



**Legislative Report**  
**April 5, 2013**  
**Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update**  
Provided by the Animal Industry Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

*Act No. 247 Public Acts of 2008, Approved by the Governor\* July 17, 2008, Filed with the Secretary of State July 18, 2008, EFFECTIVE DATE: July 18, 2008.*

*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 the 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. MDA Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities**

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

Michigan's citizens are protected from exposure to 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. 14,000 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 2,200 dairy producers not located within the modified accredited zone may sell Grade A milk without having to annually TB test their herds.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

An addendum to Michigan's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is being circulated for signatures. The MOU Addendum discontinues TB testing in the special surveillance area in Ogemaw and Iosco Counties and discontinues requiring producers from that area to use owner-shipper permits when moving cattle from farm to farm. Additionally, the MOU Addendum permits producers from Roscommon, Ogemaw, and Iosco to have their cattle tagged at a livestock market if moving to another livestock market within the TB Free Zone. The addendum states that MDARD will no longer be engaging the Mackinac County Sherriff to conduct compliance patrols on the north side of the Mackinaw Bridge. Also MDARD's contract with the Michigan State Police to conduct compliance patrols will be reduced from 20 hours a week to ten hours a week on the south side of the Mackinaw Bridge.

### **Survey of Producers in DMU 452**

A subcommittee of the TB Advisory Committee has been discussing the topic of a voluntary cattle buy-out. The subcommittee decided to conduct a survey to glean the thoughts of producers in Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452 on three topics:

- Ideas they may have for increasing the harvest of deer in DMU 452
- How they feel about a voluntary cattle buy-out
- How they would feel about cost-share funding for deer-resistant pasture fencing

On March 18, a letter was mailed to 80 producers in DMU 452. Atlanta Office staff are calling the producers to ask the questions and compile the survey results.

### **Trace Testing in Thumb Region**

Two large dairy herds in the thumb region of the Lower Peninsula that had purchased a small number of cattle from a TB infected herd were tested for bovine tuberculosis during March. This included a 1,500 cow dairy in Huron County and a 3,000 cow dairy in Sanilac County. Testing of these herds required teams of up to 8 veterinarians and 8 technicians for multiple days.

As an example of the work required to complete the project, a team of veterinarians and technicians tested approximately 450 cows per hour as the cows exited from the milking parlor at one of the herds. No evidence of bovine tuberculosis has been found to date as a result of this testing.

#### **TB in an Elk in Montmorency County**

A free-ranging elk harvested during the elk hunt conducted in Montmorency County was determined by DNR to be positive for TB. This is the sixth TB positive elk found in Michigan.

#### **Study and Development of Mailers for Gamma Interferon Test Samples**

The gamma interferon tuberculosis test is used as a follow-up on cattle that may respond to the initial screening test used during surveillance and other testing. In an attempt to increase the reliability of this test, reduce the costs of the TB Program, and reduce the amount of time a producer may be under quarantine, MDARD personnel worked with KTM Industries in Lansing to evaluate the handling of samples during transportation to the laboratory. The scientific evaluation and testing conducted during the winter of 2012/2013 led to the development of a special mailing container that better ensures the reliability of the test. The main component of the system utilizes environmentally-friendly biodegradable materials. Use of these specifically designed containers was instituted on March 2013 and initial results are positive.

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

For calendar year 2013, as of the end of March, there have been 81 whole herd tests in the Modified Accredited Zone and 53 whole herd tests within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. Currently for calendar year 2013, surveillance testing has led to the identification of two infected herds.

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

#### **Update on Infected Herd #54**

This is a dairy herd located in Alpena County found to be infected with bovine tuberculosis in May 2012. This herd has been under quarantine while a test-and-removal process is underway. The quarantine on this farm was lifted on March 4, 2013, as all testing in the test-and-remove protocol was successfully completed. The amended Herd Plan and Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plans for this herd have also been signed.

#### **Update on Infected Herd #55**

This is a dairy herd located in Alpena County found to be infected with bovine tuberculosis in November 2012. This herd has been under quarantine and undergoing a test-and-removal process. The Department hopes to lift the quarantine later this fall.

#### **TB Infected Dairy Identified in Saginaw County – Infected Herd #56**

In February, an inspector at a USDA inspected slaughter plant in Michigan identified lesions typical of TB in the head of a cull dairy cow from Saginaw County. In accordance with inspection procedures, the carcass was pulled off the rail and removed from the food chain and samples were sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa for testing. The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) was positive for Tuberculosis (TB) complex. The type of TB found in the cull dairy cow was identified to be the Michigan strain.

Having TB positive animals go to a slaughter plant is a rarity for Michigan. There have been no cases of bovine TB in Saginaw County since before 1979 when the state of Michigan was first declared free of bovine TB.

Please note: USDA inspection is the final line of defense in the food safety process and any questionable health issue causes the inspector to pull the animal off the rail. There is no food safety risk as this animal was not processed for human consumption.

The dairy farm where the cow had originated was quarantined and tested for TB the week of March 4, 2013. A whole herd test was conducted and more than the expected number of animals reacted to the two tests employed. Some suspect animals were submitted to the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health and all had lesions consistent with TB. On March 25, MDARD designated this herd as the 56<sup>th</sup> herd affected by bovine TB based on positive Polymerase Chain Reaction tests for two of the cows necropsied.

The MDARD Environmental Stewardship Division, AID, the Food and Dairy Division, and the Dairy Cooperative are working with the producer to ensure that the milk does not enter the human food supply and is disposed of in an environmentally sound way.

MDARD has initiated a comprehensive response to this occurrence, which is being conducted under the Incident Command System (ICS). The ICS system is designed for managing complex and expanding incidents, and MDARD staff have been undergoing training over the past few years in order to respond to animal health events. The extensive response requires significant resources and will require multiple agencies and potentially involve hundreds of producers.

In addition to intensive investigation of any cattle that have entered or been sold from the herd, a special surveillance area was designated which will require any the herds within ten-miles of the infected premises to have a whole herd TB test by September 26 unless they enter into a herd plan with the TB Program.

There will be two public meetings on April 8 in Merrill, Michigan, at the Jonesfield Township Hall to discuss this herd, the resulting circle, trace testing, and to respond to questions by the public.

#### **New TB infected Alcona County Beef Herd – Infected Herd #57**

During the week of March 25, a small beef herd in Alcona County had a TB suspect animal necropsied at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health. The animal was necropsied and lesions consistent with bovine TB were discovered in the left retropharyngeal lymph node. On April 2, 2103, NVSL reported that this animal was positive for bovine tuberculosis on PCR.

This herd had been previously infected in the early 2000's and was not participating in the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Program. A full response to this occurrence will be implemented by MDARD and TB Program partners.

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

All 889 Wildlife Risk Mitigation winter inspections have been completed as of the end of March 2013. The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll 950 commercial farms with biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct, or indirect, contact with bovine tuberculosis infected free-ranging white-tailed deer.

Since 2008, there have been 933 commercial farms and another 48 freezer beef farms which have enrolled in the project. Currently, 951 (97%) of these farms' mitigation plans have been verified. However, fifty farms that had been inspected last winter no longer have cattle. This is more than twice the amount of herds we have typically seen sell out over the past several years from one year to the next. In many cases, feeding considerations were behind the high number of herds that have sold out since last year. There were 17 compliance issues found this winter and 14 of the issues were successfully resolved. Three producers have lost their Wildlife Risk Mitigation Verified status until their compliance issues are resolved.

## **E. Communications/Outreach**

### **Public Meeting at Wilson Township Hall**

On January 10, TB Program staff presented information about infected herd #55 and addressed general questions from the public about the TB Program. There were 50 to 60 producers in attendance as well as Representative Pettalia and a representative from Senator Moolenaar's Office. There was lively audience participation. There were fewer comments during this meeting about the State and the DNR doing something to solve the problem with free-ranging deer and more folks asking what they can do to protect themselves.

### **Meeting with Regional Michigan Milk Producers Association**

On January 11, TB Program staff presented an update of infected herds currently under quarantine, outcomes with the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project (WRMP), and the state of MDARD's Memorandum of Understanding discussions with the United States Department of Agriculture -Veterinary Services. There were 60 dairy producers in attendance. The following update of the MDARD cost-share program was included in the WRMP outcome report: MDARD had provided \$1,206,055 in cost-share funding through the Alpena Conservation District Office, and to date, four feed storage fences and 72 hoop barns have been built. Seven hoop barns and one fence are currently under construction.

### **News Releases:**

January 3, 2013

State Confirms Bovine TB in Alpena County Dairy Herd

*Producer meeting will be held on January 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.*

Routine bovine Tuberculosis (TB) surveillance testing conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently confirmed a medium size dairy herd as bovine TB positive in Alpena County.

February 5, 2013

MDARD Testing Clears Potential High Risk Areas for Bovine TB

*2012 Northern Lower Michigan designations fell within a ten-mile radius around three TB positive deer.* State Veterinarian, Dr. Steven Halstead recently signed a memorandum to release the Potential High-Risk designations for bovine Tuberculosis (TB) that were established for portions of 11 townships in Presque Isle County and two townships in Cheboygan County in 2012.

February 6, 2013

MDARD Announces New Bovine TB Program Coordinator. Dr. Rick Smith has been selected as MDARD's Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Program Coordinator. Dr. Smith has been the acting Program Coordinator for the past year and brings exceptional

knowledge and experience to the position with his extensive work on MDARD's Bovine TB Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project which he began in June of 2008. The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project requires strategic alliances with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, livestock industry partners, and local producers.

March 21, 2013

Bovine TB traced to Saginaw County Dairy Cow

*Laboratory tests indicate Michigan strain*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa has confirmed bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in the lymph nodes of a Saginaw County dairy cow identified during slaughter surveillance. The strain of bovine TB is unique to Michigan deer and cattle.

March 26, 2013

Bovine TB Confirmed in Saginaw County Dairy Herd

*10-mile surveillance testing to occur over next six months*

MDARD officials announced that laboratory results from herd-mates of the Saginaw County dairy cow are also positive for bovine Tuberculosis (TB). Last week MDARD announced the Michigan strain of bovine TB had been confirmed in one dairy cow which was found during slaughter surveillance.

As part of its bovine TB response plan, MDARD quarantined this farm and conducted a whole-herd test. Since the herd is confirmed positive, MDARD will be testing in a 10-mile surveillance circle around the farm to determine if there are any other bovine TB exposures. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be testing deer in the area for bovine TB.

"There are 66 farms in a 10-mile circle around the positive herd. If all cattle on these farms test negative, Michigan's TB-Free status won't be impacted," said Dr. Rick Smith, MDARD Bovine TB Program Coordinator. "MDARD will be contacting all farms to schedule herd tests. This infected herd also triggers testing of all cattle that moved on or off the farm in the past five years."

**Media Interviews:**

March 2, 2013

Newspaper: MLive – Dr. Rick Smith, Bovine TB Program Coordinator, spoke with Jessica Fleischman regarding the bovine TB positive herd.

Television: WNEM-TV 5 – Dr. Rick Smith, Bovine TB Program Coordinator, spoke with Doug regarding the bovine TB positive herd.

March 26, 2013

Television: WNEM-TV 5 - Dr. Rick Smith, Bovine TB Program Coordinator, spoke with Carrie Widenmeier regarding the confirmation of the Michigan strain of bovine TB in Saginaw County dairy cows.

Newspaper: Saginaw News - Dr. Rick Smith, Bovine TB program manager, spoke with Jessica Flieshman regarding the confirmation of the Michigan strain of bovine TB in a Saginaw County dairy herd.

Radio: CMU Public Radio - Dr. Rick Smith, Bovine TB Program Coordinator, spoke with Mike Horace regarding the confirmation of the Michigan strain of bovine TB in Saginaw County dairy cows.

Television: WEYI TV 25 - Dr. Rick Smith, bovine TB program manager, spoke with Walter Smith regarding the confirmation of the MI strain of bovine TB in Saginaw County dairy cows.

March 27, 2013:

Newspaper: Port Huron Times Herald – Dr. Rick Smith, Bovine TB Program Coordinator, spoke with Lance Ferrell regarding the confirmation of the Michigan strain of bovine TB in a Saginaw County dairy herd.

Magazine: MI Farmer - Dr. Rick Smith, bovine TB program manager, spoke with Jennifer Vincent regarding the confirmation of the Michigan strain of bovine TB in a Saginaw County dairy herd.

Newspaper: Argus Press – Bridget Patrick, risk communications specialist, emailed Dan Busso regarding bovine TB.

Television: Michigan Farm and Garden – Dr. James Averill, Animal Industry Division Director, taped a segment with Jody Pollok-Newsom on bovine TB.

### **Traditional and Social Media Coverage**

[Bovine Tuberculosis confirmed in Michigan dairy herd](#) WTVB

LANSING (WKZO) -- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is confirming a dairy herd in Alpena County has tested positive for bovine ...

[TB-positive herd found in Alpena County](#) Alpena News

ALPENA - Another dairy cow herd in Alpena County has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis, according to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural ...

[Alpena County cattle test positive for bovine TB](#) NECN

ALPENA, Mich. (AP) — Officials say a dairy cattle herd in the northeastern Lower Peninsula has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis.

[Bovine TB found in Alpena County dairy herd : News : UpNorthLive ...](#)By Anne Cook

A dairy herd in Alpena County has tested positive for *bovine Tuberculosis*, the *Michigan* Department of Agriculture and Rural Development says.

[Confirmed Bovine TB Case in Alpena County - Northern Michigan's ...](#)www.9amd10news.com

A cow from an Alpena County dairy herd has tested positive for Bovine Tuberculosis. Bovine TB is an infectious bacterial disease most commonly found in cattle.

[Bovine Tuberculosis confirmed in Michigan dairy herd - AM 590 - FM ...](#)wkzo.com

LANSING (WKZO) -- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is confirming a dairy herd in Alpena County has tested positive for bovine ...

[Alpena County cattle test positive for bovine TB | Michigan news ...](#)www.freep.com

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development said Thursday the disease was found on an Alpena County farm with 50 to 100 cattle.

[MDA addresses latest bovine TB case](#) Alpena News

WILSON TOWNSHIP - A week after the Michigan Department of Agriculture announced the discovery of the 55th bovine TB-positive herd, an audience gathered ...

[Bovine TB tests ongoing - Adrian, MI - The Daily Telegram - Adrian, MI](#)

Dan Cherry: Addison win reflects Cockrell's legacy ... Bovine TB tests ongoing. Home; Article. Bovine TB tests ongoing. Bovine tuberculosis testing is going full ...

[MDARD Announces New Bovine TB Program ... - State of Michigan](#)

MDARD Announces New Bovine TB Program Coordinator. Contact: Bridget Patrick 517-241-2669. Agency: Agriculture and Rural Development. February 6 ...

[Bovine TB confirmed in Saginaw County dairy herd; information meetings ...](#)Midland Daily News

Laboratory results from herd-mates of a Saginaw County dairy cow that tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB) show the animals also have the disease. Last week, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) officials announced ...

[More farms to be tested for bovine TB](#) minbcnews.com

FRANKENMUTH TOWNSHIP -- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is testing 66 Saginaw County farms for bovine Tuberculosis (TB) after a dairy herd tested positive for the disease. Last week, MDARD officials said ..

[Bovine TB Confirmed in Michigan Dairy Herd - USAgNet](#)

Your Daily Source for National & World Ag News, Markets, Weather, Auctions and Real

[Editorial: Discovery in Saginaw County adds wrinkle to bovine TB questions](#) Alpena News

Since bovine TB reared its ugly head again in Northeast Michigan in 1994, the disease has been confined to our region - until now. However, bovine TB used to exist across all of Michigan. In fact, according to the state's official website, Michigan.gov ...

[Michigan agriculture officials confirm bovine TB in Saginaw County ...](#)

LANSING (WKZO) -- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will test livestock and deer in a ten-mile radius of a Saginaw County dairy ...