



Bovine TB



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

A large California dairy herd was determined to be infected with bovine TB in January 2008 after a TB-infected cow was found during routine slaughter surveillance. CDFA and USDA personnel are investigating contacts with this herd and working closely with the dairy owners to eradicate disease from the herd and avoid possible spread.

California regained its TB Accredited Free Status on April 15, 2005, two years after bovine TB was detected in three central valley dairy herds. California will maintain its Free status as long as no additional herds are detected within the next two years and the affected herd is depopulated.

California Surveillance

California is maintaining and demonstrating its freedom from bovine TB through movement controls and surveillance. All of California's major adult cattle packing plants exceed or are near target surveillance levels. Nearly 773,000 adult cattle slaughtered in California in 2007* were inspected for TB; 2,000 suspicious samples were submitted for evaluation (1,408 submitted to CAHFS labs), and all but three were negative for TB.

Last year, two of the three *Mycobacterium bovis* positive granulomas submitted from California plants came from feedlot steers that originated in Mexico. Two additional feedlot cases, killed in other states, were also traced from California to Mexico in 2007. The third positive granuloma came from a cow sold by a newly infected New Mexico dairy.

Testing live cattle is also crucial for maintaining free status. In 2007, private veterinarians did over 84,000 caudal fold tuberculin tests in California, and had 348 responders (0.41%). Continued vigilance, including preventing contact between breeding cattle and Mexican origin cattle, is necessary to ensure California remains free of bovine TB.

National Surveillance

Nationally, private practitioners did over 960,000 caudal fold tuberculin tests in 2007. More than 12,500 cattle, or about 1.3%, were positive on the initial skin test and negative on further evaluation for bovine TB.

Slaughter surveillance continued to improve in 2007. Forty plants, located in 20 states, killed 95.7% of the adult slaughter cattle; all but three of these plants met or exceeded targeted surveillance levels. Over 10,000 suspicious samples were submitted nationally in 2007; 24 were positive for bovine TB and nine for other mycobacteria.

National TB Report*

Between 2005 and 2008, there have been 25 newly affected and exposed cattle herds, and three existing herds that were affected before 2005 (one in New Mexico and two in Michigan). Four affected herds were detected in 2005 (one in Arizona and three in Minnesota). Nine herds were detected in 2006 (two in Minnesota and seven in Michigan), and three exposed herds (two in Texas and one in Kansas). In 2007, seven affected herds were detected; two each in Minnesota and Michigan, and one each in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado. In 2008, one dairy in California and two beef herds in Minnesota were detected.

TB Infected Herds in the US - Update*

Colorado: One affected herd was detected in 2007 after an infected rodeo bull was found during routine slaughter surveillance in Texas. This herd was depopulated.

Michigan: One small dairy and a captive cervid ranch were detected and depopulated in 2007. Seven affected herds were detected and depopulated in 2006 (five beef and two dairy). Two of these herds were outside the endemic zone and another herd was a re-infection. Two dairy herds detected in 2004 continue a test-and-removal plan. Since 1995, 525 infected whitetail deer have been detected from over 145,000 examined. Michigan has three TB zones: Free, Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) and Modified Accredited (MA).

Minnesota: Nine affected beef herds have been detected from 2005 -2008; three in 2005, two in 2006, two in 2007, and two in 2008. All affected herds detected before 2008 have been depopulated. Thirteen cases of bovine TB have been confirmed in Minnesota whitetail deer. Minnesota is classified as Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA).

New Mexico: One large affected dairy herd was detected and depopulated in 2007; over 300 traces out of this dairy were done throughout the U.S. One affected dairy herd detected in 2003 remains under a test-and-removal plan. New Mexico has split-state status (Free and MAA).

Oklahoma: One beef herd was detected by slaughter surveillance and was depopulated in 2007.

Texas: No new herds were found in 2007. The last known infected herd was depopulated in September 2004; Texas was declared TB free in September 2006.

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* All references to years refer to the Federal TB Fiscal Year: October 1 – September 30. We are now in FY08, which goes from 10/1/07 to 9/30/08.