

# *Bovine TB News*

**July 5, 2009**

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## **Michigan Update:**

### *Meetings held on proposed Zonal Boundary changes*

MDA officials held eight public meetings to explain and seek input on proposal bTB zone changes. These changes are contingent on USDA acceptance and changes in federal rules. The proposed zonal boundaries would remove six northwest counties (Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, and Otsego) from the MAZ and place them in the MAAZ in an area called subzone 1. This new subzone is viewed as a “low risk area”. Subzone 2 would consist of the counties of Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Osceola, Gladwin, Arenac and the portion of Ogemaw and Iosco counties south of the current MAZ. This area is viewed as a “sporadic risk area”. Subzone 3 of the MAAZ would consist of the remaining portion of the Lower Peninsula and be viewed as a “negligible risk area”. Surveillance testing would be risk-based, with more stringent standards in higher risk areas.

### PROPOSED Surveillance Testing Requirements by Zone and Subzone:

MAZ (Presque Isle, Oscoda, Alpena, Alcona and the northern portions of Ogemaw and Iosco counties – High Risk Area)

- Annual whole herd testing of all herds except freezer beef herds.

MAAZ - Subzone 1 (Beginning September 1 if USDA rules are changed by then)

- Breeder herds – Annual whole herd test
- Feeder calf producers – Test every other year
- Feedlots – Test every three years
- Freezer beef herds – no testing

MAAZ – Subzone 2

- Continue 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 3-year program to test all herds in area (estimate 300 herds in 2009)

MAAZ – Subzone 3

- Random selection of 70 herds for whole herd test. Discontinue this in 2010

TB Free Zone

- Random selection of up to 25 herds for whole herd test.

Special testing:

- Complete circle testing of herds in Iosco County around location of bTB-positive deer.
- Test herds in the TB Free Zone and MAAZ Subzone 2 & 3 that have previously received exposed cattle and have not had an additional whole herd test since the trace testing.
- Test herds in the TB Free Zone that received cattle from the MAZ from 2004-2008.

Beginning January 1, 2010:

- In TB Free Zone and MAAZ Subzones 2 & 3, test individual breeding cattle sold from herds located in the MAZ and MAAZ Subzone 1 that do not have a provisionally or annually verified wildlife risk mitigation program (WRMP) in place. Test 60-120 days after movement.

The public comment period closes August 21. Comments should be mailed or e-mailed to:

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 Michigan Department of Agriculture  
 Animal Industry Division  
 PO Box 30017  
 Lansing, MI 48909  
[DavisJ6@michigan.gov](mailto:DavisJ6@michigan.gov)

*Source: Michigan Department of Agriculture*

### **National Update:**

#### *The Future of the National Bovine Tuberculosis Program*

Approximately 100 people are registered to date for the conference in Denver, CO to discuss the national bTB program and changes to it. The agenda includes breakout sessions on the following proposed topics.

- Importation of Infected Cattle
- Wildlife as a Reservoir
- Diagnostic Testing and Limitations
- Surveillance and Traceability
- Modernizing Regulations
- Disease Control Approach
- Cattle Industry Changes
- Fiscal Realities

There will be two concurrent breakout sessions. These sessions will be facilitated, recorded and reported out to the whole group at the end of the second day. Interested individuals can still register on-line at: [www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org).

*Source: USAHA*

#### *Trace-out testing in Nebraska to include 43 herds in 14 counties.*

As a result of the beef herd in Nebraska with two animals positive for bTB, 43 Nebraska herds were identified as potentially having contact and were quarantined and being tested. In addition, officials in Colorado and South Dakota have been notified of potential trace-outs to herds in their

states. The Acting State Veterinarian in South Dakota reported that cattle from the index herd in Nebraska had been previously sent to slaughter.

As of July 13, testing in Nebraska had been completed on approximately 7800 head with about 6000 more to be tested. A report on that same date showed that 17 herds have been released from quarantine following whole herd negative tests.

*Source: Nebraska Department of Agriculture*

### *Third captive cervid herd diagnosed with bTB in Indiana*

A mature female elk in a second Indiana cervid herd traced to the first positive herd has tested positive for bTB. The herd is under quarantine. Several additional herds are under quarantine as trace-outs. The Indiana Board of Animal Health and Department of Natural Resources, along with USDA Wildlife Services plan to test wildlife in the immediate area around the index herd and radius testing of cattle in the region.

On July 7, the Indiana BOAH released information that a third herd was found with an infected animal, a red deer. Animals in this herd had been purchased directly from the index herd. Under USDA guidelines, because all three premises are linked, this remains one case.

*Source: Indian BOAH*

### *bTB confirmed in Texas herd*

Cultures have confirmed that the suspect Texas dairy herd is positive for bTB. In a news release dated June 15 the disposition of the herd, whether it would be depopulated or go through a test and remove plan, had not yet been determined. Trace-out testing is also being done.

*Source: Texas Animal Health Commission*

### *Tentative deal reached on brucellosis rules*

State officials in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana have reached tentative agreement with USDA on rules for brucellosis testing and state and area designation. On June 24, USDA released a proposal to scrap its existing brucellosis rules under which states would have lost their brucellosis-free status. The proposal is to relax the rules for most of the country but to make them more strict in parts of Montana, Idaho and Montana surrounding Yellowstone National Park. Livestock producers in those areas would face disease testing indefinitely and be subject to strict quarantine if infections were to occur. However, any new infections would not lead to statewide penalties.

The proposal also puts the states in charge of setting the boundaries for the “designated testing areas” and does not establish brucellosis “zones”. Further detail is expected to be released in late July. The proposal will be presented at the USAHA Annual Meeting in October.

*Source: Missoulian.com*

### *Mathematical approach to spread of bovine TB*

The development of new tools to better understand bovine TB and to help disease eradication efforts by the USDA was the focus of a workshop held at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), July 7-9 on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The workshop brought together experts from around the world to share ideas about how mathematical modeling approaches for cattle movements in the United States may influence disease transmission models as well as inform policies and programs for reducing the spread of bovine TB.

In terms of controlling the spread of the disease, one of the goals of the USDA is to move away from the use of depopulation as a management tool, USDA veterinarian Katie Portacci said. "I think the NIMBioS meeting will help us come up with alternative ways of dealing with the problem of bovine TB."

*Source: Physorg.com*

### **International Update:**

#### *bTB found in Northland, New Zealand dairy herd*

A cow from a large dairy herd in Northland was diagnosed with bTB during the regular three year herd testing program and has been slaughtered. Restrictions have been placed on movement of cattle onto or off the farm. Northland had been classified by the Animal Health Board (AHB) as a TB surveillance area with a low disease risk. The cow is believed to be the first Northland-bred animal diagnosed positive. Maintaining the confidence of trade partners is critical for New Zealand.

AHB regional coordinator Frank Pavitt said stopping the spread of infection to wildlife had top priority. Checks on wild pigs shot in the area indicated there was no evidence of bovine tuberculosis infection in surrounding wildlife. Northland TBfree committee chairman Neil MacMillan expected the AHB to bring the Kaitaia herd outbreak under control fairly quickly, but predicted that if the disease got established in possums and other wildlife in forests near Kaitaia it would cost millions of dollars to eradicate.

*Source: The Northern Advocate website*

#### *New Zealand Board of Animal Health begins its five year review process*

The AHB is due for a five-year review under the Biosecurity Act and is seeking farmers' views on future directions for bTB control. Current strategy is to reduce the cattle and deer herd infection rate to 0.2% by 2013. They report that that infection rate is currently 0.34% and they are on track to meet their target.

The Animal Health Board now wants to put more effort into dealing with TB infection in opossums and other wildlife that spread the disease. AHB Chairman John Dalziel says the board has succeeded in eradicating TB from wildlife in areas such as Banks Peninsula and Kaipara South Head and now proposes to test the feasibility of eradication across larger areas.

*Source: Radio New Zealand News website*

#### *New Welsh TB testing regime announced*

TB eradication in Wales is set to enter its next phase with the announcement on July 8 that all cattle will be tested next year in order to continue to identify and remove all sources of infection. Welsh Assembly Rural Affairs Minister, Elin Jones, said that Health Check Wales, the current 15-month initiative to test all cattle herds in Wales which is due to end in December, was proving successful in identifying and removing disease more quickly. The new testing regime would apply while data

from the current program was analyzed and all herds in Wales would have to comply with pre-movement testing requirements. Jones said that “. . . we have identified and are removing new cases of bovine TB in herds that may not have been tested until 2012. This demonstrates the need for more frequent testing in areas which are currently only tested every two, three or four years.”

*Source: The Farmers Guardian website*

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*This newsletter is meant to keep you updated about bTB in Michigan and elsewhere and to answer questions you may have. If you have a question, please send it by return e-mail. Address questions or comments to Phil Durst at 989-826-1160 or [durstp@msu.edu](mailto:durstp@msu.edu).*

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