



STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Michelle McManus, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources
S-2 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Michael Lahti, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources
S-1489 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senator McManus and Representative Lahti:

Pursuant to Section 502, PA 252 of 2008, a report of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) bovine tuberculosis eradication efforts, during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2008-09, is attached.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Schafer, Chief
Budget and Support Services
517-373-1750

Attachment

- cc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Members
- House Appropriations Subcommittee Members
- Mr. Josh Sefton, Senate Fiscal Agency
- Ms. Viola Wild, House Fiscal Agency
- Mr. Robert Emerson, State Budget Director, Department of Management and Budget (DMB)
- Mr. Jacques McNeely, DMB
- Ms. Jennifer Harrison, DMB
- Director Rebecca Humphries, DNR
- Ms. Arminda Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR
- Mr. Rodney Stokes, Chief of Staff, DNR
- Mr. Daniel Eichinger, Legislative Liaison, DNR
- Dr. Russ Mason, DNR
- Mr. Gary Hagler, DNR
- Mr. Mark Bouvy, DNR

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**Bovine Tuberculosis Program Legislative Report
Fiscal Year 2008-09 Fourth Quarter Summary
July 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009**

Source: Wildlife Health Section

This report is in response to PA 252 of 2008, Sec. 502: "From the funds appropriated in part 1, the department shall submit quarterly reports to the state budget director, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on natural resources, and the senate and house fiscal agencies that provide detail about enforcement actions taken to eradicate bovine tuberculosis, the number of infected deer found, new science it is working on to detect bovine tuberculosis, and other relevant information about the department's efforts to address the presence of bovine tuberculosis in this state."

Disease Surveillance in Wildlife

During this quarter, July and August surveillance activities for bovine TB continued, with the majority of deer being received from the Disease Control Permit program and other out-of-season permits, such as crop damage permits. The lab also began to receive hunter-harvested samples from the Early Firearm Antlerless Deer Season which took place on private lands in some Lower Peninsula Deer Management Units (DMUs) from September 17th through September 21st. Deer Management Assistance Permits (DMAs) are also valid during hunting seasons, serving as another tool for agricultural landowners to control deer on their properties.

In wild, white-tailed deer, 1 out of the 518 animals submitted for testing from July 1st through September 30th was considered to be a suspect and is being cultured. A total of 3 moose and 65 elk were submitted during this quarter and tested negative for bovine TB. Of the 65 elk, 62 were submitted from the Early Elk Hunt which took place September 1-4 and September 11-15 on both public and private lands in elk management unit "L". A total of 380 elk licenses will be issued for all of the 2009 elk hunting seasons. There is mandatory TB sample submission from all hunter-harvested elk.

Cumulative Number of Wild Deer Considered Suspects or Testing Positive for Bovine TB by County

January 1 - September 30, 2009

<u>County</u>	<u>Suspect</u>	<u>Positive</u>
Alcona	1	
Alpena		1 *
Montmorency	1 *	1 *
Oscoda		1
* Deer taken on Disease Control Permits		

Definitions:

- Pending** - Initial laboratory results were negative; still waiting for final results.
- Suspect** - MDCH is performing bacterial culture and intermediate testing has been positive; still waiting for final results.
- Positive** - Final culture results were received from MDCH.
- Negative** - No lesions were found at the Wildlife Disease Lab, or MDCH culture results were final negative.

**Wild Deer Tested for Bovine TB by County
July 1 - September 30, 2009**

County	Suspect	Total
Alcona	1	46
Allegan		1
Alpena		46
Antrim		91
Barry		1
Charlevoix		28
Cheboygan		1
Clare		1
Clinton		1
Delta		1
Eaton		1
Emmet		7
Houghton		2
Huron		1
Ingham		7
Ionia		13
Iosco		22
Jackson		1
Kalamazoo		2
Kent		87
Livingston		1
Marquette		1
Mason		1
Montcalm		33
Montmorency		14
Newaygo		2
Ontonagon		1
Osceola		1
Oscoda		9
Otsego		4
Ottawa		6
Presque Isle		20
Roscommon		9
Saginaw		1
Shiawassee		33
Washtenaw		1
Wexford		2
Unknown Co.		19
Grand Total	1	518

**Cumulative Number of Wild Deer Tested for Bovine TB by County
January 1 - October 16, 2009**

County	Positive	Suspect	Total
Alcona		1	78
Alger			1
Allegan			1
Alpena	1		219
Antrim			1
Antrim			123
Baraga			1
Barry			3
Berrien			1
Branch			1
Calhoun			1
Charlevoix			45
Cheboygan			15
Chippewa			1
Clare			1
Clinton			1
Crawford			1
Delta			6
Eaton			2
Emmet			47
Gratiot			2
Houghton			2
Huron			2
Ingham			15
Ionia			23
Iosco			83
Jackson			20
Kalamazoo			3
Kent			161
Lenawee			1
Livingston			3
Macomb			1
Marquette			1
Mason			1
Menominee			1
Midland			1
Monroe			1
Montcalm			44
Montmorency	1	1	118
Muskegon			1
Newaygo			2
Oakland			6
Ogemaw			6
Ontonagon			1
Osceola			1
Oscoda	1		27
Otsego			7
Ottawa			12
Presque Isle			88
Roscommon			24
Saginaw			2
Sanilac			5
Shiawassee			95
St. Clair			1
Tuscola			2
Washtenaw			1
Wayne			53
Wexford			2
Unknown Co.			33
Total	3	2	1401

***Note:** Deer taken in 2008 but submitted for testing in 2009 are not included in the table above.

Research Activities

Complete summaries of the projects outlined below are available in previous reports.

Title: Trap, Test and Cull Project

Status: This project is ongoing. The results are encouraging, showing that a relatively high number of deer could be trapped and tested and that positive animals could be detected and removed.

Title: Evaluating Acceptance of Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer Bovine Tuberculosis Management Strategies

Primary Investigator: Brent Rudolph, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Division

Status: This project is ongoing.

Title: Bovine Tuberculosis Spatial Model for White-tailed Deer

Primary Investigator: Dr. Daniel O'Brien, Wildlife Veterinarian, Wildlife Division

Status: This project is ongoing.

Meetings Attended by Wildlife Division Personnel and other TB Activities

▪ **Dr. Dan O'Brien, MDNR Wildlife Veterinarian**

- July: Finalized language for MDNR portion of the joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and United State Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS)
- 8/17/09: Introductory meeting with Dr. J. Averill, MDA's incoming TB program coordinator
- 8/24/09 - 9/2/09: Attended the Fifth International Conference on Mycobacterium bovis, held in Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. O'Brien attended as an invited plenary speaker, one of only eight worldwide. He presented three separate papers at the conference:
 - 1). *Management of bovine tuberculosis in Michigan wildlife: Current status and near term prospects* (8/25)
 - 2). *Public acceptance as a determinant of management strategies for bovine tuberculosis in free-ranging U.S. wildlife* (8/26)
 - 3). *Recent advances in the management of bovine tuberculosis in free-ranging wildlife* (plenary speech, 8/27)

Abstracts of all three papers were included in the Conference Proceedings, and the research papers themselves are expected to be published in the scientific journal *Veterinary Microbiology* in the spring of 2010.

Dr. O'Brien's other activities during the conference included the following:

- Co-wrote a grant proposal, funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand, to investigate opportunities for U.S./New Zealand collaboration regarding research on vaccination of white-tailed deer for tuberculosis
- Co-hosted a workshop on the aforementioned topic on 8/28, attended by TB researchers from New Zealand, U.S., Canada, Spain, Ireland and the U.K.
- Conducted field visits to current TB vaccination research sites on the South Island of New Zealand on 8/31 and 9/1

It should be emphasized that Dr. O'Brien received no funding whatsoever from the State of Michigan to attend the conference. He attended entirely on his own vacation time, and his conference registration and accommodations were paid for by a combination of conference funds and his own money. His travel expenses were paid for by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

- **Dr. Steve Schmitt, MDNR Wildlife Veterinarian, Wildlife Health Section Supervisor**
 - Meetings related to the TB MOU with the MDA and USDA-APHIS-VS
 - TB coordinator's meeting
 - United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee Chair conference call
 - DNR/MDA quarterly TB program discussion
 - Meeting with cervid industry representatives
 - Privately-owned cervid working group subcommittee meeting

- **Jennifer Kleitch, MDNR Wildlife Biologist**
 - Several calls (>20) related to Disease Control Permits, bovine TB testing, and deer check activities. Activities related to deer and elk check stations and TB surveillance have increased. The September elk hunt was completed and 79 heads were collected for TB testing. In addition, Atlanta Unit staff collected ≥ 14 deer heads for testing from the early firearm and youth deer seasons. Additional heads from Disease Control Permit activities have been collected as well.

- **Elaine Carlson, MDNR Wildlife Biologist**
 - Attended a meeting on agricultural producer risk mitigation
 - Presented TB information to a local group

Law Enforcement Division Activities

(Covering July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009)

Conservation Officers throughout the Lower Peninsula remain diligent to violations of the baiting and feeding ban in the Lower Peninsula. Baiting and feeding violations are priority violations, meaning officers will issue a citation in most instances. Information has been received that a district court judge has strengthened his resolve toward these violations. Support from the courts is instrumental in battling this disease issue.

Patrol Efforts:

Many public contacts involve questions about bait and feed regulations and enforcement. Multiple violations regarding blinds, screw-in steps, etc. were encountered on public lands.

Complaints:

Seventeen complaints were received in this somewhat off period for baiting and feeding issues.

Tickets & Warnings Issued:

Six tickets were issued along with two warnings for the reporting period.

Aircraft Support:

One patrol was conducted in Iosco County that was assisted by Department aircraft.

Counties	RAP Bait/Feed Complaints	(non-RAP) Bait Complaints	(non-RAP) Feed Complaints	Tickets Issued	Warnings	Group Bait or Feed Patrols	Bait or Feed Flights
Alcona	2						
Alpena			2	2			
Iosco	1	3	2	2	1		1
Montmorency	2		1	2			
Oscoda	1						
Otsego	2	1			1		
Total	8	4	5	6	2		1

Note: Agricultural feeding issues that could not be resolved in the initial contact by officers were referred to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

CALENDAR YEAR 2009 DISEASE CONTROL PERMIT (DCP) PROGRAM UPDATE

Permits for Livestock Producers

This initiative was designed to make it simpler for livestock producers in areas where bovine tuberculosis (TB) is established to control deer numbers on their farms. Use of the DCPs may help reduce the risk of transmission of TB from free-ranging deer to livestock. Current plans are to make the DCPs available in this manner for three years beginning January 2008, then evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

In Northeastern Michigan, the 5-county TB Area

In mid-December, 2008, the Wildlife Disease Lab (WDL) mailed out DCPs to most livestock producers in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle Counties. Each producer was initially mailed five kill tags, with more available upon request when the original five were filled. The permits are valid for a year, and may be used year-round.

From January 1st through September 30th, a total of 247 deer were shot by unique producers with DCPs.

1st Quarter Report

1/01/09 - 3/31/09

- 116 deer taken by 34 livestock producers
- 501 permits and 2,575 permit tags mailed
- 109 signed permits received
- 5 producers requested more tags

2nd Quarter Report

4/01/09 - 6/30/09

- 66 deer taken by 11 livestock producers
- 11 permits and 115 permit tags mailed
- 14 signed permits received
- 11 producers requested more tags
- 1 deer being processed as a suspect for bovine tuberculosis - Deer was a 3 year old female from the TB core area (DMU 452) and had a cranial abscess

3rd Quarter Report

7/01/09 – 9/30/09

- 65 deer taken by 23 livestock producers
- 4 permits and 55 permit tags mailed
- 22 signed permits received
- 3 producers requested more tags

In Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ), Outside the 5-County Area

All permits for this area have expired for the year 2009. From January 1st through September 30th, 45 unique producers with DCPs shot a total of 214 deer. A total of 955 kill tags were mailed to producers in 2009.

1st Quarter Report

1/01/09 - 3/31/09

- 127 deer taken by livestock producers
- 126 permits mailed
- 84 signed permits received

2nd Quarter Report

4/01/09 - 6/30/09

- 35 deer taken by livestock producers
- 21 permits mailed
- 17 signed permits received

3rd Quarter Report

7/01/09 - 9/30/09

- 52 deer taken by livestock producers
- 6 permits mailed
- 1 signed permit received

In Shiawassee County

Due to the finding of a TB positive wild deer in Shiawassee County in the fall of 2007, letters explaining the program were mailed to Shiawassee and Clinton County cattle producers located in a 10-mile radius around the positive deer.

1st Quarter Report

1/01/09 - 3/31/09

- 17 deer taken by 7 livestock producers
- 129 letters of invitation mailed
- 49 permits and 245 tags mailed
- 23 signed permits received
- 1 producer requested more tags

2nd Quarter Report

4/01/09 - 6/30/09

- 5 deer taken by 4 livestock producers
- 1 producer requested additional tags

3rd Quarter Report

7/01/09 - 9/30/09

- 12 deer taken by 6 livestock producers – 8 of the 12 have been received by the lab and tested negative for TB
- 3 permits and 15 tags mailed
- 1 signed permit received
- 2 producers requested additional tags

Permits for Private Landowners (non-agricultural) in DMU 452

Following changes to Section 5.7 of the Wildlife Conservation Order by the Natural Resources Commission in November 2007, private landowners, other than cattle producers, may be issued DCPs if they own property, 1) in a county where TB is found in any species, or 2) within a 30-mile radius of a location where TB is found in any species. In particular, participation in the DCP program is being offered to private landowners in DMU 452. Consequently, a letter was sent in 2008 and in 2009 to many hunt clubs and larger landowners in DMU 452 to inform them of this additional opportunity to take deer. Most of the 2009 permits expired on 4/30/09.

1st Quarter Report

1/01/09 - 3/31/09

- 134 deer taken by 13 landowners
- 1 deer tested positive for TB from DMU 452
- 165 letters of invitation mailed
- 28 permits and 243 tags mailed (27 landowners/hunt clubs requested and were mailed a total of 135 tags; Turtle Lake Hunt Club mailed 108 tags)
- 18 signed permits received

2nd Quarter Report

3/01/09 - 6/30/09

- 3 deer taken by 1 landowner
- 2 landowners requested and were mailed a total of 10 tags
- 2 signed permits received

3rd Quarter Report

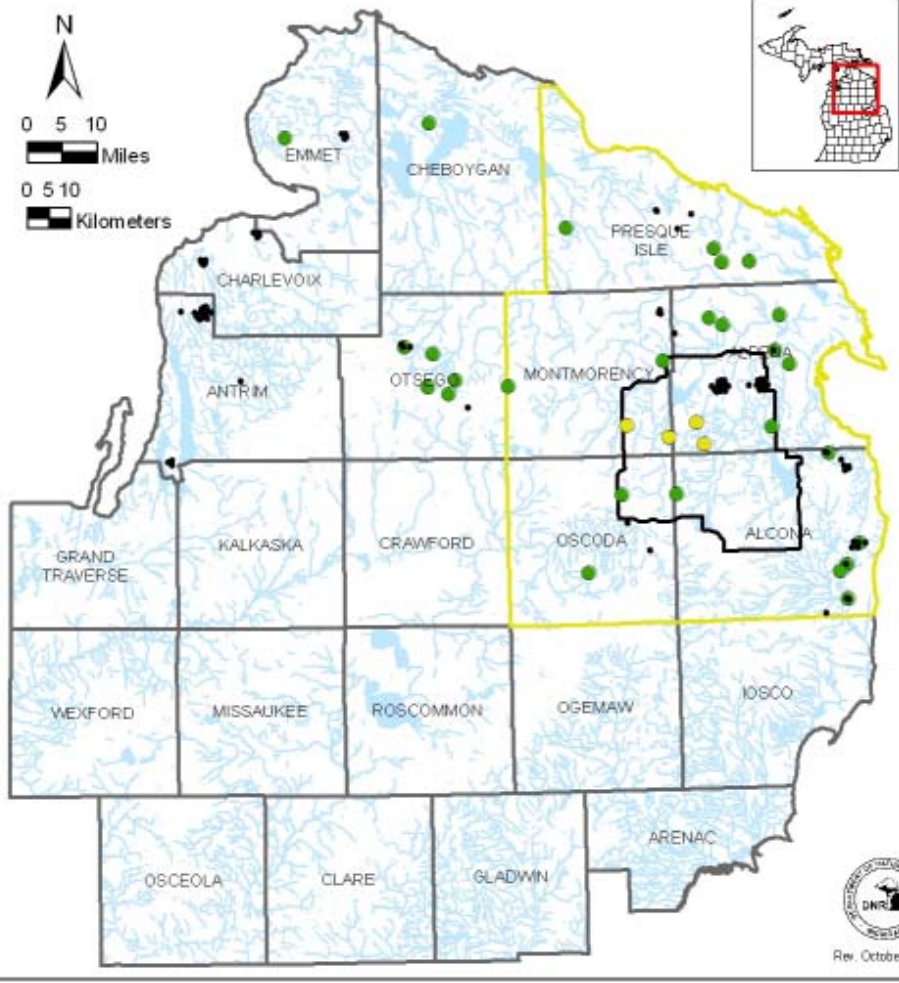
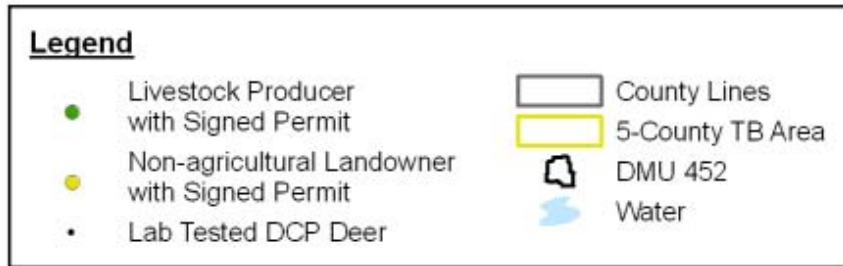
7/01/09 - 9/30/09

- 7 deer taken by 3 permittees – 5 of the 7 have been received by the lab and tested negative for TB
- 1 landowner requested and was mailed 10 tags
- 2 hunt clubs and 1 landowner were approved for additional tags valid through September 30, 2009
- A total of 180 tags were mailed, 150 of which were sent to Turtle Lake Hunt Club

**2009 Cumulative Bovine TB Laboratory Testing Results
for Wild Deer Taken on DCPs**

County Name	Positive for TB	Total Tested
Alcona		40
Alpena	1	156
Antrim		50
Charlevoix		22
Cheboygan		14
Clinton		1
Emmet		40
Iosco		34
Montmorency	1	62
Ogemaw		5
Oscoda		9
Otsego		7
Presque Isle		64
Shiawassee		27
Unknown location		2
Grand Total	2	533






2009 DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM July 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009

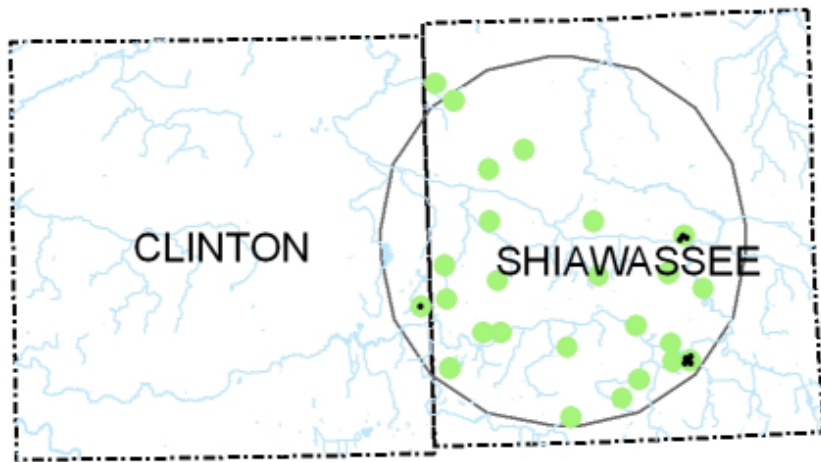



This map shows only those permittees for which the lab received signed DCPs and only those deer submitted for testing during the 3rd quarter period.

**2009
DISEASE CONTROL PERMITS ISSUED AND WHITE-TAILED DEER
TESTED FOR BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS IN SHIAWASSEE COUNTY**

Legend

	Livestock Producers with Signed Permit		10 Mile Buffer Around 2007 TB Positive Deer
	TB Negative Deer		County Line
	Water		



This map shows all of permittees for which the lab received signed DCPs during 2009 and only those deer submitted for testing during the 3rd quarter period.