



Destruction scheduling and supplemental testing options for trace-out and contact herds

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) continues to work on expanded capacity for the destruction and post-mortem examination of reactor animals. The CFIA has also listened to the concerns from producers about the need to get reactors removed as quickly as possible because of calving season starting soon.

The CFIA has identified options for supplemental testing of certain reactor animals which may:

- alleviate the pressures associated with limited facility capacity for reactor destruction and post-mortem exams through supplemental testing of eligible reactors to screen out non-bovine TB reactors
- provide an opportunity for producers to potentially retain higher value animals that can be screened out with supplemental testing

Trace-out herds

Trace-out herds will continue to be tested by caudal fold skin test and ELISA blood tests.

Animals that react to the ELISA test will be ordered destroyed for post-mortem examination and laboratory testing.

Animals that react to only the caudal fold skin test will be eligible for supplemental live animal testing to screen out false positive results. This testing will be completed with either:

- a comparative cervical test (CCT) which allows the field testers to determine if the animal has reacted to potential avian TB or bovine TB
- the BOVIGAM Interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) blood test which allows laboratory analysis to determine if the animal has reacted to potential avian TB or bovine TB

The CFIA will determine which test is best for each herd but generally intends to use the BOVIGAM blood test.

Producers will be given the option of having supplemental testing done for caudal fold skin reactors. If the supplemental testing confirms the initial result was a false positive, destruction for the individual animals will not be required. If the CCT or BOVIGAM test results are non-negative, the animal will be ordered destroyed for post-mortem examination and laboratory testing.

For some herds, the BOVIGAM test can only begin 60 days after the initial TB test and as a result the quarantine period may be longer than if all reactors are scheduled for destruction immediately. For those herds, the supplemental testing will also require additional handling of animals. Therefore, producers may only want to consider this option for reactor animals with a market value greater than the compensation maximum or having highly desirable genetic traits.

Contact herds

As of January 15, contact herds will be tested with the caudal fold skin test only and reactors will be retested with either:

- a comparative cervical test (CCT) which allows the field testers to determine if the animal has reacted to potential avian TB or bovine TB
- the BOVIGAM Interferon-gamma (IFN-gamma) blood test which allows laboratory analysis to determine if the animal has reacted to potential avian TB or bovine TB

The CFIA will determine which test is best for each herd but generally intends to use the BOVIGAM blood test.

For contact herds that have already been tested by caudal fold skin test and ELISA blood tests, the same supplemental testing options of caudal fold reactors for trace-out herds will be available. The contact herds tested after January 15, 2017 will be eligible for the BOVIGAM test without the 60 day waiting period.

Identifying animals for supplemental testing and scheduling removal

CFIA staff will be contacting all producers from non-infected premises who have reactor animals awaiting destruction to review the supplemental testing options and determine which animals should be scheduled for removal as soon as possible.

CFIA staff will also gather some additional information about each producer's situation and then establish a removal and destruction schedule that takes into account factors such as:

- date that quarantine was issued
- date that calving is expected to start and whether there are animal welfare concerns related to crowding because of 2016 calves still on the farm
- date of any other events such as planned sales, shows or special events

The intent is to complete the calls with the producers by January 18 and provide scheduling dates soon after.