

Cattle Producer Update



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis in California

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), 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 herd was sent to slaughter and the premises thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The premise was released from quarantine after approval of the state TB epidemiologist.

A TB-positive cow was found at a California slaughterhouse during September 2002. The investigation into the source of this cow is ongoing, but indicates a dispersed beef herd from Tulare County.

A complete herd test of a dairy herd in Tulare County identified a single reactor animal in October 2002. While preliminary laboratory results are positive for TB, final culture results from a USDA laboratory are pending. As a precaution, the dairy was quarantined - the second herd quarantined for TB in California. *The USDA classified this second quarantined dairy herd as an infected herd in December 2002.*

To date, 152,875 cattle in 101 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and nearly 8,000 cattle have been slaughtered during this investigation.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Herds tested	101
Number animals tested	152,875
Number of herds quarantined	2
Number cattle destroyed	7,857
Average number field personnel	15

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. This requirement does not apply to beef cattle at this time.

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 announced in December that it will downgrade California's status from TB-Free to Modified Accredited Advanced because a second herd was identified within 48 months of the first herd. *The State status will not change until this 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 currently reviewing its regulations used to determine a state's TB status, and will publish a new regulation this year.

Plans

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

- Test all dairy herds in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno counties.
- Require a TB test before importing dairy cattle into California.
- Restrict Mexican cattle to approved pastures.
- Develop agreements with neighboring states to ease annual testing requirements on "commuter cattle".

CDFA Animal Health Branch 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
www.cdfa.ca.gov	

CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch Offices	
Stockton	209-466-7186
Oakland	510-622-4810
Fresno	559-445-5506
Ontario	909-923-9929

United States Department of Agriculture	
916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690	