Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle

Last Modified:

Bovine tuberculosis is a rare disease that affects mammals, including cattle, deer, goats, dogs, and humans. *Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis)* is the bacteria that causes the disease. Animal health officials sporadically detect tuberculosis in livestock herds.

APHIS and State animal health agencies collaborate with U.S. livestock producers to administer the National Tuberculosis Eradication Program, which has nearly eradicated tuberculosis from the Nation's livestock population since its inception in 1917. Several factors, including the eradication program and pasteurization of milk, have reduced the number of human tuberculosis cases in the United States.

What To Look For

Infected cattle are typically asymptomatic. Detection usually occurs during live animal skin testing or, more commonly, at slaughter through our national slaughter surveillance program. If cattle or bison show clinical signs of tuberculosis, the disease has advanced to affect multiple organ systems, which is rare.

How To Prevent This Disease

Tuberculosis is spread mainly through nose-to-nose contact between animals or ingesting contaminated feed or water.

Herds are usually affected in one of two ways: purchasing infected animals or being exposed to infected wildlife.

Human-to-animal transmission is also possible. Although epidemiology has implicated humans as the most likely source of infection in several recent herd outbreaks, regulatory officials cannot quantify the risk of reverse zoonosis. Learn more at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Basic TB Facts.

The prevalence of tuberculosis in cattle, bison, and captive cervids is extremely low in the United States, with an estimated prevalence of 7 per 1 million cattle screened.

When health officials find tuberculosis in a herd, it is managed by either depopulating the herd or by testing and removing reactor animals.

How It Is Treated

Tuberculosis is not treated in livestock.

Report Signs of Animal Disease

Producers or owners who suspect an animal disease should contact their veterinarian to evaluate the animal or herd. Find an accredited veterinarian.

Animal health professionals (veterinarians; diagnostic laboratories; public health, zoo, or wildlife personnel; and others) report diagnosed or suspected cases of nationally listed reportable animal diseases to APHIS Area Veterinarians in Charge and to the State animal health official as applicable under State reporting regulations.

Controlling Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle

Expand All

Current Status

Summary Reports and Affected Herd Maps

Federal and State animal health officials jointly conduct surveillance for bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis (TB). When infected animals are identified, officials investigate these cases to determine if additional animals or herds of animals are infected.

The reports below provide updates on these investigations and summary information about brucellosis and TB-affected cattle, bison, and captive cervids herds that have been detected during the year. The summaries also include information about herds that were detected in previous years, but are being managed under a test-and-removal plan.

NEW - National Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Quarterly Report StoryMap

FY 2024

- Quarter 3, FY 2024 Report (1.92 MB) (April-June 2024)
- Quarter 2, FY 2024 Report (3.7 MB) (January-March 2024)
- Quarter 1, FY 2024 Report (1.79 MB) (October–December 2023)

FY 2023

- Quarter 4, FY 2023 Report (3.75 MB) (July–September 2023)
- Quarter 3, FY 2023 Report (4.38 MB) April–June 2023)
- Quarter 2, FY 2023 Report (4.37 MB) (January–March 2023)
- Quarter 1, FY 2023 Report (599.16 KB) (October–December 2022)

Updated maps will be posted when changes regarding affected herds occur.

To request archived reports and herd maps from fiscal years 2015 to 2022, please contact aphisweb@usda.gov.

Eradication Programs

APHIS and State animal health officials also coordinate eradication programs for brucellosis and tuberculosis, among other diseases. For the latest updates by State, view our Status of Current Eradication Programs.

Surveillance

The primary source of tuberculosis surveillance is carcass inspection at all Federal and State inspected slaughter establishments. The other main sources of tuberculosis detection are testing animals before interstate movement and during disease investigations. Live animal testing is performed with a screening test. If positive, the regulatory veterinarian will conduct a confirmatory test. Contact your local accredited veterinarian for more specific information.

FY2024 Tuberculosis Tests on U.S. Cattle and Bison

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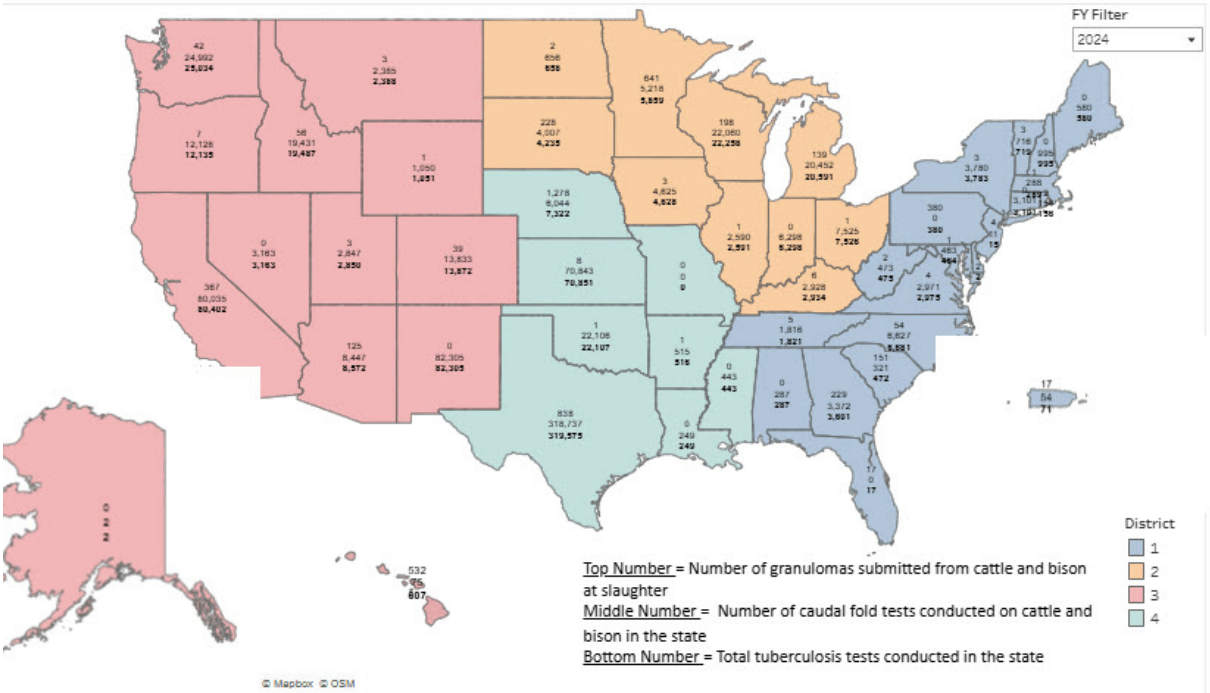

State	FY24 Slaughter Granuloma Submissions	FY24 Caudal Fold Tests	Total
AK	0	2	2
AL	0	287	287
AR	1	515	516
AZ	125	8,447	8,572
CA	367	80,035	80,402
CO	39	13,833	13,872
CT	0	3,101	3,101
DE	0	2	2
FL	17	0	17
GA	229	3,372	3,601
HI	532	75	607
IA	3	4,625	4,628
ID	56	19,431	19,487
IL	1	2,590	2,591

State	FY24 Slaughter Granuloma Submissions	FY24 Caudal Fold Tests	Total
IN	0	6,298	6,298
KS	8	70,843	70,851
KY	6	2,928	2,934
LA	0	249	249
MA	1	288	289
MD	1	463	464
ME	0	580	580
MI	139	20,452	20,591
MN	641	5,218	5,859
MO	0	0	0
MS	0	443	443
MT	3	2,385	2,388
NC	54	6,627	6,681
ND	2	656	658
NE	1278	6,044	7,322
NH	0	995	995
NJ	4	11	15
NM	0	82,305	82,305
NV	0	3,163	3,163
NY	3	3,780	3,783
OH	1	7,525	7,526
OK	1	22,106	22,107
OR	7	12,128	12,135
PA	380	0	380
PR	17	54	71
RI	2	154	156
SC	151	321	472
SD	228	4,007	4,235
TN	5	1,816	1,821
TX	838	318,737	319,575

State	FY24 Slaughter Granuloma Submissions	FY24 Caudal Fold Tests	Total
UT	3	2,847	2,850
VA	4	2,971	2,975
VT	3	716	719
WA	42	24,992	25,034
WI	198	22,060	22,258
WV	2	473	475
WY	1	1,050	1,051

APHIS' Response

History

In 1917, the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry began the National Tuberculosis Eradication Program due to human and livestock concerns regarding bovine tuberculosis. It started out as strictly an eradication program for cattle but eventually included both bison and farmed cervids. The economic benefits of decreased slaughter condemnation and human infection far outweigh the cost to administer the program. Although the program has been extremely successful in reducing livestock infection, there is still work left to do.

Regulatory Information

- Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (148.25 KB)(2005)
- Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50: Animals Destroyed Because of Tuberculosis
- Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77: Tuberculosis
- FDA “Grade A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (2017 revision)

Information for Veterinarians

- Tuberculosis Testing Guidance

Reports and Assessments

The APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) Cattle Health Center periodically reviews State tuberculosis programs for States maintaining split-State status or under the conditions of a memorandum of understanding. VS posts program review reports and the corresponding State responses below as they become available.

State Tuberculosis Program Reports

- **Michigan:**
  - 2022 APHIS Report (745.12 KB) | 2022 State Response (350.98 KB)
  - 2020 APHIS Report (426.99 KB) | 2020 State Response (193.22 KB)
  - 2019 APHIS Report (753.26 KB) | 2019 State Response (122.05 KB)
- **Hawaii (HI)**
  - 2024 APHIS Report (436.49 KB)
  - 2023 APHIS Report (288.79 KB) | 2023 State Response (117.39 KB)

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