



Legislative Report
January 5, 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 74 dairy producers located within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) may sell Grade A milk because their herds are TB tested annually.

Trace Testing

60 of 72 trace investigations relating to the 61st TB affected herd have been completed. 17 of these herds with 3,177 cattle required TB testing. There was no further finding of disease in any of these trace herds.

Circle Testing in Presque Isle County

As a result of discovering two TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer in Presque Isle County, two potential high-risk areas were established on February 9, 2015. 58 Presque Isle herds with 1,327 head of cattle were TB tested with no disease found in the tested herds.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

On October 13, 2014, the most recent 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 main change to the new zoning order relates to surveillance testing in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties:

- 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 2015, 371 whole herd tests have been completed in the MAZ and 135 whole herd tests have been completed in the TB Free Zone.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Update of Infected Herd #61

This bovine TB affected herd was completely depopulated as of November 30, 2015. The farms 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. TB Program staff also did a considerable amount of work over the summer with the owners of the farm to upgrade the farm's biosecurity plan.

Update of Infected Herd #63

On September 14-17, 2015, a medium sized beef herd in Alpena County, in Michigan's Modified Accredited Zone, had five animals that responded to TB testing. All five animals were removed from the farm December 16, 2015, for confirmatory testing at Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University, and four of the five animals had lesions consistent with bovine TB. The histopathology results from the National Veterinarian Services Laboratories (NVSL) indicated that all five animals had microscopic lesions consistent with *Mycobacteria bovis*. Subsequently NVSL ran the Polymerase Chain Reaction test on samples from two of the cattle and they tested positive for *M. bovis*. The herd was designated as affected December 23, 2015. This is Michigan's 63rd TB affected herd. The disposition of the herd has not been determined yet. There will be a public meeting to discuss finding TB in this herd on January 21, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Green Township Hall, 14621 M-32, Lachine, Michigan 49753.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll commercial farms. MDARD asked that these farmers 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, 798 of the 866 active commercial farms in the TB surveillance zone (92.15%) have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in place.

E. National Bovine TB Program Update

On December 11, 2015, USDA released a Proposed Rule for a new national Brucellosis and Bovine TB Program (236 pages) along with the Program Standards for the proposed Brucellosis and Bovine TB Program (243 pages). They are proposing streamlining the regulations for the Bovine TB Program (9 CFR part 77) and Brucellosis Program (9 CFR part 78) into one regulation (9 CFR part 76). The new rule would eliminate the five stage system of zoning states for Bovine TB and Brucellosis, and replace it with a system in which a state would be considered consistent, provisionally consistent, or inconsistent with the program's requirements. USDA has allocated a 90-day comment period. Michigan's Bovine TB Eradication Program will be providing comment on this proposed change.

Link to Proposed Rule: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/12/16/2015-31510/brucellosis-and-bovine-tuberculosis-update-of-general-provisions>