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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION



ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
UNITED STATES OF MINNESOTA



Bovine TB Summary

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Minnesota eradicated bovine tuberculosis in 1971, and was declared a TB free state in 1976. In July 2005 a TB-infected beef cow was found through slaughter surveillance and traced to a northwest Minnesota herd. At that time, a disease investigation was launched. When an infected herd is identified, the cattle are depopulated and testing is conducted on area herds. Additionally, all animals entering or leaving an infected herd are traced and those herds are tested. The investigation led to the discovery of four more infected beef cattle herds in the fall of 2005. Since the re-emergence of bovine TB in Minnesota, hundreds of herds have been tested in our state and a dozen others. To date, this exhaustive investigation has not identified the source of the disease.

During the 2005 firearms hunting season, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began surveillance of free ranging white-tailed deer in the affected area. That year two infected deer were discovered, one hunter harvested and the other was shot by a landowner with a special permit. Minnesota's status was then changed by USDA from TB-Free to Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) and the Board developed a Bovine Tuberculosis Management Plan with assistance from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, DNR, and USDA.

In the fall of 2006 the Board identified two additional infected beef cattle herds in northwest Minnesota and the DNR found five infected deer during the 2006 hunting season. As part of the TB management plan, a statewide surveillance campaign was conducted in cattle and deer. Statewide surveillance of 5000 deer was completed in the fall of 2006. Cattle surveillance was completed in the fall of 2007, with 1554 herds tested. All testing outside of northwest Minnesota was negative, offering strong evidence that the disease is present only in a small area of the state.

In the fall of 2007 the Board found four infected beef cattle herds and the DNR found ten infected deer, bringing the total to eleven infected herds and 17 infected deer. These four cattle herds tested negative in previous years to whole herd tests. Since Minnesota, as a state with an MAA status, is only allowed three infected herds in a year, USDA changed Minnesota's status to Modified Accredited (MA), leading to an increase in federal and state requirements for testing of cattle for export. To minimize the impact of this change in status we are working with USDA to establish a Split State Status and create two zones within Minnesota: one zone containing the area of infection classified as Modified Accredited and the rest of the state classified as TB-Free.

Currently, there are strict requirements on the herds in the Management Zone (see map) where TB infected deer have been found. As a buffer zone, to contain the disease, the Board will establish restrictions on herds within the proposed Modified Accredited Zone (see map). Funding and authorities put forward in the Governor's budget will be used to establish these lines of defense as we continue our work to eliminate the disease from this area.

Proposed Modified Accredited Zone

