



Bovine Tuberculosis  
Stakeholders Advisory  
Committee (TbSAC)



## **Fact Sheet on Riding Mountain TB Eradication Area (RMEA)**

### **Here's what we know.....**

**Bovine tuberculosis is a contagious disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* bacteria. Cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats and other species including humans, can get the disease. Symptoms include lesions in the lungs, lymph nodes and other tissue as well as weight loss and general deterioration. Bovine Tb is chronic and eventually leads to death.**

### **How does it affect you....**

**Bovine Tb is costly to the livestock industry, creates trade barriers and a human health threat.**

### **Tb transmission....**

**Livestock and members of the deer family can get bovine Tb from saliva or airway secretions from one animal to another. They can also get the disease indirectly from eating and sharing contaminated feed. TB bacteria thrives in cool, moist climates and can persist on hay or other feed for up to three months. Consumption of contaminated feed and nose to nose contact are presumed to be the primary means of transmission between animals.**

The TbSAC, was formed in 2003 and is a multi-stakeholder advisory committee formed in response to concerns that stakeholders in the vicinity of Riding Mountain Eradication Area (RMEA) were not being provided with enough information and did not have sufficient opportunity to have input to the Manitoba Bovine TB Management Program and its Implementation Plan.

What is being done....	What can you do....
Reducing the whitetailed deer and elk populations in RMNP.	Be aware that wildlife-livestock interactions can create Tb risks for cattle.
Installing barrier fences to protect stored winter-feeding supplies.	Determine what may make your farm appealing to wildlife and make changes to reduce this appeal.
Improving habitat in RMNP to entice elk/deer to stay in Riding Mountain National Park.	Store livestock feed securely.
Enforcing Manitoba Conservation regulations on baiting wildlife for hunting and feeding purposes.	Restrict wildlife access to feeding and watering areas.
Studies to enhance knowledge of elk/deer movements and behaviors.	Use livestock guard dogs.
Surveillance of Tb in wild white-tailed deer and elk.	Maintain fences.
Surveillance of Tb in cattle and bison.	Submit hunter samples for Tb testing, to assist in monitoring the disease in wildlife.

## Bovine Tb Stakeholders Advisory Committee

### Review of Bovine Tb in the Riding Mountain Eradication Area (RMEA) 2006/2007 March, 2007

**Tb Free Status** - OTTAWA, September 19, 2006 - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has declared livestock in the area around Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park free of bovine tuberculosis (TB). The region, referred to as the Riding Mountain TB Eradication Area, had been the only part of Canada without TB-free status.

#### Cattle-testing Program

- Approximately 4800 of 7000 head of cattle have been tested

#### Wildlife Testing Program

- 700 whitetail deer (WTD) sampled from hunters, of which 650 were considered to be quality
- 230 elk sampled from hunters
- Out of approximately 900 samples received by the lab, only 6 elk and 7 WTD samples were submitted for further testing to CFIA lab in Nepean
- The results will not be known for some time
- 25 cow elk in the west end and 10 young bull elk east of Hwy 10 in RMNP were captured, tested and released with proximity UHF and VHF collars;
- 2 bull elk were also recaptured, tested and had malfunctioning proximity collars replaced in RMNP
- 2 doe whitetailed deer were recaptured, tested and had collars replaced with short term collars that will fall off in spring in RMNP
- 5 cow elk were recaptured, tested and released with short term collars in the Duck Mountains

#### Classified Count

- 43 elk calves were seen for every 100 cow elk observed
- This indicates that the proportion of new or young of the year animals coming into the population has remained relatively stable over the past few years

#### New Blood Test

- Todd Shury, Parks Canada Veterinarian, continues to work on a new blood test, the Rapid Test, that produces results in approximately 30 minutes.
- Results from the blood testing are expected back by mid-March, and reactors will be removed in April.

Stay tuned for the next installment of the Bovine Tuberculosis Update