

Subject: Tuberculosis Testing of Cattle and Bison

May 2013

To: USDA Accredited Veterinarians and Livestock Producers:

Enclosed are some points to remember when doing tuberculosis (TB) testing of cattle or bison. Remember that all applicable practices and procedures as directed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health (DATCP-DAH) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA, APHIS, VS) must be followed in order to have a legally valid test.

**Previous TB Tests:** Producers, be sure to tell your veterinarian, and provide a copy of the test report, if any of the animals to be tested have had a previous TB test. Cattle and bison may not be Caudal Fold TB (CFT) tested within 60 days of a previous exposure to tuberculin (any TB test).

**Concurrent Vaccinations / Treatments:** On the day of the TB test injection or during the TB test, animals should not be vaccinated or treated as this may affect the test response. They can be vaccinated or treated once the TB test is read and is negative. Sick or treated animals should not be TB tested until they recover.

**Proper Restraint:** All cattle and bison tested must be sufficiently restrained to permit careful application of the tuberculin injection(s), correct reading of animal identification, careful observation and palpation of the injection sites, (proper pre- and post-injection skin fold measurements and adequate clipping of the neck skin injection sites is required for Comparative Cervical Test (CCT)). No test should be applied or observed without having the animal restrained in a satisfactory manner (VS Memorandum 552.15, VI, C).

The owner or their agent must be present at the time of any CCT testing and the animals must be presented for inspection and properly restrained.

**Reading the Test and Reporting:** At 72 (+/- 6) hours post-injection, observation and palpation of the injection site must occur for all cattle and bison tested. Observation without palpation is not acceptable and is grounds for suspension of veterinary accreditation under 9 CFR 161 (VS Memorandum 552.15, VI, E).

All animals showing a localized or diffuse response on observation or palpation are considered 'responders' and marked with an "S" on the CFT test report. Any responders should be reported immediately by phone to your District Veterinarian or Federal Veterinary Medical Officer, or to the Division of Animal Health at 608-224-4872 if your local Regulatory Veterinarian is not available. Tuberculosis is on Wisconsin's "Chapter ATCP 10; Appendix A: Diseases Reported Within One Day" (one business day.) All responses must also be reported on the official test report (VS Form 6-22 and 6-22B) and submitted to the DATCP-DAH.

CCT testing and responder status resolution can be expedited by reporting any 'responders' to your State District Veterinarian or Federal Section Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) as soon as

possible. Your local Regulatory Veterinarian will need confirmation of the owner identity, location and contact information, official ID of the responder animal(s) and the test dates before any CCT TB test may be applied. Scheduling your local Regulatory Veterinarian ahead of time for upcoming TB tests of groups of animals will also help expedite the resolution of any TB responders. The CCT TB test must be applied within 10 days of the CFT injection or after 60 days. If your local Regulatory Veterinarian is unable to apply the CCT within the 10 day window following the injection of the CFT, then they will notify the DATCP-DAH so that the case can be re-assigned.

**Restriction of Animal Movement – Quarantines:** Once any CFT TB test is applied, the owner should be informed of the number of animals injected and advised to restrict them to the premises until the test is completed in 72 (+/-6) hours” (VS Memorandum 552.15, VI, B, 5).

Wisconsin statute Chapter ATCP 10.13 restricts the movement of TB test positive animals:

- (4) TEST POSITIVE ANIMAL; MOVEMENT RESTRICTED.** No person may sell or move a bovine animal that tests positive on any tuberculosis test until one of the following occurs:
- (a) The department determines that the animal is not a tuberculosis suspect or reactor.
  - (b) The animal is classified as a tuberculosis reactor and treated according to sub. (6).

A written State Quarantine will be placed on the entire herd at, or prior to, the time that the local Regulatory Veterinarian applies the CCT (comparative cervical test) to any CFT responders. The quarantine will include the responder animals and all other cattle / bison (or susceptible species) on the premises and all other premises in the State of Wisconsin owned or under the control of the owner of these animals. If the all of CFT responders are negative on the CCT, the quarantine and movement restrictions will be released.

**Death of a CFT Responder or Suspect animal:** If a CFT responder or CCT suspect animal should die before all required testing is completed, samples will need to be taken and sent to the laboratory in order to resolve the TB status of the animal. Do not allow the carcass to become overheated or frozen. Failure to obtain the necessary inspections and quality diagnostic samples from an unresolved suspect animal could potentially result in extensive testing and extended quarantines to re-establish the negative status of the herd.

In addition to the above, veterinarians and producers come under a variety of State and Federal rules and regulations governing livestock. This document in no way adds to, nor subtracts from, the responsibilities codified therein.