

Bovine Tuberculosis (Bovine TB)

QUICK FACTS

- Bovine TB is a bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*).
- *M. bovis* usually originates in cattle.
- Bovine TB can spread between cattle and humans.
- Other livestock can get infected, including elk, deer, bison, goats, and swine.
- The movement of animals and people spreads Bovine TB between farms.



Wisconsin is one of the top dairy producers in the nation, making it important to know about Bovine Tuberculosis in animals and humans.

Bovine Tuberculosis can spread between animals and humans. An infected cattle herd can be costly for the farm and the dairy industry.



Bovine TB – Additional Information

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Animal Health
2811 Agriculture Drive
PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708
datcp.wi.gov
800-572-8981



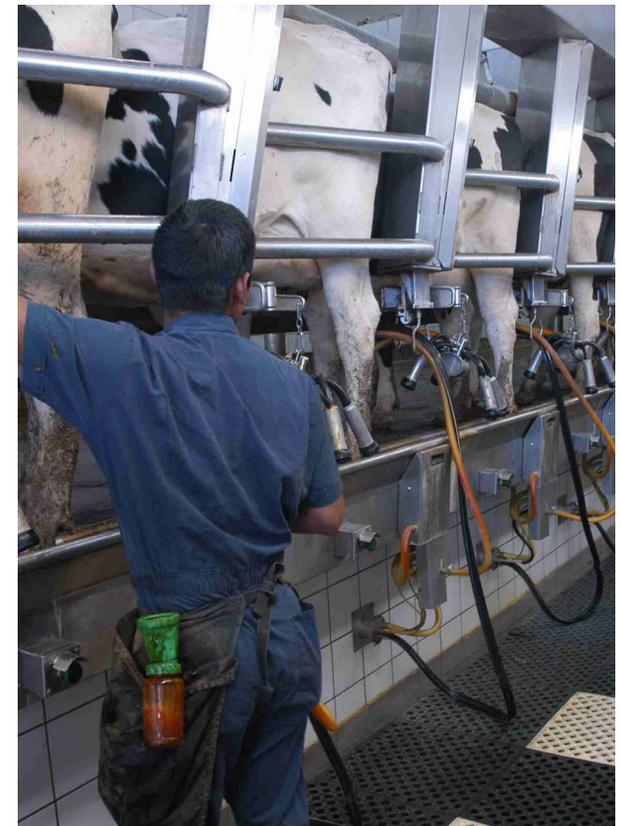
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Division of Public Health
Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Respiratory and International Health Unit
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703
dhs.wisconsin.gov
608-261-6319 or 608-267-9003



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Bovine Tuberculosis in Animals and Humans



Division of Animal Health

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Wisconsin Department of Health Services



HOW IS BOVINE TB SPREAD?

Humans and animals can get Bovine TB in the same ways. The most common ways to get Bovine TB are:

- Drinking raw milk from animals with Bovine TB
- Breathing air exhaled by an animal or person who is sick with Bovine TB
- Contact with a wound of an infected animal

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BOVINE TB IN HUMANS?

Two or more of the following:

- Cough lasting longer than two weeks
- Coughing up blood
- Fever
- Night sweats
- Weight loss

Most people don't have signs of Bovine TB right away. This is called "Latent TB." People with Latent TB do not have symptoms and cannot spread the disease.

People can start having signs of Bovine TB many years after being exposed to the bacteria. This is called "Active TB."

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BOVINE TB IN CATTLE?

- Weight loss
- Lack of energy
- Eating less
- Chronic, moist cough
- Low grade fever
- Enlarged lymph nodes

Animals don't show signs until later in the sickness.

HOW CAN YOU TEST AND TREAT CATTLE FOR BOVINE TB?

Veterinarians can test for Bovine TB using a tuberculin test. Cattle infected with Bovine TB are removed from the herd.

Since 1917, the Bovine TB Eradication Program has worked to stop Bovine TB. The disease is almost entirely removed from U.S. livestock.

HOW IS BOVINE TB DETECTED AND TREATED IN HUMANS?

Your local public health department or your primary care physician can test you, your family, and your employees.

Bovine TB testing in humans can be done in two ways:

- A tuberculin skin test, which requires two office visits; one visit to place the test, a second a few days later to read the test results
- A blood test that requires only one visit but is more costly

Active Bovine TB is usually treated with antibiotics for 6 to 9 months.

Latent Bovine TB is also treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of developing active disease.

HOW CAN I REDUCE THE RISK OF GETTING BOVINE TB?

The risk to you, your family, employees, and herd can be reduced in the following ways:

- Don't eat or drink unpasteurized dairy products.
- Follow USDA and Wisconsin Division of Animal Health importation rules and regulations.
- Work with your veterinarian on livestock health issues.
- Be aware of signs and symptoms of Bovine TB.
- Consider requiring TB testing for introducing new or returning animals.
- Consider requiring TB screening and testing for employees.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF BOVINE TB ON FARMS?

Bovine TB is costly to the livestock and dairy industries. It can create trade issues and is a human health threat.

WHO BEARS THE COST OF A BOVINE TB RESPONSE?

Some of the costs associated with an outbreak are covered by the states and federal government. However, the financial burden on the producer of a herd with bovine TB is likely to be significant.

Lengthy quarantines due to TB infection restrict animal movements and can result in financial and logistical challenges for producers.

