



# Western Stock Growers' Association

## BULLETIN # 7

January 5, 2017 Volume 5, Issue 1

### **UPDATE: Bovine TB in Alberta**

The following information comes from conference calls with CFIA on January 3 and 5, 2017.

What we know:

- There are approximately 50 herds under quarantine.
- The total number of TB positive animals remains at six from one herd over 18 premises.
- To date, seven herds have been released from quarantine. These were low risk herds placed under quarantine as a result of trace-outs from the herd of origin of the six positive animals.
- All reactor animals from the 18 premises declared infected have been slaughtered with samples sent in to the lab for culture, which will confirm if these animals are TB negative.
- As a result of TB being such a slow growing bacterium, we are still waiting for culture results on the all of the reactor animals that have undergone euthanasia and post mortem exams. Results are expected by March and these results will determine if the current trace-out was adequate. There could still potentially be some quarantines placed as a result of additional trace-outs depending on results from ongoing lab tests and continuing post mortems / tests on reactor animals.
- CFIA has begun the methodical trace-in for the herd of origin for the six positive cases. This entails tracing source animals for the infected herd from over the past five years. There is expected to be a number of additional herds placed under quarantine as a result of this part of the investigation. Given the size of the 'infected herd' there could be a large number of herds identified in the trace-in. As new herds are placed under movement controls, it is expected the geographical area affected will become less centralized. Testing for some of these trace-in herds has been scheduled.
- As CFIA moves into trace-in phase of the investigation and new herds are identified for quarantine, the timing for the turnaround from identifying herds, on-farm testing, having reactor results and post-mortem sampling should be shorter. There is no way to change the time required for culture testing.
- Depopulation of the infected premises is expected to be complete by the end of January. There were some shipments over the holiday break. A second big beef plant has come on board, took several hundred animals and will also accept bulls. Some of this delay is due to withdrawal times for any treatments of animals. Depopulation of calves continues to be a challenge. Only one significant plant is processing calves and they are taking their full allotment every week. Another small plant took some over the holiday season. Another processor in Saskatchewan has come forward and could add to capacity to the slaughter of calves.
- CFIA is introducing a 1-800 number for affected producers. It gives a central contact for all inquiries. Responders to the calls will triage questions and get the producer hooked up to the person at CFIA they need to talk to. This is expected to help as the investigation becomes more decentralized and it will be harder to do the face-to-face and the evening producer meetings. This 1-800 number will be provided to the producers directly impacted by quarantine and movement controls.
- CFIA is very close to signing off on the decision on the community pastures and its infectivity. A sub-portion of the pastures, basically representing the gathering fields, will be deemed as still infected. These areas can be sun and rest treated for a period of time before being deemed clean. The handling facilities will need to be disinfected. With the determined timing on use of the community pasture, the grazing fields sub-portion can already be declared infection-free as they have had enough time exposed to sun.

#### **Latest information from CFIA:**

CFIA has committed to keeping the TB investigation web page updated with the most current information they can share. Click on this link:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/tuberculosis/investigation-southeast-alberta/eng/1477438380160/1477438380659>

## INFORMATION FROM AFSC

### **RE: Assistance for Cattle Producers Affected by Bovine TB**

Cattle producers whose herds were ordered destroyed due to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) investigation can apply for financial assistance through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). The Canada-Alberta Bovine Tuberculosis Assistance Initiative (CABTAI), which is developed through AgriRecovery, is available to producers who face extraordinary costs as a result of their herd being quarantined or ordered destroyed. It aims to cover a portion of charges related to feed and yardage, interest carrying costs, transportation and infrastructure.

CABTAI aims to cover part of the extraordinary costs that producers must pay to maintain animals they would have sold under normal circumstances. The initiative will provide financial support for a percentage of specific expenses, which include feed and yardage (per head, per day), interest carrying on calves and cull cows (per head, per day), transportation of water and livestock, temporary infrastructure (feed bunks, corrals, watering bowls, etc.).

Cattle producers are only eligible for CABTAI if their herd was quarantined due to bovine TB. Find full details about eligibility requirements are in the CABTAI Application Package under Terms and Conditions.

Recent changes to CABTAI eligibility include the following:

- Eligible Animals: cows and bulls ordered destroyed by the CFIA will now be eligible for per head/per day feed and yardage compensation. Animals intended for market, including bred heifers will also be eligible for per head/day feed and yardage compensation (verification may be required).
- Transportation: eligible costs now include those incurred by producers when they moved quarantined animals off pasture/grazing back to their farm (receipts required).

Submitting an application

Download the [CABTAI Application Package](#)

Completed applications can be sent by:

- Fax - 1.855.700.2372
- Email – [info@afsc.ca](mailto:info@afsc.ca)
- Applications can also be dropped off at the Medicine Hat and Brooks Branch Offices

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) will begin processing applications as they are submitted.

Contact information

If you require more information about CABTAI, call the Client Contact Centre at 1.877.899.2372 or visit the Medicine Hat or Brooks Branch Offices.

Producer consent is required for claim verification

For AFSC to verify and process CABTAI applications, your consent is required. It will enable the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to share the information of producers' affected by bovine TB. By enabling that this information becomes available to AFSC, producer applications can be effectively verified.

To provide your consent:

[Download and complete this form](#)

Return to AFSC by mail, email, fax or in person at your local Branch Office

Mail: 2016 CABTAI c/o AFSC, 5718 - 56 Avenue, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1B1

Fax: 1.855.700.2372

Email: [info@afsc.ca](mailto:info@afsc.ca)