



Legislative Report
April 8, 2016

Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update
Provided by the Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Act No. 252 Public Acts of 2014, Approved by the Governor June 30, 2014, Filed with the Secretary of State June 30, 2014, EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2014.

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 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 the 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. More than 13,600 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 104 dairy producers located within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) are able to sell Grade A milk because of the program we have in place.

Trace Testing

Trace testing for the 61st TB affected herd, found in April of 2015, is almost finished as 70 of 72 trace investigations have been completed. 20 of the trace herds, with 5,019 cattle, required TB testing. There was no further finding of disease in any of these trace herds.

The three trace investigations related to the 63rd TB affected herd have been completed. Trace tests will be done on two source herds in the coming months.

Michigan received 76 trace animals from various Texas TB affected herds. Since spring of 2015 the TB Program has TB tested 19,398 cattle on five Michigan dairies and two calf raisers. One more dairy trace test of 11,500 cattle is schedule at the end of April 2016.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

On October 13, 2014, the current zoning order went into effect and recognizes the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Otsego, and Presque Isle as Accredited TB Free. At present, 79 of Michigan's 83 counties (95%) have moved to TB Free status.

The zoning order requires the following surveillance:

- 55 herds are randomly picked annually to TB test from Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego Counties combined
- 61 Presque Isle County herds are randomly picked annually to TB test
- No further surveillance TB testing is occurring in Crawford County

For the first quarter of 2016, 69 whole herd tests have been completed in the MAZ and one whole herd test has been completed in the surveillance area of the TB Free Zone. The TB Program is in the process of signing a new Memorandum of Understanding with USDA that should reduce the random testing in the TB Free area. The new surveillance targets will be in the next report.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Update of Infected Herd #61

This bovine TB affected herd was completely depopulated as of November 30, 2015. The farm's facilities were cleaned and disinfected, and the quarantine was released December 23, 2015. The farm began to repopulate with a new dairy herd on December 28, 2015. The new herd will be TB tested in late summer of 2016.

Update of Infected Herd #63

USDA was not willing to depopulate this herd and the owner requested the State depopulate the herd. The adult breeding stock were sent to a federally inspected slaughter plant on February 29, 2016. After the salvage value received for these cattle, MDARD paid the owner \$44,553 in indemnity. The feeder stock remains under quarantine on the farm and will be TB tested for a third time the first week of April. Any responders will be removed to the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University. The test negative feeder animals will be sent to slaughter during the summer. The TB Program is presently working with the owner on a herd plan.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll commercial farms. MDARD asked these farmers to adopt biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct or indirect contact with bovine tuberculosis infected free-ranging white-tailed deer. Farmers in Northern Lower Michigan whose cattle have been identified as at risk for bovine TB transmission from wildlife are using the following steps to prevent disease transmission and to market their cattle:

- Fence in feed – and keep the fences closed
- Store feed in buildings
- Feed cattle away from deer cover
- Feed cattle daily
- Provide water to cattle where it cannot be contaminated by deer
- Use disease control permits from DNR to keep deer numbers down on cattle farms

Presently, 777 of the 855 active commercial farms (91%) in the TB surveillance zone have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in place.

E. Communications/Outreach

Outreach:

Alpena County Public Meeting

A public meeting was held January 21, 2016 at the Green Township Hall in Lachine, Michigan for TB Program staff to discuss the 63rd TB affected herd as well as the need for enhanced wildlife risk mitigation measures in the core area of the Modified Accredited Zone.

TB Conference in Hillman

A TB Conference was held in Hillman, Montmorency County, on Saturday, March 12, 2016. This was the third in a series of producer/hunter orientated conferences that the TB Program held in the TB Zone. The first was held at Tree Tops near Gaylord in March 2012 and the second was also held at the Hillman Community Center in March 2014. The conference touched on matters of concern to cattle producers and deer hunters including:

- *Oral Vaccine Distribution System for Bovine TB in White-Tailed Deer in Northeastern Lower Michigan* -David Dressel, Michigan State University
- *Forestry Assistance Program and Qualified Forest Program* - Steve Shine, MDARD
- *Deer Habitat Improvement Program and Hunting Access Program* - Mike Parker, MDNR
- *Tales of Northern Michigan White-Tailed Deer and Risky Behavior* - Dr. Mike Lavelle, National Wildlife Research Center
- *Preventing TB: Looking at the Haystack for Where a Needle Could Get in* - Phil Durst, MSU Extension
- *Next Memorandum of Understanding* - Dr. James Averill, MDARD
- *Improving Diagnosis of Bovine TB* - Dr. Jordi Torrelles, OSU
- *Bovine TB in Humans* - Dr. Shu-Wua Wang, Ohio State University
- *Analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds as a Screening Tool for Detection of Tuberculosis and Other Diseases in Cattle and Wildlife* - Dr. Pauline Nol, USDA, Veterinary Services