



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

Since May 2002, California confirmed bovine TB in three dairy herds - two in Tulare County and one in Kings County. All three herds were quarantined, the cattle destroyed and the affected premises cleaned and disinfected. Cattle sold from or associated with each herd are being traced and tested.

On April 25, 2003, California was classified as **TB Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA)**, and can reapply for accreditation-free status in April 2005, provided no additional infected herds are detected.

Update

As of September 30, 2003, 500,522 cattle in 375 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	375
Number of animals tested	500,522
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

TB Across the U.S.

During 2003, 11 new TB-infected herds were diagnosed in the U.S. (4 beef and 7 dairy herds). Nine of these herds have been depopulated, while two New Mexico dairy herds and two Michigan dairy herds are quarantined and routinely tested to remove infected cattle. Forty-six states are now classified as Accredited TB-Free, three are MAA and one is Modified Accredited.

National TB Program

On October 14, 2003, the National TB Committee met at the United States Animal Health Association's Annual Convention and proposed changes to the national TB eradication program.

Surveillance for TB in both live animals and at slaughter was discussed. A standard for slaughter surveillance was adopted; 5 granulomas submitted per 10,000 adult cattle slaughtered. A standard for veterinarians testing live cattle was also adopted; 1% caudal-fold responders are expected. The state's classification may be affected if these minimum standards are not met.

Impact on Livestock Producers

All breeding cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a negative official TB test within 60 days of being moved, unless they are:

- Moved to slaughter at an approved slaughter plant,
- From an accredited herd with a certificate showing the herd completed all testing for accredited status with negative results within one year before moving.

The new TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots or steers and spayed heifers until **March 2004**. However, some states have more restrictive policies for moving cattle - always check with the state of destination for their requirements.

Agreements developed with neighboring states ease the TB testing requirements on breeding beef cattle moving interstate annually for grazing on approved Pasture-to-Pasture permits. 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 until California's TB status changes.

As of August 15, 2003, California requires a TB test on all breeding dairy cattle entering the State.

California's Eradication Plan

CDFA, USDA and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine TB from California. The current plan includes:

- Test all dairies in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties (approximately 773,000 milking cows in 700 herds)
- Enhance slaughter surveillance, the primary method for detecting new cases of bovine TB, throughout California
- Enhance live animal testing procedures through training and education
- Restrict Mexican feeder cattle to "designated" pastures/feedlots (proposed for 2004 import season)
- Regain "Free" status by 2005

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
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Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158

USDA/APHIS/VS 916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690