



Legislative Report
October 4, 2013
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. MDARD 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.

Michigan's Split State Status

On May 13, 2013, the TB Program discussed Michigan's TB status with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services (USDA-VS) in light of finding infected herds in Saginaw, Gratiot, and Midland Counties in March and April 2013. USDA-VS indicated that they would not make any determination about Michigan's TB status until the investigation of the Saginaw County infected herd was substantially completed. The TB Program is anticipating that the investigation will be largely completed by the end of 2013.

Circle Testing in Saginaw-Gratiot-Midland Circles

As a result of discovering TB infected farms in Saginaw, Gratiot, and Midland Counties, three overlapping special surveillance zones, each with a ten-mile radius around the infected farm, have been established.

The Saginaw circle was designated April 26, 2013, and all tests must be accomplished by September 26, 2013. 63 cattle herds have been identified in the Saginaw circle. 62 of these have been tested and one herd is under quarantine until the test is completed. The Gratiot and Midland circles were designated on May 6, 2013, and all testing must be completed by November 6, 2013. There are 89 herds in the Gratiot and Midland circles. 69 of these have been tested and one is under a testing herd plan.

Currently, all circle tested herds have been negative.

New Circle Established in Arenac County

On September 5, 2013, one TB infected animal was identified in a medium-sized feedlot in Arenac County. This animal originated from the infected Gratiot herd mentioned above. As this was a direct trace to a feedlot from a known source of infection, USDA has indicated that they are not considering it a TB infected herd for determining State Status.

As a result of this finding, a new special surveillance zone was established in Arenac County on September 16, 2013. Due to the fact that the origin of the TB infection was a recent movement of an animal from a known TB infected herd, USDA and MDARD agreed that a three-mile radius circle area would be appropriate for testing of surrounding cattle herds. Approximately 14 cattle herd producers are implicated for testing in this surveillance area.

Public Meeting in Arenac County

On September 26, 2013, program staff hosted a public meeting at the Standish Township Hall in Standish. Approximately 18 persons were in attendance and the program staff provided an update on the TB occurrences in Michigan with an emphasis on the recent finding on a TB infected animal in an Arenac county feedlot.

Risk Assessment

USDA-VS commissioned the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health to do a risk assessment of the eleven counties that make up Michigan's Modified Accredited Zone and Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. On August 28, 2013, USDA-VS and MDARD received a partial draft report of this Risk Assessment related to Michigan's proposal for expanding the TB Free area of the State. MDARD and MDNR are reviewing the report and plan to have a discussion of the draft with the authors on the methods and content of the document in the near future.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

For calendar year 2013, as of the end of September, there have been 285 whole herd tests in the Modified Accredited Zone and 251 whole herd tests within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. Currently for calendar year 2013, surveillance testing has led to the identification of one TB infected herd in the MAZ and through slaughter-based surveillance, an infected herd was found in the TB Free zone (Saginaw County). Additionally, two TB infected herds and one feedlot that contained a TB infected animal have been found in 2013 as a result of trace testing from the Saginaw County herd.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Update on Infected Herd #55 – Alpena County

This is a dairy herd located in Alpena County found to be infected with bovine tuberculosis in November 2012. This herd has been under quarantine and undergoing a test-and-removal process. The department hopes to lift the quarantine in October 2013 provided the final TB test is negative.

Update on Infected Herd #56 – Saginaw County

This large dairy herd in Saginaw County was designated as TB infected on March 25, 2013. USDA-VS agreed to depopulate this farm and the process of depopulation was completed August 8, 2013. The TB Program is working with the producer to implement a plan for cleaning and disinfection of the facilities and implementation of a herd plan to reduce the possibility that this can occur in the future.

Because the strain of bovine TB found on this farm is the Michigan strain, an important part of the investigation has been to look at wildlife in the area. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, working together with USDA Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), sampled 80 deer within two miles of the Saginaw herd in March and April of 2013. All 80 of these deer were necropsied and no gross lesions were found. Additionally, all 80 of the deer had culture samples run from tissue samples and all of the cultures have come back negative. MDNR will continue to do disease surveillance in the Saginaw area for three years and this will occur during the normal deer hunting season.

There are 199 trace work orders that have been generated from the Herd #56 infection to date, with 180 of these work orders completed. Three exposed traces were found infected with bovine TB (herds #58, #58A and #59). Three primary source traces have been tested.

One of these was a large dairy herd of over 5,600 animals. MDARD and USDA worked to develop a testing plan involving over 20 state and federal staff to complete the testing in one injection day. USDA provided significant personnel resources for this testing from around the country.

Update on Infected Herd #57 – Alcona County

This small beef herd in Alcona County was determined to be infected on April 3 2013 as a result of routine surveillance testing. This herd had been previously infected in 2000 and was not participating in the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project.

The herd was depopulated on May 8, 2013. The premises is in the process of completing cleaning and disinfection. Pastures remained vacant over the summer and the farm implemented a herd plan to mitigate the risk that the herd becomes re-infected prior to being released from quarantine.

Trace investigations associated with this herd have found no evidence of transmission of TB to any other herds.

Deer and small mammal removal on Herd #57 and surrounding farms were completed on May 9. The total number of animals removed from this effort was: 36 deer, 18 raccoon, and 8 opossum. Two raccoons on this premises, and one raccoon and one opossum on an adjoining premises were found to be infected with TB during this testing.

Update on Infected Herd #58

The owner of this small dairy beef farm had acquired raw milk from the Saginaw County farm which was fed to various calves. A test of these calves indicated the potential presence of infection and the animals were sent to the laboratory at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH). Some of the calves were found to be infected with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected May 1, 2013. This herd was depopulated on June 19, 2013. No further lesions were found. USDA-WS will be trapping small mammals, including barn cats on this farm. A herd plan has being developed for the herd. Cleaning and disinfection must be completed prior to a release of quarantine.

To date, there are 110 trace work orders that have been generated from the Herd #58 infection with 101 of these work orders having been completed. One TB infected animal in a feedlot in Arenac County has been identified as result of any of the trace investigations relating to Herd #58.

Update on Infected Herd #59

This is a small freezer beef herd in Midland County that had several exposed animals from the TB infected herd in Saginaw County. The exposed cattle were taken to DCPAH and one was found to be infected with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected with bovine TB on May 1, 2013.

On June 7, the remaining cattle in Herd #59 were removed. No further lesions were found. A herd plan is being developed for the herd. Cleaning and disinfection must be completed prior to a release of quarantine.

New TB Infected Animal Identified in Arenac County

On September 5, 2013, one TB infected animal was identified in a medium-sized feedlot in Arenac County. This animal was identified as originating from Herd #58 during a trace

investigation and whole herd TB test conducted July 26, 2013. The animal was ordered destroyed and submitted to DCPAH and confirmed as infected with bovine tuberculosis by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. No other animals were identified as TB infected on the whole herd test.

As a result of this finding, a new special surveillance zone was established in Arenac County on September 16, 2013. Due to the fact that the origin of the TB infection was a recent movement of an animal from a known TB infected herd, USDA and MDARD agreed that a three-mile radius circle area would be appropriate for testing of surrounding cattle herds (a reduced testing area compared to the normal ten-mile circle). Approximately 14 cattle herd producers are implicated for testing in this surveillance area.

Livestock Haulers Fined For RFID Violations

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) levied over \$22,000 in fines against two Michigan livestock dealers who illegally moved calves without official Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags. All cattle are required to bear RFID tags in the State of Michigan before they are moved from any property. One of the dealers was also fined for failure to keep adequate records, and one was fined for dealing in livestock without a license, violations of the Livestock Dealers Act (Act 284 of 1937, as amended), and the Animal Industry Act (Act 466 of 1988, as amended) which were established to protect both the cattle industry as well as the consumer.

The Gratiot County livestock dealer waived his rights to a formal hearing and agreed to have his Livestock Dealer's License revoked for the remainder of 2013 plus two additional years for improper record keeping. He was assessed a fine of \$11,325 for movement of approximately 53 calves without bearing official RFID. A second livestock dealer from Ottawa County waived his rights to a formal hearing and received a fine of \$11,320 for the movement of cattle without official RFID tags from a premises. MDARD is continually informing the cattle industry of the RFID requirement and plans on increasing livestock movement enforcement efforts to boost compliance.

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. Since 2008, there have been 1,019 commercial and freezer beef herds which have enrolled in the project. Currently, 983 (96%) of these farms' wildlife risk mitigation action plans have been verified.

E. Communications/Outreach

Past Meetings

Saginaw Rotary Public Meeting

Saginaw Rotary Club received a bovine TB update from both TB Program staff and Michigan Department of Community Health staff on July 31, 2013.

Regional Michigan Association of Counties

On August 15, 2013, in Atlanta Michigan, TB Program staff provided the Regional Association of Counties with an update on bovine TB Program activities.

Saginaw County Commission Update

The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners received a bovine TB update from TB Program staff on August 20, 2013.

Standish Public Meeting

On September 26, 2013, TB Program staff held a public meeting at the Standish Township Hall regarding the bovine TB investigation and the detection of a TB infected animal in an Arenac County feedlot related to the TB infected herd in Gratiot County.

News Releases

September 16, 2013

TB Positive Feeder Heifer Traced From Saginaw to Arenac County

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_28248-312523--,00.html

LANSING, MI - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) State Veterinarian Dr. James Averill today confirmed a third herd infected with bovine Tuberculosis (TB) related to the Saginaw County Dairy found TB positive in April, 2013. Bovine TB is a zoonotic bacterial disease that can affect all mammals including humans. Michigan has a unique strain of bovine TB associated with cattle and wildlife in the Northeastern Lower Peninsula and has been working to eradicate the disease since 1995.

September 19, 2013

Livestock Haulers Fined For RFID Violations

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-312846--,00.html

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has levied over \$22,000 in fines against two Michigan livestock dealers who illegally moved calves without official Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags. All cattle are required to bear RFID tags in the State of Michigan before they are moved from any property. The dealers were also fined for failure to keep adequate records and dealing in livestock without a license, violations of the Livestock Dealers Act (Act 284 of 1937, as amended), and the Animal Industry Act (Act 466 of 1988, as amended) which were established to protect both the cattle industry as well as the consumer

Traditional and Social Media Coverage

[Bovine TB discovered in Arenac County](#) The Arenac County Independent ARENAC COUNTY — A case of **bovine tuberculosis** (TB) was reported in Arenac County ... 5, according to Northeast **Michigan** Extension dairy expert Phil Durst.

[Bovine TB questions answered at informational meeting](#) The Arenac County Independent **Bovine TB** questions answered at informational meeting. Several area farmers ... Rick Smith, of the MDA, describes the history of **TB in Michigan**.

[Michigan livestock haulers fined](#) Farm and Dairy

In February of 2013, a dairy herd in Saginaw County was diagnosed with **bovine TB**. **Michigan** ag department trace investigators discovered the farm owner

[Saginaw Cattle TB Investigation Continues](#) WSGW

"To be quite frank - in the **Michigan** Department of Agriculture, this is a fairly big deal," he said. "We have not had **bovine TB** in this part of the state in at least 40...

[DNR approves more deer licenses in Alcona County ...](#)

The commission then sets the quotas after taking public comment. In Northeast **Michigan**, quotas are driven largely by the presence of **bovine tuberculosis** in the...

[MDARD head: Dept. continues fighting bovine TB](#) Alpena News

While on the US-23 legislative tour, **Michigan's** Department of Agriculture ... discussed the department's ongoing **bovine tuberculosis** eradication efforts, ...

[Frequently Asked Questions About Bovine Tuberculosis](#) AgWeb

by Phil Durst, **Michigan** State University Extension The diagnosis of four herds infected with **bovine Tuberculosis** in the first 5 months of 2013 is an ...

[Frequently asked questions about bovine Tuberculosis](#) Dairy Herd Management

A: **TB** is caused by an infection with the bacteria called Mycobacterium bovis (M. ... A: In **Michigan**, as well as in areas of New Zealand, the UK and other ...

[State holds meeting about bovine TB herd](#) Alpena News

CURRAN - **Michigan's** tuberculosis eradication program coordinator met with cattle ... DNA tests confirmed it was **bovine TB**. The infected herd, the 57th ...