



Legislative Report  
October 6, 2016

**Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update**  
Provided by the Animal Industry Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Act No. 252 Public Acts of 2014, Approved by the Governor June 30, 2014, Filed with the Secretary of State June 30, 2014, EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2014.

AN ACT to make appropriations Sec. 457. On or before October 15, 2008, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the department shall report to the senate and house agriculture committees, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on agriculture, and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the department's progress toward meeting USDA requirements as outlined in the March 2007 bovine TB program review. The report shall include, but is not limited to, information and data on: wildlife risk mitigation plan implementation in the modified accredited zone; implementation of a movement certificate process; progress toward annual surveillance test requirements set out in the June 2007 MOU; compliance efforts and rates for animals crossing the Mackinac Bridge; efforts to work with slaughter facilities in Michigan, as well as those that slaughter a significant number of animals from Michigan; educational programs and information for Michigan's livestock community; any other item the legislature should be aware of that will promote or hinder efforts to achieve bovine TB-free status for Michigan.

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## **A. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities**

### **Why We Do What We Do**

Michigan's citizens are protected from exposure to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism as a result of the Bovine TB Eradication Program. The Michigan Bovine TB Program was established under Public Act 466, of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, and is required under Federal Law in order for Michigan producers to participate in interstate commerce of animals (9CFR Part 77) and to maintain a state status (9CFR Part 92). Bovine TB has economic and human health implications and the program is of high visibility and interest to farmers, producer groups, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is of high interest at the national level, and other states would close their markets to Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products if the program were reduced or eliminated. More than 13,600 cattle producers in Michigan maintain over 1.1 million cattle each year. The Michigan program prevents farm to farm transmission of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets. The 104 dairy producers located within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) are able to sell Grade A milk because of the program we have in place.

### **Trace Testing**

10 of 14 exposed traces and 24 of 27 source traces associated with TB affected herd #64 have been completed. 26 of these herds will require a whole herd test. 12 of these 26 tests have been completed with no further disease discovered.

Eight of nine source trace investigations from TB affected herd #65 have been completed. There were no exposed traces associated with this farm. It has been determined that seven of the nine herds must have a whole herd test. Four of those seven tests have been completed with no disease discovered. The trace list is still being developed for TB affected herd #66.

### **Circle Testing in Presque Isle County**

As a result of discovering a TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer in Presque Isle County, Moltke Township, a potential high-risk area was established on April 14, 2016. In accordance with the new Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), all herds within 6.2 miles of the infected deer were notified that they must complete a TB test by October 14, 2016, unless they enter into a herd plan with the TB Program to test after that date. To date, 14 herds have completed their TB test with no disease found in the tested herds. The remaining four herds in the designated area are scheduled to test in the coming weeks.

### **Circle Testing in Iosco County**

As a result of discovering a TB infected herd in southern Alcona County (see Infected Herd #66 below for details), a special surveillance area was established on August 31, 2016, for a small number of herds in northern Iosco County. All testing must be completed by February 28, 2017.

## **B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance**

On June 7, 2016, the current zoning order went into effect and removed requirements for random testing and Wildlife Risk Mitigation inspections for the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet. The zoning order requires the following surveillance:

- Annual testing of the 318 non-freezer beef herds in the Modified Accredited Zone, comprised of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties.
- Random testing continues in all herds not tested since April 1, 2014, in the counties of Cheboygan, Otsego, and Presque Isle. There are approximately 100 herds that still need to be tested over the next two years in these three counties.

- Half of these herds will be tested from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and the remaining half will be tested from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

For the first three quarters of 2016, 240 whole herd tests have been completed in the MAZ and 31 whole herd tests have been completed in the surveillance area of the TB Free Zone (Cheboygan, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties).

## **C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds**

### **Update of Infected Herd #63**

USDA was not willing to depopulate this herd. The owner requested the State depopulate the herd. In the end, the adult breeding stock were sent to a federally inspected slaughter plant on February 29, 2016. In addition to the salvage value received by the owner for these cattle, MDARD paid the owner \$44,553 in indemnity to compensate the owner according to the market value determined by the animals' appraisal. The last of the feeder stock that was kept on the farm under quarantine after February 29 was sent to slaughter July 28, 2016. The TB Program is presently working with the owner to implement the herd plan which includes installing fencing for a winter feeding area and feed storage area.

### **Infected Herd #64**

On March 30, 2015, a beef herd in Oscoda County had one animal that responded to TB testing. That animal was removed from the premises for confirmatory testing at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) and had lesions consistent with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected on April 7, 2016. The herd is following a test-and-remove process, and the third removal test was performed September 27-30. One additional TB positive animal was found during the first removal test. The next test in the process will be at the end of March 2017.

### **Infected Herd #65**

An Alcona County beef herd epidemiologically linked to infected herd #64 was tested April 12-18, 2016 and eight animals were taken to DCPAH for further diagnostic testing. One animal was found to be positive for bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected on May 12, 2016. This is the second time this herd has been infected. The first infection occurred in 2003. The herd is following a test-and-remove process, and the second removal test was performed August 22-25. The next test in the process will be at the end of February 2017.

### **Infected Herd #66**

On August 4, 2016, a beef herd in Alcona County had one animal that responded to a movement test. That animal was examined at DCPAH and had lesions consistent with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected on August 31, 2016. A whole herd test was performed on the herd September 19-22, 2016. There were four suspects which will be examined at DCPAH. Once the overall prevalence of infection in this herd is known a determination of the herd's disposition will be made.

## **D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project**

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll commercial farms. MDARD asked that these farmers adopt biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct or indirect contact with bovine tuberculosis infected free-ranging white-tailed deer. Farmers in Northern Lower Michigan whose cattle have been identified as at risk for bovine TB

transmission from wildlife are using the following steps to prevent disease transmission and to market their cattle:

- Fence in feed – and keep the fences closed
- Store feed in buildings
- Feed cattle away from deer cover
- Feed cattle daily
- Provide water to cattle where it cannot be contaminated by deer
- Use disease control permits from DNR to keep deer numbers down on cattle farms

Presently, 543 of the 609 active commercial farms (89%) in the present TB surveillance zone have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in place.

Because there continues to be one to three infected herds annually in the MAZ, the TB Program, in conjunction with the TB Advisory Committee, has been working on an Enhanced Wildlife Risk Project that deals with the 120 herds located in the area with the most risk. These herds have been grouped into 13 clusters. Using the Epi Team approach that the TB Program has used on affected farms for years, the 120 herds will be given a chance to work with one of two teams that will take a more in depth look at each farm's risks and will give the producer some ideas of how to mitigate those risks. The two teams working on this effort are made up of Michigan State University Extension personnel, a wildlife biologist from either USDA Wildlife Services or the Alpena Conservation District, a local producer, and a MDARD field staff veterinarian. The two teams have completed 17 farms visits to date. They are finding some risks can be addressed by changing the farm's management practices. In other cases the pressure from wildlife on either cattle feeding sites or cattle feed storage may require an investment in physical plant improvements. The TB Program is working to assess what the need will be for cost-shared funding for producers to make the physical plant improvements needed to adequately mitigate their wildlife risks.

The importance of this effort was recently underscored in conversations held with USDA Veterinary Services. Three times this year Michigan has exceeded the three TB affected herds in a rolling 12-month period permitted by the Memorandum of Understanding between MDARD, MDNR, and USDA. When asked what plans Michigan had to keep this from continuing to happen the TB Program shared the Enhanced Wildlife Risk Mitigation effort with them. Senior officials from USDA Veterinary Services will be visiting Michigan November 21 and 22 to discuss the situation with MDARD and MDNR staff.

## **E. Communications/Outreach**

### **Outreach:**

#### **Alcona County Public Meeting**

A public meeting was held September 12, 2016, at 7:00 PM at the Curtis Township Hall in Glennie, Michigan. TB Program staff discussed the 66<sup>th</sup> TB affected herd, the circle testing in northern Iosco County, and the need for Enhanced Wildlife Risk Mitigation measures in the Modified Accredited Zone.