



UPDATE: Bovine TB in Alberta

What we know:

- Roughly 11 premises remain under quarantine including sites that no longer have cattle. This represents approximately 1,000 animals.
- Ninety-four sites have been released from quarantine.
- To date, all tissue culture results have been negative.
- Significant progress has been made over the summer as the CFIA prepares for the testing of trace-in herds in the fall. The epidemiological work to date has been able to limit the number of premises involved.
- As of August 16, 2017:
 - 65 premises been confirmed as requiring testing (3 in MB, 34 in SK and 28 in AB).
 - Fewer than 20,000 animals on the confirmed premises will require the initial on-farm testing.
 - 18 premises (8 in SK and 10 in AB) are still being worked on to determine whether testing will be required.
- CFIA case officers are contacting the affected producers to gather information about their preferred dates for testing and we will accommodate them to the greatest extent possible. We are also taking into account that the dry summer may result in cattle coming off pasture sooner than normal.
- Herds confirmed to be part of the trace-in investigation will **not** be quarantined until testing begins on their operations.
- Trace-in testing will include two tests – the regular caudal fold (tail test) and an ancillary test in order to eliminate the majority of false positive reactors. Only animals that react to both tests will be considered true reactors and be slaughtered to undergo enhanced post mortems.
- Most trace-in herds will be under quarantine for less than a month, but there are likely to be a few herds that will have to stay under quarantine until histopathology or culture results are obtained. These herds will be eligible for early release from quarantine if the histopathology results are negative.
- Trace-in cattle are the lowest risk category as they are presumed to have the same TB status as the rest of the Canadian herd.
- There are no restrictions on the movement or sale of animals from herds on early release from quarantine including shipping to feedlots or immediate slaughter.
- Cleaning and disinfection procedures on the 18 infected and presumed infected premises continues with most premises having completed the necessary fallow period.
- Restocking tests on the depopulated ranches will start this fall.
- With the information gathered in the investigation, it is still a real possibility that source may never be identified.