What wildlife TB risk reduction steps are available?

Wildlife risk evaluation
- Be aware of wildlife activity around the farm
- Know which areas of your farm are most vulnerable to wildlife TB risks, and which areas are most secure
- Consider what methods to decrease wildlife risk will work best for you

MDA and USDA staff can assist you with a wildlife risk evaluation of your farm.

Prevent wildlife intrusions into livestock areas

Fencing - While most fences are designed to contain livestock, some designs can also keep deer out.

Review current fence status -
What areas are fenced?  
What kind of fence is used?  
Is there a perimeter fence?  
Does it limit wildlife entry?

Consider options for modifying or adding fences:
- Would increasing height of perimeter fencing be a good option?  
- Are certain areas more in need of improved fences?  
- Would a different fence type (woven wire, high-tensile, etc.) be a better option?  
- Would additional strands or electrifying existing fences help?

USDA Wildlife Services has a fence program and may be able to provide fencing to exclude deer from feed storage/feeding sites.

Guard dogs - Livestock guard dogs can reduce wildlife entry into cattle areas. Farm dogs can provide a degree of protection against wildlife TB risks.

Other measures - Consider fencing or removing apple/fruit trees, as they are a strong attraction for deer.
  - Modify or eliminate deer cover in livestock areas.

Remove wildlife that may transmit TB
- Disease control permits can be used to decrease the deer population.
- Allow access to deer hunters.
- Hunting and trapping of small mammals, particularly raccoons and opossums, reduces risk.
- Farm dogs and cats often help keep small mammal numbers down.
- Remove pigeons and/or restrict pigeon access to animal feed and housing by closing building openings with netting or fencing.

Protect your investment. Leave a farming legacy. Decrease the risk of TB transmission from wildlife.

Only you can prevent bovine TB. Store your feed responsibly and minimize wildlife access to feed and water.

Contact Information
Who do beef and dairy cattle farmers call for help?
- Technical assistance (wildlife)
- Fencing

USDA Wildlife Services
Gaylord Office - (989) 705-8467
Lansing Office - (517) 336-1928
- Wildlife risk surveys

MI Dept. of Agriculture
Atlanta Office - (888) 565-8626
Lansing Office - (517) 373-1077
- Disease Control Permits

MI Dept. of Natural Resources
Gaylord Office - (989) 732 -3541
- General Information

MSU Extension Office in your area
Mio (Dairy) - (989) 826-1160
Harrisville (Beef) - (989) 724-6478

www.michigan.gov/bovinetb

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