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**Trace Investigation Confirms Bovine TB in Offspring
Epidemiologists work to stamp out disease**

Lansing - The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced that offspring purchased from the bovine Tuberculosis (TB) positive Saginaw County dairy farm, and traced to farms in Midland and Gratiot Counties, are also TB positive.

"Michigan is fortunate to have regulatory veterinarians knowledgeable on trace testing and epidemiological investigations," said Jamie Clover Adams, MDARD Director. "And, thanks to years of hard work, MDARD is well-prepared to handle this investigation."

In March, a Saginaw County dairy farm was discovered to be bovine TB positive when a cull cow with lesions went to slaughter. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) examiners removed the cow and sent it for laboratory testing. As part of its bovine TB response plan, MDARD quarantined this farm and immediately started an investigation into where any deacon calves (bull calves from dairy cows, usually raised for beef) or heifers may have gone.

The search found two small beef herds; one in Midland County and another in Gratiot County, both raising deacon calves from the affected Saginaw County herd. Cattle with a skin test response were euthanized and submitted to Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) for laboratory examination. Tissue samples were then sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, which reported the animals were positive for bovine TB.

The Animal Industry Act, Public Act 466 of 1988, as amended, directs MDARD to conduct bovine TB surveillance testing each time a new TB affected herd is discovered. Accordingly, MDARD will bovine TB test cattle in two additional special surveillance areas in 10-mile circles around these two farms.

Cattle producers will be notified directly by MDARD if they lie within the 10-mile circles. Those contacted will also be given an opportunity to request disease control permits to remove deer as part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) disease surveillance effort in these circles.

An informational meeting for beef and dairy cattle producers in the Gratiot and Midland County circles is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Bethany Township Hall, 9958 N. Blair Road, Breckenridge, Michigan, 48615.

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, including humans.

For more information, visit: www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

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