

# **Bovine TB Confirmed in Saginaw County Dairy Herd**

## **10-mile surveillance testing to occur over next six months**

Lansing – Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) officials today announced that laboratory results from herd-mates of the Saginaw County dairy cow are also positive for bovine Tuberculosis (TB). Last week MDARD announced the Michigan strain of bovine TB had been confirmed in one dairy cow which was found during slaughter surveillance.

As part of its bovine TB response plan, MDARD quarantined this farm and conducted a whole-herd test. Since the herd is confirmed positive, MDARD will be testing in a 10-mile surveillance circle around the farm to determine if there are any other bovine TB exposures. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be testing deer in the area for bovine TB.

"There are 66 farms in a 10-mile circle around the positive herd. If all cattle on these farms test negative, Michigan's TB-Free status won't be impacted," said Dr. Rick Smith, MDARD Bovine TB Program Coordinator. "MDARD will be contacting all farms to schedule herd tests. This infected herd also triggers testing of all cattle that moved on or off the farm in the past five years."

Two informational meetings for Saginaw County beef and dairy cattle producers are scheduled on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. at Jonesfield Township Hall, 217 North Eddy Street, Merrill, Michigan 48637.

"Since testing began, in Saginaw County, the DNR has tested 1,092 deer and none have been TB positive," said Dr. Steve Schmitt, State Wildlife Veterinarian. "Statewide, the DNR has tested 199,660 deer and 726 have been positive for bovine TB."

Bovine TB is an infectious disease that is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium bovis*. Bovine TB primarily affects cattle; however other Michigan animals have become infected as bovine TB can be transmitted between wildlife populations and other mammals. Disease due to bovine TB may occur in the lungs but may also occur in the intestines and other parts of the body.

Since the bovine TB eradication effort began, Michigan's 1.3 million cattle, goats, bison and cervid farms have been tested for the disease at least one time. Since 1998, MDARD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) have detected 56 cattle herds and four privately owned cervid operations in Michigan with bovine TB positive animals on the premises - either the premises have been depopulated or the farms were quarantined and the herds placed under test-and-remove programs.

For more information visit: [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases)

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