



## How WRM protects Michigan's cattle industry:

Bovine TB is a global human and animal health concern common in many foreign cattle herds. The United States Department of Agriculture coordinates a national program to prevent the spread of bovine TB in the U.S. Along with the federal program, Michigan has its own TB Eradication Program, approved and monitored by the USDA.

WRM is an important piece of Michigan's bovine TB Eradication Program. As a whole, WRM not only helps open up movement for Michigan cattle both in-state and out-of-state, but also gives purchasers assurance that disease prevention measures are taking place on farms located in high-risk areas of Michigan.

For questions about the WRM Project, movement requirements for your county or bovine TB in Michigan, please contact:

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For questions about your local deer population or obtaining disease permits, please contact:

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# WILDLIFE RISK MITIGATION



## Bovine TB Eradication Program







## What can WRM do for my farm?

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project helps your farm create a biosecurity plan to reduce the risk of your cattle becoming infected with bovine tuberculosis. You may already be meeting many of the WRM Project standards on your farm.

These project standards are beneficial farming practices that protect your on-farm investment by:

### Evaluating your farm's feed storage.

- State of Michigan field staff will work with you to find solutions limiting wildlife access to feed and water.

### Preventing hay spoilage and feed waste.

- Deer and weather can waste a significant amount of feed and small mammals can contaminate feed making it less appealing to cattle.

### Safe-guarding your water supply.

- Bacteria and other organisms carried by wildlife and spread through water can negatively affect your herd's health.

### Lowering the risk that your cattle will get bovine TB.

- Bovine TB infections often result in a long-term quarantine or herd depopulation, which affects your ability to conduct business.

### WRM helps market your animals:

- Being WRM verified allows you to market your cattle outside of slaughter channels.



## Where are my cattle the most at risk for TB?

In Michigan, the highest rate of bovine TB infection is found in the free-ranging white-tailed deer in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties.

Especially in these counties, any shared contact between deer and cattle can be a potential source of bovine TB infection. Frequently this is seen where feed is stored and cattle are fed.

- This would include bunk silos, ag bags, hay bales in fields, pastures, round bale feeders or stored grains.
- Fruit trees can also be a high-risk location, because deer and cattle both feed on dropped fruit.
- Bovine TB bacteria can live a long time in damp, cold and dark areas. This could include stagnant water and feed.

Investigations of bovine TB infected cattle herds have shown that deer can expose cattle to bovine TB by sharing the same waterers or ponds, living in the same woodlots or heavy cover areas and being kept in areas with little human activity.



## What does WRM verification look like?

The WRM Project allows producers to actively participate in choosing the best method to meet project standards. Field staff will help each farm develop unique ways to mitigate the risk of wildlife interaction.

Participation starts with contacting our Atlanta office at 888-565-8626.

You will then receive a call from one of our field staff members to schedule a visit to your farm.

### The purpose of this visit is to:

- Identify the areas of risk on your farm.
- Develop a plan to address any identified risks on your farm or to note what you are already doing to minimize risk.
- Once the plan is in place, your farm will become WRM verified.
- After your farm's verification is complete, there will be an annual re-verification visit at a minimum.

