



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis in California

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from California.

Bovine TB was confirmed in a Tulare County dairy herd in May 2002. The herd was quarantined by the CDFA, tested for TB three times, and all test-positive cattle were destroyed. All cattle sold from or associated with the herd over the last five years have been traced and tested. In November, the whole herd was sent to slaughter and the property thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The premises were released from quarantine after approval of the State TB epidemiologist.

Update

Traceback of a TB-infected cow found in September 2002 at a California slaughterhouse pointed to a dispersed beef herd from Tulare County. However, DNA analysis indicates the cow was most likely a dairy cow. This investigation is ongoing.

In October 2002, a single TB-infected cow was identified in a Tulare County dairy herd tested while investigating the first affected dairy. The dairy was quarantined and depopulated during March 2003.

A TB-infected cow found at a California slaughterhouse in late December 2002 led to a Kings County dairy herd being classified as California's third TB-infected herd. Funding is being sought to depopulate this herd.

Testing

As of March 9, 2003, 198,854 cattle in 140 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and nearly 8,000 cattle have been slaughtered.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Herds tested	140
Number of animals tested	198,854
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	7,954
Average number of field personnel	15

As of February 2003, we recommended a TB test on exhibition dairy cattle more than six months of age from Tulare, Kings and Fresno Counties. Documentation of a negative test is good for the 2003 fair season.

Since June 2002, all dairy breeding animals more than six months of age leaving California need a negative TB test within 30 days of movement.

Impact on California's TB-Free Status

The USDA assigns various status levels to a state under the bovine TB eradication program: Accredited Free, Modified Accredited Advanced, Modified Accredited, Accreditation Preparatory or Non-Accredited.

The USDA will downgrade California's status from TB-Free to Modified Accredited Advanced because a second TB-affected herd was identified within 48 months of the first herd. *The State status will change when the regulation is published in the Federal Register.*

This new status will require all California breeding cattle to have official identification and a negative TB test within 60 days of interstate movement OR originate from a TB Accredited-Free herd (mandatory annual TB testing) OR move directly to slaughter.

The USDA is reviewing its regulations for a state's TB status, and will publish a new regulation in 2003.

Plans

California is reviewing its TB control and surveillance options with the cattle industry. Current plans include:

- Continue testing all dairy herds in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties.
- Require a TB test before importing dairy cattle into California.
- Restrict Mexican cattle to "pre-approved" pastures.
- Finalize agreements with neighboring states to ease annual TB testing requirements on "commuter cattle". The draft pasture agreement requires breeding beef cattle to be TB tested within 12 months of the change in state status, and subsequently tested every 3 years while California is less than TB-Free.

CDFA Animal Health Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158
CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Offices	
Stockton	209-466-7186
Oakland	510-622-4810
Fresno	559-445-5506
Ontario	909-923-9929
USDA/APHIS/VS	
916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690	