

USDA Approves Michigan's Split-State TB Status

Elwood Kirkpatrick
President



From the time Michigan recognized a problem with Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in 1994, the state's dairy and beef producers have had to deal with the ramifications of raising cattle in a state with lowered TB accreditation. After many years, Michigan has finally received federal split-state TB status.

On April 19, the USDA published the decision to grant Michigan split-state status in the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Register (*Vol. 69; No. 75*). The final rule amends current TB regulations by establishing two separate zones with different TB risk classifications in Michigan.

The USDA decision raises the majority of Michigan's TB classification to Modified Accredited Advanced. This status may make it easier for producers in most of the state to market their cattle and embryos across state lines. Individual states still have the option to implement more stringent requirements on cattle from Michigan, but the Modified Accredited Advanced status should help to curb any objections.

The approved plan differs slightly from Michigan's current TB plan, which utilizes three zones: Infected, Surveillance and Disease Free. The new plan establishes two zones: Modified

Accredited, which covers the former Infected and Surveillance zones with an addition of three counties; and Modified Accredited Advanced, which covers the remaining counties of the state including the Upper Peninsula. The new plan also provides consistency between state and federal terminology, designations and requirements.

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) officials plan to implement split-state status on June 1. For a complete copy of the zoning order and other information pertaining to Michigan's TB status, contact MDA at (800) 292-3939, or visit www.michigan.gov/mda.

Following are many of the requirements producers will need to follow in the two TB zones:

Modified Accredited Zone

The Modified Accredited Zone is made up of areas that have found TB cases or border those areas. It includes the entire area of the following counties: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle. It also covers portions of Iosco and Ogemaw counties that are north of the southernmost boundaries of the Huron National Forest and the Au Sable State Forest.

An annual whole herd TB test must be conducted on all cattle 12 months of age and older in this zone. A herd retest must be performed within 9-15 months of the anniversary date of the initial whole herd test. Feedlots where all animals are sold for direct slaughter are exempt from the annual whole herd test requirement.

All cattle in this zone must be identified with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) electronic ear tags prior to movement within the Modified Accredited zone.

Movement within and out of the Modified Accredited Zone requires a movement permit that can be obtained through a Web based permit system accessible 24 hours a day at www.nationalfair.com. Producers will need to have a premises identification number to access the site. Premises ID's can be obtained at the MDA Atlanta office, (888) 565-8626 or (989) 785-5616. Movement permits are also available in the Atlanta office during normal business hours.

In addition to the permit, one of the following is required to move cattle within the zone: proof of a negative TB test within 60 days prior to movement, proof the animal comes directly from a TB accredited free herd, or, proof the

Continued on page 17

Plain Talk – Continued from page 3

animal comes from a herd that has received a whole herd test within 60 days prior to movement. There are testing exceptions for cattle less than 2 months of age and those going directly to slaughter.

Modified Accredited Advanced Zone

The Modified Accredited Advanced Zone covers all areas in the Upper and Lower peninsulas of Michigan that aren't in the Modified Accredited Zone.

All cattle in the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone must be marked with official identification — either metal TB ear tags or a RFID.

Each herd in the zone must obtain a "premises identification number" so they can be placed in a database that randomly selects herds for TB testing. Herds selected for whole herd testing must have all cattle 18 months of age or older tested within 90 days of notification. Premises identification numbers may be obtained by contacting the MDA Animal Industry Division at (517) 373-1077

Movement within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone does not require a permit. However, moving sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older cattle from that zone into the Modified Accredited Zone requires a copy of the official accredited herd letter or official bovine tuberculosis test chart.

Checkpoints are set up at the Mackinaw Bridge to ensure all cattle crossing either to or from the Upper

Peninsula have met movement requirements. MDA or USDA personnel are currently operating at the bridge in an educational capacity to help individuals comply with these requirements.

We will keep you updated on TB in Michigan through this column and other communications. If you have any questions, you may contact me in the Novi office.

Edward Kirkpatrick



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