
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 **Approved**

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE

**SUBJECT MATTER: Evaluate the Tuberculosis Classifications of Each State with
an Active Farmed Cervid Industry**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2001, all states were assigned modified accredited status for cervids under the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program due to inadequate industry surveillance, lack of sensitive diagnostics and unknown disease prevalence within the farmed cervid industry.

Since 2001, the testing interval of cervids for tuberculosis (TB) accreditation was increased, which encouraged producer participation, and a serological assay was developed to determine the presence of antibodies to bovine TB, the Dual Path Platform (DPP) test was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS). Initially, there was an increase in surveillance, but in recent years, cervid herds have slowly dropped out of the TB program. Lack of interstate markets due to chronic wasting disease (CWD) and testing fatigue are the two reasons most often identified by cervid owners for leaving the program.

Since 2009, the TB prevalence in almost every state has dropped to zero percent. A move from modified accredited to modified accredited advanced for cervid herds would provide opportunity for more herds to participate in TB movement testing and increase the level of testing/surveillance from those cervid herds that have left the bovine TB eradication program.

While the level of traditional slaughter surveillance at federal or state inspected slaughter plants in farmed cervids is low, significant numbers of cervids are examined for evidence of TB through the CWD surveillance program. Visual examination of retropharyngeal lymph nodes submitted for CWD certification as part of the cervid TB program should be explored.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to evaluate Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77 -

Subpart C—Captive Cervids (77.24 and 77.26) and assess each state’s cervid tuberculosis (TB) status.

Furthermore, USAHA urges USDA-APHIS-VS to explore the potential for including the examination of retropharyngeal lymph nodes and other cranial lymph nodes for TB surveillance in cervids and clarify, prior to the 2024 USAHA meeting, the requirements for states to advance within the TB program.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

As requested, we have evaluated the regulatory language and completed a preliminary assessment of available data. APHIS VS does not plan to make changes to these requirements at this time. Further, we do not consider the visual examination of retropharyngeal lymph nodes submitted for CWD certification to have sufficient sensitivity to replace the current surveillance methods.

The requirements to advance state TB status are clarified in [Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77.26](#). Per 9 CFR 77.26 (g), a state seeking to advance cervid TB status must demonstrate compliance with the “Uniform Methods and Rules – Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication” and test all captive cervid herds in the state for 2 consecutive years, regardless of participation in the CWD herd certification program.