



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## Bovine Tuberculosis in California

On April 25, 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) lowered California's tuberculosis (TB) status from TB "accredited-free" to TB "modified accredited advanced" because three TB-affected herds were detected within a 48-month period.

### Update

Since May 2002, bovine TB has been confirmed in three California dairy herds. Two herds were located in **Tulare** county and one herd in **Kings** county. All herds were quarantined, test-positive cattle were destroyed, and the remainder of the herds depopulated. **California can reapply for accredited-free status in April 2005, provided no additional infected herds are detected.**

Investigation of a TB-infected cow found in September 2002 at a California slaughterhouse is ongoing.



Location of depopulated dairies

USDA personnel working in California slaughterhouses detected two of the three infected herds. In 2002, 647 samples were collected from CA slaughterhouses for TB surveillance.

The USDA awards \$6,000 to slaughterhouse personnel who detect a newly infected herd.

As of May 30, 2003, 324,493 cattle in 208 herds have been tested for bovine TB

since this investigation began, and about 13,000 cattle have been depopulated.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Number of herds tested	208
Number of animals tested	324,493
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

### Impact on California

With the downgrade from TB-free to modified accredited advanced, all sexually intact cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a certificate stating that they were negative to an official TB test done within 60 days prior to the date of movement unless moved:

- ≠ To slaughter at an approved slaughtering establishment;
- ≠ From an accredited herd and accompanied by a certificate stating that the accredited herd completed the testing necessary for accredited status with negative results within one year prior to the date of movement.

**The new TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots, or steers and spayed heifers, until September 30, 2003. However, some states may have more restrictive policies for moving feeder cattle. Always check with the state of destination for their TB test requirements.**

Agreements developed with neighboring states ease the TB testing requirements on breeding beef cattle moving interstate annually for grazing on an approved Pasture-to-Pasture permit. Breeding beef cattle 24 months of age and older require a TB test within 12 months of application for the permit, and subsequently every three years to continue to move annually while California is less than TB-free.

### Plans and Progress

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), USDA, and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine TB from California. Current plans to enhance the California TB program include:

- ≠ Continue testing all 677 dairy herds in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties (~773,000 milking cows), prioritizing dairies that recently received out-of-state cattle. Testing in Fresno County is nearly completed and should confirm the TB-free status of Fresno County.
- ≠ Require a TB test before importing dairy cattle into California.

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
CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch 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	