



**Legislative Report**  
**October 5, 2012**  
**Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update**  
Provided by the Animal Industry Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

*Act No. 247 Public Acts of 2008, Approved by the Governor\* July 17, 2008, Filed with the Secretary of State July 18, 2008, EFFECTIVE DATE: July 18, 2008.*

*AN ACT to make appropriations ...*

*Sec. 457. On or before October 15, 2008, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the department shall report to the senate and house agriculture committees, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on agriculture, and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the department's progress toward meeting the USDA requirements as outlined in the March 2007 bovine TB program review. The report shall include, but is not limited to, information and data on: wildlife risk mitigation plan implementation in the modified accredited zone; implementation of a movement certificate process; progress toward annual surveillance test requirements set out in the June 2007 MOU; compliance efforts and rates for animals crossing the Mackinac Bridge; efforts to work with slaughter facilities in Michigan, as well as those that slaughter a significant number of animals from Michigan; educational programs and information for Michigan's livestock community; any other item the legislature should be aware of that will promote or hinder efforts to achieve bovine TB-free status for Michigan.*

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## **A. MDA Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities**

### **Why We Do What We Do**

Michigan's citizens are protected from exposure to bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism as a result of the Bovine TB Eradication Program. The Michigan Bovine TB Program was established under Public Act 466, of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, and is required under Federal Law in order for Michigan producers to participate in interstate commerce of animals (9CFR Part 77) and to maintain a state status (9CFR Part 92). Bovine TB has economic and human health implications and the program is of high visibility and interest to farmers, producer groups, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is of high interest at the national level and other states would close their markets to Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products if the program were reduced or eliminated. 14,000 cattle producers in Michigan maintain over 1.1 million cattle each year. The Michigan program prevents farm to farm transmission of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets. The 2,200 dairy producers not located within the modified accredited zone may sell Grade A milk without having to annually TB test their herds.

### **New Process for Handling Feedlots That Have Received Exposed Cattle**

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Program (TB Program) and the United States Department of Agriculture – Veterinary Services' (USDA-VS) Michigan and Regional Offices have worked out a process that utilizes Michigan's Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system to spare feedlots that have received animals from TB infected herds from having to test all the animals in the feedlot providing the feedlot only sells cattle to slaughter facilities. The new process went into effect on July 20, 2012 and has already spared several Michigan feedlots from needing to conduct TB testing on hundreds of cattle due to trace testing that resulted from infected herd #54.

### **Bovine TB Program Benchmarks**

- From September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012 regulatory staff at Gaylord have processed 7,790 loads of cattle including 40,944 head
- From September 1, 2010 through June 2012 regulatory staff at Tier markets have processed and repermited 1,984 cattle on 174 movement certificates
- During the 2010 and 2011 West Branch Feeder sales MDARD and USDA staff processed 1,602 feeder cattle
- From September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012 there have been 382,232 RFID tags sighted at Michigan saleyards
- From September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012 there have been 480,407 RFID tags sighted at major slaughter plants

### **Bovine TB Program Review – August 7-10, 2012**

USDA-VS conducted a review of Michigan's Bovine TB Program August 7-10, 2012. The USDA TB Review Team consisted of:

- Bell Hench – National TB Staff – Team Leader
- Owen Henderson – National TB Staff
- Mark Camacho – Regional TB Epidemiologist
- Billy Graham – Tennessee Area ID Coordinator
- Marty Zaluski – Montana State Veterinarian

Areas of focus for the review team:

- Movement controls
- After hours permits
- Wildlife Risk Mitigation plans
- Caudal Fold Test response rates
- Herd inventory reconciliation
- Lot sales at Gaylord
- Free-ranging white-tailed deer management

The exit interview was very positive. Dr. Bill Hench, the lead for the team, expressed the team's thanks and appreciation to everyone for all the exceptional work done on the Review. The team was particularly impressed with the commitment and cooperation from all in the quantity and quality of the work. The full report will be sent to Michigan later in the autumn of 2012, but the 11 main points covered by Dr. Hench August 7 included:

1. Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer Sampling Numbers  
Observation: Concerned with apparent bovine TB disease prevalence outside the four-county area (Montmorency, Alpena, Alcona, and Oscoda).  
Recommendations:
  - A. Supply USDA Wildlife Services with a larger number of Disease Control Permits when they assist producers with harvesting deer (current amount is five).
  - B. Mandatory deer check stations
  - C. Increased hours for deer check stations on the busiest days of deer hunting season
  - D. Identify specific counties for surveillance each year
  - E. Increase sampling in DMU every 3 or 4 years
2. Feeding and Baiting of Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer  
Observation: There is a concern that the disease will increase with the lifting of the feeding and baiting ban.  
Recommendations:
  - A. Reinstate the feeding and baiting ban in all counties where bovine TB positive free-ranging white-tailed deer are found.
  - B. Clarify the definition feeding and baiting.
3. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Efforts and Plan  
Observation: Seems to be partially effective.  
Recommendation:  
Focus efforts in areas of great risk:
  - i. Consider buyouts of repeat infected herds
  - ii. Enclosure fencing
  - iii.. Continue research in other pathways of infection
4. Affected Herds Current and Past  
Observation: Herd files up to date  
Recommendation: Continue with what is being done
5. Caudal Fold Test Standard Response Rates of Veterinarians  
Observation: The nationwide accredited veterinarian response rate is 49% and Michigan's is 85%.  
Recommendation: Continue with what is being done and improve.

6. Lot Sales at the Gaylord Market  
Observation: Cattle buyer's USAHerds database herd files are not being assigned all the cattle they buy in lot sales.  
Recommendation: Work on this issue
7. Mobile Patrols  
Recommendation: Continue with mobile patrols of livestock transport.
8. Inventory Reconciliation  
Observation: Due to personnel changes this activity is backlogged.  
Recommendations:
  - A. Utilize the capability of the USAHerds database and the Mobile Information Management database.
  - B. Assign additional personnel to reduce the backlog
9. After Hours Movement Permits Phone Based at the Atlanta Office  
Observation: Functional  
Recommendation: Proceed with implementation of the Herds Online Permitting System
10. MDARD and NRCS and the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project  
Observation: Successful with funding.  
Recommendation: Continue working with USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and explore other approaches for funding
11. TB Management Plan  
Observation: MDARD and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) do not have a coordinated plan.  
Recommendation: MDARD and DNR should develop an integrated and coordinated plan with measurable goals and timelines that is reviewed annually

## **B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance**

For calendar year 2012, there have been 327 whole herd tests in the Modified Accredited Zone, 255 whole herd tests within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone, and 17 whole herd tests in the special surveillance zone (northern portions of Iosco and Ogemaw counties). Currently for calendar year 2012, surveillance testing has led to the identification of two infected herds.

## **C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds**

### **TB Infected Herd #54**

This dairy herd is following the test and remove process. The herd had its second removal test August 28-31, 2012. Ninety-three cattle were tested with no suspects. The verification test will take place 180 days after the August test. The herd continues under quarantine in the meantime.

## **D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project**

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll 950 commercial farms with biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct, or indirect, contact with bovine tuberculosis infected free-ranging white-tailed deer. There are 910 commercial farms and another 45 freezer beef farms enrolled in the project. 920 (96%) of these farms mitigation plans have been verified.

## E. Communications/Outreach

### Meetings of Interest

Director Clover Adams and staff attended the USDA Bovine TB Review Exit meeting, held at the USDA APHIS VS office in East Lansing on August 10, 2012. USDA's Dr. Hench touched on points of interest on the part of the Review team during the exit meeting of last week's TB Review. On the whole, the review team commended the work that field, office, and program staff have put into the program over the past two years since the last review.

TB Program staff held a public information meeting about TB infected herd #54 at the Alpena Community College the evening of July 12. There was a modest turn out and several hours of lively discussion about the lack of hope many producers in the Modified Accredited Zone feel about ever seeing the bovine TB problem in their area resolved.

Diana Darnel attended a seminar by Mr. Cody Miller, the National Accounts Manager for AniTrace, a division of Hana Innosys at Michigan State University (MSU) on September 13. Hana Innosys is a system integration company that specializes in UHF RFID technologies. <http://www.anitrace.net/>. They have developed animal traceability systems that may be of interest to Michigan. MSU discussed the implementation of some of their equipment at their beef centers.

### News Releases

Wisconsin Opens Borders to Michigan Cattle Signaling Additional Market for State's Producers [http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572\\_3628-283857--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-283857--,00.html)

Agriculturally Speaking: Michigan making strides against bovine TB through hard work by industry and implementation of electronic ID  
[http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572\\_28248-274851--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_28248-274851--,00.html)

### Bovine TB in the News

[USDA-APHIS announces proposed joint rule for bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis](#) The USDA states that the cooperative federal-state-industry effort to eradicate **bovine TB** from cattle in the United States has made significant progress since the program's inception in 95 years ago. The disease has nearly been eliminated from the ...

#### [UP cattle to cross state borders](#)

Farmers used to travel hundreds of miles downstate to the nearest auction because **Bovine Tuberculosis** was found in cattle downstate. **Michigan** Legislator ...

#### [Wisconsin Opens Borders to Some Michigan Cattle](#)

**Michigan** Department of Agriculture Director Jamie Clover Adams announced that Wisconsin will recognize **Michigan's** recent **bovine Tuberculosis** Split State ...