

New Mexico Bovine TB Status

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), by publication in the Federal Register on September 11, 2008, has downgraded New Mexico's tuberculosis status from Accredited Free to Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA). This decision is based on discovering two TB affected cattle herds in the State within 48 months.

New TB test requirements for cattle moving to other states or zones are:

* **Cattle and bison under 6 months of age** can be moved interstate from New Mexico with no additional testing or identification.

* **Intact heifers 6 months of age or older** that are moving directly to a feedlot or in feeder channels may move interstate with no additional testing or identification.

* **Spayed heifers and steers** can be moved to any destination without additional testing or identification. Cattle or bison moving directly to slaughter also have no additional testing or identification requirements.

* **Breeding cattle or bison** that are not known to be infected with or exposed to TB may be moved interstate if:

a) They are moved directly to slaughter at an approved slaughtering facility; or

b) They are from an accredited herd and accompanied by a certificate stating that the accredited herd completed the testing necessary for accredited status with negative test results within 1 year prior to the date of movement; or

c) They are officially identified and accompanied by a certificate stating that they were negative to an official tuberculin test conducted within 60 days prior to the date of movement.

* There are no Federal requirements for moving cattle or bison intrastate. Intrastate movement requirements are the responsibility of the State of New Mexico.

NOTE: Individual states may have additional test and identification requirements beyond those stated above. It is imperative that veterinarians contact state animal health officials in the state of destination to obtain current import requirements for that state.

Producers need to be aware of the time required for TB testing. Initial testing requires a minimum of 3 days for a CFT and a minimum of 3 additional days for a CCT. Comparative cervical testing must be performed by a CCT certified state or federal regulatory veterinarian. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection will not be approved until all TB CFT suspects have been cleared by the USDA.