



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

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DATE: October 26, 2007
TO: Phyllis Mellon, Deputy Director
FROM: John Tilden
SUBJECT: Weekly Update - TB Program Review Response

Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) Producer Meeting

An open meeting for cattle producers was held in Atlanta, Michigan on October 25. MAZ producers received an update on recommended wildlife risk communication plans and the procedures for herd inventory reconciliations. Producers expressed concern over market access in face of ever tightening regulatory requirements.

Alcona County cattle herd

The TB positive beef herd is quarantined to the farm, and the process for appraisal is underway.

USAHA Meeting

National experts provided input on Michigan's current bovine TB surveillance systems as part of the United States Animal Health Association meeting on October 20. There was general agreement on the principles that need to be addressed in a revised surveillance system.

Communications

The True North Radio Network and editor of Alpena News hosted an interactive radio discussion focused on bovine TB eradication. The October 26, group interview reminded hunters of the important role they play in eradicating TB from northeastern lower Michigan. Staff from MDA, DNR, MDCH, and Michigan Quality Deer Management Association stressed that hunters can protect both the health of Michigan deer herd and the livelihood of local Michigan farm families by harvesting deer and not putting out feed piles that artificially increase deer numbers.