



Legislative Report

July 17 2008

Bovine Tuberculosis Program Update

Provided by the Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Outlook

The Michigan Legislature appropriated \$7.7 million in 2009 for bovine TB eradication activities. The Executive Budget for bovine TB requested \$8.9 million in funding to address requirements in the USDA program reviews. MDA staff is currently developing spending plans based on the \$7.7 million appropriation. Areas that still need funding include:

- Updates to information technology systems that address animal tracking and movement issues
- Risk reduction efforts targeting the highest risk herds within the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ)
- Communication activities

MDA will push forward in each of these areas as resources allow, but significant needs remain. For example, while Minnesota is spending \$3.3 million for a herd buyout and a fencing program in their bovine TB infected area involving approximately 60 herds, Michigan is initiating a prevention project with less than \$500,000 in federal funding for a portion of the MAZ that includes over 500 herds.

USDA Emergency Funding Update

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (USDA VS) requested a work plan for spending the one-time federal emergency funding. The funding can be used for bovine TB eradication activities in calendar years 2008 and 2009. The proposed MDA work plan includes approximately \$1.5 million of which approximately \$1.1 million will go to MDA's project partners to accomplish required, high priority activities.

These include:

- Increased wildlife surveillance by the DNR to meet requirements in and around Iosco and Shiawassee counties
- On-farm risk reduction activities through the cooperation of one or more local conservation districts, state and federal agencies and livestock producers
- Whole herd bovine TB testing by private practice veterinarians to meet new surveillance requirements (example: targeted surveillance program in the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone and circle testing in Shiawassee and Iosco Counties)

The remaining funds will cover activities USDA VS had agreed to fund in calendar year 2008 but no longer has resources to support.

Review Response Update Shared with USDA

MDA responded to the USDA VS 2007 reviews. While the bovine TB Eradication Program continues to document progress in addressing the problems identified, we acknowledged difficulty in the following areas:

- Obtaining sufficient monies to address all required changes
- Developing and maintaining a data program capable of documenting all MAZ cattle movement at least 95 percent of the time

The next USDA review of Michigan's program will take place in September 2008.

Bovine TB Surveillance Testing

Less than 20 herds remain to be tested in the Shiawassee County Potential High Risk Area. The Incident Management Team (IMT) began demobilizing staff and equipment from the area.

Three herds remain to be tested in the Iosco County Potential High Risk Areas. One is scheduled for testing and enforcement activities for the others are underway.

Zone	Annual Surveillance Requirement	Completed
Modified Accredited Zone	1,000 annual herd tests on individual farm anniversary dates	No herds are currently overdue for herd testing.
Modified Accredited Advanced Zone and Free Zone	Minimum of 500 higher risk herds	Update – 341 herds (includes 78* in Iosco County and 171* in Shiawassee County)

*Updated based on the most current information.

Zonal Boundary Compliance

A total of 263 livestock vehicles were processed in June through the Agriculture Inspection Station north of the Mackinac Bridge in St. Ignace. MDA staff inspected 86 vehicles containing cattle and found one possible cattle movement violation. A total of 13 vehicles drove past MDA staff without stopping. Three of these were intercepted by law enforcement patrols.

During the month of June, five vehicles were stopped by MSP Traffic Safety Officers while conducting surveillance between the MAZ and MAAZ borders.

Compliance Cases:

Names of individuals refusing to abide by bovine TB eradication requirements were turned over to the MDA compliance office in June. Of these cases, MDA will hold hearings on two in July, one received a warning letter, one came into compliance for testing, and 12 are still pending investigation.

There were 208 movement permits issued from MAZ premises.

Market Surveillance

There were 103 movement permits for cattle leaving the MAZ livestock market in June.

Slaughter Surveillance and Slaughter Verification

There were 10,207 head of Michigan cattle scanned at USDA Food Safety Inspection Service slaughter plants in June.

Education and Outreach

The Michigan Cattlemen's Summer Round-up was held in Alpena on June 20 and 21, 2008. MDA, Michigan State Police, and USDA Wildlife Services were featured on the program.

On July 7, 2008, local MAZ hunt clubs and producers met to discuss ways to make the bovine TB eradication program more effective.

MDA bovine TB eradication staff met with Michigan Farm Bureau's dairy advisory committee on June 25, 2008 to provide an update and to get input on future directions for the program.

During the summer months, signage indicating the zonal requirements for cattle producers will be posted on highways and roads between the MAAZ and MAZ. The signs communicate movement certificate, testing, and animal identification requirements to persons moving cattle between zones.

A bovine TB scientific meeting will be July 23-24, 2008 at MSU's James B. Henry Center. Funded by USDA and organized by the Michigan Department of Community Health's interagency bovine TB eradication coordinator, this meeting is an opportunity for researchers, program specialists, and livestock producers to share and discuss research and policy on bovine TB.

Staff from MDA's Animal Industry and Environmental Stewardship Divisions participated with staff from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and USDA (Wildlife Services, and Natural Resource Conservation Service) to field test risk assessments on three herds located in and around Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452. Two of the herds were previously infected with bovine TB and the herd owners are interested in identifying additional measures to reduce the risk of re-infection. The assessments will be part of an initiative to provide livestock producers in northeastern Michigan with technical assistance and limited cost share money to implement wildlife risk reduction measures.

Bovine TB issues in the media:

06/17/08 -- Minnesota Bovine TB Restrictions in Place

<http://the-farmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=34345&fpstid=2>

06/15/08 - Animal ID

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20080615/NEWS03/651448221>

06/05/08 -- Bovine TB cases in Hispanic immigrants in Southern California and the San Diego County.

http://www.themedguru.com/articles/illegal_unpasteurized_dairy_products_spring_up_rare_tb_in_california-7324218.html

Of special interest:

Two Lower Michigan dairy herds in Newaygo County must be tested because they either sold animals to, or received animals from two Californian herds infected with bovine TB. The strain typing from the California herds is not complete, but preliminary reviews of records indicate there should be no match to the Michigan bovine TB strain.

A large dairy herd will cost MDA approximately \$85,000 to test. In this case, MDA's mandate for electronic identification in all Michigan cattle will save the producer and government several days of effort in data entry, tracing and testing. Use of gamma interferon tests, developed and approved by USDA as a result of research in Michigan,

will allow whole herd testing to be completed without requiring the dairy cattle to be handled a third time.