

Changes Proposed to Bovine Tuberculosis Zoning Order

– MDA accepting public comment through December 15

A proposed zoning order to revise Michigan's bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication zones was presented to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture at its November 9, 2005 meeting. An update to the zoning order is necessary to reflect the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) interim rule, posted in the federal register September 30, 2005, designating Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) as bovine TB-free.

"The bovine TB-free designation for the U.P. is a tremendous step forward in our effort to achieve TB-free status for the entire state," said Mitch Irwin, MDA director. "Under proposed changes, our U.P. producers will see a reduction in testing requirements, and associated costs, for the movement of livestock within Michigan and to other states that recognize this status change."

Proposed changes to the zoning order include:

- Elimination of mandatory TB testing requirements for cattle

originating from farms in the U.P.

- In the Modified Accredited Zone, animals will be allowed to move to approved terminal operations outside of the Modified Accredited Zone without individual animal tests.

- Introduction of a Movement Tracking Certificate for cattle moved from the TB-free or Modified Accredited Advanced zones to other zones in Michigan.

Also included are proposed changes to animal identification and increased livestock movement monitoring authority at the Livestock and Plant Inspection Point at the Mackinac Bridge and other checkpoints.

"Michigan has received recognition from other states for the progress we have made in eradicating this disease from our cattle herds," said Dr. Steve Halstead, State Veterinarian and MDA Animal Industry Division Director. "This is the first area in Michigan to regain bovine TB-free status since the entire state was desig-

nated as Modified Accredited in 2000."

MDA hosted public educational sessions and hearings across the state in November and will host more in December to receive industry input on the proposed zoning order. Public comment will also be accepted at the December 7, 2005, meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture in Grand Rapids. In addition, written comments are encouraged and will be accepted until 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15, 2005. Comments may be submitted to Brad Deacon, MDA Hearings Officer, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909; via e-mail MDA-Info@michigan.gov; or via fax at (517) 335-1423.

A copy of the proposed zoning order, public hearing information and other information about Michigan's Bovine TB Eradication Project are available at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases or contact the MDA Animal Industry Division at (517) 373-1077.

Learn Herd Health Strategies at MSU Extension Program

From establishing vaccination programs to controlling Johne's disease, dairy producers face numerous animal health issues. They can learn to deal with these and other challenges at the 2006 Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Dairy Team's winter meeting, set for nine locations during January and February. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in each location.

"Producers are barraged with information from many sources about many topics," says Ira Krupp, MSU Extension educator based in Coldwater. "We want to give them the chance to hear from Extension specialists, from other educators and from veterinarians

about how to tackle some of their most pressing herd health issues."

The program will include a presentation about vaccines and how they work and a talk about building biosecurity awareness on the farm.

Johne's disease is an issue that both dairy and cow-calf producers face, so beef producers may choose to attend the second half of the program, beginning at 1 p.m.

The registration fee, which includes lunch and materials, is \$30 for the first participant from each farm and \$20 for each additional participant from the same operation. Producers who choose to attend the afternoon session only (lunch not included) will pay

\$20 per person and \$10 for each additional person from the same farm. Fees are due 10 days before each meeting date.

To register or receive more information, contact the Eaton County MSU Extension office by calling (517) 543-2310.

Dates and Locations

January 24 in Stephenson
January 25 in Alpena
January 26 in West Branch
February 7 in Cadillac
February 8 in Mt. Pleasant
February 9 in DeWitt
February 14 in Ubly
February 15 in Hillsdale
February 16 in Howard City