



**Legislative Report
April 10, 2019**

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

Act No. 207, Public Acts of 2018, Approved by the Governor June 21, 2018, EFFECTIVE DATE:
June 21, 2018

AN ACT to make appropriations
Sec. 457.

(1) On or before October 15, 2018, 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 Bovine TB Eradication Program protects citizens from exposure to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism. The Michigan Bovine TB Program was established under Public Act 466, of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, and is required by Federal Law 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 highly visible and of interest to farmers, producer groups, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is also 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 15,000 cattle producers in Michigan maintain over 1.15 million cattle each year. The Michigan program prevents farm to farm transmission of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets. The 59 dairy producers located within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) can sell Grade A milk because of the program we have in place.

Circle Testing

Currently, there are no active surveillance circles.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

On March 21, 2018, a new zoning order was signed by the Director and went into effect removing surveillance testing for Otsego and Cheboygan Counties.

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.
- Triennial testing of all non-freezer beef herds in Presque Isle County.

In the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Area, in and around DMU 452 of the MAZ, producers must do the following to sell cattle other than directly to slaughter:

- They must have signed an agreement with the USDA Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) by July 15, 2018 to allow USDA-WS to target the removal of habituated deer near their cattle facilities and pastures.
- They must allow an assessment of the farm and development of a risk mitigation plan for areas that are at a high risk for spillover of bovine TB from free-ranging white-tailed deer to their cattle. The plans must be implemented by December 31, 2019. There is cost-share money available to assist producers with fencing and other infrastructure improvements that are necessary to comply with the program.

Producers in Presque Isle County were required to have their farms Wildlife Risk Mitigation verified by September 1, 2018 to sell cattle other than directly to slaughter, including through a livestock market. All herds that sought verification were inspected. WRM verifications and inspections occur on an annual basis in Presque Isle County.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Infected Feedlot #4

On October 10, 2016, a bovine TB positive steer was found during routine slaughter surveillance at a Federally inspected slaughter plant. The infected animal was traced back to a Huron County feedlot using the Radio Frequency ID (RFID) on the animal. This feedlot was declared affected on October 25, 2016 and placed under quarantine. As of June 13, 2018, all cattle have been

slaughtered with no further finding of disease. Partial cleaning has been completed by the producer and disinfection by MDARD. A partial quarantine remains in effect pending the owner's requirement to completely clean the remaining barn. Once cleaning is finished, MDARD will disinfect the barn and after 30 days downtime, the quarantine will be released.

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 Michigan State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab 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 producer 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 was able to feed his 2016 calf crop until they were 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 2017 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. These actions allowed for the quarantine on the feed lot portion of the premises to be released on December 14, 2017. As of December 2018, all remaining animals had been removed to slaughter with no finding of disease. In February 2019, the quarantine area was reduced again to include only an outdoor area that will require downtime and sunlight the quarantine will be released when this step is completed.

Infected Herd #73

This is a large beef herd in Alcona County in which one animal was a suspect on an annual whole herd test in late August 2018. The animal was examined at MSU's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and was further tested and confirmed positive by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory by PCR. Based on finding a positive animal, the remaining cattle which had responded as suspects to the initial WHT were taken to the lab and examined. One additional animal was found positive during this testing. The herd was designated as affected on October 2, 2018. This farm is under quarantine and undergoing a test and removal plan. Two additional whole herd tests were performed, one in November 2018 and one in January 2019. No additional animals were found to have TB during the testing process. A final verification test must be completed as well as a herd plan before the quarantine can be released.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation and Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll all commercial cattle farms. MDARD asked these farmers to adopt biosecurity practices designed to 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 or
- Store feed in buildings
- Feed cattle away from deer cover
- Feed cattle daily so remaining feed doesn't attract deer
- 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, 520 of the 596 active commercial farms (87%) in the present TB surveillance zone (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties) have a verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan in place.

Because the threat of infection for herds in the MAZ, and especially in the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity area, is greater than in other areas, the TB Program, in conjunction with the TB Advisory Committee, has developed an Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Program that assists farmers to protect herds located in areas of highest risk for exposure. Using the Epi Team approach that the TB Program has used on affected farms for years, the herd owners in the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity area work with a team to take a more in depth look at each farm's risks and develop plans for mitigating those risks. The teams working on this effort are composed of Michigan State University Extension personnel, a wildlife biologist, and a MDARD field staff veterinarian. They are finding that 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 sites will require an investment in physical improvements – primarily fencing, which will be supported by cost-share funding.

Current update on EWB program is:

- Number of active commercial herds in (EWB) Area: 127
- Number of farms in EWB Area that have completed assessments: 118
- Number of farms in EWB Area that have fully implemented a biosecurity plan: 19
- State cost-share funds spent to date in the Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity Area: \$91,977
- Projects in progress, State cost-share funds estimate: \$33,065

E. Movement Permitting Data

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

| | Number of Movement Permits | Number of Animals Moved |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| MAZ (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda Counties) Permits issued January 1 – March 31, 2019 | 222 | 970 |
| TB Free Surveillance Zone (Cheboygan, Otsego, and Presque Isle Counties) Permits issued January 1 – March 31, 2019 | 10 | 43 |

F. Communications/Outreach

Informational meetings are being planned for May 2019 in the MAZ area. Topics for discussion will include updates on cattle and deer surveillance, wildlife risk biosecurity programs, and an educational topic to be determined.

in early April 2019, postcards were mailed to producers in the MAZ reminding them to be especially vigilant with wildlife biosecurity during this time of year, as at this time of the year deer are moving out of their winter areas and actively seeking food sources.

G. Update on Michigan's Bovine TB Memorandum of Understanding

Discussions to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began April 26, 2018, were delayed during the summer, and resumed in the fall of 2018. Topics included a broad outline of issues USDA wished to discuss with Michigan; cattle surveillance, deer surveillance, metrics reporting, and risk of spread of TB to the rest of the state or country. The final MOU has been approved and was signed and received by MDARD on April 15, 2019.