
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

SUBJECT MATTER: Farmed Cervid TB Herd Certification Testing Intervals

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The primary objective of the cervid bovine tuberculosis (bTB) herd accreditation program is to eliminate *Mycobacterium bovis*, the causative agent of bTB, in farmed cervids as part of a comprehensive approach to eradicate bTB in domestic cattle and bison in the United States. All farmed cervids destined for interstate movement are required to be tested for bTB.

To establish an accredited free herd in the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Cervid bTB Herd Accreditation Program, the entire herd of cervids over 12 months of age must have two negative tests in 9 to 15-month intervals. The accreditation is valid for 33 to 39 months from the original date, and a negative whole herd retest must be performed in that period of time to maintain the accredited herd status. Animals from accredited-free herds are allowed to be moved interstate at any time without additional testing. Details on the bTB testing requirements for interstate movements of cervids from monitored herds, qualified herds, and accredited herds from modified accredited States and zones are provided in title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Parts 77 and 86, and in the 1999 Uniform Methods and Rules on Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to modify the tuberculosis test requirements for maintaining cervid accredited herd status described in Title 9 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 77.35 to allow the test interval to be extended to 5 years for certain cervid herds if all of the following requirements have been met:

1. The cervid herd has continuously maintained accredited status for at least 6 years following initial herd accreditation.
2. Since initial herd accreditation, all non-natural additions to the accredited cervid herd have come from other accredited cervid herds only.

3. No evidence of bovine tuberculosis has been disclosed in either cattle or cervidae (wild or farmed) in the state or zone within the state in which the cervid accredited herd is located for the most recent 6 years.

Further, if bovine tuberculosis has been disclosed in either cattle or cervidae (wild or farmed) in a State or designated zone within the State in which the cervid accredited herd is located within the most recent 6 years, the test interval for maintaining cervid accredited status will be 3 years.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The resolution pertains to a section of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) that is included in the proposed rule for brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis (bTB). At this time, VS continues to review the comments we received concerning the proposed rule, and we will consider this resolution as we determine next steps.

In the interim, VS has requested bTB testing data from farmed/captive cervids for the period fiscal year 2011–2017 from State Animal Health Officials. The primary objectives of this analysis are to describe VS' current surveillance activities and to develop a prevalence estimate for bTB in farmed cervids. VS will use this information to inform the appropriate testing interval for bTB accredited and monitored farmed cervid herds. Additional objectives for the analysis include assessing testing trends that occurred subsequent to approval of the serologic test in 2013 and evaluating States' testing data relative to the current State status per requirements in 9 CFR Part 77 Subpart C.