

Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

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What is Wildlife Risk Mitigation?

Risk Mitigation is Prevention

- The main objective is to prevent deer from accessing key parts of the farm where bovine TB transmission may occur.
- We recognize that a “one size fits all” approach will not be flexible to work on all farms and that there may be several ways to effectively achieve the objective

Why Wildlife Risk Mitigation?

- Because there is ongoing bovine TB transmission between wildlife and cattle.
- Several new infected herds found each year.
- To maintain customer confidence and market access.
- To reduce TB testing.

Producers have told us that Wildlife Risk Mitigation must be...

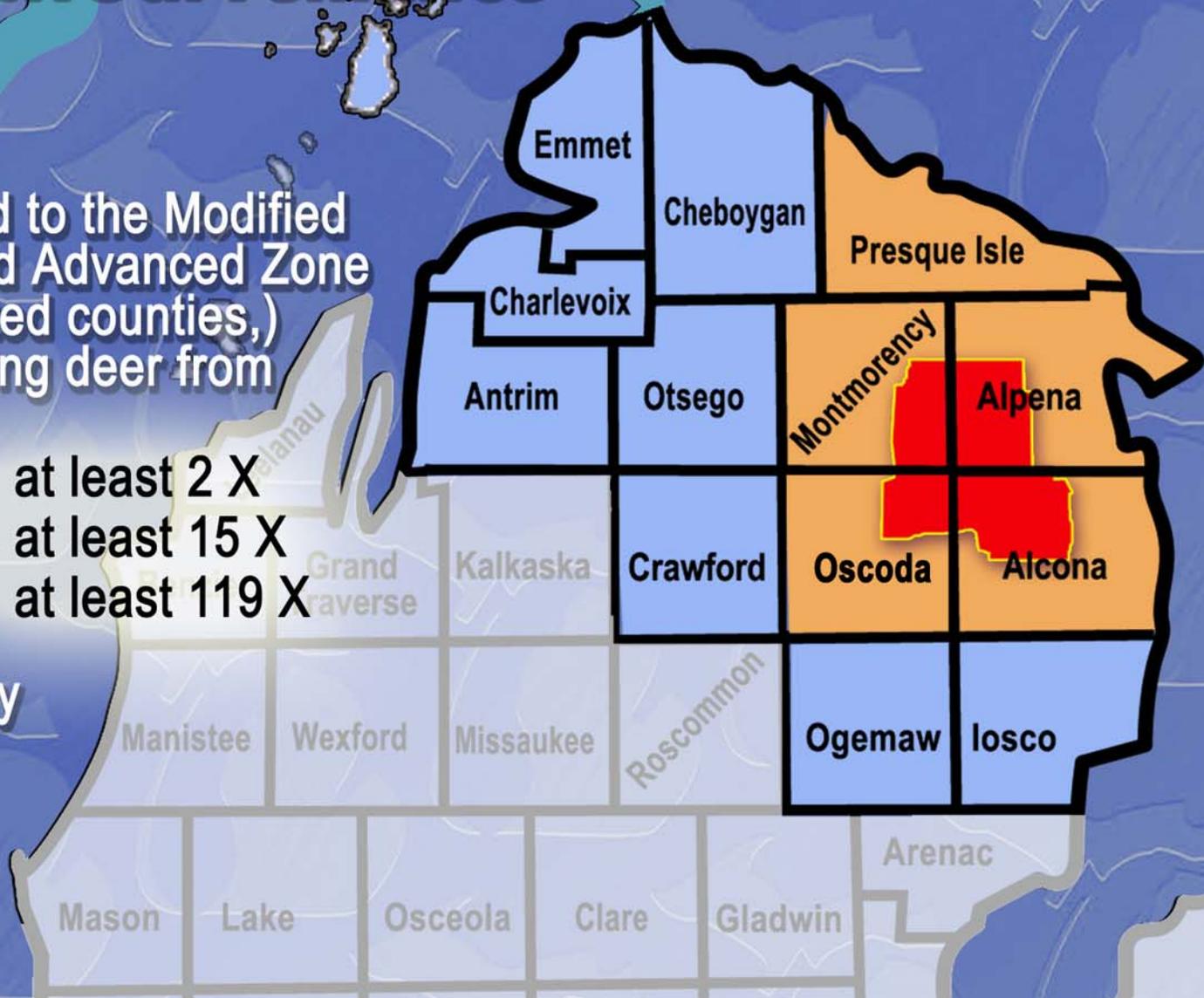
- **Effective** - Minimizes cattle to deer and deer to cattle feed & water contact
- **Practical** – Something that producers can do, and is affordable
- **Realistic** – We are talking about reducing a given farm's risk to bovine TB, not eliminating all conceivable risk

Likelihood of Finding a TB infected Deer on DNR Surveillance

Compared to the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone (white tinted counties,) free-ranging deer from

-  are at least 2 X
-  are at least 15 X
-  are at least 119 X

more likely to be TB positive.



Because of the risk ...

- Livestock producers will be expected to take reasonable precautions to prevent the transmission of bovine TB from deer.
- In general, more risk reduction will be expected in areas where TB infected wildlife are more likely to be found.

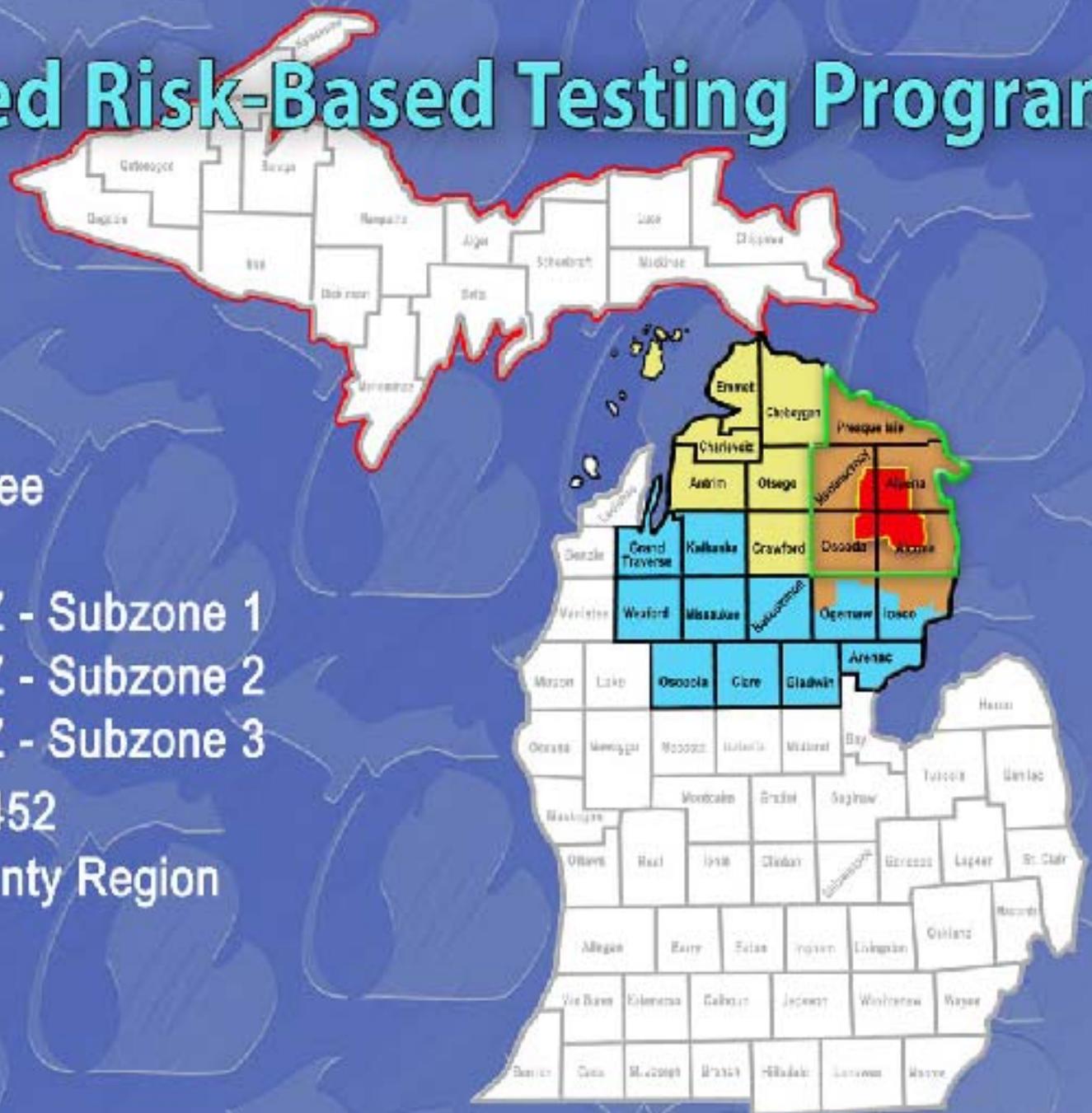
How do I develop a wildlife risk mitigation plan?

- A producer needs to complete the Wildlife Risk*A*Syst assessment.
- Commit to a Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan for his farm.
- Implement that plan.
- Have the MDA verify the plan as having been implemented.

All risk reduction plans should address the following areas:

1. Feeding cattle safely
2. Storing cattle feed safely
3. Watering cattle safely

Proposed Risk-Based Testing Program



Is there cost-share funding for any of these requirements?

- MDA has limited cost share funding for hoop barns & feed storage fencing in the 7 counties in the proposed MAZ.
- MDA has been working with USDA NRCS to make EQIP funding available for:
 1. Feed storage fencing
 2. Feeding area fencing
 3. Exclusionary fencing
 4. Watering systems – stream crossings

In 2009

- Main focus on mitigating wildlife risk in breeding herds in both MAZ and Subzone 1 of MAAZ
- Incentives for Subzone 1 cow-calf operations who have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan:
 - No 60 day test to move animals within MAAZ
 - First 170 cow-calf herds in Subzone 1 who have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in 2009 will be exempted from their 2009 whole herd test.

If you don't implement a wildlife risk mitigation plan ...

Phased in testing of unmitigated animals in customer's herds:

- Breeders (MAZ & Subzone 1) - 2010
- Feeders in townships with high prevalence of bovine TB in deer (MAZ) – 2011
- Feeders in Subzone 1 and remaining townships of MAZ - 2012

What is the proposed timeline for a wildlife risk mitigation plan?

- Subzone 1 cow-calf herds have until September 30th to have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan to benefit from testing and movement incentives.
- MAZ & Subzone 1 breeding herds have until December 31st to have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan to avoid TB testing in customer's herds.