



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

CDFA and USDA personnel continue investigating herds that received cattle from or sold cattle to a Fresno County dairy herd detected with bovine TB (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in January 2008. The herd was detected when a sample collected from a cow during routine slaughter inspection in December 2007 was positive for TB.

The investigation of this affected herd led to a cow in a second Fresno County dairy herd that had lesions suggestive of TB. Culture results from this cow are expected in early June 2008. A third Fresno County dairy herd is also under investigation; it contained a cow from the affected herd with suspicious lesions on slaughter; culture results are also expected in June 2008.

TB Testing & Cattle Culled To Date		
	# Herds	# Cattle
Affected Herds	1	~5,000
Tested Herds	~100	>122,000
Depopulated Cattle	---	775

California will lose its TB Free status if a second affected herd is detected within 48 months of detecting the first herd, or if the affected herd is not depopulated. Loss of status will impose additional testing requirements on cattle moving out of state. California last lost its Free status in April 2003 after detecting three bovine TB-affected central valley dairy herds.

To prevent the spread of bovine TB, cattle producers must prevent contact between their breeding cattle and Mexican-origin cattle. In addition, dairy cattle imported from other states require a negative test before entering California. Producers should maintain permanent identification of animals and keep records of animal movements into and out of their herd.

Bovine TB is a potential human health hazard; people who drink raw milk and eat raw milk cheeses from infected animals are at most risk. Infected humans may spread TB back to cattle through sputum or urine.

California Surveillance*

Surveillance relies on private veterinarian testing and on slaughter surveillance. Last year, nearly 773,000 adult cattle slaughtered in California were inspected for TB; 2,000 suspicious samples were submitted for evaluation and all but three were negative for TB.

In 2007, private veterinarians did over 84,000 tuberculin skin tests in California, and had 348 responders (0.41% response rate); all were negative for TB.

National TB Report*

In April 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made \$16.8 million in emergency funds available to continue bovine TB eradication efforts in California, Michigan and Minnesota. This money will be used to depopulate known affected herds, to prevent disease spread and to provide indemnity to producers. The funding also will be used for enhanced surveillance to identify affected herds and to determine the source of infection. Between 2000 and 2008, 71 newly affected herds were detected in the U.S.; 28 were detected between 2005 and now.

Arizona: One affected herd detected in 2005 was depopulated.

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: Since 1998, 44 cattle herds and 2 cervid herds have been detected. Since 1995, 593 infected whitetail deer have been detected from over 161,897 examined. Infection has also been found in elk, coyotes, raccoons, black bears, bobcats, red foxes, and opossums. Michigan has three TB zones: Free, Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) and Modified Accredited (MA).

Minnesota: Eleven affected beef herds have been detected: 3 in 2005, 2 in 2006, 2 in 2007, and 4 in 2008. Minnesota's status was downgraded to MA when four affected herds were found in a 12-month period. All affected herds have been depopulated. Seventeen cases of bovine TB have been confirmed in whitetail deer. Minnesota is planning to request split-state status.

New Mexico: One large affected dairy (two herds) was detected and depopulated in 2007. One affected dairy herd detected in 2003 remains under a test-and-removal plan, another was depopulated. New Mexico has split-state status (Free and MAA).

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

Texas: The last known infected herd was depopulated in September 2004 and Texas was declared TB free in September 2006.

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*All references to years refer to the Fiscal Year 2007 (10/1/06 to 9/30/07). We are now in FY08 (10/1/07 to 9/30/08).