



## **Legislative Report**

May 15, 2008

### **Bovine Tuberculosis Program Update**

Provided by the Animal Industry Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

#### **Background**

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. The disease is found primarily in cattle, but has also been found in captive cervidae (deer and elk), bison, goats, and carnivores such as coyotes. It can affect any warm-blooded animal, including humans. Michigan has been working to eradicate the disease in both cattle and deer since 1995.

#### **Why is bovine TB eradication necessary?**

The eradication of bovine TB is necessary for a variety of reasons including the reputation of Michigan's quality agricultural products and the health of our natural resources. Michigan is now one of two states in the US where the disease has become established in wild deer. Until we can prove that we no longer have bovine TB in the cattle herds of Michigan. And, until TB is eradicated, other states will continue to impose strict importation requirements that protect their livestock.

#### **Current Activities:**

##### **Update on Emergency USDA funding for TB Eradication**

MDA submitted a proposed Michigan CCC bovine TB spending plan to the USDA Regional Office in North Carolina. We are awaiting approval of the plan and expect the funding to come to Michigan in June.

##### **Bovine TB Research Update**

Michigan State University will fill two positions to address existing knowledge gaps related to the spread of diseases from animals to man – including bovine TB. These positions are the result of collaboration between the Agricultural Research Station, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. They are part of a long term effort to build multi-disciplinary research capacity in Michigan and will help ensure that programs are based on sound science.

## Assessment of Current Information Technology and Data Systems

The Animal Industry Division received the final report of an evaluation of its business processes related to: premises registration, animal tagging, inventory management, and movement certificates. The report indicated that MDA's bovine TB Eradication and electronic identification programs would benefit dramatically from re-engineering the current business processes. MDA and Department of Information Technology staff is assessing options for moving forward with this recommendation.

## Annual Cattle Surveillance Testing Status

Zone	Annual Surveillance Requirement	Completed
Modified Accredited Zone	1,000 annual herd tests on individual farm anniversary dates	No herds are currently overdue
Modified Accredited Advanced Zone and Free Zone	Minimum of 500 higher risk herds	243 herds (87 in Iosco County and 98 in Shiawassee County)

## Zonal Boundary Compliance

There were 189 movement permits issued in April in the MAZ, and 170 livestock transportation vehicles stopped at the Mackinac Bridge Agricultural Inspection Station. A total of 2,688 cattle were documented with 2,285 destined for slaughter, 403 were either feeders, breeders or dairy. There were 79 empty trailers and MDA is investigating 18 haulers with no paper work, and two with possible movement certificate violations.

## Market Surveillance

There were 18,160 head of cattle scanned at Michigan Livestock Markets.

## Slaughter Surveillance and Slaughter Verification

Slaughter facilities scanned 12,116 head of cattle in March, 2008. This is down slightly from the previous month due to electronic reader failures in two out-of-state slaughter facilities. Service technician from Texas repaired one plant reader and the other plant may get repaired in May. It is not uncommon for delays with repairs in out-of-state facilities because Michigan has no authority to mandate repair schedules.

## Education and Outreach

On April 11, 2008 Industry leaders from Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen's Association, the Milk Producers and MDA and DNR directors met to go over requirements for disease eradication efforts.

On April 17 MDA hosted a cattle producer update in Bennington Township Hall and provided circle testing data information to approximately 50 farmers in Shiawassee County.

On April 23 several meetings were held in Hillman in the MAZ. Industry leaders and the directors visited a hunt club, toured the MAZ and sat down with cattlemen and hunters to discuss avenues for change.

Producers in the border counties south of the MAZ received notification of the change to risk-based surveillance testing. It has been determined that counties within close proximity to the MAZ generally receive more cattle from the MAZ than counties further away, making it more practical and cost effective to look for the disease where there is a higher chance of finding it.

MDA and MDCH staffs attended the Michigan Food and Petroleum annual trade show to pass out baiting-ban posters and discuss the difficulties of disease eradication when store owners sell bait.

Bovine TB issues in the media:

<http://www.michigan-sportsman.com/forum/showthread.php?t=235255>

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[http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/2008/05/farmers\\_take\\_toll\\_on\\_deer\\_in\\_b.html](http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/2008/05/farmers_take_toll_on_deer_in_b.html)

<http://www.echopress.com/articles/index.cfm?id=55602&page=comments>

<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/2008-04-21-voa3.cfm>

<http://kittymowmow.com/2008/04/22/when-tuberculosis-hits-cows/>

<http://www.cvm.msu.edu/alumni-friends/continuing-education/extension/beef/articles-bulletins-beef/bovine-tb-notes/Maes-bovinetb3.pdf>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18394288>

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080411/SPORTS/804110316/1006>

### **Minnesota Program Update**

There was extensive media coverage documenting how Minnesota is dealing with bovine TB in their wild deer population. The strain was determined to be from Mexican cattle. They have diagnosed TB positive farms and their state status has dropped to Modified Accredited. Minnesota's bovine TB disease area is approximately the same size as Michigan's Deer Management Unit 452. They are considering a herd buy-out program for the cattle farms. Farmers not participating in the buy-out, or any new farms in the area, must go through a risk assessment. These farms will need to implement whatever is required in the risk assessment (which may include entirely fencing off the farm, as well as other measures).

*\*Corrected font size under Zonal Boundary Compliance 6-12-08*