

Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

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Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project - Goals

- Help producers reduce the risk of TB spreading from wildlife to cattle
- Develop wildlife risk mitigation plans



Evolution

- Spring 2005 – MDA/WS/MSUE wildlife risk mitigation educational meetings
 - 4 meetings, 25 producers
- Fall 2005 – development of Wildlife Risk Survey
- Winter 2005 thru Spring 2007 – Wildlife Risk Surveys conducted on approximately 300 farms in MAZ

USDA Wildlife Services/Michigan Department of Agriculture
Bovine TB Surveillance Risk Survey

Name of Farm Owner: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone: _____ Prem ID: _____
Date: _____
Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____
Latitude: N _____ Longitude: W _____ County: _____
Survey Conducted by: _____
Cattle Address: _____
Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____
Latitude: N _____ Longitude: W _____ County: _____

Type of operation? beef dairy other
Accredited herd or seeking herd accreditation? yes no don't know

Instructions: This survey form is to be used to evaluate each farm on the following criteria at each annual whole herd test or (re)accreditation test. If the farm is seeking TB Free Accredited Herd Status please send a copy to the TB herd accreditation VMO at the USDA East Lansing Area Office. If cattle are kept at multiple sites please complete an additional survey form for each additional site.

If you have any questions please contact:

Tim Wilson USDA Wildlife Services (517) 336-1928	Brett Nelson Michigan Department of Agriculture (517) 241-2934
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Upon completion mail survey to either:

Tim Wilson USDA Wildlife Services 2803 Jolly Road, Suite 100 Okemos, MI 48864 (517) 336-1928	Brett Nelson Michigan Department of Agriculture Constitution Hall, 5 th Floor 325 West Allegan Street Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 241-2934
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If this form is to be used as a TB Accredited Herd Plan please send an additional copy to:

USDA-APHIS-VS, Herd Accreditation
3001 Coolidge Rd., Suite 325
East Lansing, MI 48823

Evolution - continued

- USDA Program Reviews (2006 & 2007)
 - increased prevention of TB spillover from wildlife to cattle by producers
- Fall 2007 – begin development of interagency wildlife risk mitigation program
- December 2007 – Interagency wildlife risk mitigation educational meetings
 - 4 meetings, 65 producers attended
 - Risk mitigation plans conducted on 7 farms
 - Problems encountered: very subjective, not very robust, limited producer participation – no \$\$

Development of Wildlife Risk*A*Syst Project

- Organized by MDA
- Cooperative effort by
 - USDA WS
 - USDA NRCS
 - Local Conservation Districts
 - MDNR
 - MSU Extension
 - MI Farm Bureau
 - Local producers
- Modeled after Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)
- Link wildlife risk mitigation strategies with potential sources of funding

Steps

1. Assessment of wildlife risks

- General farm location/farm mgmt practices
- Winter feeding areas
- Feed storage areas
- Sources of water
- Wildlife



General Farm Information

Risk question	Low Risk – 1 (recommended)	Medium Risk – 2 (potential hazard)	High Risk – 3 (significant hazard)	Your Risk	Records or evidence needed for WRM Project verification
1.01) Have TB infected livestock been present on this premise in the past 20 years?	No		Yes		
1.02) How close is the nearest livestock farm that has been known to be TB infected in the past 20 years?	Greater than 10 miles *	Less than 10 miles	Fence line contact between livestock*		
1.03) Are livestock housed in buildings or confined areas (example: dry lot or feedlot)?	Animals are completely confined. Skip question 1.04.	Animals are sometimes confined and sometimes out on pasture.	Livestock are predominantly out on pasture.		
1.04) If livestock are pastured, do they have access to woodlots, swamps, or other good daytime deer cover?	No.	Yes - but only during the growing season (May through September)	Yes – including non-growing season		Inspection of livestock pastures.
1.05) How close to livestock are the nearest woodlots, swamps, or other lands that provide good daytime deer cover?	> 1 mile. The farm is located in open areas with little natural deer cover.	> ¼ mile and < 1 mile	< ¼ mile		
1.06) How frequently have you seen deer or evidence of deer (examples: deer tracks or droppings) in areas where livestock are kept or housed?	Deer are observed less than once a month in livestock areas when deer pressure is highest.	Deer are observed less than once a week in livestock areas when deer pressure is highest.	Deer are observed one or more times a day in livestock areas when deer pressure is highest.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for WRM Project assurance verification (Project verification). ***Green bold italic print indicates conformance with the Wildlife Conservation Act, Normal Agricultural Practices***

Comments:

Steps

1. Assessment of wildlife risks
2. Development of mitigation plan
 - Cooperative effort between WS and local Conservation District
 - Identifies risk mitigation practices
 - Identifies which practices might be eligible for funding
 - Either thru NRCS EQIP or MDA funds

EXAMPLE

Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan

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Risk Question	List high-risk practice(s) from Wildlife Risk*A*Syst for bovine TB and medium-risk practices that do not meet current recommendations	Required for verification	Alternative low-risk practice (include potential sources of technical and financial assistance)	Action Plan	
				Planned completion date	Indicate date when completed
2.01	Livestock are fed outdoors in relatively remote areas where deer may be present	Yes	Provide feed in or very close to buildings and regular human activity.	April, 2008) Completed March 28, 2008

(continued after worksheets)

I understand that this Wildlife Risk*A* Syst for bovine TB assessment and corresponding Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan were developed on the basis that I have disclosed, to the best of my knowledge, all information pertaining to my livestock operations,.

Steps

1. Assessment of wildlife risks
2. Development of mitigation plan
3. Implementation



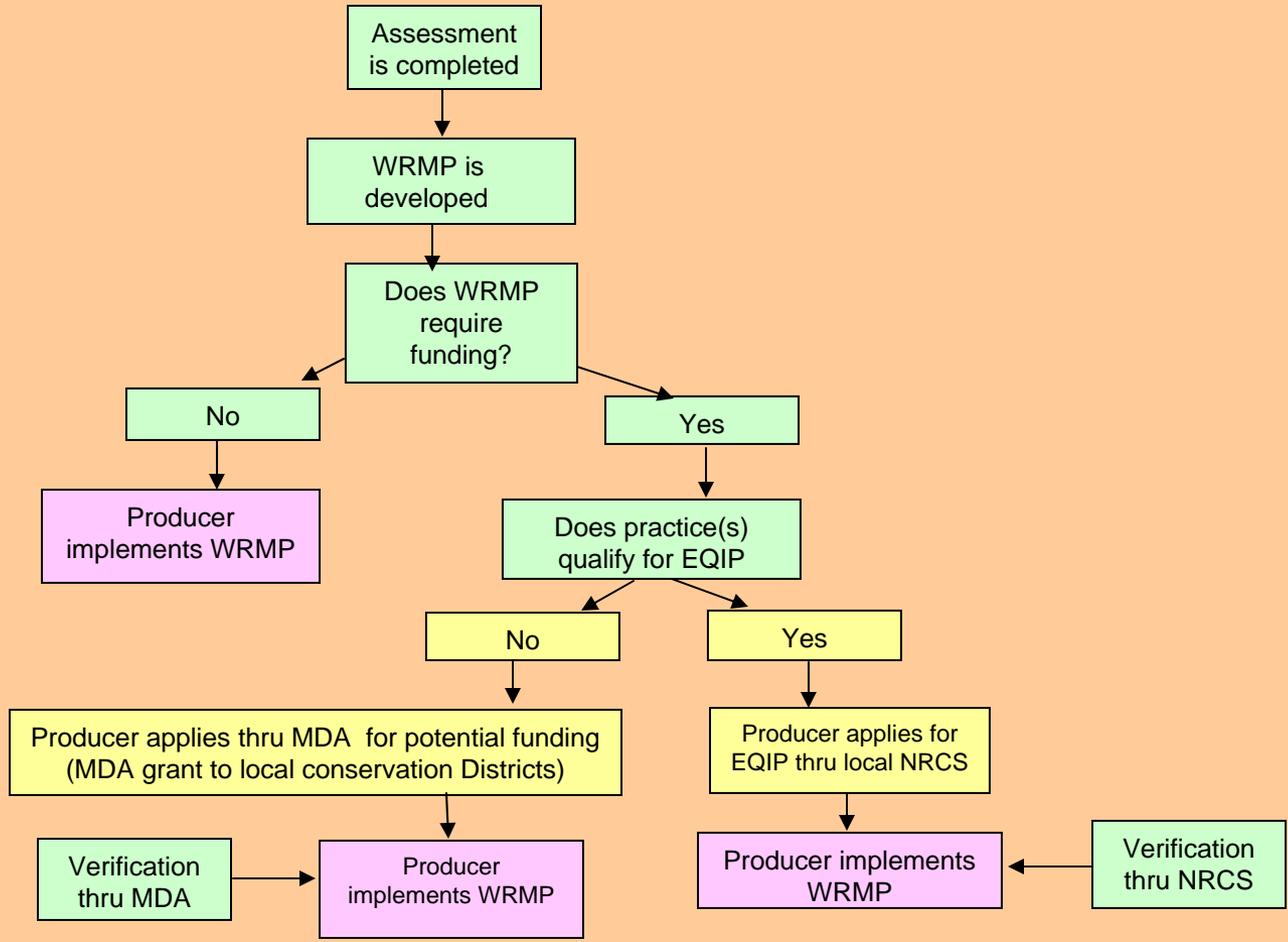
Steps

1. Assessment of wildlife risks
2. Development of mitigation plan
3. Implementation
4. Verification

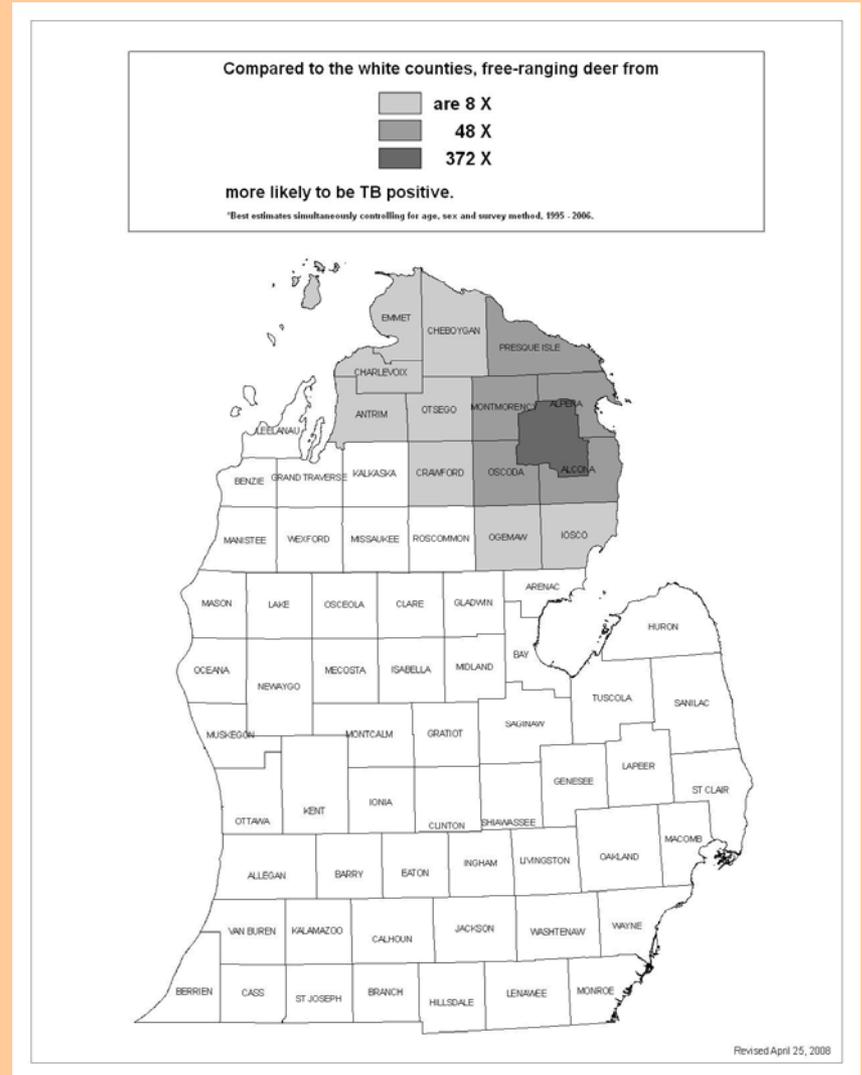
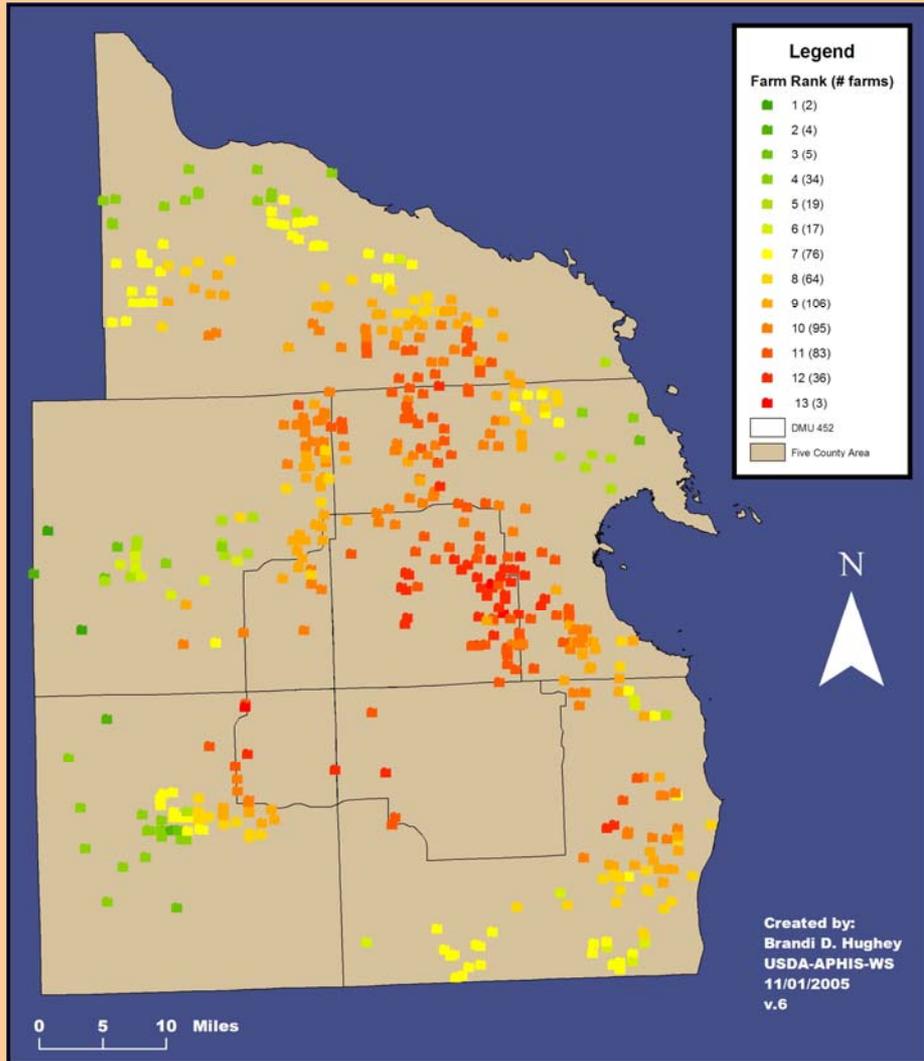


Where Do We Go From Here?

- Draft risk assessment conducted on 6 farms
- Final revisions of risk assessment
- Hiring of local Conservation District employee
- Cross-training between WS and NRCS/local conservation districts



Where to focus the resources?



Source: MI DNR 2008

Questions???



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