



**Legislative Report
July 1, 2022**

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

Act No. 87, Public Acts of 2021, approved by the Governor September 29, 2021, EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2021.

Sec. 457. (1) On or before October 15 of each year, the department shall provide the subcommittees, the fiscal agencies, and the state budget office a report on bovine TB status and department activities. 10 (2) For each fiscal quarter following the report required in subsection (1), the department shall provide an update to the subcommittees, fiscal agencies, and state budget office. The quarterly update reports shall identify significant impacts to the program, including new incidents 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 (including 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.

Table of Contents

Topic	Page
A. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities	2
B. Potential High-Risk Area Designated	2
C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds/Appropriations Bill	2
D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation and Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity	3
E. Movement Permits	4
F. Communications/Outreach Activities	4
G. Bovine TB MOU and Zoning Order	5
H. USDA APHIS VS review of Michigan's TB Program	5

A. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities

Why We Do What We Do

Michigan's Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program protects citizens from exposure to the zoonotic bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism. The 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 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, Michigan's 12,000 cattle producers and their 1.15 million cattle, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is also of high interest at the national level, as other states would close their markets to Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products if the program were reduced or eliminated. The Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Program works to prevent, detect, and respond to cases of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets for Michigan producers. Due to the effectiveness of this program, the 37 dairy producers located within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) can sell Grade A milk, and the herds in the remainder of the state (the Accredited Free Zone [AFZ]) can freely move milk because of Michigan's split-state status.

B. Potential High-Risk Area Designated

Based on the detection of bovine TB in a free-ranging white-tailed deer from Cheboygan County, a ten-mile Potential High-Risk Area was established around the location of the deer. The area was designated in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MDARD, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Effective May 25, 2022, the area includes portions of Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego counties; and all cattle and bison herds, including feedlots and Freezer Beef herds, located within the area must be tested for bovine TB within 12 months of the designation.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Infected Herd #82

A small dairy herd in Oscoda County, part of the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ), was found to be infected on January 25, 2022. This herd was identified during routine, annual whole herd surveillance testing. On January 10, 2022, one of the animals was determined to be a reactor on comparative cervical testing. This animal was sent to the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) for post-mortem examination and had lesions consistent with TB. On January 25, 2022, NVSL reported that the animal had microscopic lesions that were compatible with Mycobacteriosis and confirmed the animal as positive for bovine TB by PCR. The whole genome sequence (WGS) from the infected animal is closely related to the WGS from an infected free-ranging white-tailed deer found in Oscoda County in 2016.

A follow-up whole herd TB test was conducted in early March to help determine the extent of TB infection in this herd. One animal was a responder on this test. This herd is currently under a test-and-removal program to eliminate TB from the herd.

Appropriations Bill - Bovine TB Producer Reimbursement

A one-time appropriation of \$400,000 for reimbursement to producers maintaining livestock under a bovine TB quarantine became effective on October 1, 2021. This bill provides the department with funding for financial assistance to producers for feed, bedding, veterinary care, and electronic monitoring devices. Producers who qualify for the reimbursement are notified of their eligibility by MDARD. At this time, four eligible producers have received reimbursement from this fund, and \$348,023 remains in the fund.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation and Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation (WRM) Project began in 2008 to enroll all commercial cattle farms in the northern Lower Michigan area. Under this program, farmers implement measures that reduce cattle's exposure to bovine tuberculosis (TB) from infected free-ranging white-tailed deer.

The following steps help prevent disease transmission to cattle:

- Store feed behind a fence or in a building
- Feed cattle away from deer habitats
- Feed cattle daily, so feed is not left over
- Provide water to cattle where it cannot be contaminated by deer
- Use Disease Control Permits from MDNR to keep deer numbers down on cattle farms

Because of higher bovine TB prevalence in free-ranging white-tailed deer in the core area of the MAZ, the risk to cattle herds is greater than in other areas. Therefore, the TB Program, in conjunction with the TB Advisory Committee, developed an Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity (EWB) Program to assist farmers with protection of their herds. Herd owners in the EWB area work with specialized staff to evaluate their farm's specific risks and are provided a plan of action to mitigate the risk. Some risks may be addressed by changing the farm's management practices; while in other cases, the pressure from wildlife necessitates an investment in physical improvements – primarily fencing. Producers in the EWB area were able to participate in a 90% State / 10% Producer cost-share program to construct fences and protect feed storage facilities.

Any commercial producer in the EWB area that is not verified under this program is limited to selling cattle direct to slaughter only.

Currently, 337 of the 461 active commercial farms (73%) in the TB surveillance zone (MAZ and Presque Isle County) have a verified WRM or EWB plan in place.

Cost-Share Projects Underway

Funding from the FY 2021 budget was moved into the cost-share program to continue enhancing the protection programs. The cost-share program is a 90% State / 10% Producer payment to provide the infrastructure needed on farms to protect them from TB in deer, such as fencing off feed storage areas. In Presque Isle County, six herds are currently pursuing cost-share projects. One herd has been completed and the other is on track to receive feed security fences in July. The other four projects are still in the planning phase and should be completed yet this summer.

Eight herds in the EWB area were visited and had design improvements developed. These are all new projects identified during winter surveys from USDA Wildlife Services. In the MAZ, outside of the EWB area, infrastructure plans have been developed for seven additional herds and one was completed in May.

New MOU Opportunity

The new MOU between MDARD, USDA, and MDNR, was signed on April 20 2022. In recognition of the value the WRM and EWB programs bring to managing TB, the USDA allowed for some reduction in the surveillance testing requirements for herds in Presque Isle County that are protected to the standards set by the EWB program.

E. Movement Permits

Under the new Zoning Order, effective April 1, 2020, all movement of cattle from herds in the MAZ (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties) and from herds in the Accredited Free Zone (AFZ) county of Presque Isle require a movement permit. Below is the movement permitting data for these counties.

	Number of Movement Permits	Number of Animals Moved
MAZ (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda Counties) Permits issued April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022	217	535
TB Free Surveillance Zone (Presque Isle County) Permits issued April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022	51	95

F. Communications/Outreach

Goals:

- To ensure that cattle producers, hunters, and Michigan's citizens have a high level of trust and understanding of the TB program in Michigan and are able to support our efforts.
- To consistently provide information to cattle producers, hunters, and community members about bovine tuberculosis program activities and initiatives.

MDARD has been working to keep the informational resources for producers and the public about the details of the bovine tuberculosis (TB) program accurate and up to date. These resources are then posted to MDARD's recently created [bovine TB website](#) and/or are printed and distributed through mailings and at livestock markets.

Beyond these materials, MDARD has participated in a several of face-to-face meetings to update local producers and residents. First, on April 26 and 27, 2022, MDARD (along with USDA Wildlife Services and MDNR) hosted three Herd and Hunter meetings at various locations across the northeastern Lower Peninsula. These meetings provided updates on the status of bovine TB in Michigan and outlined the next steps the program would be taking to manage the disease. Then, on May 19, MDARD staff gave a presentation at the Michigan Dairy Conference about bovine TB in Michigan.

Later, on June 9, MDARD held a meeting in Wolverine to talk to local producers about the Potential High-Risk Area that was put in place around a TB-positive wild deer found in Cheboygan County. Lastly, on June 23, MDARD staff attended a meeting with the Northeastern Lower Peninsula region for Farm Bureau members to discuss the TB program.

In addition to these efforts, MDARD and MDNR are working on finalizing the content for an upcoming deer management newsletter and continuing to develop new ways to broaden and strengthen their communication strategies for the 2022 deer surveillance season.

G. Michigan's Bovine TB Memorandum of Understanding and Zoning Order

A [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) was signed on April 20, 2022, replacing the previous MOU that was signed on December 16, 2019. The current MOU is in effect through April 15, 2025. In addition to the herd protection changes, discussed above, the new MOU also requires testing in buffer counties, however, the area for testing is limited to a ten-mile border surrounding the MAZ (except in Cheboygan County, which has a slightly larger area). This testing will be every three years for the herds identified by township, range and section in the MOU. Finally, this MOU recognizes the use of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to identify the likely source of infection in a herd and allows for more focused epidemiology traces, which will reduce the number of herds that may need to be tested as a result.

H. USDA APHIS VS Review of Michigan's TB Program

A routine review of Michigan's TB program, to evaluate compliance with the MOU that allows Michigan to maintain split-state status, will be held the week of September 19 to 23, 2022. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services assembles a team of USDA and State Animal Health Officials to conduct these reviews. The last Michigan review was held August 24 to 28, 2020.