



Quality Watch

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USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Changes TB Eradication Program

Historically, producers with herds infected with bovine tuberculosis were encouraged to totally depopulate their herds to eliminate sources of infection and were provided indemnity payments to do so. In addition to depopulating TB infected herds, states completed an epidemiologic investigation within 90 days of TB detection. Unless this investigation revealed that the disease had not spread, the state would lose its accredited-free status. Also, states would be reclassified to a lower status if two or more herds were found to be infected with TB over the course of a 48 month period. In instances where states were reclassified to a status lower than accredited-free, herds were subjected to additional testing, etc. to move their cattle over state lines.

Today, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has reevaluated this approach to TB management and eradication. In many cases, herds are no longer recommended to be depopulated. As herds get larger, it may make more sense to quarantine the herd and test and remove infected animals, especially when one considers the changing public perception of animal welfare and well-being and the environmental challenges of large scale carcass disposal. Additionally, funding for indemnity payments will likely be limited. It has been reported that since 2002, USDA has spent about \$90 million on TB management and eradication.

To reflect this new approach to dealing with TB, USDA's APHIS

issued a Federal Order on April 15, 2010. In states where TB is present, the new Federal Order will make it easier for producers in non-infected areas to move their cattle over state lines when certain conditions are met. This temporary measure will be in effect for the next two years and can be extended by APHIS until new TB regulations are adopted. The Federal Order will:

- End the automatic downgrade of an accredited-free state or zone to a modified accredited advanced state or zone when TB-affected herds are found, as long as the state meets certain criteria for preventing the spread of the disease.

- End movement restrictions for cattle and bison that are not known to be infected with or exposed to TB from modified accredited advanced states or zones, as long as the state meets certain criteria for preventing the spread of the disease.

- Provide for increased surveillance in part or all of a state or zone and/or movement restrictions as required by the APHIS Administrator to address risks from TB in wildlife or under other circumstances to prevent the spread of TB.

This means that under the new Federal Order, producers may be able to move animals over state lines from what has been historically classified as Modified Accredited Advanced States or Zones (not Modified Accredited) if the APHIS Administrator determines that:

- All TB infected herds are held under quarantine.

- The spread of TB is prevented through implementation of a herd plan for each TB infected herd.

- Quarantined animals are periodically tested for TB and those that do not test negative are removed and destroyed.

- Adequate surveillance is conducted to determine whether TB is present in other herds or species.

Additional surveillance may be required or interstate movement may be restricted to address TB risks from wildlife or any other reason the APHIS Administrator deems appropriate to prevent the spread of TB.

What does this mean for Michigan?

With the Federal Order changes, some movement requirements have changed in some parts of the state. However, due to the level of TB found in Michigan's wildlife, the new Federal Order does not lift the restrictions of interstate movement of Michigan cattle in some zones.

The Bovine Tuberculosis Free Zone (the entire Upper Peninsula) maintains the same cattle identification requirement (RFID eartags) and surveillance testing requirements that were in place prior to the change in the Federal Order. No TB testing or movement certificate is required to move cattle within the TB free zone or to any other zone in Michigan. Interstate shipping of cattle is also allowed.

There are no changes in cattle identification, surveillance testing or movement requirements in the

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Modified Accredited Zone (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, Presque Isle, and portions of Iosco and Ogemaw counties north of the southernmost boundaries of the Huron National Forest and the Au Sable State Forest). It appears that TB testing and movement certificates will be a part of your life for the foreseeable future if you are a producer in this area.

Producers in the MAZ and MAAZ Subzone 1 are strongly encouraged to implement a Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan if they have not already done so. In addition to reducing the risk of disease transference from deer to cattle, it may reduce the testing obligations of anyone purchasing their cattle. Producers who purchase breeding cattle from this area must test the purchased cattle within 60 - 120 days of the date noted on the movement certificate unless the seller has a Verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan. This year, the requirement extends to the sale of feeder cattle in the highest TB risk area (the entirety of Montmorency County, Alcona County with the exception of Harrisville, and Greenbush townships, Alpena County with the exception of Long Rapids and Alpena townships, and Oscoda County with the exception of Elmer and Big Creek townships). This requirement will extend to the remainder of the MAZ in 2011.

In response to the new Federal Order, Michigan Department of Agriculture's Director, Don Koivisto, amended Michigan's Zoning Order to add a benefit to those in Modified Accredited Advanced Zone Subzone 1 (Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, and Otsego counties) who have a Verified Wildlife Risk Mitigation Action Plan. Those herds with a Plan are no longer required to TB test prior to moving cattle to the MAZ or within the MAAZ Subzones 1, 2,

or 3. According to the new Zoning Order, cattle movement to the TB Free Zone has some restrictions, however:

- Sexually intact [breeding] cattle 6 months of age or older must meet one of the following prior to movement:

- Originate directly from a bovine tuberculosis accredited free herd, or,

- Originate directly from a herd that has been winter verified as Wildlife Risk Mitigated by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and has completed a negative whole herd bovine tuberculosis test concurrent or subsequent to the winter verification.

- Receive a negative bovine tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to movement.

- Cattle less than 6 months of age, steers and spayed heifers of any age, or cattle moving to an United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service approved slaughter plant or through one Michigan licensed livestock auction market prior to movement to an United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service approved slaughter plant, do not need to meet tuberculosis movement testing requirements prior to movement.

- Sexually intact heifers that are moving to an approved feedlot as defined in Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules, Effective January 1, 2005, do not need to meet tuberculosis movement testing requirements prior to movement.

Herds in the MAAZ Subzone 1 without a Wildlife Risk Mitigation Plan have additional testing requirements prior to movement.

- Cattle 2 months of age and older must have received a negative bovine tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to movement.

- Cattle may be moved to a United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service approved slaughter plant, or through one Michigan licensed livestock auction market to a United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service approved slaughter plant, without meeting tuberculosis movement testing requirements.

Cattle identification, surveillance testing, and movement certificate requirements will remain in place for all herds in the MAAZ Subzone 1. At this point, due to the presence of TB in the deer population, interstate shipping is still restricted from this zone.

There are no changes in the cattle identification, surveillance testing, or movement certificate requirements for producers in the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone Subzones 2 and 3 (all of the Lower Peninsula not included in the MAZ or MAAZ Subzone 1). However, as a result of the new Federal Order, movement testing requirements have been relaxed. As before, no TB testing is required to move cattle within the MAAZ. The same is also true for moving cattle from the MAAZ Subzone 2 and 3 to any other zone within the state of Michigan. The new Federal Order also allows for interstate movement of cattle from these two zones. However, other states may institute their own requirements for receiving Michigan cattle. Because of this, it is a good idea to contact the receiving state to understand and comply with their requirements or restrictions prior to shipping.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at the Novi office. You may also contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 517-373-1077. MMPA will keep you posted on any changes as they develop.

