



Legislative Report
January 8, 2015

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 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. Over 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 located outside of the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) may sell Grade A milk without having to annually TB test their herds.

New Zoning Order

On October 13, 2014, the new zoning order went into effect and recognizes the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Otsego, and Presque Isle as Accredited TB Free. The new zoning order also details the ongoing surveillance program that was established by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USDA in March 2014 and was initiated in the zoning order dated May 1, 2014. The main change to the new zoning order relates to surveillance testing in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties:

- 55 herds are randomly picked annually to TB test from Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego Counties combined
- 61 Presque Isle County herds are randomly picked annually to TB test
- No further surveillance TB testing is occurring in Crawford County

The major change affecting the four counties in the MAZ (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties) is that, effective January 1, 2015, cattle may only be sold directly to slaughter if they originate from farms without a biosecurity plan that has been verified by the TB Program's Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project. A special effort has been mounted since the spring of 2014 by the TB Program to reach out to the 47 producers in the MAZ that did not have a biosecurity plan. As of the beginning of January 2015, 29 of these producers (62%) have developed a plan and had it verified, and another four (9%) have enrolled for an assessment of risk on their farm.

Circle Testing in Huron Circles

As a result of discovering TB infected feedlots in Huron County, two special surveillance areas were established, each with a three-mile radius around the infected feedlots. TB testing was completed on December 19, 2014, and no disease was found.

Circle Testing in Presque Isle-Cheboygan Circles

As a result of discovering TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer in northern Montmorency and northern Presque Isle counties, two potential high-risk areas were established in Presque Isle County and eastern Cheboygan County. TB testing was completed on November 10, 2014, and no disease was found.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

In 2014, a total of 345 whole herd tests were completed in the MAZ and 177 whole herd tests were completed in the TB Free zone counties that were previously designated as the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. Surveillance testing in 2014 led to the identification of one TB infected bison herd located in the MAZ.

Through slaughter-based surveillance, two TB infected animals traced to two Huron County feedlots were found in the TB Free zone in 2014. Subsequently, another 30 animals have been identified as culture positive at one of the feedlots (see discussion on Feedlot #3 below). There are culture results pending for an additional 46 cattle removed from Feedlot #3 at the end of October 2014.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Update on Infected Herd #58

The owner of this small dairy beef farm had acquired raw milk from the Saginaw County farm which was fed to various calves. A test of these calves indicated the potential presence of infection and the animals were sent to the laboratory at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH). Some of the calves were found to be infected with bovine TB. On May 1, 2013, the herd was designated as affected. This farm was depopulated on June 19, 2013. Cleaning and disinfecting was completed and a herd plan was signed. The quarantine was released on December 15, 2014. If this producer decides to repopulate, then TB testing will be required at 6 months and 18 months.

Update on Infected Herd #60

On March 28, 2014, a small bison herd located in the MAZ was designated as affected by bovine TB. On April 28, 2014, the herd was depopulated with USDA funds. A herd plan has been developed, and exclusionary fencing and a feed storage area have been installed. The quarantine was released on December 30, 2014. A whole herd test is scheduled for January 13, 2015.

Update on Infected Feedlot #2

This Huron County feedlot was designated as affected by bovine TB on February 27, 2014. On March 24, 2014, NVSL reported that the genome of the Huron feedlot slaughter trace animal matched the genome of the Saginaw herd. The feedlot is under quarantine and exposed animals will be sent to slaughter at federally inspected slaughter plants on sealed trailers when they reach slaughter weight. This feedlot is 69 percent of the way through the process. This process should be completed in March 2015. TB Program staff are working with the owners of the feedlot to clean and disinfect the premises as they are emptied of exposed cattle. Once disinfected, a livestock barn needs to remain unstocked for 30 days.

Update on Infected Feedlot #3

This Huron County feedlot was designated as affected by bovine TB on April 3, 2014. On June 13, 2014, NVSL reported that the genome of the Huron feedlot slaughter trace animal matched the genome of the Saginaw herd. This feedlot has been sending cattle to slaughter on a regular basis, however, 24 animals sent to slaughter from this feedlot were identified by the Federal Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) inspectors as being potentially infected on September 26, 2014. All 24 have been cultured as positive for bovine TB. Subsequent to this finding, all cattle at this feedlot were TB tested and 46 cattle were identified as reactors. These reactor cattle were depopulated by USDA on October 27, 2014, and examined at DCPAH. Culture results are pending. The remaining cattle at this feedlot were sent to slaughter on October 30 and 31, 2014. TB Program staff are working with the owner of the feedlot to clean and disinfect the premises. Once disinfected, a facility needs to remain unstocked for 30 days.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll 950 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

Currently, a total of 1,114 commercial farms and freezer beef herds are enrolled in the project and 1,089 (98%) of them have a verified wildlife risk mitigation action plan.

E. Communications/Outreach

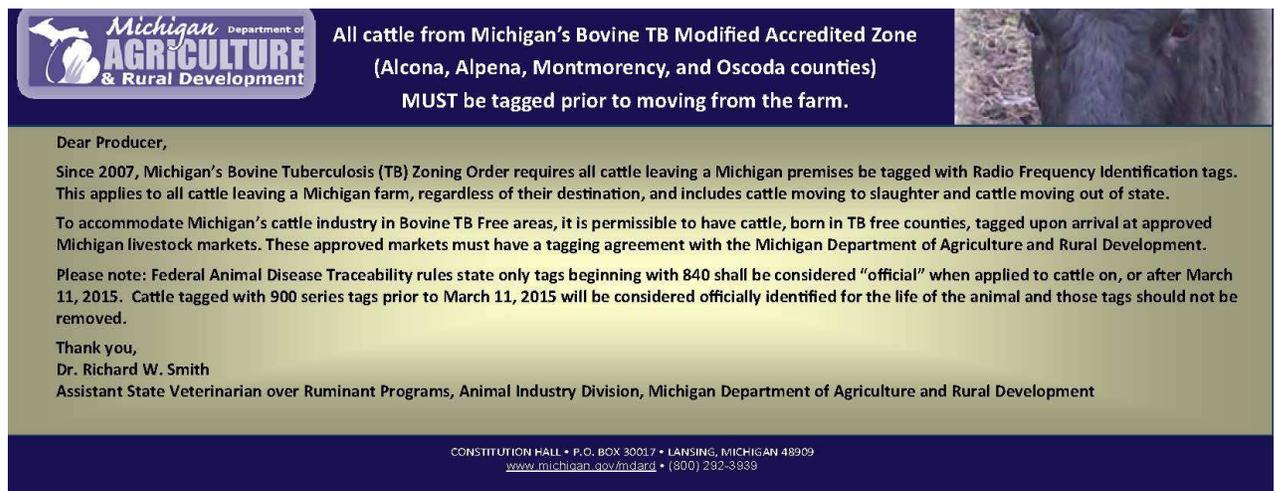
News Release:

[MDARD Director: 95 percent of Michigan Counties are Now Bovine TB Free](#) October 13, 2014

Outreach:

A radio ad on cattle identification ran for four weeks in September 2014 on Michigan Farm Radio and country music stations statewide. Additional radio messages were placed from late-October through mid-December (the peak of cattle sales in Michigan) with a 30-second transcript: "Michigan cattle may not leave a farm premises without a radio frequency identification tag – also known as an RFID. To protect the food supply and public health, it is the law in Michigan – all cattle are required to be identified with RFID – PRIOR TO movement from farm premises. RFID technology allows Michigan to trace animal movement in the event of a disease outbreak. These tags help track animals from farms, on interstate health certificates, to livestock saleyards, and to slaughter plants. If you own cattle and need a premises ID number, or information on tags, visit www.michigan.gov/MDARD and click on animal health."

A cattle Identification 840 prefix message on a postcard was mailed to 14,000 cattle producers statewide. The same message was delivered in the form of check stuffers via saleyard payments. A picture of the message is below:



 All cattle from Michigan's Bovine TB Modified Accredited Zone
(Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties)
MUST be tagged prior to moving from the farm.

Dear Producer,

Since 2007, Michigan's Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Zoning Order requires all cattle leaving a Michigan premises be tagged with Radio Frequency Identification tags. This applies to all cattle leaving a Michigan farm, regardless of their destination, and includes cattle moving to slaughter and cattle moving out of state.

To accommodate Michigan's cattle industry in Bovine TB Free areas, it is permissible to have cattle, born in TB free counties, tagged upon arrival at approved Michigan livestock markets. These approved markets must have a tagging agreement with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Please note: Federal Animal Disease Traceability rules state only tags beginning with 840 shall be considered "official" when applied to cattle on, or after March 11, 2015. Cattle tagged with 900 series tags prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered officially identified for the life of the animal and those tags should not be removed.

Thank you,
Dr. Richard W. Smith
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