



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

Bovine Tuberculosis Update

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

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 36,800 head of cattle have been tested
- 998 head of cattle had a reaction on tail test
- 45 head of cattle were slaughtered due to Bovigam reaction

Wildlife Testing Program

- 1100 whitetail deer (WTD) sampled from hunters
- 310 of elk sampled from hunters
- 20 of WTD samples were submitted for further testing
- 27 of elk submitted for further testing
- All samples submitted have returned negative from hunter surveillance
- 32 reacted on the blood test with 19 elk and 13 WTD removed and necropsied

TB Positives

- 1 bull elk from RMNP to date tested positive this season
- 39 TB positive wildlife in total

Barrier Fencing Program

- 17 barrier fences built for hay storage and 4 livestock feed area fences are near completion for this fiscal year
- 155 fences have been built to-date

Surveys

- There are approximately 1600 elk in regional herd
- There are approximately 7500 WTD in GHA 23 and d23A

Stay tuned for the next installment of the Bovine Tuberculosis Update
in December for information on this year's program