



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

REVISED
NOTICE OF MEETING

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

May 15, 2024

The regular meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. The business session is scheduled to begin at **10:00 a.m.** The meeting is open to the public and this notice is provided under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. The Commissioners will be meeting at Constitution Hall – Atrium Level, Lee Walker Conference Room, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan. This meeting is also being conducted electronically to allow for greater remote public attendance and participation. To join the meeting via Microsoft Teams: by telephone dial: **1-248-509-0316** and enter the Conference ID: **585 749 565#** or by video conference visit www.michigan.gov/mdard/about/boards/agcommission to join the day of the meeting.

In accordance with the Commission's Public Appearance Guidelines, individuals wishing to address the Commission may pre-register to do so during the Public Comment period as noted below and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. Documents distributed in conjunction with the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.

To pre-register to speak virtually during this meeting, individuals should contact the Commission Assistant **no later than Fri. May 10, 2024**, via email at MDA-Ag-Commission@michigan.gov and provide their name, organization they represent, address, and telephone number, as well as indicate if they wish to speak to an agenda item. You may also contact the Commission Assistant at that email address to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Commission at the meeting. The Commission Chair will call upon each person by name and telephone number when it is time for them to speak and there will be a meeting moderator facilitating participation. All others wishing to speak will be provided two minutes to do so. Instructions on how to be recognized will be provided at the beginning of the meeting.

Those needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Commission Assistant at 800-292-3939 one week in advance or may use the Michigan Relay Center by calling 711 for deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired persons.


Tim Boring
Director

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Constitution Hall – Atrium Level
Lee Walker Conference Room
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan

Option to Join via Remote Technology
Dial: 1-248-509-0316; Conf. ID 585 749 565#

May 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

TENTATIVE 2nd REVISED AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Agenda (action item)**
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the March 13, 2024, Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Meeting (**action item**)
4. **Next Scheduled Meeting** (information only)
 - July 24 2024-Constitution Hall, ConCon Conference Room
5. **Commissioner Comments and Travel (action item)**
6. **Commissioner Issues**
 - Retirement Resolution – Tim Kellam (**action item**)
 - Retirement Resolution – Michael David Zupin (**action item**)
7. **Director's Report**
8. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. Documents distributed at the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.
9. **High Path Avian Flu Update:** Director Tim Boring (information only)
10. **Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Area Update to Benzie and Manistee Counties:** Dr. Nora Wineland, State Veterinarian and Melinda Cosgrove, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (information only)
11. **Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Requests:** Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division (**action item**)
12. **Public Comment**

In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. Documents distributed at the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.

13. **Adjourn (action item)**

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Constitution Hall – Atrium Level
Con-Con Conference Room
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan

Option to Join via Remote Technology
Dial: 1-248-509-0316; Conf. ID 801 807 163#

MEETING MINUTES March 13, 2024

PRESENT:

Monica Wyant, Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Andy Chae, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Kathrine Garthe, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dr. Felicia Wu, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
David Williams, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dr. Tim Boring, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Wyant called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 13, 2024. Chair Wyant called the roll with Commissioners Wyant, Chae, Wu and Williams, and Director Boring present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER WU MOVED TO APPROVE MEETING AGENDA FOR MARCH 13, 2024. COMMISSIONER CHAE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 31, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 31, 2024, MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled commission meeting is May 22, 2024.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL

Chair Wyant gave an update on Michigan produce making its way to Meijer locations. She also informed the commission that new “Locally Grown” signage would be placed in stores this coming spring.

Commissioner Williams had attended the Commodity Classic in Houston Texas, an annual meeting for soybean, wheat, and sorghum growers. The meeting hit on multiple topics, including sustainability.

Commissioner Wu recently traveled to the University of Florida for the Global Nutrition Symposium, where fifteen countries were represented, and included discussion on animal source foods and how beneficial they are for maternal and child health. She also traveled to

Cal Tech, the Institute of Technology, to speak at conference related to genetically engineered microbes and how they could be beneficial in agriculture.

Commissioner Chae informed the committee that the farm's season was just getting started. They are currently meeting with new and old restaurants to finalize restaurant orders for the season.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Chairman Wyant read the retirement resolution honoring John Hill for his 34 years of service with the department. Commissioners expressed their appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Hill

MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED THE RETIREMENT RESOLUTION FOR JOHN HILL BE ADOPTED. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER GARTHE JOINED THE MEETING AT 9:14 AM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director updated the commission on new hires as the department continues to adjust to the realignment. Mike Alexander has been hired to lead the Conservation and Stewardship Division and Megan DeLeeuw will lead the Soil, Water and Climate section of the Conservation and Stewardship Division.

The department has presented to the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture on the Governor's Recommended budget. The budget process will continue throughout the coming months with final passage expected before summer.

The Director informed the commission that USDA is going to kick off their first regional equity meeting in Michigan on March 26. USDA has been working to address equity issues across agriculture, specifically within USDA, and the director expressed gratitude this process would begin in Michigan, thanks to Poppy Hernandez who has been leading those efforts.

Chair Wyant informed the commission that Poppy Sias Hernandez, Office of Global Michigan Director, had a schedule conflict, and was unable to attend today's commission meeting.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SITE SUITABILITY DETERMINATION FOR JONATHAN AND FANNIE YODER POULTRY FACILITY – APPEAL PROCESS REVIEW AND SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

Chad Rogers, Interim Division Director for Conservation and Stewardship Division, and Mike Wozniak, Right to Farm Program Manager, Bureau of Environmental Sustainability, gave an update on the appeal that was received from neighbors of the proposed livestock facility on January 31, 2024. In a letter to the Site Suitability GAAMPS Committee, Wozniak stated that the Director asked the committee to organize and review the appeal

received by the department and then submit a report of their findings to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Commissioners asked questions pertaining to the GAAMPs siting process.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Scales, attorney representing the appealing neighbors, testified before the commission.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT – APPEAL OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SITE SUITABILITY DETERMINATION FOR JONATHAN AND FANNIE YODER POULTRY FACILITY:

Ryan Coffey Hoag and Megan Tinsley, both members of the Site Selection Committee came forward to answer questions from the commission. Commissioner Chae asked for clarification of a new vs existing livestock facility. Mr. Coffey Hoag explained this was the one area the committee spent the most time on. He that the committee felt the GAAMP needed to be reviewed for future revisions.

The commission went at ease, the time being 9:30 a.m.

The commission came back to order, the time being 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Commission returned to public comment.
There was no additional public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioners expressed concern on the Site Suitability GAAMP for clarification in class A road, lighting, and sound clarifications, as well as new and existing facilities.

CHAIR WYANT MADE A MOTION FOR MDARD TO CONVENE THE SITE SUITABILITY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND CLARIFY LANGUAGE BETWEEN NEW AND EXISTING LIVESTOCK FACILITIES. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIR WYANT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MDARD'S SITE SUITABILITY DETERMINATION FOR JONATHAN AND FANNIE YODER POULTRY FACILITY AS AN EXPANDING LIVESTOCK FACILITY. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

The commission went at ease, the time being 10:05 a.m.

The commission came back to order, the time being 10:17 a.m.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUESTS

Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Division Bureau Director, introduced the grant applicant Coleman Yoakum, Micah 6 Community Project in Pontiac Michigan. The grant request is to expand a community project at the former Webster Elementary School in Pontiac, MI, which has been vacant since 2007. In total, this is a \$34 million dollar renovation funded in part through tax credits, ARPA funds, philanthropic support, and many small donors over the years. The food related portions of the Webster Community Center

include the food co-op, the commercial kitchen, and a small farmers' market creating six jobs and having an investment of \$1,579,269 for building renovations and equipment. Once building renovations are completed, the facility will feature a rentable commercial kitchen for food entrepreneurs along with wash pack space. There will also be a small food co-op, which will be Pontiac's first new grocery store in over a decade. On the weekends during peak season, the renovated school gym will also host a farmers' market. The grant request is a total of \$65,000. Mr. Yoakum explained this investment will bring food options in walking distance to many in the community who don't have transportation options to the nearest grocery store. Commissioners congratulated Mr. Yoakum on bringing this opportunity to his community.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$65,000 FOR MICAH 6. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Division Bureau Director, introduced the second grant request, for \$60,000 for Hartford Farm Supply. The company is now focused on providing controlled atmosphere (CA) storage to apple growers in the region and currently has CA storage capacity to support approximately 200,000 bushels of apples. The \$1,085,392 CA expansion project will create two new jobs and will retain 35 jobs. The project involves construction of a new 80 feet by 100 feet, three room, CA storage facility. The new CA facility will store approximately 66,000 bushels of apples resulting in a 33 percent increase in storage capacity; increasing service to over 30 apple growers in the region. Adding this CA capacity for the growers and packers of fresh Michigan apples, particularly in Southwest Michigan, will help keep the Michigan apple industry viable and competitive in offering fresh apples year-around to the market. Trevor Meachum joined the to answer questions about why this controlled atmosphere storage is important in long-term sales for the apple industry.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARTHE MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE BASED GRANT OF \$60,000 FOR HARTFORD FARM SUPPLY. COMMISSIONER WU SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHAE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes January 31, 2024*
- C) *Retirement Resolution for John Hill*
- D) *Appeal on Site Suitability Determination for Jonathan and Fannie Yoder poultry facility.*

- E) Jonathan and Fannie Yoder Farm Response to the Appeal.*
- F) Professional Committee Report – Appeal on Site Suitability Determination for Jonathan and Fannie Yoder poultry facility:*
- G) Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Request –Hartford Farm Supply*
- H) Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Request –Micah 6*



MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RESOLUTION COMMENDING

TIMOTHY S. KELLAM

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor Timothy S. Kellam upon his retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on March 22, 2024.

WHEREAS, Tim was born in Battle Creek Michigan. He grew up on a small farm outside Augusta and he attended Galesburg-Augusta High School. Tim attended Kellogg Community College where he received an Associate of Science in 1985. Tim then attended Michigan State University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1988; and

WHEREAS, prior to working for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Tim worked at Mathiesen Tree Farm. He then worked for the Michigan Cooperative Tree Improvement Program in East Lansing until 1990, when he was hired as a Plant Industry Field Scientist and his career with MDARD began; and

WHEREAS, Tim was a part of many teams over the course of his career. Tim was a key member in the team that helped to develop his division's reporting and tracking system by participating in a yearlong developmental project. Most recently he was awarded the MDARD Team Excellence Award for his work on the Box Tree Moth Response Team. Most importantly Tim was integral in shaping MDARD's future by training many inspectors throughout his career. He is well respected by his colleagues and has been a valuable member of any team that he's been on. Tim's legacy will live on in the people he trained and taught. He will be missed; and

WHEREAS, Tim is a member of Trout Unlimited, the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council, and the Kalamazoo Rod and Gun Club. He enjoys traveling to see his family in Colorado and the Upper Peninsula and he travels frequently to the family cabin on the Little Manistee River; and

WHEREAS, Tim and his wife, Lisa have been married since 1990 and they have three children: Ben, Tyler, and Emma. He looks forward to making more time for his faith, family, and friends in his retirement. His other plans for retirement include more time spent in the woods and any adventure that leads to him standing in a river waving a stick; and

THEREFORE be it resolved, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development commends Timothy S. Kellam for 34 years of dedicated service to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins Tim's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement and great success in future endeavors.

Adopted, May 22, 2024
Lansing, Michigan

Monica Wyant, Chair

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING

MICHAEL DAVID ZUPIN

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is pleased to honor Michael David Zupin upon his retirement from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on February 28, 2024.

WHEREAS, Mike was born in Manistee, Michigan and graduated in 1980 from Onkama High School. In 1982, Mike graduated from Michigan State University (MSU), Institute of Agriculture Technology in Fruit & Vegetable Production. He later went on to complete his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from MSU in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Mike began his career as an Integrated Pest Management Fruit Pest Field Scout for West Central Michigan from 1982-1985. After completing his bachelor's degree, he became a Crop Advisor for Crop Production Services in Kaleva & Portland, MI Farm Centers. Mike began working for the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (PPPM) of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in 1990 as a field inspector for pesticide, nursery, fertilizer, and animal feed in Genesee, Kent, and Ionia Counties. In 1993, when the division split duties, Mike joined the pesticide section, becoming a Pesticide Specialist in 1996. In 2004, Mike switched sections and joined the Plant Health Team as an inspector in Kent, Ionia, and Montcalm Counties, a position he held until he retired in 2024; and

WHEREAS, during his 34 years of service to the State of Michigan, Mike has been recognized for many achievements and awards. Mike was a certified commercial applicator in all 23 pesticide categories, plus fumigation. He attended a national Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training in Texas and became a leader in his section providing WPS training to PPPM inspectors and to the Michigan nursery industry. Mike was known for giving pesticide presentations to multiple outside associations, including the Michigan Mosquito Control Association, Michigan Pest Management Association, and Michigan Department of Transportation. Other significant roles within PPPM included his involvement with Operation SAFE and Gypsy Moth Calibration, the methyl parathion investigation in Detroit, emerald ash borer and balsam wooly adelgid response projects, along with responses to Ralstonia, box tree moth, and spotted lantern fly. Mike was awarded the Team Excellence Award for the Peanut Butter Recall Team and Box Tree Moth Response Team and a Commissioner's Special Citation for his work on the salmonella contaminated pet food investigation. In addition, Mike was an MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Alumni Association board member, certified crop advisor, master gardener and cub master of a local cub scout pack; and

WHEREAS, Mike is married to Nanje who he describes as "his wonderful wife of 24 years." They have three children Zoey, Izzy, and Zack and Mike has two children from his previous marriage, Heather and Jacob. Mike loves being at home with his family, but has enjoyed his trips to Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry, along with spending time at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, in his retirement, Mike will enjoy his abundance of free time hiking, gardening, golfing, biking, bird watching, and spending time with the family playing cards and board games. Mike looks most forward to being Mr. Mom to his 16 and 13-year-old kids while they are still home and in school; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development commends Michael David Zupin for his 34 years of dedicated service to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the people of the State of Michigan. The Commission joins his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Adopted, May 15, 2024
Lansing, Michigan

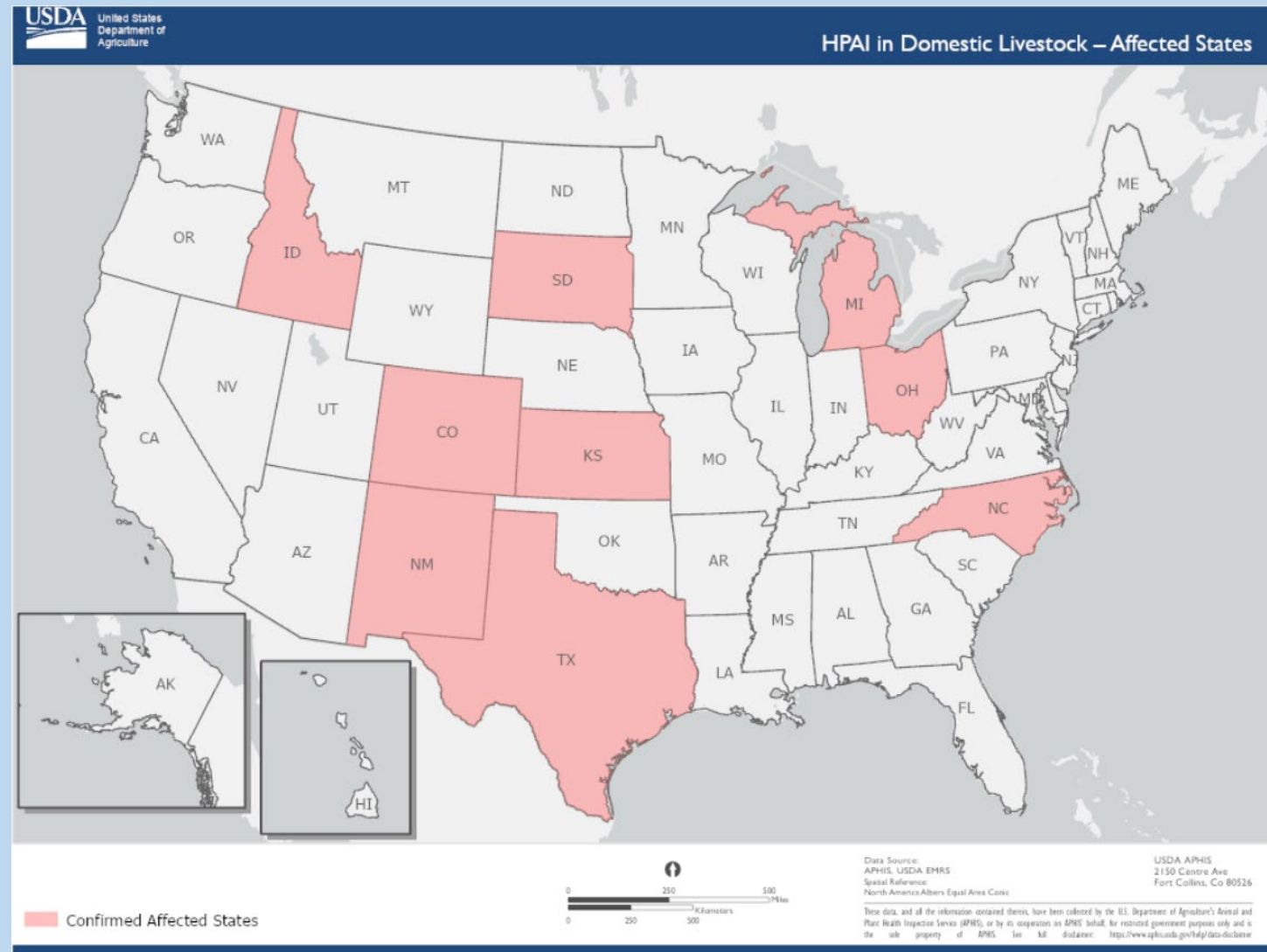
Monica Wyant, Chair

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update

Dr. Tim Boring,
Director, MDARD

Overview of HPAI 2024 Outbreak

- In March 2024, [HPAI H5N1 detections](#) were reported for the first time in dairy cows on Texas, and Kansas.
- April 1, 2024—A person in the United States tested positive for [highly pathogenic avian influenza](#) (HPAI) A(H5N1) virus (“H5N1 bird flu”), This would be the first reported cow-to-human spread of H5N1 bird flu.
- Seven additional states tested positive in the subsequent weeks.
- 42 herds, nationally, 14 in Michigan.
- 7 specific commercial poultry sites in Michigan.
- Concerns for further mutations in dairy, in another animals, towards heightened risk to humans.
- State of Michigan coordination efforts include: MDARD, MDHHS, EGLE, LARA, LEO, MDNR, UIA, Local Public Health, County Emergency Management.

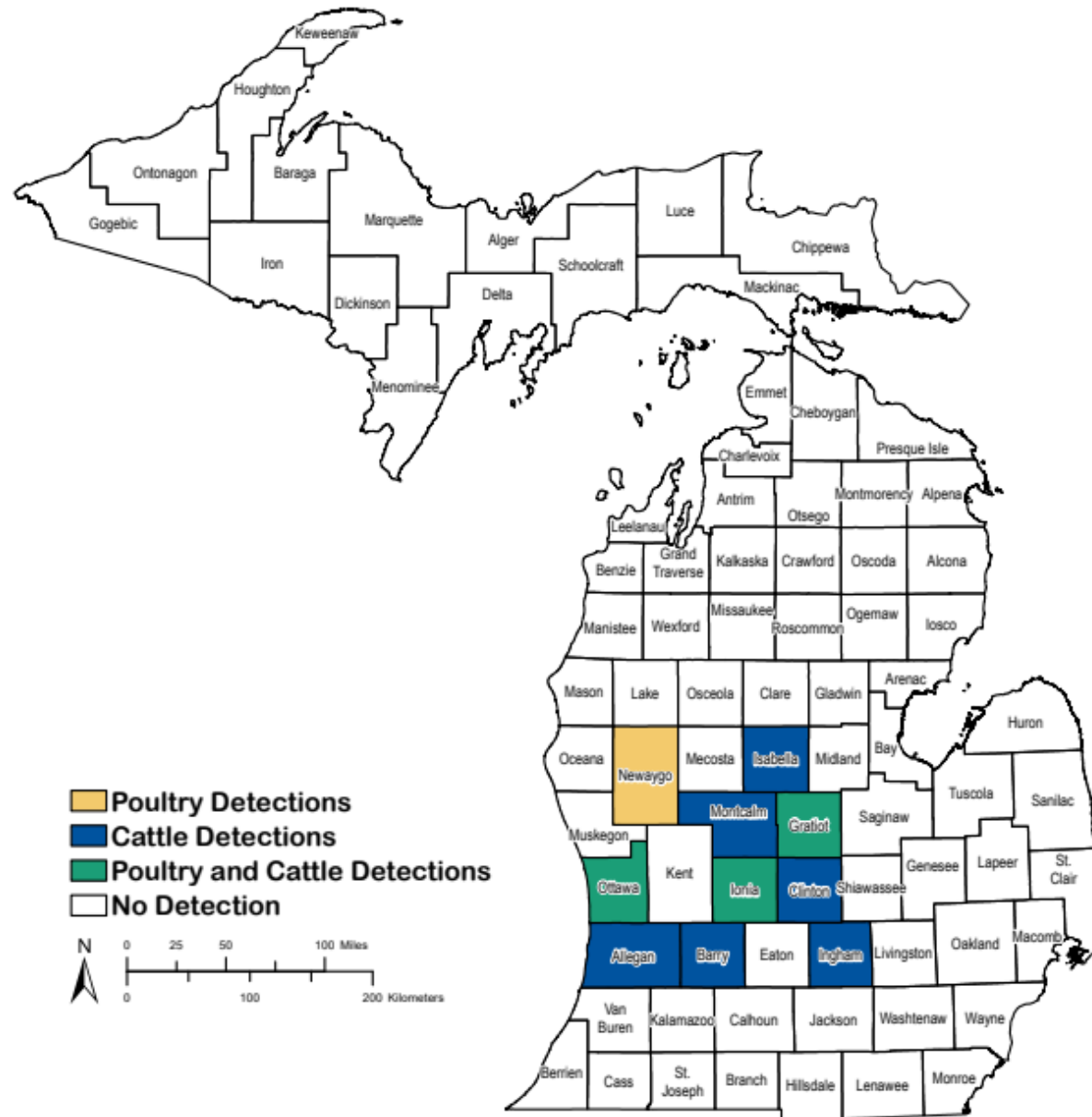


Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, 2022-2024

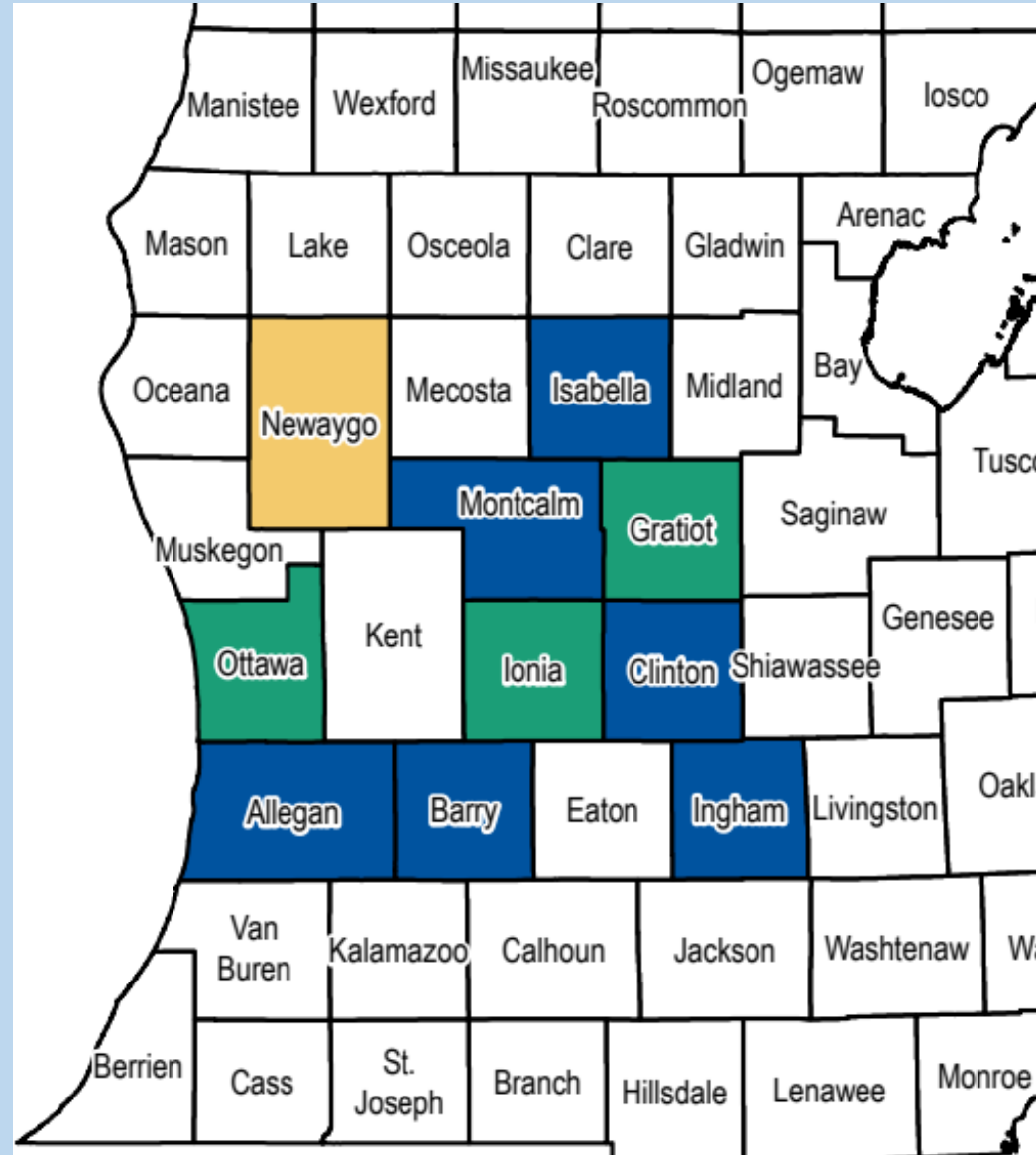
County	Facility Type	Date Detected
Kalamazoo	Backyard poultry	February 23, 2022
Macomb	Backyard poultry	March 24, 2022
Menominee	Backyard poultry	April 11, 2022
Menominee	Backyard poultry	April 13, 2022
Macomb	Backyard poultry	April 15, 2022
Livingston	Backyard poultry	April 15, 2022
Menominee	Backyard poultry	April 16, 2022
Menominee	Backyard poultry	April 25, 2022
Saginaw	Backyard poultry	April 27, 2022
Wexford	Backyard poultry	April 28, 2022
Branch	Backyard poultry	April 30, 2022
Oakland	Backyard poultry	May 4, 2022
Muskegon	Commercial poultry	May 11, 2022
Ingham	Backyard poultry	September 13, 2022
Macomb	Backyard poultry	September 19, 2022
Tuscola	Backyard poultry	October 3, 2022
Lapeer	Backyard poultry	October 7, 2022
Lapeer	Backyard poultry	October 11, 2022
Genesee	Backyard poultry	October 12, 2022
Lapeer	Hunting preserve	November 10, 2022
Lapeer	Hunting preserve	November 10, 2022
Sanilac	Backyard poultry	December 27, 2022

Eaton	Backyard poultry	March 13, 2023
Lapeer	Hunting preserve	March 25, 2023
Cass	Backyard poultry	November 15, 2023
Bay	Backyard poultry	November 30, 2023
Montmorency	Backyard poultry	December 8, 2023
Muskegon	Commercial poultry	December 19, 2023
Muskegon	Commercial poultry	December 26, 2023

Montcalm	Dairy	March 29, 2024
Ionia	Commercial poultry	April 2, 2024
Ionia	Commercial poultry	April 6, 2024
Montcalm	Dairy	April 8, 2024
Ionia	Commercial poultry	April 12, 2024
Ionia	Dairy	April 12, 2024
Ottawa	Dairy	April 12, 2024
Isabella	Dairy	April 12, 2024
Newaygo	Commercial poultry	April 16, 2024
Ionia	Dairy	April 16, 2024
Ottawa	Commercial poultry	April 23, 2024
Gratiot	Commercial poultry	April 24, 2024
Gratiot	Commercial poultry	May 2, 2024
Berry	Dairy	May 6, 2024
Ionia	Backyard poultry	May 9, 2024
Ionia	Dairy	May 9, 2024
Isabella	Dairy	May 9, 2024
Gratiot	Dairy	May 9, 2024
Ingham	Dairy	May 9, 2024
Allegan	Dairy	May 9, 2024
Clinton	Dairy	May 10, 2024
Gratiot	Dairy	May 10, 2024



**Includes detections in all species of domestic animals.*





Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response

Last Modified: May 09, 2024

⚠️ HPAI Animal Health Emergency Alert

A form of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been causing widespread disruption and illness in birds since first being detected roughly a year ago. [Learn more.](#)

- Preparedness and response planning for foreign animal disease (FAD) incidents is crucial to protect public health, animal health, animal agriculture, the environment, the food supply, and the economy. Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response (FAD PReP) is the United States' comprehensive preparedness and response strategy for FAD threats.



HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA RESPONSE PLAN *THE RED BOOK*

FAD PReP

Foreign Animal Disease
Preparedness & Response Plan



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Veterinary Services

RESPONSE GOALS

- Detect, control, and contain HPAI in domestic poultry as quickly as possible.
- Eradicate HPAI using strategies that seek to protect public health and the environment, and stabilize animal agriculture, the food supply, and the economy.
- Provide science- and risk-based approaches and systems to facilitate continuity of business for noninfected animals and non-contaminated animal products.
- Achieving these three goals will allow individual poultry facilities, States, Tribes, regions, and industries to resume normal production as rapidly as possible.
- The objective is to allow the United States to regain disease-free status without the response effort causing more disruption and damage than the disease outbreak itself.



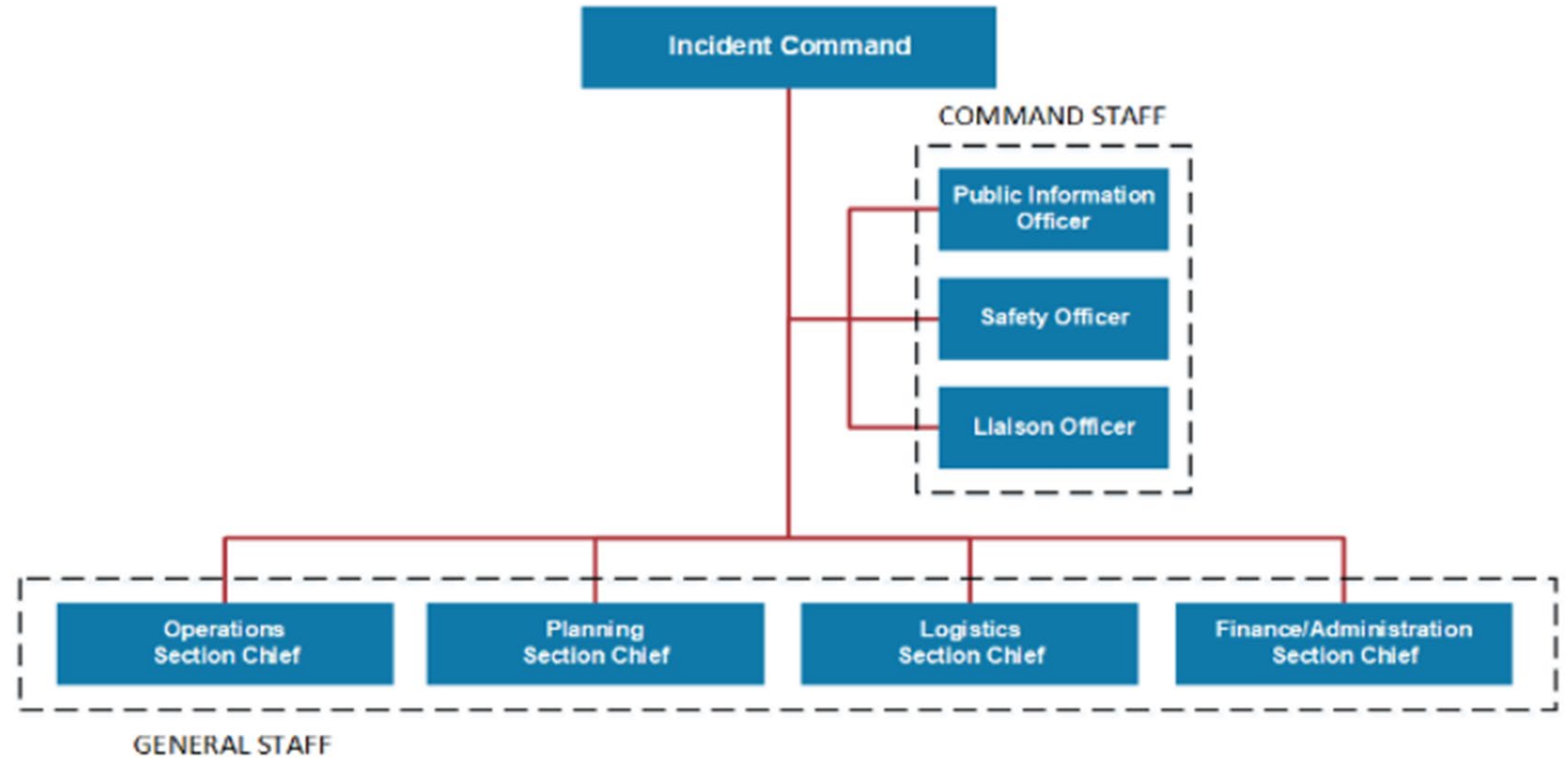
Source: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hpai-response-plan-ppt.pdf>

National Incident Command System Framework to Address Response in Poultry



National Incident Management System

Third Edition
October 2017



Source: www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims





Incident Response in Michigan

- MDARD-established Incident Management Team modeled through a FEMA National Incident Management Structure, consisting of:
 - Incident command officers, liaison officers, safety officers, public information officers, a logistics section, an operations section, a permitting section, a finance section, and a planning section teams. USDA Poultry epidemiologist on site.
- 126+ MDARD staff with baseline FEMA Emergency Management Institute training responding. Integrated with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) specialist teams (110+ staff) (Blue, Red, Gold) leading the response. Based in Constitution Hall & on impacted poultry sites.
- Today is Day 47. 12 hour/day. 7 Days/week.



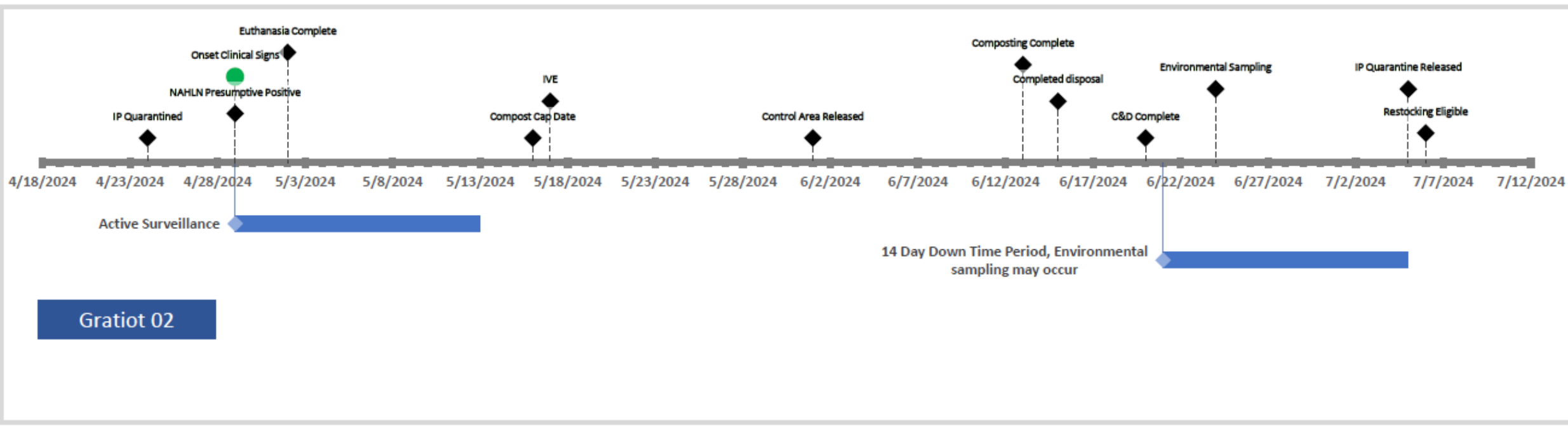


USDA HPAI Red Book Response Critical Activities

- Public Communication and Messaging Campaign
- Quarantine and Movement Control Of Poultry
- Biosecurity
- Diagnosis and Reporting
- Epidemiological Investigation and Tracing
- Surveillance Of Poultry
- Continuity of Business
- Mass Depopulation and Euthanasia Of Poultry
- Disposal Of Poultry
- Cleaning and Disinfection Of Premises
- Emergency Vaccination (if determined by USDA)

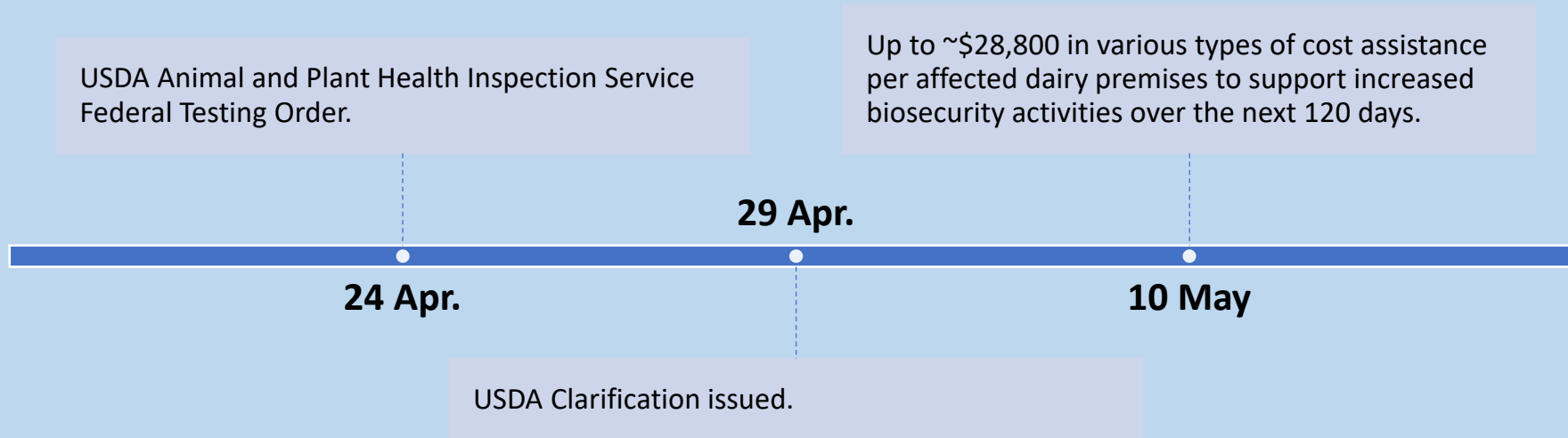
Source: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hpai-response-plan-ppt.pdf>



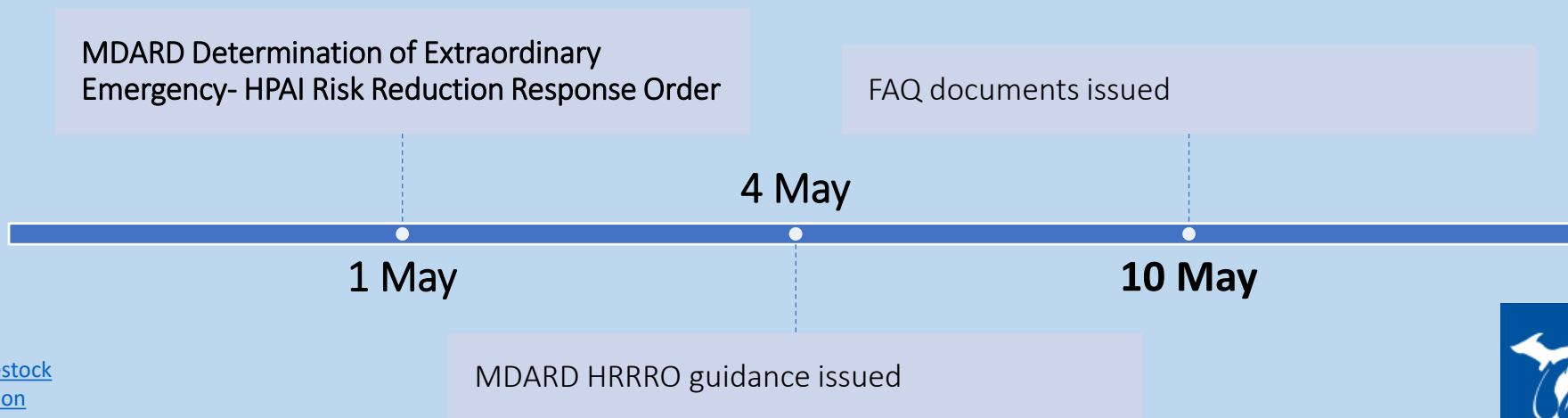


Gratiot 02

Dairy Federal Action



Dairy State Action



Source: [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

USDA APHIS Order

In order to continue to monitor and understand the extent of this virus and reduce the risk of further disseminating HPAI H5N1 virus, resulting in greater threats to poultry and livestock, this Federal Order requires the following measures, effective Monday, April 29, 2024.

Mandatory Testing for Interstate Movement of Dairy Cattle

- Prior to interstate movement, dairy cattle are required to receive a negative test for Influenza A virus at an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory.
- Owners of herds in which dairy cattle test positive for interstate movement will be required to provide epidemiological information, including animal movement tracing.
- Dairy cattle moving interstate must adhere to conditions specified by APHIS.
- As will be described in forthcoming guidance, these steps will be immediately required for lactating dairy cattle, while these requirements for other classes of dairy cattle will be based on scientific factors concerning the virus and its evolving risk profile.

Mandatory Reporting

- Laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive Influenza A nucleic acid detection diagnostic results (e.g. PCR or genetic sequencing) in livestock to USDA APHIS.
- Laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive Influenza A serology diagnostic results in livestock to USDA APHIS.

For more information regarding this Federal Order go to [HPAI Detections in Livestock Page](#).

MDARD Order

To control and prevent the continued spread of HPAI in Michigan, effective Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the following requirements are in place through this scientifically based extraordinary emergency order:

- All Michigan dairy farms, as well as poultry operations considered commercial by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) must develop and implement biosecurity practices that include:
 - Designation of a biosecurity manager.
 - Designation of a line of separation to represent the perimeter of a secure area, limiting access points.
 - Establishment of cleaning and disinfection practices and procedures at those access points for both vehicles and individuals. This must include deliveries of feed and other supplies, and training for employees.
 - Establishment of a log book maintaining a record of all vehicles and of individuals who have gotten out of vehicles and crossed those access points, to be retained and made available for examination upon request by MDARD.
- All lactating dairy cattle, and those in the last two months of pregnancy, are prohibited from being exhibited until there are no new cases of HPAI in dairy

CONSTITUTION HALL • P.O. BOX 30017 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mdard • 800-292-3939

cattle in the State of Michigan for at least 60 consecutive days. No dairy cattle of any age from an infected premises may be exhibited until further notice.

- All exhibitions or expositions of poultry are prohibited until such time that there are no new cases of HPAI in domestic poultry in the State of Michigan for at least 30 consecutive days. As defined in the Animal Industry Act, "poultry" means, but is not limited to, chickens, guinea fowl, turkeys, waterfowl, pigeons, doves, peafowl, and game birds that are propagated and maintained under the husbandry of humans (MCL 287.703(iii)).



Action Happening in Parallel to the Incident Management Team and Federal & State Orders

- At MDARD invitation, USDA, MSU College of Vet Med, MDARD collaboration to understand virus shed behavior & risk.
- At MDARD invitation, USDA Epidemiology Strike Team in Michigan in April. Epidemiologist returning on the ground in May. Continued work understanding likely, multi-factorial transmission paths.
- USDA APHIS NVSL genomic sequencing ongoing, understanding links and mutation characteristics of the virus.
- FDA retail milk sampling and pasteurization validation tests (both ongoing). 297 retail dairy product samples tested to date affirming pasteurization as an effective kill step.
- MDARD facilitating information with and to MDHHS & Local Public Health Department for ongoing monitoring of exposed farm employees.
- CDC collaboration with USDA, FDA & state and local partners on PPE, public health risk evaluation, other.

Outreach



914 dairy producers contacted by US Mail four times with HPAI updates



60+ Michigan Allied Poultry Industry members weekly meetings and dozens of phone calls and emails with the executive director



7,900 veterinarians contacted twice to attend HPAI briefings



287 licensed livestock dealers contacted four times with HPAI updates and information



62 agriculture association leaders contacted a minimum of four times each with HPAI updates



123 licensed grain dealers contacted at least five times with HPAI updates



Thousands of other contacts in trucking, milk hauling, and other agriculture network

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
DAIRY BUSINESS OWNERS
PRODUCT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS
BUYERS FARMERS VETERINARY DIRECTORS
LICENSED GRAIN DEALERS
CHIEF VETERINARIANS DEANS
VICE PRESIDENTS CEOS LOBBYISTS BOARD CHAIRS
BOARD MEMBERS POLICY DIRECTORS



Complexities of the multi-species event

- Commercial Poultry flocks indemnified by USDA
- Established procedures and processes in place to address an HPAI event in poultry through the USDA Red Book
- No such framework exists in dairy except the Secure Milk Supply (adopted in 2017)
- Science not clear in dairy related to viral incubation and post-symptomatic shedding
- Transmission pathways unclear



Next Steps

- Continued focus on:
 - Incident response;
 - Understanding more about the virus, transmission pathways to poultry and dairy;
 - Continually working to ensure safety of the food supply;
 - Collaborative effort on public health awareness, particularly for job-related exposures.
- Offer of PPE to all dairy farms from Michigan stockpile (offer going out today)
- MDARD dairy staff offer to assist positive Michigan farms in applying for federal PPE and financial assistance made available last Friday
- Continued collaboration with government and industry partners on science-led and risk-reduction policy decision making and response
- Exposure monitoring in cooperation with MDHHS; surveillance of potential public health risks with state, federal and local partners

“We are concerned about this virus having the opportunity to mutate and become a dangerous human pathogen.”

- Food and Drug Administration Deputy Commissioner Jim Jones

MDARD will continue as part of Michigan's proactive, all-of-government approach to lead the national response to this ongoing animal and human health threat, protecting poultry and dairy food safety, maintaining supply chains, and keeping farmers farming.

THANK YOU!

Contact MDARD: 800-292-3939
Email: MDA-Info@Michigan.gov

www.Michigan.gov/birdflu



Bovine Tuberculosis Testing Area Update to Benzie and Manistee Counties

Dr. Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM

State Veterinarian

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development

May 15, 2024



TB is Still Present in the U.S. Cattle Industry

Ten states outside of Michigan have found TB-infected cattle herds in the past five years.

- Beef herds from South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, Hawaii, Nebraska, and Indiana
- Dairy herds from Wisconsin, Texas, and New Mexico

Michigan has an Additional Complexity: TB in Wild Deer





Split-State Status in Michigan

- MDARD and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture outlining the expectations for maintaining Michigan's split-state status
- The split-state status allows:
 - Cattle to move without requiring a test unless they are in the MAZ
 - Michigan milk to move in interstate commerce

TB Findings in Michigan

Since 1995:

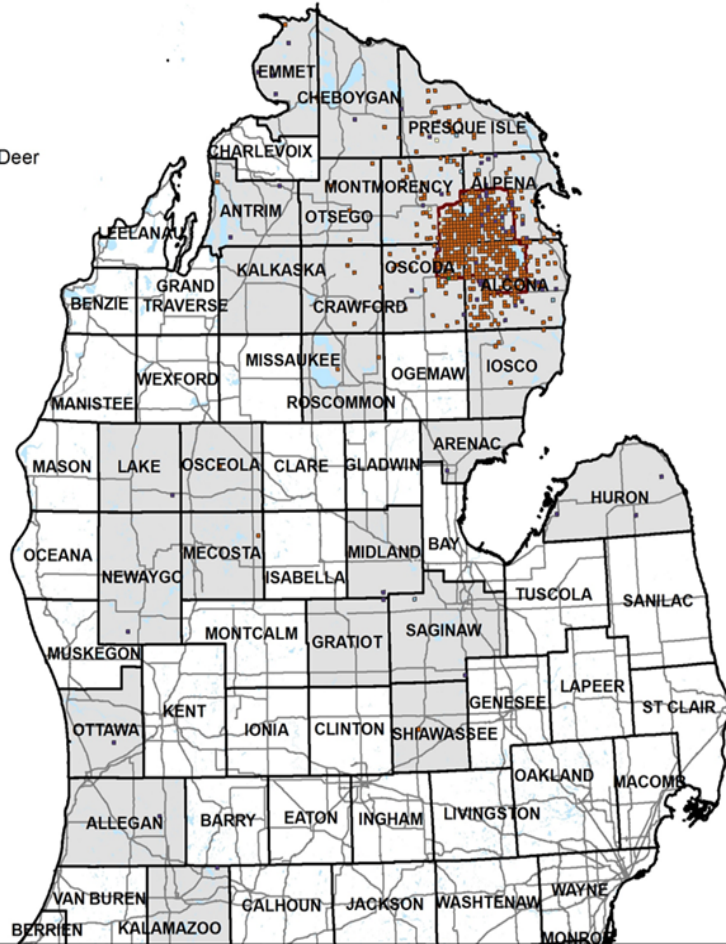
- 82 cattle herd infections
- 6 privately-owned cervid herd infections
- 1,024 TB-infected wild deer

Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance in Michigan
1975 - March 22, 2021

Legend

- TB Positive Free-ranging Deer
- TB Positive Beef Cattle
- TB Positive Dairy Cattle
- TB Positive Captive Deer
- TB Positive Bison
- DMU 452
- County Boundary
- Major Road

0 10 20 30 40 50
Miles
0 20 40 60
Kilometers

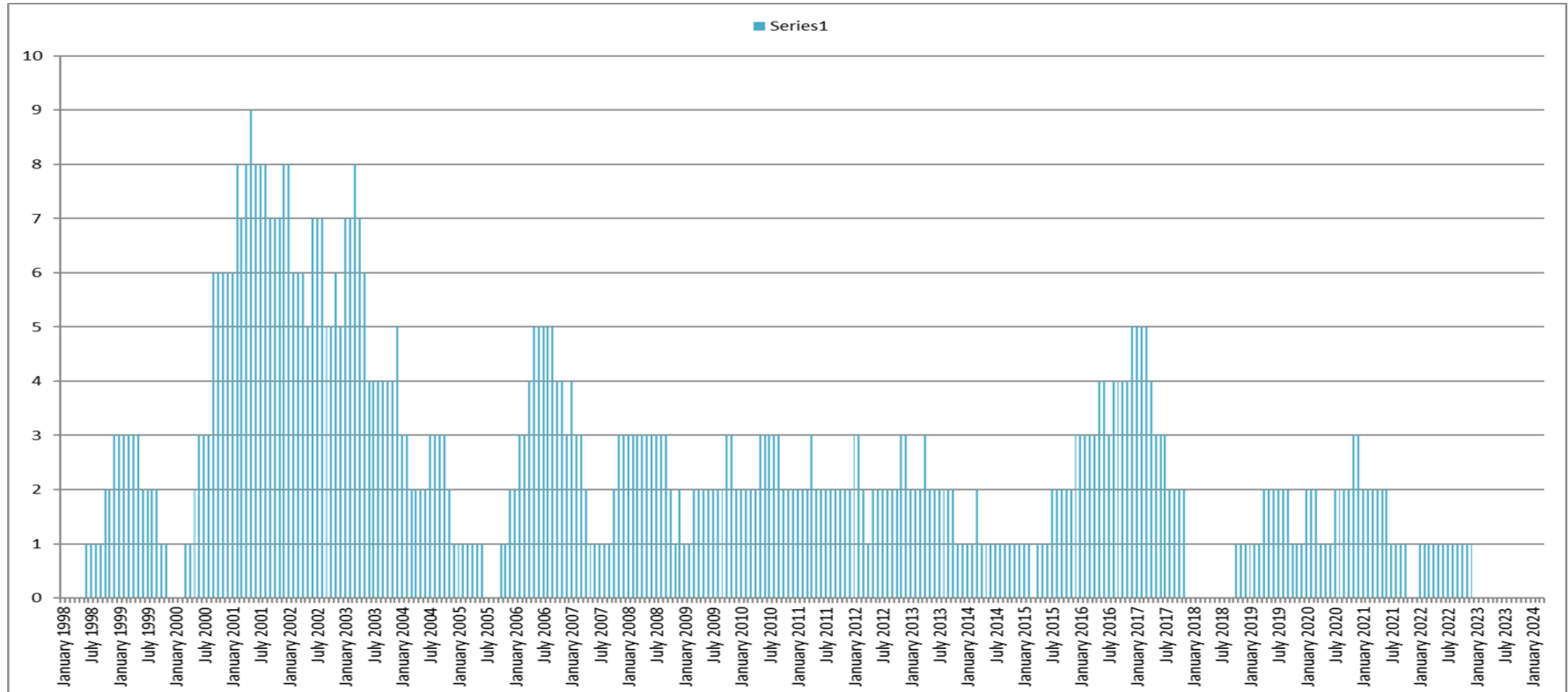


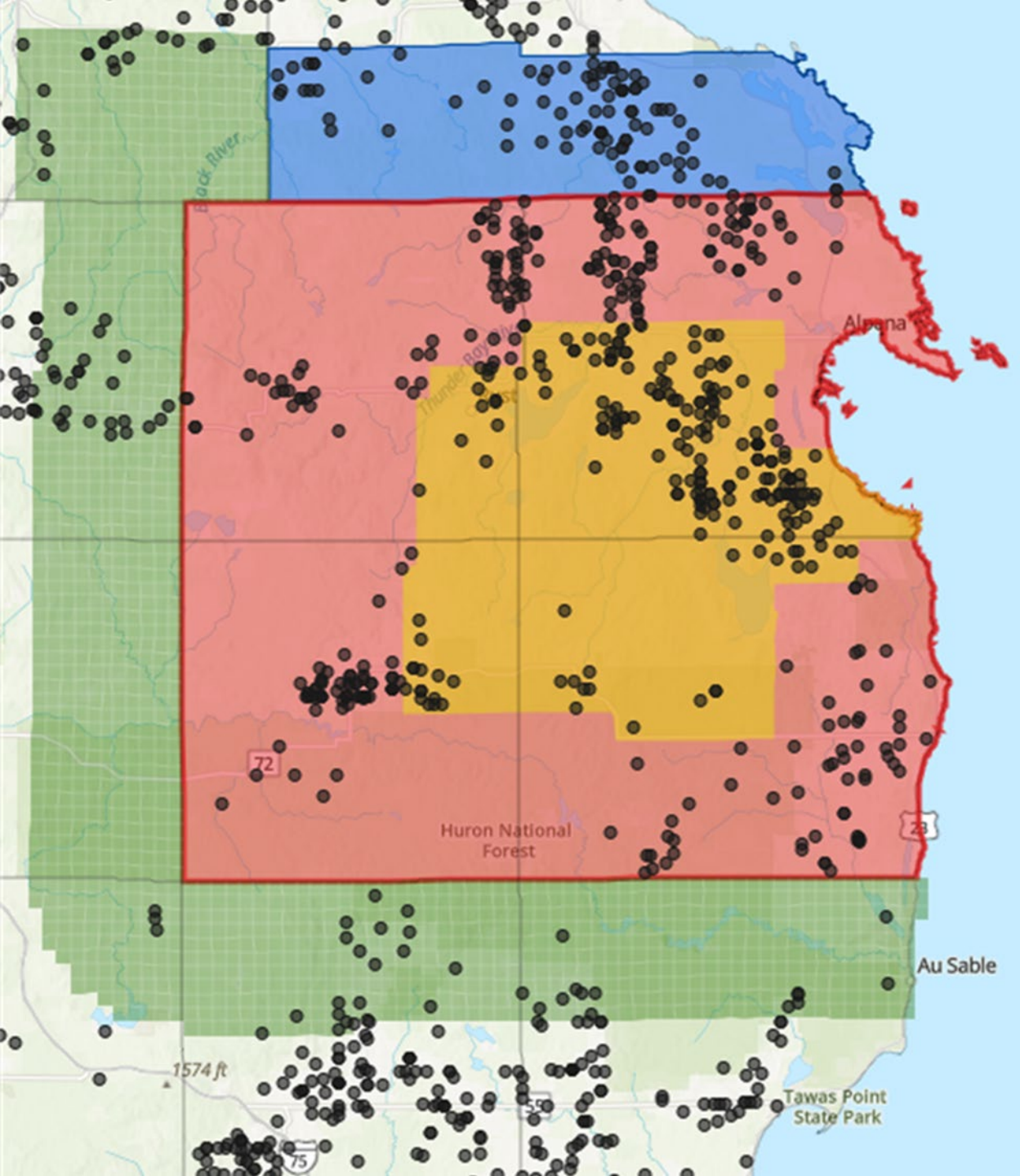
Recent TB Findings

- **2019:**
 - TB-infected beef herd identified in Presque Isle County
 - TB strain was closely related to local deer
- **2021:**
 - TB-infected beef herd identified in Cheboygan County
 - TB strain was related to infected deer from Alcona County
- **January 2022:**
 - TB-infected small, mixed dairy herd in Oscoda County (MAZ)
 - TB strain was closely related to local deer
- **December 2022 / February 2023:**
 - TB-infected animals identified at a Wisconsin and Michigan slaughter plant – originated from a feedlot in Huron County
 - TB strain was related to infected deer from Alcona County
- **October 2023:**
 - TB-infected animal identified at a small slaughter plant in northwest Lower Michigan

Has There Been Progress in Cattle?

Michigan MAZ: Number of TB-Infected Herds Identified in the Previous 12 Months






Cattle Farm Surveillance

Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) / Presque Isle County

- MAZ includes Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties
- 485 cattle farms
- Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity (EWB) Area
 - 159 cattle farms

Buffer Area

- Includes portions of Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Roscommon counties
- 72 cattle farms

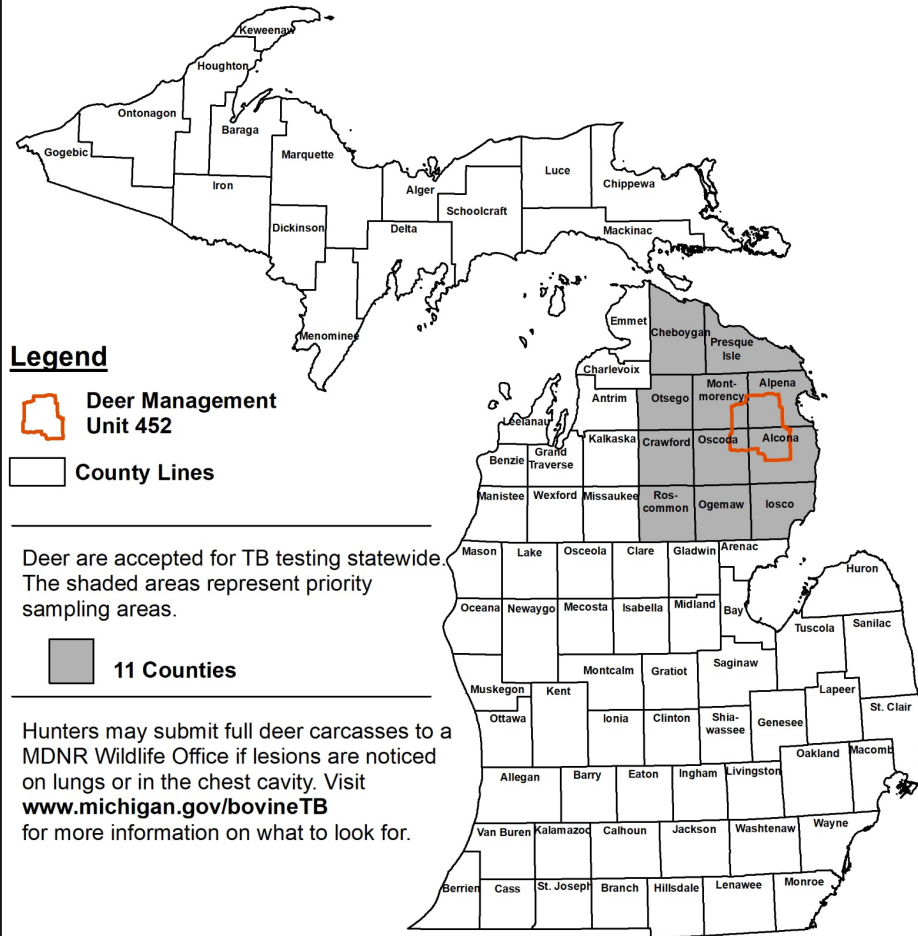


2023 Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance and Monitoring in White-tailed Deer

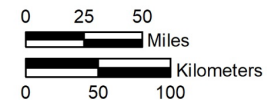
Melinda Cosgrove
Laboratory Manager
Wildlife Health Section, MDNR



2023 Michigan Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Testing for Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer



For a list of check station, dates and times
visit www.michigan.gov/deercheck



March 16, 2023 (MC)



Michigan White-tailed Deer TB Surveillance

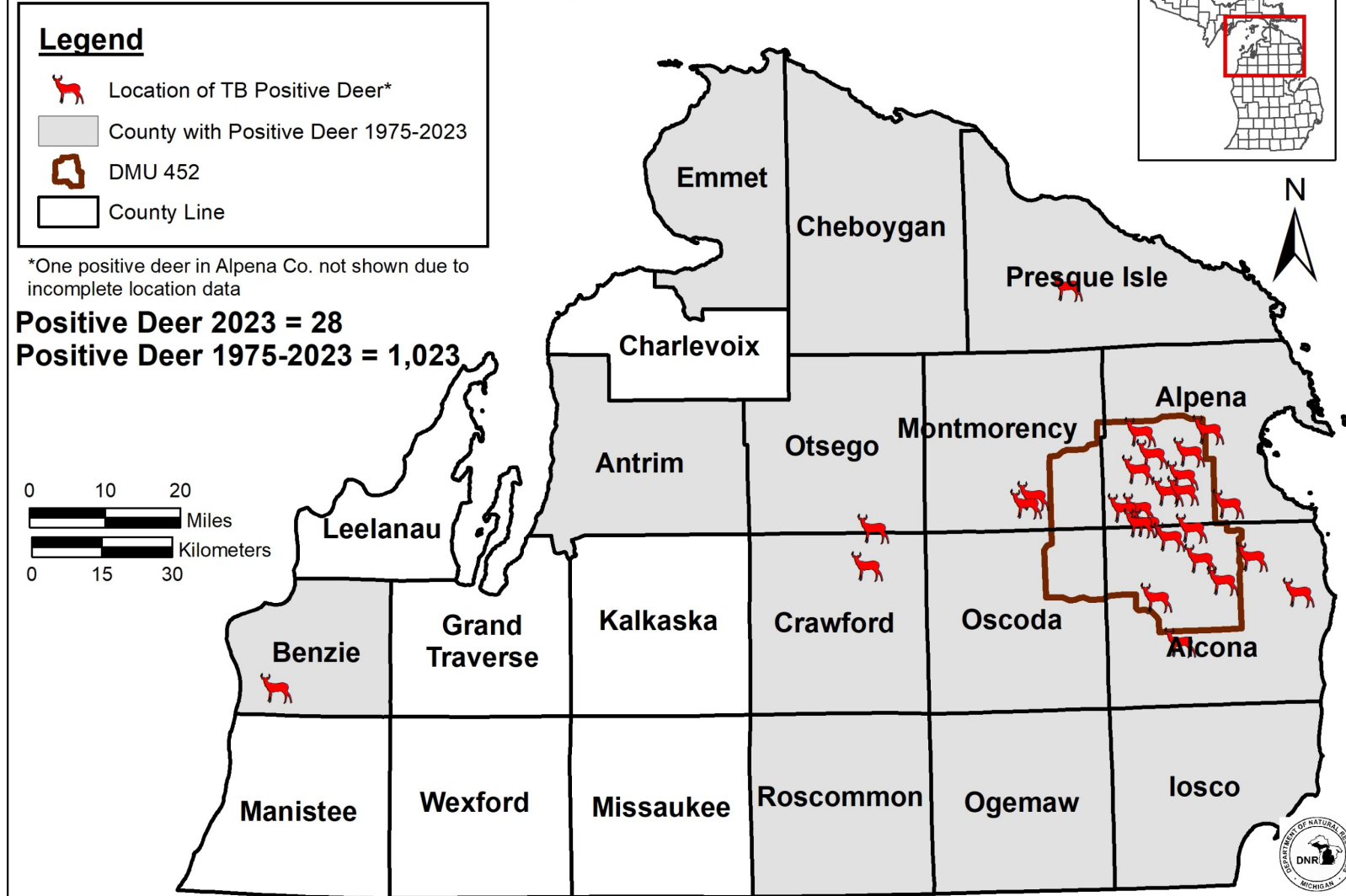
Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
1975 & 1994	2	2
1995	18	403
1996	56	4,966
1997	73	3,720
1998	78	9,058
1999	58	19,497
2000	53	25,855
2001	61	24,278
2002	51	18,092
2003	32	17,273
2004	29	15,096
2005	16	7,349
2006	41	7,913
2007	27	8,307
2008	37	16,264
2009	31	5,716
2010	24	4,974
2011	17	6,026
2012	23	4,725
2013	21	5,903
2014	12	4,266
2015	34	8,458
2016	20	12,031

Year	Positive	Total Deer Tested
2017	49	23,062
2018	26	35,620
2019	31	25,100
2020	20	7,460
2021	18	11,803
2022	28	16,062
2023	28	7,339
Grand Total	1,023	356,618

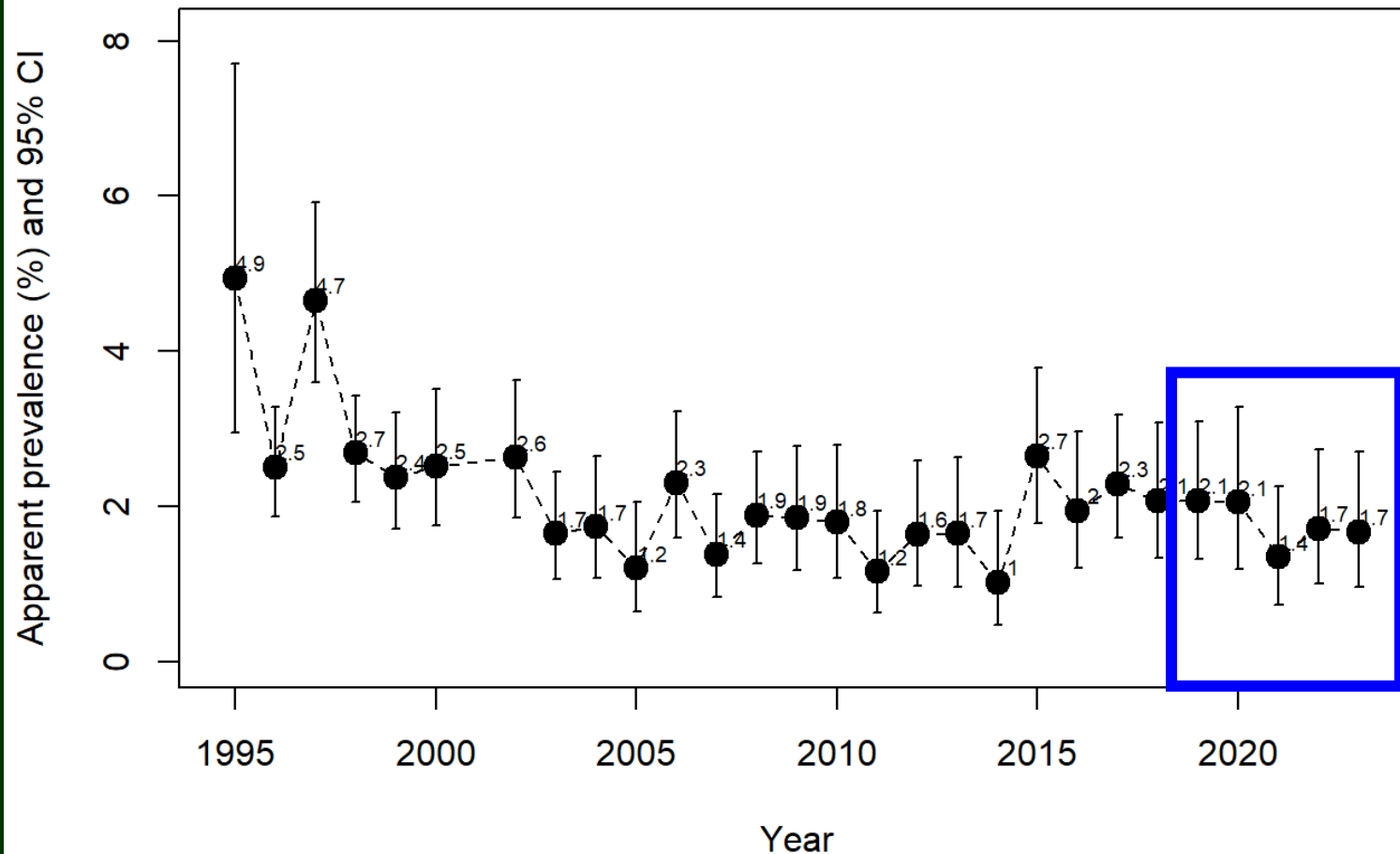


As of March 19, 2024

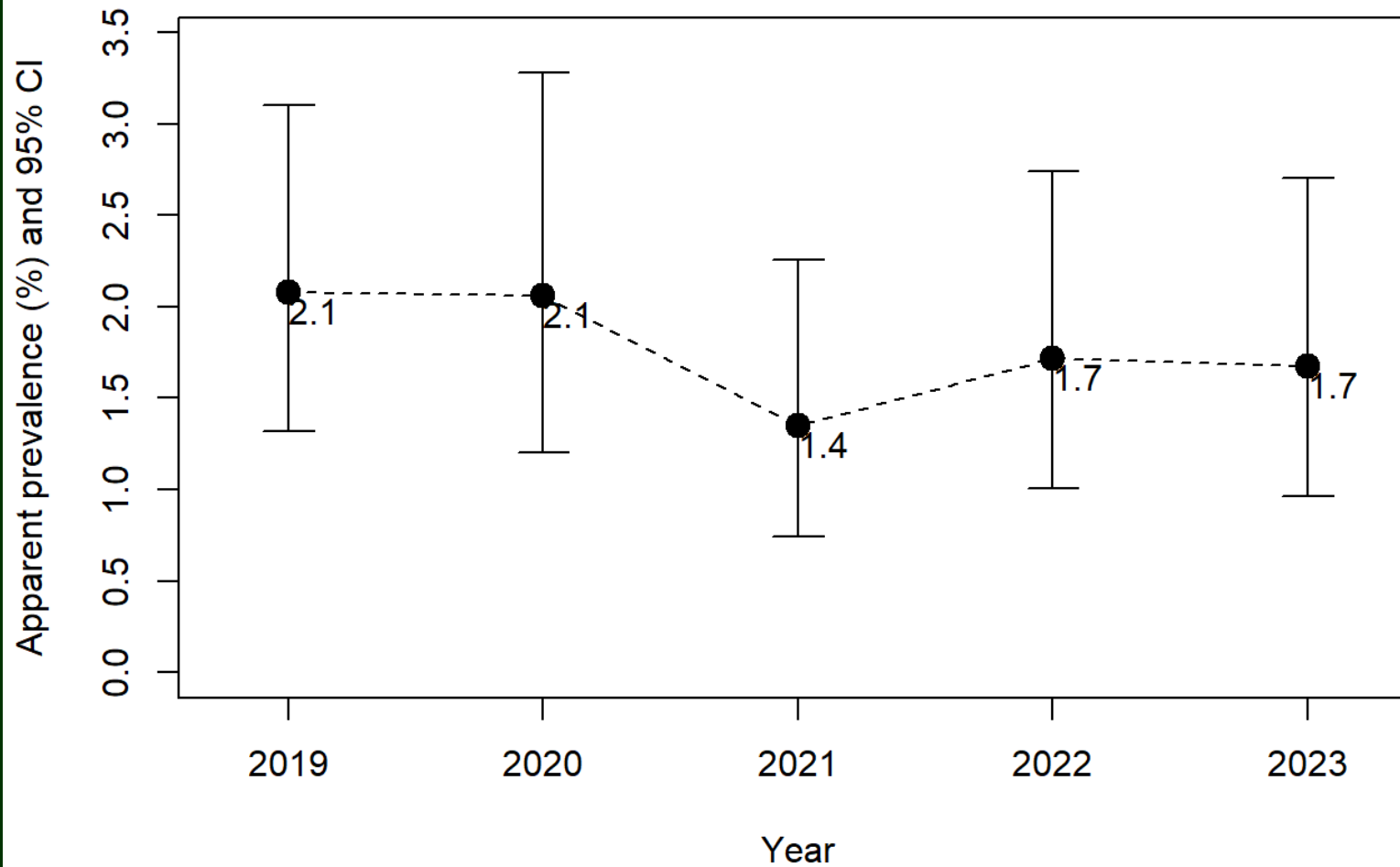
2023 Bovine Tuberculosis Survey Results -Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer-



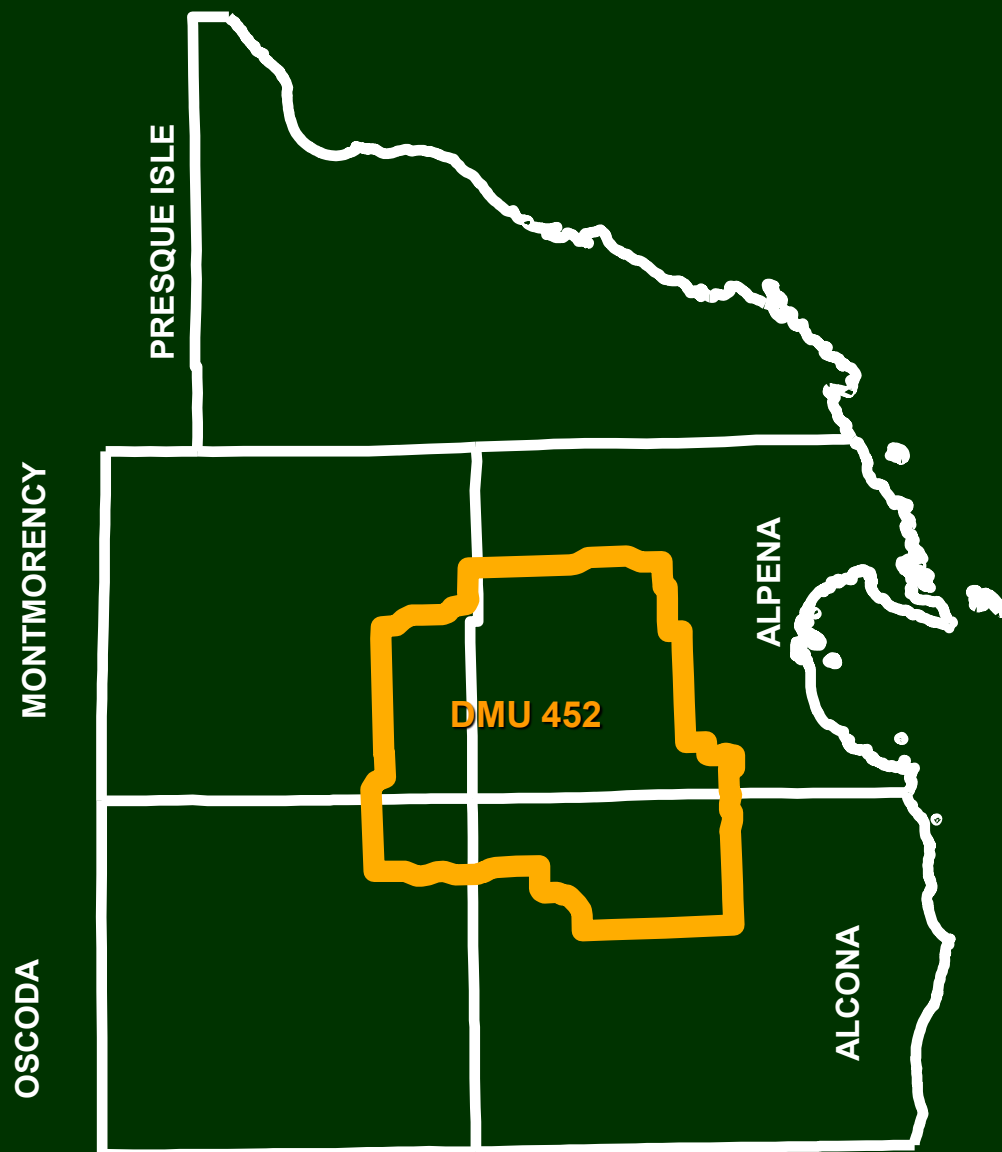
Apparent Prevalence in Deer in DMU 452



Apparent Prevalence in Deer in DMU 452



Apparent bTB Prevalence in Deer in DMU 452



Year	DMU 452	5-Co.Outside DMU 452
1995	4.9%	(no testing)
1996	2.5%	0.2%
1997	4.7%	0.4%
1998	2.7%	0.3%
1999	2.4%	0.2%
2000	2.5%	0.4%
2001	2.3%*	0.5%
2002	2.6%	0.5%
2003	1.7%	0.2%
2004	1.7%	0.2%
2005	1.2%	0.1%
2006	2.3%	0.3%
2007	1.4%	0.2%
2008	1.9%	0.3%
2009	1.9%	0.4%
2010	1.8%	0.2%
2011	1.2%	0.1%
2012	1.7%	0.3%
2013	1.7%	0.2%
2014	1.0%	0.2%
2015	2.7%	0.3%
2016	2.0%	0.3%
2017	2.3%	0.6%
2018	2.1%	0.1%
2019	2.1%	0.4%
2020	2.1%	0.1%
2021	1.4%	0.1%
2022	1.7%	0.4%
2023*	1.7%	0.4%

*Estimates subject to potential bias due to drop in reporting of section level harvest locations by hunters in 2023



Infected Deer Outside the 5-county Area

- 3 bTB positive deer outside of MAZ + Presque Isle
 - Benzie (1), Crawford (1), Otsego (1)
- Previous bTB positive deer in these counties
 - Benzie (none), Crawford (2022), Otsego (2002)

- Consistent sampling effort in Crawford and Otsego

County	2020	2021	2022	2023
Crawford	149	191	201	119
Otsego	229	286	233	202

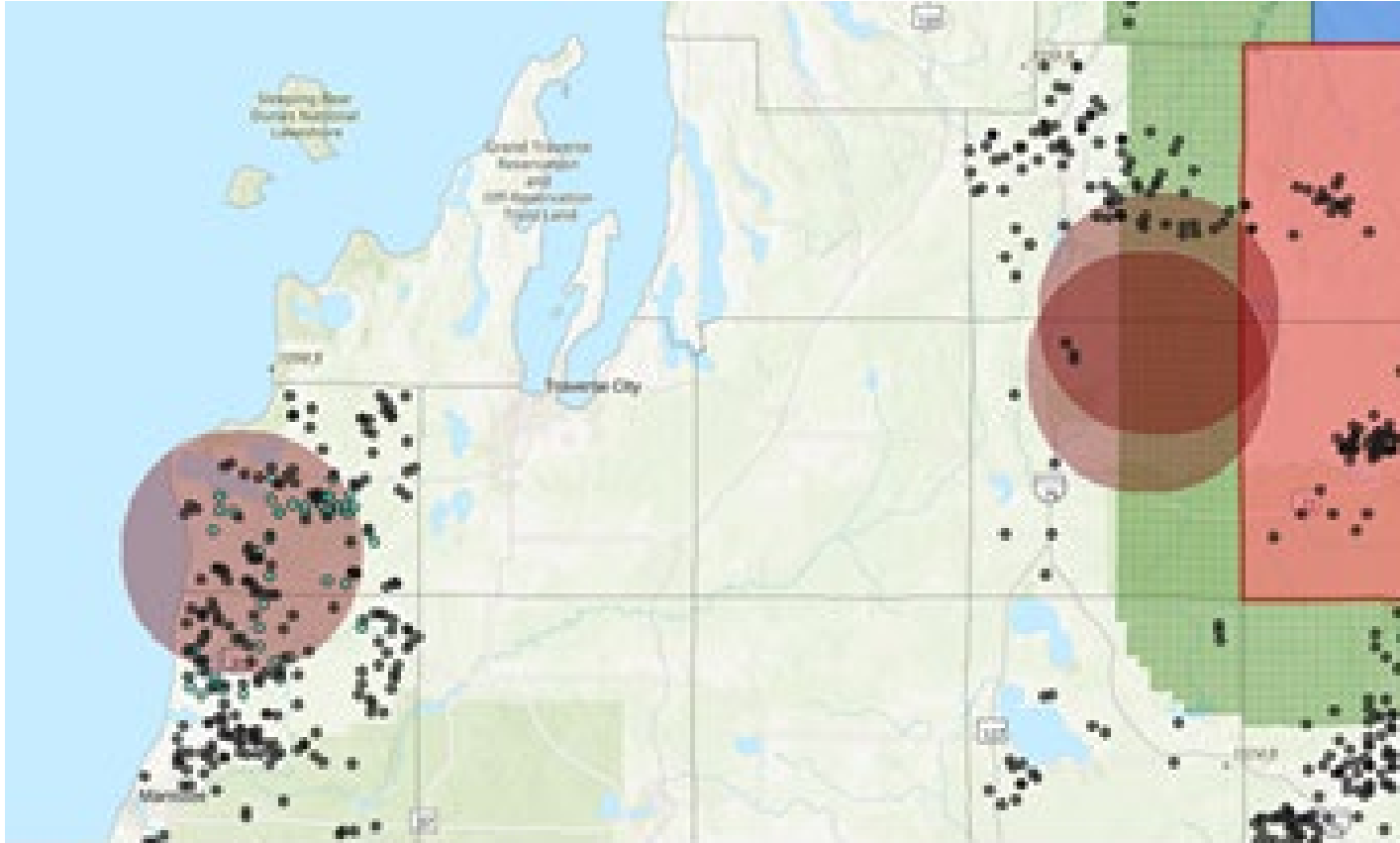
- bTB likely persists at very low prevalence in buffer counties.

- Last big effort in Benzie 2000-2004

County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2023
Benzie	204	319	172	152	113	73

- CWD Surveillance in Benzie Co. continues in 2024 – all of these deer are also screened for bTB.

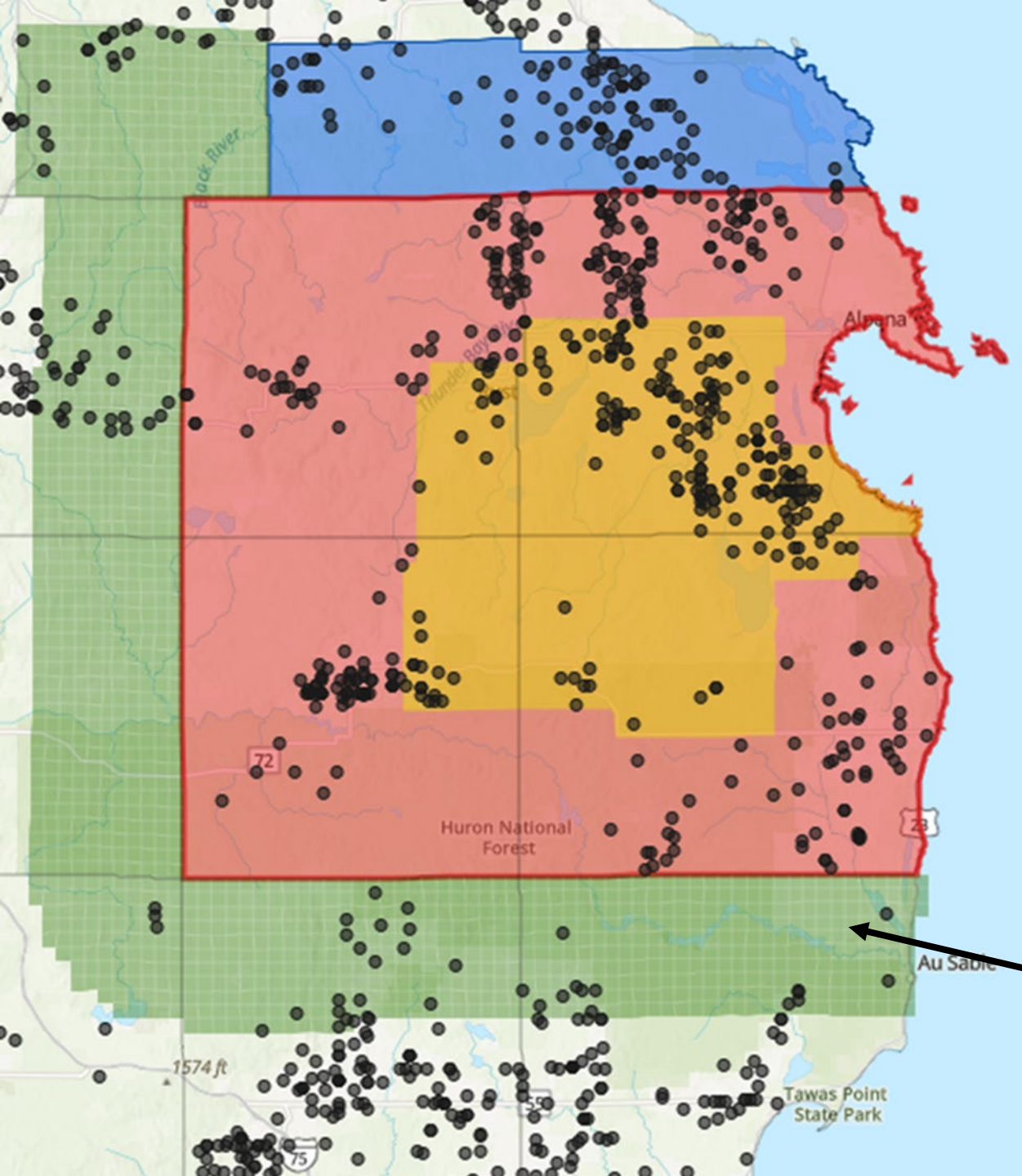
Proposed TB Testing Areas: Benzie/Manistee Counties and Otsego/Crawford Counties



- Testing of cattle and bison herds is required to maintain TB-Free Status in this area of Michigan
- Includes a 10-mile radius surrounding the TB-infected wild deer
- Testing must be completed by December 31, 2024

2024 Zoning Order Updates

- Last update in 2020
- Buffer surveillance area testing period establishment
 - September 2025 to December 2026
 - No movement of cattle if not scheduled for a whole herd bovine TB test by June 1, 2026



Buffer Surveillance Zone



Thank you!



Dr. Nora Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM
WinelandN@Michigan.gov

2024 Zoning Order Updates

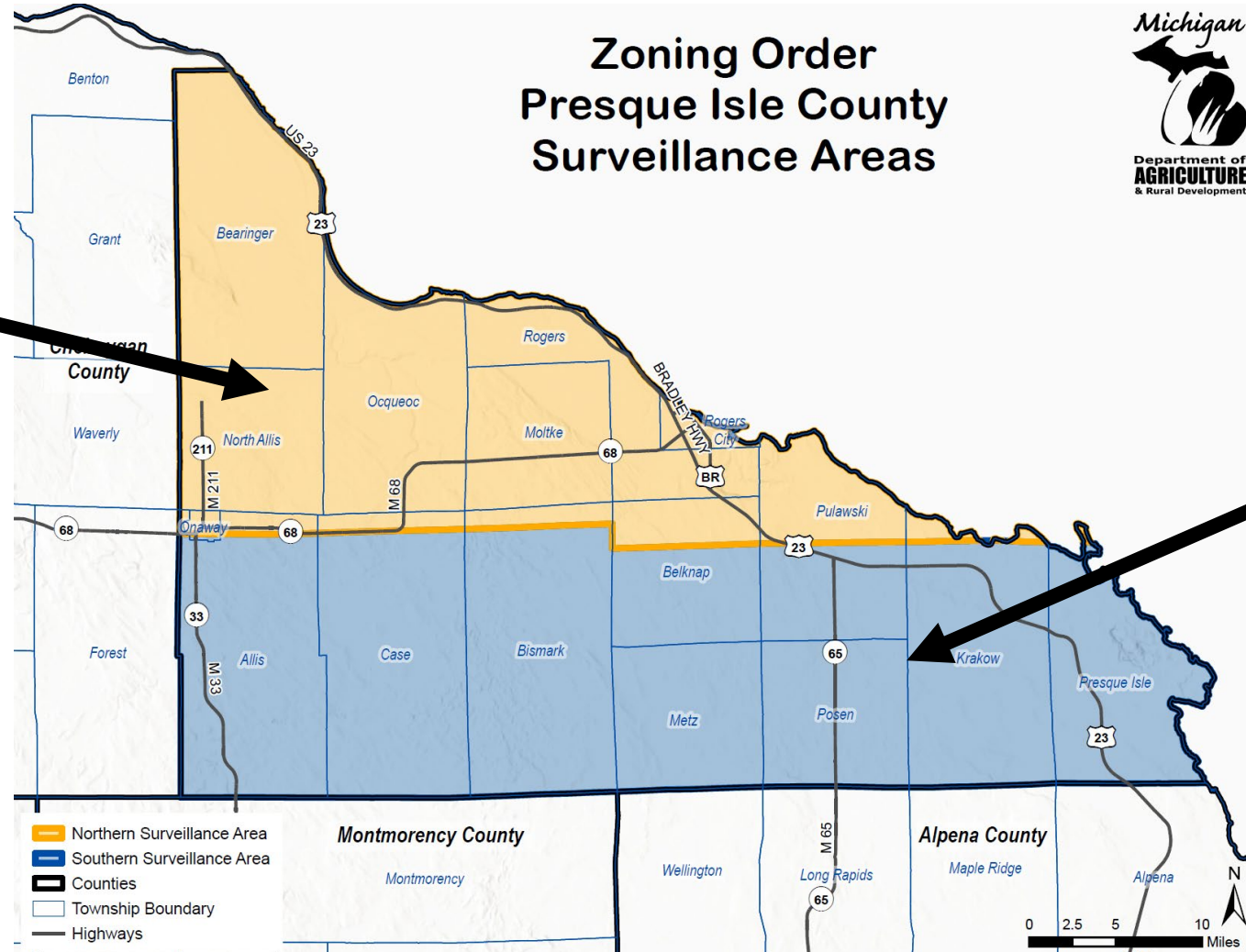
Presque Isle County: EWB Enrolled Herds

No
surveillance
testing & no
movement
testing

Zoning Order Presque Isle County Surveillance Areas



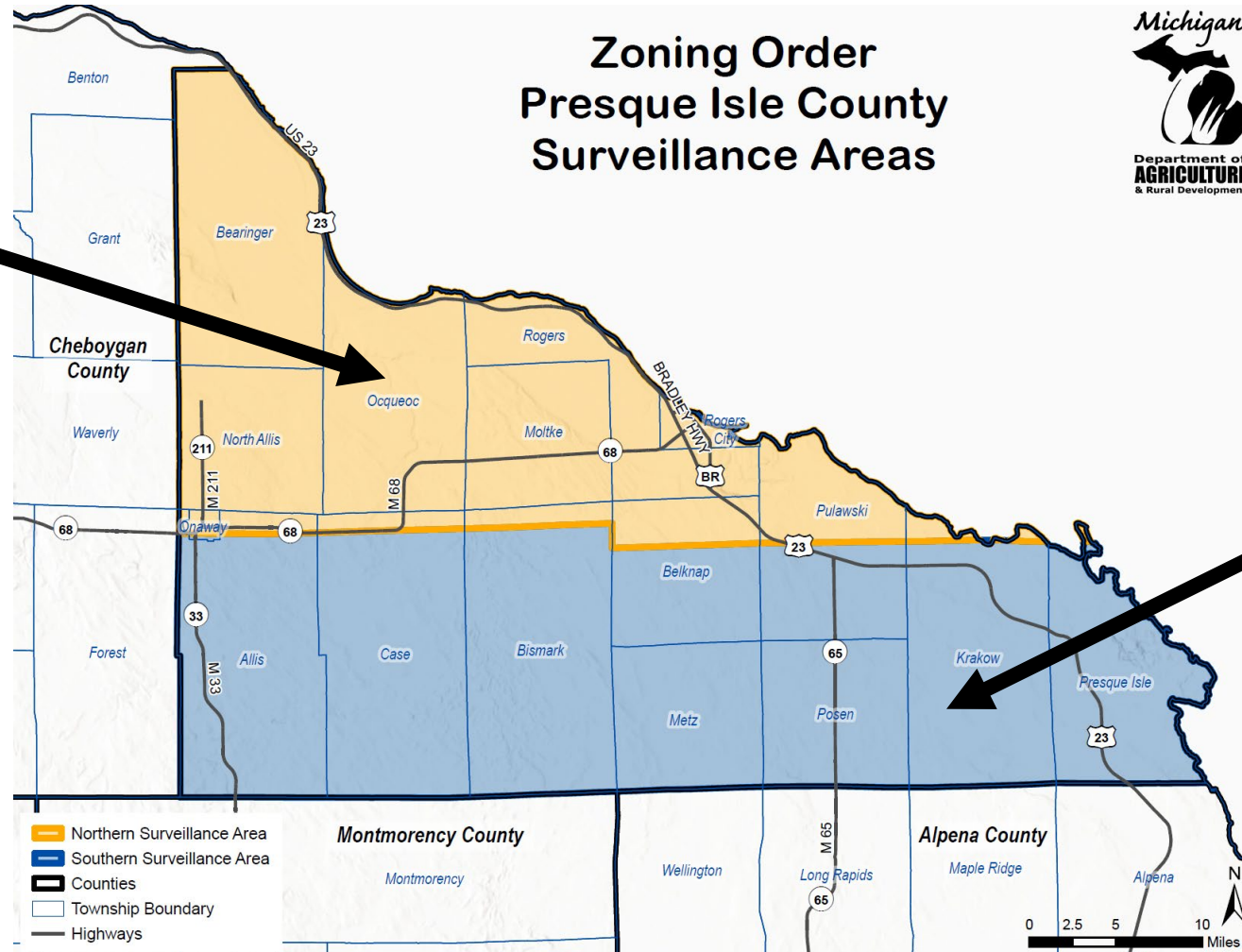
Test every
three years &
no movement
testing



2024 Zoning Order Updates

Presque Isle County: Herds Not Enrolled in EWB

Test every
three years &
no movement
testing



Test every year
& must do
movement
testing



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

ORDER FOR BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS TESTING IN BENZIE AND MANISTEE COUNTIES

BACKGROUND

The Animal Industry Act, Public Act 466 of 1988, as amended, 287.703b Section 3b. (1) permits the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to implement orders for testing animals for reportable diseases.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS TESTING AREA

Based on the detection of bovine tuberculosis in a wild white-tailed deer in Benzie County, I hereby order, effective May 16, 2024, all cattle and bison within the following area to receive a whole herd test for bovine tuberculosis:

- **Benzie County:**
 - Benzonia Township, 25-26N/14-15W, all sections.
 - Blaine Township, 25N/15-16W, all sections.
 - Colfax Township, 25N13W, sections 6-7, 18-19, and 30-31.
 - Crystal Lake Township, 26N/15-16W, all sections.
 - Frankfort Township, 26N16W, all sections.
 - Gilmore Township, 25-26N/15-16W, all sections.
 - Homestead Township, 26N14W, sections 2-36.
 - Inland Township, 26N13W, sections 19, 30, and 31.
 - Joyfield Township, 25N15W, all sections.
 - Lake Township, East Part, 27N15W, sections 25-28, and 33-36.
 - Lake Township, West Part, 26-27N/16-15W, all sections.
 - Platte Township, 27N14W, sections 28-33.
 - Weldon Township, 25N14W, all sections.
- **Manistee County:**
 - Arcadia Township, 24N16W, all sections.
 - Bear Lake Township, 23N15W, sections 1-10.
 - Cleon Township, 24N13W, sections 6-7.
 - Maple Grove Township, 23N14W, section 6.
 - Onekama Township, 23N16W, sections 1-3.
 - Pleasanton Township, 24N15W, all sections.
 - Springdale Township, 24N14W, sections 1-23, and 27-33.

All cattle and bison herds located within this area shall be whole herd bovine tuberculosis tested by December 31, 2024. Any livestock owners who have not gotten this testing completed for their herd by December 31, 2024, would not be eligible to move cattle from the premises until a whole herd bovine tuberculosis test is completed, or other permission is granted by the Director. This testing shall be scheduled and conducted by MDARD or its agents. In general, failure to comply with quarantines and other violations of the Animal Industry Act may subject livestock owners to penalties.

Nora E. Wineland, DVM, MS, DACVPM
State Veterinarian, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program
Proposed Director's Order
(Issued April 10, 2024)
Public Hearing and Comment Report

Jeff Haarer, Hearings Officer
May 13, 2024

Pursuant to the Animal Industry Act, (Public Act 466 of 1988, MCL 287.701, *et seq.*, as amended¹) the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

. . . may develop, implement, and enforce scientifically based orders. These orders may include requirements for testing, animal or premises identification, record keeping, premovement documentation, or on-farm management practices that must be completed before the movement of animals from any premises within this state, or between premises within this state. (MCL 287.703b (1))

On April 10, 2024, Director Tim Boring issued a proposed order for bovine TB testing in specific portions of Benzie and Manistee counties due to the detection of a bovine TB-positive wild deer in Benzie County. The proposed order does not change boundaries previously established but does set new requirements in the Accredited Free Zone.

Part 1, Legal Requirements

Before issuing the proposed order for bovine TB testing, the department must undertake steps in order to assure that there has been notice to the public about the proposed changes, and opportunities for public comment. Those steps, required by the Animal Industry Act (MCL 287.703(b)), include:

- 1) Develop scientifically based testing requirements with advice and consultation from the livestock industry and veterinary profession.
- 2) Place the proposed testing requirements on the commission of agriculture agenda at least 1 month before final review and order by the director. During the 1-month period described in this subdivision, written comments may be submitted to the director and the director shall hold at least 1 public forum within the affected areas.
- 3) Place the proposed testing requirements at least 1 month before implementation in a newspaper of each county within the proposed testing requirement area and at least 2 newspapers having circulation outside of the proposed testing requirement area.

¹

The Department developed the scientifically based testing requirements with the advice from and consultation with the livestock industry through the Bovine Tuberculosis Advisory Committee, as well as the university and the veterinary profession, and in close consultation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services. The proposed testing requirements are on the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development's agenda as informational on May 15, 2024.

The department issued a press release on April 10, 2024, announcing the proposed order and the public input forum. The public forum was held on April 25 in Thompsonville.

The proposed testing requirements were placed in the *Benzie County Record Patriot* and the *Manistee News Advocate*, broadcast and published by 9 & 10 News, and shared statewide through a number MDARD's GovDelivery listservs.

Notice also was posted on MDARD's Public Meeting Notices website as well as posted publicly in the lobby of Constitution Hall, located in Lansing, Michigan.

Part 2, Public Comment

At the public forum, MDARD presented background information on the Bovine TB program and reviewed the proposed order and its requirements. Attendees were invited to ask questions and told that their comments and concerns would be noted and consolidated. They were also encouraged to put any additional comments in writing and told that anything in writing would be distributed to the Director and to all Commissioners. The public was also told at the meetings that written comments could be submitted through May 10, 2024.

At the Thompsonville hearing, 38 members of the public attended, and 15 members of the public attended virtually. No comments were provided during the public hearing portion of the meeting:

The Department received no written comments by email or mail as of May 10, 2024.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 15, 2024
TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Bureau Director
SUBJECT: Byron Center Wholesale Meats

Background

Byron Center Wholesale Meats (BCM) is a family-owned, federally inspected, meat processing plant providing quality processed meats for 78 years. Steve and Laura Sytsma are third generation owners with three sons involved in management roles. Their business model includes five areas: 1) a brick-and-mortar butcher shop, 2) large animal custom meat processing, 3) wholesale food service cuts and grinds, 4) custom mobile harvesting, and 5) an online store. BCM specializes in partnering with local livestock producers to custom process their meats to supply the growing consumer demand for locally sourced proteins and expanding markets for direct-to-consumer home freezers, farmers markets, on-farm stores, and online farm stores.

Project Description

The project consists of the construction of a new 8,900 square foot cold storage facility with two loading docks, one loading ramp, and rail space for hanging 400 beef carcasses with an investment of \$1,500,000 and creating four jobs. This new facility will provide a central place for aging carcasses and represents a 35% increase in hanging carcass capacity. It will be sited next to the facility which houses two mobile butchering trucks in Allegan County. This is considered Phase 1 with long-range planning for Phase 2 to include a connected freezer storage facility with two additional loading docks.

BCM's custom processing business model is unique. They do not harvest livestock but receive hanging carcasses of beef, pork, bison, beefalo, lamb, and goat from an approved list of six harvesting facilities and two mobile harvesters. BCM provides custom processing of whole animal carcasses into meat cuts and grinds.

The bottleneck limiting their ability to process more animals is the lack of hanging space for the aging time of 10-14 days for beef. The two main needs of building a centralized, off-site cold storage facility are 1) increasing hanging capacity 35% to age beef carcasses which will free up space in the plant for production space and 2) improved efficiencies in handling beef carcasses during storing and staging for processing resulting in a 25% increase in processing capacity from 32 head of beef per day to 40 head per day.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry

An overall benefit for the agricultural community is the ability for BCM to process more animals for livestock producers. One specific example are dairy farmers which may custom process 25, 65, or even 400 dairy beef animals per year from a single farm. These animals are marketed and sold to grocery stores, farmers markets, on-farm stores, ecommerce sites, and direct to

consumers for their home freezers. West Michigan Beef is an approved beef harvester and BCM's new plant will increase West Michigan Beef's harvesting capacity for dairy farmers and thus increase the opportunity to custom process more dairy beef cattle through the local food chain. The lack of cold storage space for hanging more beef carcasses is holding BCM back from serving their producers.

In 2023, BCM processed 12,223 livestock animals for over 1,000 Michigan livestock producers. They also process for a few farms in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Livestock producers want to raise more animals to meet the increasing consumer demands for locally sourced and processed meats. BCM production schedule for custom processing is full for 2024 and well into 2025. Producers are creatively selling to customers through on-farm stores, farmers markets, online stores, grocery stores, home freezers, delivery services, value-added products, restaurant menu items, and even University of Michigan's campus and hospitals. This creativity illustrates the dedication of local producers and families who love working in agriculture and providing food for their communities and creates increased demand for custom processing and cold storage.

Additional Impact

BCM partners with livestock producers by offering an annual free training and networking event. Producers hear updates from the BCM team, attend business and marketing seminars, take a facility tour, network with other producers, and meet with industry related vendors (Michigan Cattleman's Association, Michigan Pork Association, Michigan State University Product Center, Kent Butcher Supply, and Taste the Local Difference). The project will utilize energy efficient building materials and a climate control monitoring system.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$70,000 for Byron Center Wholesale Meats.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

DATE: May 15, 2024
TO: Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
FROM: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Agriculture Development Bureau Director
SUBJECT: Popz Beez

Background

Popz Beez was started by Preston Zale as a hobby in 2014. In 2015, he began offering extraction and mentoring services to other beekeepers in the area and over the past eight years has added equipment and hives to the apiary business. Mr. Zale observed that extraction and bottling equipment was a major hurdle to fellow beekeepers. These hurdles created a challenge for them to profitably sell their locally produced honey.

To satisfy Popz Beez's customers' needs for retail honey sales, they started renting commercial kitchen facilities and secured wholesale food licenses under MDARD supervision. Rented kitchens come with logistical problems of timing, availability, and space. The company must move equipment in and out of the kitchen several times during the honey harvest season. This limitation hampers Popz Beez's ability to serve more extraction and bottling services for customers. Mr. Zale's vision has been to build an MDARD approved shared honey processing facility, which is a resource currently difficult for beekeepers to find.

Project Description

The project is the construction of a 3,200 square foot, MDARD compliant, honey extraction and bottling facility. The project will include the purchase and installation of extraction, bottling, and sanitizing equipment. This facility is needed as there are few approved extraction kitchens available to small and medium honey producers. Once completed, local beekeepers will be able to process larger amounts of honey which can be sold to a wider range of markets; thereby giving the beekeepers more opportunity to profit from their small-scale operations.

The project is expected to cost \$500,000. The facility includes a 1,200 square foot garage and storage area for inventory, as well as a large 2,000 square foot production floor for extraction, bottling, and labeling. This area can also be used for beekeeping classes and demonstrations for the public or other beekeepers. The business will require five additional employees during the honey harvesting season.

Impact on Michigan's Agriculture Industry:

According to a 2023 survey conducted by Michigan State University, in Michigan, 64% of beekeepers have 1-8 hives and 22% keep 9-49 hives. In a good year, a hive will produce approximately 50 pounds of honey. An average beekeeper in Michigan will have anywhere from 400 pounds to over 1,000 pounds of honey to sell each year.

During a typical season, Popz Beez helps several local producers extract and bottle their honey. Of the ten producers they work with currently, or will in the future, only one, Spencer Apiaries

has their own commercial license, the remaining producers are currently operating under cottage food law. Honey not produced in MDARD approved facilities cannot be sold in retail or wholesale transactions. In addition, the notation on bottles of honey stating, "*Produced in a facility not inspected by MDARD*" limits the marketability and attractiveness of the product. To compound the problem, honey producers using non-approved facilities to extract and bottle honey are limited to \$15,000 in annual sales. The new facility will open new marketing opportunities for their customers.

The facility can act as a co-packer for midsize producers and as a co-op for small producers, allowing them access to retail markets which were closed to them before. These services are typically outside the cost/benefit calculation for small honey producers. With the help of Popz Beez, these small producers can reach out to other markets to provide local honey to businesses.

With the new dedicated facility, Popz Beez would expect to extract 10,000 pounds in the first year, with 75% of the honey coming from local honey producers and 25% from Popz Beez's hives. This increase of 6,000 pounds of honey processed is equivalent to the addition of approximately 120 hives at an annual production rate of 50 pounds of honey per hive. Popz Beez's current extraction line can process approximately 150 pounds of honey per hour. The proposed set up would be able to process around 400 pounds per hour. The same is observed with the bottling capacity. Currently the company can bottle approximately 100 pounds per hour. With the proposed line, this bottling capacity can be increased to 240 pounds per hour.

Additional Impact

Popz Beez intends to use the kitchen as a teaching and business incubator facility. There are several programs such as Heroes to Hives and Dutton Farm that can use an accessible facility to teach skills and nurture future businesses within at-risk populations. Dutton Farm in Rochester, MI is currently one of Popz Beez's biggest customers. Dutton Farm provides training and job placement for physically and mentally challenged adults. In the past, the company has had program participants in the previous facilities managing the bees and bottling honey. This new facility will also be open to Dutton Farm and other groups such as Heros to Hives for employment opportunities.

Although not directly part of the project, the property where the new facility will be located is planned to be a regenerative farm.

MDARD Staff Recommendation

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture Investment Fund performance-based grant of \$55,000 for Popz Beez.