

October 6, 2004

TUBERCULOSIS is a disease that affects cattle as well as a variety of meat and fiber production animals. TB is also a human disease of global significance.

The United States is not TB free. The states of Texas, New Mexico, California and Michigan have lost their TB free status within the last two years.

In the calendar year 2003, Oklahoma imported 1.1 million cattle. Of that number, 298,468 (34%) came into Oklahoma from Texas, New Mexico or California.

There have been forty (40) confirmed cases of TB in cattle in the United States in 2004.

Approximately one-half of those confirmed cases were in dairy breeds.

Oklahoma has not had an active TB surveillance program for dairy cattle for twenty-five (25) years.

The increased incidence of this disease along with the financial and export ramifications that accompany the loss of a state's TB Free status has prompted the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture to initiate a plan increasing surveillance for TB in dairy cattle.

This increased surveillance will focus on change of ownership within the state. All sexually intact dairy or dairy cross cattle, six (6) months of age or greater, four hundred and fifty (450) weight and greater are required to have a negative TB test within 60 days of sale and an individual ID.

When these animals arrive at market, they will follow one of the following tracks, if they arrive with a negative TB test and an individual ID they will be sold, if they have not been tested they may return home, be S branded and sold for slaughter or to an approved (terminal) feed lot, or if the market provides a veterinarian who will perform the TB test, they may be tested, ID'd and sold.

We have included a flow chart, which is being used in the Oklahoma markets. This chart is designed to route each different group of dairy animals upon arrival.

The Governor of the State of Oklahoma signed these rules on May 11, 2004, following a grace period they went into effect on October 1, 2004.

If you have any questions concerning this rule, please feel free to contact our office at 405 522-6142

Dr. Burke L. Healey,
State Veterinarian

DAIRY BREEDS & DAIRY CROSSBREEDS

