

- Be pro-active
  - Reduce wildlife contact to decrease TB transmission risk
  - Keep wildlife away from cattle and cattle feed

### What steps can you take to reduce the risk from wildlife?

- Conduct a wildlife risk evaluation
- Store livestock feed (forage and concentrate) securely
- Restrict wildlife access to feeding and watering areas
- Deter/reduce wildlife presence around cattle and cattle feed
  - Use livestock guard dogs
  - Maintain fences
  - Harvest deer on and around farm
  - Practice small mammal/rodent control
  - Feed away from deer cover

Store livestock feed securely



**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



Fence it in!

### 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](http://www.michigan.gov/bovinetb)

# Bovine Tuberculosis



## Eradication Project

### Reducing the Risk A Quick Guide for Producers



Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Michigan Department of Community Health  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan State University  
United States Department of Agriculture

## **Bovine TB: Reducing the Risk**

### ***A Quick Guide for Producers***

Bovine tuberculosis is a chronic infectious disease of cattle and other mammals. Bovine TB is costly to the livestock industry, can create trade barriers and is a human health threat.

**Unlike other bovine TB outbreaks in the United States, TB infection in Michigan cattle has been linked to infected wild, white-tailed deer.**

The rate of TB in wild, white-tailed deer has decreased over the last few years, which suggests that Michigan bovine TB management efforts are working; however, TB-positive deer can still infect cattle.

While infection can occur by nose-to-nose direct contact, infection is much more likely to occur when cattle feed is contaminated by infected deer. Beef and dairy farmers can decrease the risk of exposing their cattle to bovine TB by limiting cattle-to-deer contact and protecting cattle feed from deer.



### **The Issue**

#### **How is bovine TB spread on feed?**

When infected deer congregate to feed on round bales left in a field, they leave the bovine TB bacteria behind on the hay. TB bacteria thrives in cool, moist climates and can persist on hay or other feed for up to three months. Consumption of contaminated feed is the primary means of transmission between infected deer and cattle. Protecting your feed from deer is an excellent way to protect your cattle herd from TB infection.

#### **Are hay bales left in the field the only problem or are other cattle feeds a concern?**

Any feed left where deer have access to it is a problem. If you bring your bales up to the barn, but deer still have access to them, you have not solved the problem. The same is true for balage and silage. Deer can spread bovine TB by eating hay, haylage, silage and any other feed. Keeping deer away from feed will help prevent bovine TB.



#### **Is it only deer that can spread bovine TB through feed?**

Other wildlife species, including raccoons, opossums, foxes, and possibly pigeons can become infected with bovine TB. Research indicates that these animals may potentially transmit bovine TB. Limiting access of wildlife to all feed sources will decrease the risk of cattle becoming infected with bovine TB. Hunting and trapping, as well as habitat alterations, are also important strategies for reducing TB risk.

### **What To Do**

#### **What can beef and dairy producers do to decrease the risk of bovine TB infection in their cattle?**

- Be aware that wildlife-livestock interactions can create TB risks for cattle
- Determine what may make your farm appealing to wildlife and make changes to reduce this appeal
- Develop a strategy to minimize risk
- Use electronic ID
- Do not buy cattle that have not been TB-tested