

Bovine Tuberculosis



Eradication Project

What can be done to decrease interactions between wildlife, cattle and feed?

Store feed securely

Make it as difficult as possible for wildlife to access feed. The best defense is to prevent wildlife from forming bad habits. The most secure storage options may also be best for maintaining feed quality. Ideally, all hay should be stored inside an enclosed barn; however, if you don't have the ability to do this, you can still reduce the risk:

- Wrap bales or cover stacks with tarps
- Fence the hay/feed storage area
- Store hay near buildings
- Use uncovered hay bales first
- Close ends of ag-bags
- Keep gates and doors to feed storage areas closed
- Store grains in animal-proof containers or bins
- Make use of disease control permits

Minimize wildlife access to cattle feed and water

Although deer generally do not interact directly with cattle, infected deer can contaminate cattle feed. The best prevention is to keep deer or other wildlife from coming into contact with any livestock feed. Ideally, because deer can come into cattle feed sites, cattle should be fed in an enclosed area and given only enough for one day. While this may be an ideal situation, it is not always practical, so other steps that can be taken to reduce the risk:

- Feed in open areas near buildings/human activity
- Monitor feeding areas for signs of deer activity

- Try to feed amounts that can be consumed in one day
- Remove extra or waste feed when cattle are moved
- Use hay feeders to reduce waste and make wildlife access more difficult (cone feeders and hayrings are most efficient)
- Use artificial water systems to help keep cattle from sharing water sources with wildlife
- Fence off stagnant ponds/wetlands
- Keep mineral feeders near buildings/human activity or use devices that restrict deer usage
- To discourage deer, keep livestock guardian dogs with cattle



Protect your investment. Leave a farming legacy. Decrease the risk of TB transmission from wildlife.

Only you can prevent bovine TB. Store your feed responsibly and minimize wildlife access to feed and water.

Contact Information

Who do beef and dairy cattle farmers call for help?

- Technical assistance (wildlife)
- Fencing

USDA Wildlife Services

Gaylord Office - (989) 705-8467

Lansing Office - (517) 336-1928

- Wildlife risk surveys

MI Dept. of Agriculture

Atlanta Office - (888) 565-8626

Lansing Office - (517) 373-1077

- Disease Control Permits

MI Dept. of Natural Resources

Gaylord Office - (989) 732-3541

- General Information

MSU Extension Office in your area

Mio (Dairy) - (989) 826-1160

Harrisville (Beef) - (989) 724-6478

www.michigan.gov/bovinetb