



USAHA News Release

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For immediate release:

TB FOUND IN SEVEN HERDS DURING PAST FISCAL YEAR

Reno, Nev., Oct. 23, 2007 – Tuberculosis was found in six cattle herds and one herd of captive cervids during fiscal 2007. Slaughter surveillance by meat inspectors continues to help identify new cases of TB. Traceback from lesioned animals found at slaughter resulted in the identification of three new affected herds in Colorado (rodeo/beef), Oklahoma (beef) and New Mexico (dairy). The herds in Colorado and Oklahoma were depopulated; depopulation is currently underway in the large New Mexico dairy operation. The remaining TB-infected herds included two beef herds in Minnesota and a dairy herd and captive cervid herd in Michigan, all of which have been depopulated.

This information was presented at the meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Tuberculosis here this week.

Currently, 47 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are classified as TB accredited free. Two states (New Mexico and Michigan) are regionalized. A small zone of eastern New Mexico is classified as modified accredited advanced with the rest TB-free. Michigan is divided into three zones: The Upper Peninsula is free; 11 counties and portions of two others in the northeastern Lower Peninsula are modified accredited; and the remaining counties in the Lower Peninsula are modified accredited advanced.

The committee also heard a report from the U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Committee (BNC) that was formed to provide oversight on the eradication programs in each country and make recommendations on the minimum requirements of the exportation of cattle from Mexico to the United States.

Although the disease level in animals imported from Mexico has decreased, there are still from 15 to 20 TB-infected Mexican steers being found annually at slaughter plants in the United States. As the two countries work toward equivalency in their eradication programs, areas of concern continue to arise because of differences in normal cattle operating procedures and the disease levels in the two countries.

Although the BNC was originally established in 1993 for tuberculosis procedures, brucellosis was later added to the committee's responsibilities. While brucellosis programs in most Mexican states are not progressing at the same rate as their TB eradication programs, the

state of Sonora has progressed well and is requesting Brucellosis Class A status, which is the classification prior to becoming free of the disease.

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