



Bovine Tuberculosis

California Update

California is Classified as “Accredited Free” for TB

California first gained “TB-Free” status in 1999 only to lose it in 2003 after bovine TB was confirmed in three dairy herds in the Central Valley. After depopulating the affected herds and tracing and testing the associated cattle, California regained “TB-Free” status in April 2005. Bovine TB was detected in three Fresno County dairy herds between December 2007 and May 2008, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) downgraded California’s TB status to “Modified Accredited Advanced” in September 2008. A fourth affected dairy herd was confirmed in San Bernardino County in 2009.



California was on its way to regain “TB-Free” status when three TB-affected herds were detected in San Bernardino County in 2011. In 2013, an affected dairy herd was identified in Tulare County. Quarantine release on this last herd in July 2014 started the 24-month countdown to California’s application for USDA “TB-Free” status.

Following review of California’s TB program, California was classified as “TB-Free” as of August 8, 2016.

Last California Tuberculosis (TB) Affected Herd Released

The Tulare County TB-affected dairy herd identified in February 2013 completed a “test and removal” plan to eradicate infection, and was released from quarantine in July 2014. Fourteen cattle with bovine TB were removed from the herd. The TB-strain in this herd matched a strain detected in two related California herds in 2002. The investigation was completed without any indication of disease spread. The herd conducted annual post-quarantine release testing for the next five years.

California Recent TB Investigations

- A TB-infected dairy cow slaughtered in California in July 2017 was traced to its origin herd. The TB strain type was not closely related to any previous affected U.S. herd.
- An investigation into the source of a TB-infected Holstein steer detected during routine inspection at an Arizona slaughter plant in January 2016 was complicated by a lack of correlation between the animal’s identification and granuloma collected at slaughter. The TB strain type was not closely related to any previous affected U.S. herd. No further detections were noted subsequent to this event.
- An investigation of cattle moved to California from a TB-affected dairy herd in Texas was completed in December 2015 with no findings of infection in the receiving herds.
- A TB-infected dairy cow slaughtered in California in November 2013 was investigated in Utah and California. The TB strain type was not closely related to any strains previously identified in U.S. herds. Investigations and testing did not identify any affected herds.

Animal Traceability

Animal identification and good record keeping are crucial for success and efficient tracing of cattle from slaughter plants and TB-affected herds. Poor traceability can delay the detection of affected herds and can significantly influence the time and cost of a TB-investigation.



Animal Health and Food Safety Services

Animal Health Branch

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For more information on the Animal Health Branch please visit: www.cdfa.ca.gov/ah



Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds Detected in California Since 2002

Premises	Date Herd Detected	How Detected	Approximate Herd Size	# Infected Animals	Resolution	Epidemiology	Strain
Dairy A Tulare Co.	May 2002	Slaughter trace	3,600 adults	53	Depopulated ~6,500 in November 2002; restocked	Unknown source; bulls from local breeders; replacements from out of state	New strain type
Dairy B Tulare Co.	October 2002	Traces into and out of Dairy A (owner also a dealer)	2,000 adults	1	Depopulated ~5,000 in March 2003; restocked	Exposed to Dairy A	Genotype matched Dairy A
Dairy C Kings Co.	December 2002	Slaughter trace	400 adults	35	Depopulated ~600 in April 2003; restocked	Unknown source; purebred herd, imported ~60% of cattle from "TB Free" states	New strain type
Dairy D Fresno Co.	December 2007	Slaughter trace	2,600 adults	5	Depopulated ~5,000 in August 2008; restocked	Unknown source; purebred herd, few trace-ins	New strain type
Dairy E Fresno Co.	May 2008	Trace out of Dairy D	400 adults	1	Depopulated ~1,000 in August 2008; restocked on different premises	Infected cow moved from Dairy D (infected animal was CFT negative)	Genotype matched Dairy D
Dairy F Fresno Co.	May 2008	Trace into Dairy D	2,500 at one premises and 9,500 at another	1	Test and removal program; released from quarantine December 2009	Unknown source; purebred herd, very few trace-ins	New strain type
Dairy G San Bernardino Co.	January 2009	Trace out of Dairy F	1,300 adults	1	Test and removal program; released from quarantine June 2010	Unknown source	New strain type
Dairy H San Bernardino Co.	April 2011	Slaughter trace	6,000 (total)	9	Test and removal program; released from quarantine February 2013	Unknown source	New strain type
Dairy I San Bernardino Co.	October 2011	Slaughter trace	1,500 adults	65	Depopulated ~3,300 in June 2012; not restocked	Unknown source; shared equipment with M-branded cattle in the past	New strain type
Dairy J San Bernardino Co.	December 2011	Contact with Dairy I	2,000 (total)	1	Test and removal program; released from quarantine November 2012	Exposed to Dairy I	Genotype matched Dairy I
Dairy K Tulare Co.	February 2013	Slaughter trace	2,200 adults	14	Test and removal program; released from quarantine July 2014	Potentially exposed to Dairy A	Genotype matched Dairy A