

Changes to National TB Rules will Affect Michigan Cattle Owners

The Michigan cattle industry has been working toward the eradication of bovine tuberculosis (TB) since it was first identified in a free-ranging white-tailed deer in northeastern lower Michigan in 1995. Since that time, the disease has been identified in 40 cattle herds, two privately owned cervid herds, free-ranging white-tailed deer, and other wildlife species within the current Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) of Michigan.

The current eradication program has resulted in confinement of the disease to the MAZ, significant decrease in the apparent prevalence of TB in the wildlife population, and the reinstatement of TB Free Status in the Upper Peninsula and Modified Accredited Advance Zone (MAAZ) status in the majority of lower Michigan.

Recent changes in the national TB eradication program require

that the current zoning order, which contains identification, testing, and permitting requirements in relation to TB, needs to be updated. As these changes and other modifications to the TB eradication program are implemented, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has indicated that it would consider reinstating TB Free Status for the current MAAZ area of lower Michigan. Achieving this status not only benefits the cattle industry through lowered costs and easing of restrictions on movement, but will also allow more resources to be focused on the area of Michigan that still has the disease present.

Proposed changes effective on March 1, 2007:

1. Electronic identification ear tags will be required for movements of cattle from farms.
2. Certificates of movement will

be required for cattle from herds in the MAAZ or TB Free Zones, prior to being moved to other zones within Michigan (only if moving to another zone; not if moving within an MAAZ or TB Free Zone).

3. The testing age for sexually intact cattle moving from an MAAZ will be 6 months of age and older. Cattle moving in approved feeder or slaughter channels or to a Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) approved slaughter facility will remain exempt from testing.

The current TB surveillance program that requires testing of 750 cattle herds in the MAAZ, and 25 herds in the TB Free Zone, will continue for one more year.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has scheduled the following informational sessions to discuss these changes.

DATE	TIME	ADDRESS	PHONE
January 16	7:00 p.m EST	Tulppo's Motel Restaurant & Bar Corner M-28 & M-45 Bruce Crossing, Michigan 49912	(906) 827-3555
January 17	1:00 p.m. CST	Menominee Co. Extension Office S904 US-41 Stephenson, Michigan 49887	(906) 753-2209
January 17	7:00 p.m EST	MSU Cooperative Extension Office 2840 College Avenue Escanaba, Michigan 49829	(906) 786-3032
January 18	1:00 p.m. EST	Bruce Township Hall 3156 E. 12 Mile Road Dafter, Michigan 49724	(906) 635-3058
January 25	12:00 noon	Fraternal Order of Eagles 515 S. Wisconsin Gaylord, Michigan 49735	(989) 732-2921
January 25	7:00 p.m	Quality Inn / Forwards Conference Center 2980 Cook Road (exit 212 off I-75) West Branch, Michigan 48661	(989) 345-3503
January 29	6:30 p.m.	Kalamazoo Community Education Center 714 South Westnedge Avenue Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007	(616) 337-0461
January 30	1:00 p.m.	Doherty Hotel and Conference Center 604 North McEwan Clare, Michigan 48617	1-800-525-4115
January 30	6:30 p.m.	Clare Primary School 205 East Wheaton Avenue Clare, Michigan 48617	(989) 386-3438