



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

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DATE: November 9, 2007
TO: Phyllis Mellon, Deputy Director
FROM: John Tilden
SUBJECT: Weekly Update - TB Program Review Response

USDA Veterinary Services Review

An eight-person USDA review team made up of epidemiologists, animal identification coordinators, administrators, and national TB program staff arrived in Michigan on Sunday, November 4. After a brief Monday morning meeting with Michigan agency personnel, the team hit the ground running and fanned out over Michigan visiting sale yards, slaughter establishments, administrative offices, and the Mackinac Bridge livestock check station. The team provided a preliminary verbal summary of their findings during an exit briefing this morning.

The team noted that Michigan agencies had clearly demonstrated a renewed focus and sense of urgency and that many of the previously documented discrepancies had been corrected. They cautioned that many significant issues will require sustained focused efforts and political will to successfully address. Some of these issues include:

- Preventing on-going transmission of bovine TB from wildlife to livestock in the Modified Accredited Zone
- Improving the movement certificate and tracking systems to ensure bovine TB is not spread by livestock movements
- Increasing compliance enforcement
- Increasing the effectiveness of disease surveillance testing in the TB Free and Modified Accredited Advanced Zones
- Refining management systems that use program resources effectively

Communications

MDA celebrated the one-millionth electronic identification ear tag sold to Michigan dairy and beef producers on the farm of Ken and Larry Nobis this past Thursday. Michigan farmers, Michigan State University Extension, the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, the Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, AllFlex (tag company), and the Holstein Association were all present to observe the MDA milestone.