

## Alberta TB Case Update – February 3, 2017

- Roughly 58 premises in Alberta and Saskatchewan are currently under quarantine. This represents over 28,000 animals (this includes approximately 10,000 animals that have already been depopulated or have been ordered depopulated)
- To date there are still only six confirmed cases of bovine TB (including the original cow found in the U.S.)
- Sixteen sites have been released from quarantine, these were sites containing low risk trace-out feedlot cattle, as well as low risk fence-line contact herds
- Other animals on all infected premises (cats, dogs, horses, etc.) have been released from quarantine
- Depopulation of all mature animals is complete on the infected premises
- Depopulation of calves from the infected premises continues at a steady pace and should be completed shortly
- Reactor testing continues on animals from trace-out herds, and samples from those reactors have been prioritized at the lab to minimize time under quarantine
- A change in terminology regarding the infected premises which designates the premise with the six confirmed cases as the only “infected premise” and the remaining 17 as “presumed infected” premises circumvents the need to do full trace-in and trace-out activities on all of those 18 premises. Trace-in and trace-out activities will be limited to the original infected premise, assuming no further confirmed cases are found. This decision was based on more detailed information that has been gathered during the investigation, and supported by initial lab results and available scientific information.
  - Infected and presumed infected premises will still have to undergo full cleaning and disinfection tailored to their individual operations, a 45-day fallow period, and restocked animals on these premises will be subject to two follow-up herd tests (approximately 6 months and 18 months after restocking).
  - Cleaning and disinfection site visits are being conducted with the infected and presumed infected premises.
- Live testing of initial trace-out herds identified is complete, however, it is expected that more trace-out herds will be identified over the next few weeks.
- Due to upcoming calving season, it is expected that the bulk of trace-in testing will occur in the fall of 2017. 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 has been some confusion around conditional quarantine releases – at this point these releases apply primarily to trace-out herds. If there are no visible lesions and histopathology results are negative for reactor animals from trace-out herds, these herds are eligible for conditional release. The “conditional” part of the release simply means that records must be kept on any animals removed from the premises, specifically:
  - CCIA tag numbers
  - Age and gender of the animals
  - Date any animals were removed from the premise
  - Destination to which the animals were moved
- **Animals may be sold, commingled and moved as the owner sees fit, providing those records are kept, which are records everyone should be keeping regardless.**
- **These animals would not have been offered a conditional release if it was believed they posed any significant disease transmission risk. Herds that have accepted conditional quarantine release have been tested, had reactor animals removed, and preliminary laboratory testing on**

**those reactor animals has been negative.**

<http://www.albertabeef.org/uploads/conditionalreleasefromquarantine8884191pdf-621.pdf>

- Further information is available at [www.albertabeef.org](http://www.albertabeef.org) or <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/tuberculosis/investigation-se-alberta-and-sw-saskatchewan/eng/1477438380160/1477438380659>