Zone Area Designations

Modified Accredited
Modified Accredited Advanced
TB Free

Animal Movement Permit System

The EID program and database play a key role in the issuance of movement permits that are currently required in the Modified Accredited Zone as part of the bovine TB eradication effort. A web-based animal movement permit system was initiated in March, 2002. Producers can now enter an animal’s electronic identification number into the state’s web-based system and quickly verify whether all testing requirements have been met. If so, the permit is granted and producers can choose to print the permit or receive it by fax or mail. As of May 31, 2005, 9,854 permits have been issued electronically, representing over 50,000 animals.

Benefits of the Electronic Identification (EID) System

- Trace-backs and trace-forwards are done in hours rather than days or weeks.
- Use of the electronic recording system reduces costs for data entry and maintenance.
- EID assures both producers and consumers that bovine TB in Michigan is under control.
- EID can be used to manage bovine TB and other animal diseases.
- EID can eliminate the need to catch the head of the animal to read the tag.
- Pilot project for NAIS
**Background**

Michigan’s Electronic Identification (EID) Program was launched as a pilot project in November, 2001, as part of the state’s bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication plan. It provides state and federal regulators and the livestock industry with a system for quickly tracking the movement of individual animals from the farm to market. The program was developed and implemented through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS).

EID incorporates the latest technology: a tag imbedded with a radio frequency device and marked with a unique, individual number that will not be duplicated on any other animal worldwide. Through Michigan’s EID Program, producers in the northern Lower Peninsula (Modified Accredited Zone) or those with accredited herds can receive these Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tags free of charge. Each RFID tag is linked to a database of information specific to that animal, including date of birth, sex, type/species, and bovine TB test status. This electronic tag dramatically speeds up the location and tracing of livestock, and ensures the most accurate and up-to-date information.

**EID Program**

Michigan’s EID program is tied to the National Farm Animal Identification and Records (F.A.I.R.) Program, maintained by the Holstein Association USA, Inc., and the USDA’s Generic Database system, to ensure accurate individual animal identification and tracking, and coordination of bovine TB test results and herd status.

The F.A.I.R. system tracks livestock movement, using two unique numbers: a premises number, a number assigned to each production unit for participating premises; and an animal number, which uses the American Identification Numbering (AIN) System to assign an official number for each animal. This number is unique to each animal. The place of origin for each participating animal is also recorded.

As of May 31, 2005, there were 15,644 active Michigan farm premises enrolled in Michigan’s database. Over 7,528 premises have animals identified in F.A.I.R., and RFID tags are being used on 2,210 of these premises. The Michigan premises enrolled in F.A.I.R. represent 120,024 animals identified with RFIDs. An additional 120,825 RFID tags have been distributed to Michigan farms for use in tagging newborn animals for identification purposes. As the animals are born and identified with the RFID tags, the producers can update the farm information on the F.A.I.R. database to activate the corresponding tag number for that animal.

**Web-Based Access and Reporting**

The National F.A.I.R. Program maintains premises profiles for each participating production unit, and can accommodate farms with any species of farm animals. Producers can access their premises information regarding animals at the premises, bovine TB test status. They are also able to add animal identification data, obtain a movement permit, or confirm movement of animals into or off of their premises. The secure Internet site provides state and federal regulators access to up-to-date statistics, allowing them to verify and monitor animal movement and testing activities of participating farms and animals. The secure site and password requirements protect the privacy of producers while ensuring accurate regulatory information.

**RFID Reader Installations**

RFID readers at packing plants and livestock markets make it possible to track animals as they go from the farm through the marketing system. As of May 31, 2005 a total of 19,578 animals were seen at slaughter plants, and 41,132 at markets. RFID readers have been installed at the following packing plants and livestock auction markets:

**Michigan Livestock Auction Markets**
- Northern Michigan Livestock Association, Gaylord
- United Producers, Inc., Cass City, Manchester, St. Louis
- Clare Livestock, LLC, Clare
- Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, Lake Odessa
- Farmers Livestock Marketing Service, Battle Creek
- Napoleon Livestock Commission, Napoleon
- Ravenna Auction, LLC, Ravenna
- Marlette Livestock Auction, Marlette
- Wayland/Hopkins Auction, Wayland

**Packing Plants**
- Taylor Packing Company, Wyalusing, Pennsylvania
- Murco (Smithfield), Plainwell, Michigan
- Packerland (Smithfield), Green Bay, Wisconsin
- Moyer Packing (Smithfield), Souderton, Pennsylvania
- Tyson/IBP, Joslin, Illinois
- Dress Beef, Green Bay, Wisconsin