problema sa paghinga</i>)	□ Sudden weight loss (<i>pagbaba ng timbang</i>)					
	□ Decrease milk production (<i>pagbaba ng production n</i>	ng gatas)					
	□ No noticeable symptoms						



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21. Has the farm experienced weak births or deaths of young ruminants (such as kids, calves, etc.) in the past year (2023-2024)?
Yes
No

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SECT	ION 4. Biosecurity and Mana	gement Pı	ractices		
22.	Do you implement any of the foll check all that apply.)	owing mea	asures to pi	even	t the spread of disease on the farm? (Please
	□ Cleaning/ disinfection of facilit	ties			Isolation of new or sick animals
	□ Control of farm visitors				Regular veterinary check-up
	Others (<i>Specify</i>):				
23.	Do you manage the disposal of m	anure?	🗌 Yes		□ No
24.	How frequently do you dispose o	f manure?	,		
	Daily		onthly		□ Never
	Weekly	🗆 In	regularly		
25.	How do you dispose of manure?				
	□ Burying in open pit				Deep burying
	Others (<i>Specify</i>):				
26.	Do you wear Personal Protective animals and/ or their waste?	Equipme	nt (PPE) (sı	ich as	gloves and/ or a mask) when handling
	□ Always	🗆 So	metimes		□ Never
27.	What biosecurity measures are in	n place?			
	Fencing				Regular cleaning and disinfectant
	□ Change of clothes				Foot bath
	□ Handwash area				Vehicle disinfection (e.g., tire bath, power
	Others (<i>Specify</i>):				spray, etc.J

SECT	ION	5. Human Interaction and Zoonotic Risk					
28.	Ho	v often do farm workers or visitors come into direc	t con	tact with animals?			
		Daily		Weekly			
		Occasionally		Rarely/ Never			
29.	. Have any farm workers had flu-like symptoms or other illnesses in the past year (2023-2024)?						
		Yes		No			

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SECT	ION 6. Environmental Factors		
30.	What type of pasture or grazing system is used?		
	□ Free-range		Confined (indoor)
	□ Rotational grazing		Mixed
31.	Are wild animals or birds commonly found near the fa	rm?	
	□ Yes		No
32.	Are there any sources of standing water nearby?		
	□ Yes		No

SECTION 7. Additional Comments

Please provide any additional information you believe is relevant for Q Fever surveillance on your farm.

I hereby confirm that all the information I have provided is true and accurate, and the investigator shall comply with Republic Act (RA) No. 10173, known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012." The document is intended solely for animal disease investigation and/ or surveillance, and the information will be retained and may be published for official use by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA). For any further inquiries, the investigator and the Bureau may reach out to the respondent and take appropriate action.

Farmer o	or Farm Owner:	Investiga	itor:
	Signature Over Printed Name		Signature Over Printed Name
Date:		Date:	
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APPENDIX E ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING SYSTEM





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Abbreviation:

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BAI	-	Bureau of Animal Industry
BAHW ¹¹	-	Barangay Animal Health Worker
BBO ¹⁰	-	Barangay Biosecurity Officer
DA	-	Department of Agriculture
DOH	-	Department of Health
DA-RFO	-	Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office
C/MHO	-	City or Municipal Health Office
C/MLGU	-	City or Municipal Local Government Unit
PESU	-	Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
PLGU	-	Provincial Local Government Unit
Sangguniang	-	Sangguniang Panlalawigan or Provincial Council

¹¹ If there are no trained BAHW or BBO in the barangay or LGU, the report shall be submitted to the Barangay Officials, who shall then forward it to the City/ Municipal LGU.

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