



"Serving Michigan's Cattlemen Since 1960"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

57 Michigan Counties Join Upper Peninsula's TB Free Status

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is shrinking the state's Bovine TB Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ) by designating 57 counties in the Lower Peninsula as Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Free. The interim rule, published in the Federal Register, is effective September 14, 2011. In addition, a portion of Presque Isle County now meets USDA's requirements for Modified Accredited Advance status. Only Alcona, Alpena Montmorency and Oscoda counties in the northeast portion of the Lower Peninsula remain in the Modified Accredited Zone.

"We will continue to work to get TB Free status for all cattle producers in the state through the USDA program," says Garry Wiley, President of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association. "We have been working with both USDA and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to eradicate this disease and help farmers market their cattle."

Michigan cattle farmers have been battling this disease for 17 years. They have participated in statewide disease surveillance testing and tagged their cattle with Radio Frequency Identification buttons so their animals could be traced for animal diseases. These practices were followed to prove to USDA and other states that Michigan was able to contain the disease in a small area.

Since 2009, cattle farmers in the northeastern counties of the Lower Peninsula have worked diligently to prevent wildlife from coming into contact with their animals and feed by adopting farm management practices outlined in the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Program. Farmers create their own plans and build barriers to protect their livestock businesses.

With the actions taken by USDA, Michigan cattle farmers in the TB Free areas of the state will have fewer restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle which will help farmers stay in business.

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