

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: Phyllis Mellon, Deputy Director

FROM: John Tilden

SUBJECT: Weekly Update – TB Program Review Response

DATE: August 31, 2007

Compliance Update

The USDA, Veterinary Services (USDA VS) has clearly communicated that increased compliance activities are needed to maintain current split state status and to eradicate bovine TB. For example, the MOU requires that Michigan maintain a 24/7 capability to stop and detain livestock transportation vehicles moving north over the Mackinac Bridge. The State Veterinarian indicated six additional full-time positions will be needed at the Bridge to staff the 21 eight-hour shifts each week. We are communicating with local and state law enforcement agencies to determine the feasibility of various options including contracting with them for these services.

Written Responses to USDA Program Review

Seven issues required a written response at the 90-day point in the response cycle. MDA provided USDA with the following information for issues that have been completed:

- 1) Clarification of interzonal vs. interstate movements was accomplished by sharing updates through a press release, the *Frequently Asked Questions and Answers document*, stakeholder groups, MSU Extension, and radio spots,
- 2) USDA is reporting slaughter data from Michigan plants back to the states where cattle originated,
- 3) We have shared revised surveillance guidance with field staff, and
- 4) We have enhanced communications with field staff.

Three of the seven issues are still in the process of being resolved:

- 1) We are developing a written strategy & timeline for achieving 95% confirmation of Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) animals sent to slaughter,
- 2) We are converting terminal operations to federally approved feedlots or conducting whole herd tests, and
- 3) We are implementing a standard statewide set of requirements for terminal operations in all zones.

Implementation of Expanded Movement Certificate Requirements

Animal Industry employees are spending more time in markets in and around the MAZ. Our objective is to assist producers and markets to comply with the zoning order requirements that took effect on August 15, 2007. Our field staff provide inter-zonal movement certificates

as needed and share written materials to help producers understand the requirements. Copies of both the Zoning Order and the *Frequently Asked Questions and Answers* document have been distributed and are available on the web site.

Identification of Future Resource Needs

Full implementation of the current Memorandum of Understanding and TB Program Review Report will require additional resources. Projected budgets for both the 2008 and 2009 fiscal year include the increased resource needs. These projections are currently under internal review. We are actively assessing the potential for obtaining funding from both state and federal sources.

Wildlife Risk Mitigation (WRM) Plans

The current USDA Memorandum of Understanding requires that all MAZ producers receive information regarding the possible consequences of failure to have an on-farm plan to reduce risks of TB infection from wildlife sources. The USDA VS Eastern Regional Office indicated this week that it agrees with the educational approach proposed by Michigan's interagency wildlife risk mitigation work group.

Communications Updates

- Michigan Farm News will run a bovine TB piece in September.
- Producers and MSU Extension are participating in the development of informational material regarding Wildlife Risk Mitigation Plans.
- The Acting Chief of DNR's Law Enforcement Division will attend internal TB update meetings with DNR, MDA and MDCH program coordinators, the State Veterinarian and the Acting Wildlife Division Director.