

Wisconsin Opens Borders to Michigan Cattle

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Jamie Clover Adams has announced that Wisconsin will recognize Michigan's recent bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Split State Status achievement from the United States Department of Agriculture, which reopens market opportunities for Michigan cattle farmers.

“Our mandatory electronic identification is, and was, critical to Wisconsin's decision to amend their importation rules,” said the director. “For the first time since we began our bovine TB eradication efforts, Wisconsin acknowledges the difference in zones. This translates into more market opportunities to sell Michigan beef and continues to grow the economic footprint for our food and agriculture system.”

In August, the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection informed MDARD's State Veterinarian Dr. Steven L. Halstead of new importation rules acknowledging Michigan's split state status. Wisconsin now recognizes two bovine TB Zones in the State of Michigan.

“This is an important step forward,” said Dr. Halstead. “Michigan has worked very hard to preserve the value of its cattle herd and to protect trade partners from bovine TB. This repre-

sents recognition of this hard work.”

Bovine from the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) and the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone (MAAZ) fall under the same zonal rules for Wisconsin and may enter Wisconsin for exhibition as long as they follow all of the rules established by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

Wisconsin will not allow bison or cattle from Michigan's federal TB MAZ (Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties) or MAAZ (Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties) to be sold at a consignment sale or auction, but they may go to approved feedlots if they meet the testing requirements.

“The opening of the Wisconsin border is great news for Michigan cattle producers, especially those in the Upper Peninsula,” said Jeff Kala, MCA director from Presque Isle county and Chairman of the state TB Advisory Committee. “Unfortunately, cattle from the northern counties in the Lower Peninsula still can't be marketed freely in that state, which means Michigan still has a lot of work to do regarding bovine tuberculosis. The TB Program has mandated large quantities of rules and regulations, but very little has been done to address the actual root of problem in

the wildlife reservoir.”

Feeder cattle from Michigan's TB-Free Zone will need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection with complete physical destination address required, must have official identification, and may enter the State of Wisconsin as long as they are not involved in any TB-positive or exposed herd investigations.

“Wisconsin's decision to acknowledge Michigan's different TB zones and to open their border to Michigan cattle reflects decades of hard work and foresight by leaders of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association,” said MCA President Kevin Wernette. “Mandatory electronic identification and wildlife risk mitigation are programs that MCA policy has long supported. MCA remains committed to complete statewide eradication of bovine TB.”

Rules for the different zones are listed on Wisconsin's website: http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Animal_Movement/Cattle_Bison/Michigan/index.aspx

Additional information about Michigan's bovine TB eradication efforts may be found at: www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.