



Legislative Report
January 5, 2018

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

Act No. 107, Public Acts of 2017, Approved by the Governor July 14, 2017, EFFECTIVE DATE:
July 14, 2017

AN ACT to make appropriations Sec. 457.

- (1) On or before October 15, 2017, the department shall provide to the subcommittees, the fiscal agencies, and the state budget office a report on bovine TB status and department activities.
- (2) For each fiscal quarter following the report required in subsection (1), the department shall provide an update to the subcommittees, the fiscal agencies, and the state budget office.

The quarterly update reports shall identify significant impacts to the program, including new incidence of bovine TB in this state, department activity associated with specific new incidence of bovine TB, any changes in USDA requirements or movement orders, and 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; efforts to work with slaughter facilities in this state, as well as those that slaughter a significant number of animals from this state; educational programs and information for this state's livestock community; and any other item the legislature should be aware of that will promote or hinder efforts to achieve bovine TB-free status for this state.

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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 13,000 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 62 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

All three trace investigations relating to TB affected herd #70 have been completed. The one required whole herd test relating to these trace herds has been completed with no finding of disease.

Circle Testing

Circle Testing in Ogemaw County

As a result of finding a TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer in southern Oscoda County a potential high-risk zone was established April 14, 2017. There were four herds in this 6.2-mile circle that needed to test by October 14, 2017. All four herds have completed their testing with no finding of disease.

Circle Testing in Roscommon County

As a result of finding a TB infected free-ranging white-tailed deer in Roscommon County a potential high-risk zone was established April 14, 2017. This is the first infected deer found in Roscommon County since 2003. There are two herds in this 6.2-mile circle that needed to test by October 14, 2017. Both of these herds have completed their TB testing with no finding of disease.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

On June 7, 2016, the current zoning order went into effect and removed requirements for random testing and Wildlife Risk Mitigation inspections for the counties of Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet.

The zoning order requires the following surveillance:

- Annual testing of the non-freezer beef herds in the Modified Accredited Zone, comprised of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties.
- Random testing continues in all herds not tested since April 1, 2014 in the counties of Cheboygan, Otsego, and Presque Isle. Half of these herds will be tested from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and the remaining half will be tested from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.
 - All 40 herds on the 2017 list to test from Cheboygan, Otsego, and Presque Isle completed their tests prior to March 31, 2017. At present the TB Program is tracking 56 herds that will need to test prior to March 31, 2018. To date, 51 of these 2017-2018 herds have tested.
- For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017, 336 whole herd tests were completed in the MAZ and 87 whole herd tests were completed in the surveillance area of the TB Free Zone (Cheboygan, Otsego and Presque Isle counties).

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Infected Feedlot #4

On October 10, 2016 a TB positive steer was found during routine slaughter surveillance at a slaughter plant. The infected animal was traced back to a Huron County feedlot using the radio frequency identification tag (RFID) on the animal. This feedlot was declared affected on October 25, 2016 and placed under quarantine. Per federal regulation the feedlot will continue to send its animals to a federally inspected slaughter plant, under seal, until empty. Once portions of the feedlot are emptied they must be cleaned by the producer, disinfected by MDARD, and permitted to sit empty for 30 days prior to being restocked. Eleven loads of cattle have gone to slaughter since the process began with no further findings of disease.

Infected Herd #67

On November 4, 2016 a beef herd in Montmorency County had one animal that responded during a whole herd test. That animal was examined at the Michigan State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and had lesions consistent with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected on December 1, 2016. A second TB test was performed January 2, 2017 with no finding of disease. USDA indicated that the herd should follow a test and removal process, and that no federal indemnity of this herd would be made available. The producers requested the state depopulate the adults in the herd. The adults were sent to slaughter and Animal Industry Division paid the difference between the fair market value of the animals and what was paid by the slaughter plant. In the process of having the adult animals inspected at slaughter a second TB positive animal was discovered that had not responded to either the November or January TB tests. This animal was condemned at slaughter. The producer plans to feed his 2016 calf crop until they are old enough to slaughter. The portion of the premises that the producer will use as a small feedlot in the future was cleaned and disinfected in October, and completed 30 days of sitting vacant. The producer signed a herd plan December 8, 2017. Additionally, a fence was placed around the farm's feed storage area. As a result of these developments the quarantine on the feed lot portion of the premises was released December 14, 2017.

Infected Herd #68

On November 4, 2016 a dairy herd in Alpena County had one animal that responded during a whole herd test. That animal was examined at the Michigan State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and had lesions consistent with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected on December 1, 2016. This herd has completed a test and removal process in September with no further finding of disease. The herd owner signed a herd plan October 26, 2017 and has implemented the final details of the herd's biosecurity plan. The quarantine was also released October 26, 2017.

Infected Feedlot #5

On January 25, 2017 a TB positive steer was found during routine slaughter surveillance at a slaughter plant. The infected animal was traced back to a Newaygo County feedlot using the radio frequency identification tag (RFID) on the animal. This feedlot was declared affected on February 3, 2016 and placed under quarantine. Per federal regulation the feedlot will continue to send its animals to a federally inspected slaughter plant, under seal, until empty. Once portions of the feedlot are emptied they must be cleaned by the producer, disinfected by MDARD, and permitted to sit empty for 30 days prior to being restocked. Several of the facilities utilized by this feedlot have been cleaned and disinfected and released from quarantine. 14 loads of cattle have gone to slaughter since the process began and one additional TB affected animal was found.

Infected Herd #70

One animal responded to this Alcona County beef herd's annual TB test on February 24, 2017. The animal was examined at Michigan State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory April 5, 2017 and found to have lesions compatible with Bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected on April 11, 2017. A test and removal process was begun June 5, 2017. The TB Program is working with the herd owner to improve the herd's biosecurity.

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 gates 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, 545 of the 620 active commercial farms (88%) in the present TB surveillance zone have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in place.

Because there continues to be several infected herds annually in the MAZ, the TB Program, in conjunction with the TB Advisory Committee, has been working on an Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Program that deals with the 132 herds located in the area with the most risk. These herds have been grouped into 14 clusters. Using the Epi Team approach that the TB Program has used on affected farms for years, the 132 herd owners will be given a chance to work with one of two teams that will take a more in depth look at each farm's risks and will give the producer some ideas of how to mitigate those risks. The two teams working on this effort are made up of Michigan State University Extension personnel, a wildlife biologist from either USDA-Wildlife Services or the Alpena Conservation District, a local producer, and a MDARD field staff veterinarian. The two teams have completed 55 farm assessments to date. They are finding some risks can be addressed by changing the farm's management practices. In other cases - the pressure from wildlife on either cattle feeding sites or cattle feed storage may require an investment in physical plant improvements – mainly fencing.

E. Movement Permitting Data

Below is the movement permitting data from the seven counties where movement permits are required: four Modified Accredited Zone counties (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda) – all movements require a permit; three TB Free Surveillance counties (Cheboygan, Otsego, Presque Isle) – only herds that do not have biosecurity plan in place are required to have permit to move.

	Number of Movement Permits	Number of Animals Moved
Movement Permits Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2017	1,883	8,046
Movement Permits Oct. 1 – Sept. 30, 2017	451	2,796

F. Update on Michigan's Bovine TB Status

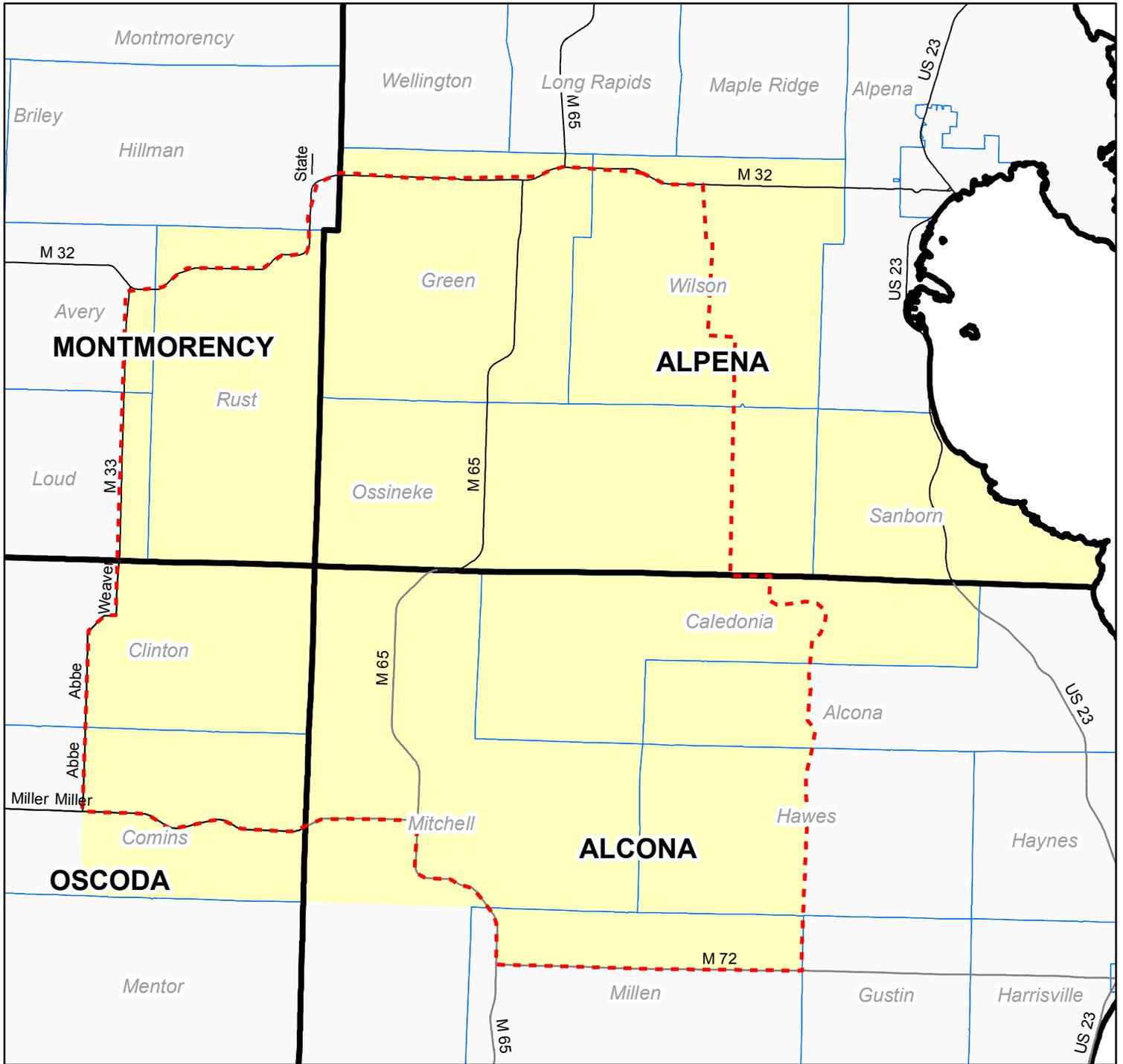
Michigan's present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USDA allows three TB affected herds in Michigan's four county Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) during a 12-month period. During 2016 there were five TB affected herds. As a result of the uptick in TB affected farms a number of high level USDA Veterinary Services (VS) officials, including Dr. Jack Shere, the Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services, visited Michigan to discuss the situation December 19-21, 2016. As a follow up to that meeting, representatives from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) met with Dr. Shere and other USDA-VS officials on August 10, 2017 at the USDA East Lansing Office to continue the discussion. During this meeting USDA-VS proposed two options to deal with the 2016 uptick in bovine TB in Michigan's Modified Accredited Zone.

- Option 1: Reclassify Michigan's MAZ to Accreditation Preparatory status for TB.
- Option 2: Rescind Michigan's current status and zones and classify the entire state as Modified Accredited.

A letter to Dr. Shere responding to the two proposals, and offering a third proposal, was sent September 29, 2017. Michigan's proposal doesn't involve any loss of status for any portion of the state, but focuses on the effort to improve biosecurity on the most at-risk farms in the MAZ, including a mandatory program of removing deer that are chronically intruding onto cattle farms. USDA discussed the matter further with Michigan on October 16, 2017. It was agreed that MDARD would draft a MOU with MDARD's proposed changes for USDA to comment on. The draft MOU was submitted to USDA on November 21, 2017. To date USDA has not provided any comments to MDARD regarding the draft MOU.

After consultation with the livestock industry and the veterinary profession it was agreed that MDARD would move ahead with the requirements to improve biosecurity in the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Area (the higher risk portion of the four county MAZ – see attached map). In short, the consensus is that the industry both in the MAZ, as well as state wide, cannot risk another spike in TB positive herds like the one that occurred in 2016. Accordingly, a draft Zoning Order has been prepared. A letter describing the changes was sent to 132 producers who raise cattle in the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Area on December 15, 2017 (see attached letter). Because there are also some proposed changes to the Zoning Order that affect Presque Isle County, a letter was sent to 118 Presque Isle producers notifying them of the changes and the two public meetings on January 23, 2018 (see attached letter). An announcement of scheduled public meeting to discuss the proposed zoning changes was put out by MDARD on December 20, 2017 (see attached announcement).

Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Boundary



Legend

- Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Zone
- DMU 452
- County Boundary
- Township Boundary
- State Hwy



Map Created By: Emily Sewell,
Alpena Conservation District
Date: November 27, 2017



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS
DIRECTOR

MONTH DATE, YEAR

PRODUCER
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE

Dear PRODUCER:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) TB Program is working to improve the level of biosecurity where we continue to find bovine tuberculosis (TB) positive deer. The recent number of positive herds has jeopardized the cattle industry in the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) and the entire state by exceeding the number allowed in Michigan's agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The core disease area (see enclosed map) within the MAZ, has even higher numbers of infected deer and positive herds. MDARD will be working with these farmers to develop stronger biosecurity plans to help protect their herds from bovine TB.

MDARD is working with the USDA to ensure that the cattle industry can continue to thrive in both the northeastern Lower Peninsula and all of Michigan. To address the risk identified in the core disease area, MDARD has proposed that in this area farms would have to be a part of the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity (EWB) Program to sell cattle outside of slaughter channels.

As a part of the EWB program, farms would work alongside a team of experts, which may include a Michigan State University Extension Agent, a MDARD veterinarian, a wildlife biologist, and a local producer. This team would assess your farm and work to develop a EWB plan designed to protect your farm from bovine TB. Over 50 herds have already volunteered to work with a team and are currently implementing a plan to protect their herd.

For herds that are not already in the process, an EWB assessment of your farm would need to be completed by June 1, 2019. Additionally, any high risks identified in your herd's EWB plan would need to be addressed prior to January 1, 2020. The Michigan legislature has allocated \$980,000 to provide cost-share funding for producers who are required to improve their on-farm wildlife biosecurity. We encourage you to request an evaluation during the spring and summer of 2018 by calling MDARD's Atlanta office at 888-565-8626 to take advantage of this cost-share funding.

Additionally, as a part of the EWB Program, USDA Wildlife Services (WS) would conduct deer removal on cattle facilities. Producers in this area would be required to allow USDA WS to check for deer activity in and around cattle and cattle facilities. If USDA WS identifies deer, they would work with producers to remove deer safely,

humanely and effectively. If producers utilize other tools to sufficiently discourage deer from living on their farm facilities, the need to have USDA WS remove deer may be minimal.

Any deer that feeds, drinks or interacts with cattle on farm facilities could be the deer that spreads bovine tuberculosis to your herd. When deer have access to food sources on farms, they change their habits and use the farm to sustain their needs, rather than living in their natural environment. By removing deer, other deer learn that your farm facilities are not a safe environment.

This removal program is currently available on a voluntary basis. If you would like to remove deer currently risking your herd's health, contact MDARD's Atlanta office at 888-565-8626.

Three public meetings will be held in the following locations to discuss these pending changes to the zoning order:

1. January 16, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Ossineke Township Hall
9041 Nicholson Hill Road
Hubbard Lake, MI 49747
2. January 17, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Hillman Community Center
24220 Veterans Memorial Hwy
Hillman, MI 49746
3. January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m.
Elmer Township Hall
863 W Kittle Rd
Mio, MI 48647

We look forward to meeting with you and working together to protect Michigan's cattle industry from bovine TB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Averill DVM". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and title.

James Averill, DVM
State Veterinarian
Animal Industry Division
Mich. Dept. of Ag and Rural Dev.



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MONTH DATE, YEAR

PRODUCER
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE

Dear PRODUCER:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) TB Program is working to improve the level of biosecurity where we continue to find bovine tuberculosis (TB) positive deer. The recent number of TB infected cattle herds has jeopardized the cattle industry in the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) and the entire state by exceeding the number allowed in Michigan's agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Although Presque Isle County is not in the Modified Accredited Zone, and there are no proposed changes to the county's Accredited Free status, there continues to be risk as demonstrated by the discovery of bovine TB infected deer almost every year.

MDARD is working with the USDA to ensure that the cattle industry can continue to thrive in both the northeastern Lower Peninsula and all of Michigan. To address the continuing risk identified in Presque Isle County, MDARD has proposed that all farms with cattle in this county would have to be a part of the Wildlife Risk Mitigation (WRM) Program to continue to sell cattle, other than directly to a slaughter plant. Additionally, as a part of an ongoing TB surveillance program each cattle herd in Presque Isle County, excluding freezer beef herds, will need to have a whole herd TB test once every three years. One-third of the herds will be selected for testing each year, on a rotating schedule.

Herds not already enrolled in the WRM program must be WRM verified by September 1, 2018, to continue to sell cattle other than directly to a slaughter plant.

Additionally, some farms may now have two WRM farm visits, based on on-farm management practices, to maintain their WRM verified status. These visits ensure that any gaps in the protection of the herd are identified as soon as possible, and assure USDA that producers are doing everything possible to protect their herds.

If you are not already enrolled in the WRM program, you can request a WRM assessment by calling MDARD's Atlanta office at 888-565-8626.

Two public meetings will be held in the following locations to discuss these pending changes to the zoning order:

1. Tuesday, January 23 at 2 p.m.
Presque Isle District Library
181 E. Erie St.
Rogers City, MI 49779
2. Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.
Allis Township Hall
W. 638 Hwy.
Onaway, MI 49765

We look forward to meeting with you and working together to protect Michigan's cattle industry from bovine TB.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Averill DVM". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James Averill, DVM
State Veterinarian
Animal Industry Division
Mich. Dept. of Ag and Rural Dev.



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
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AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS
DIRECTOR

For immediate release: December 20, 2017
Media contact: [Megan Sprague](#), 517-284-5661

MDARD to Hold Five Public Meetings Regarding Changes to Bovine Tuberculosis Zoning Order

LANSING— The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will hold three informational meetings in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural resources for cattle producers and community members in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda counties. The meetings will cover pending changes to Michigan's bovine tuberculosis zoning order and include presentations on the requirements of the proposed new zoning order, the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Program and current status of the deer herd in these counties.

Two additional meetings will be held by MDARD in Presque Isle County to discuss potential changes to Wildlife Risk Mitigation and bovine TB testing requirements.

The five meetings will be held in 2018, at the following locations:

January 16 at 7 p.m.

Ossineke Township Hall
9041 Nicholson Hill Road
Hubbard Lake, MI 49747

January 23 at 2 p.m.

Presque Isle District Library
181 E. Erie St.
Rogers City, MI 49779

January 17 at 7 p.m.

Hillman Community Center
24220 Veterans Memorial Hwy
Hillman, MI 49746

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