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## Minnesota TB status changes; Wisconsin loosens import requirements



The USDA has upgraded Minnesota's bovine tuberculosis status, effective Oct. 1. The small area of northwestern Minnesota where TB has been found in cattle and free-ranging white-tailed deer is now classified modified accredited advanced, and the rest of the state has been returned to TB-free status.

This means that Wisconsin's restrictions on imports will be eased. However, because Wisconsin law does not recognize split state status, we will treat all of Minnesota as modified accredited advanced and will maintain some

restrictions.

Cattle will now need a negative individual TB test no more than 60 days before entering Wisconsin. Previously, they also needed to come from a herd that had tested negative in the past year, and had to be quarantined and retested after they entered Wisconsin. Cattle already under quarantine for post-import testing will stay under quarantine until we receive negative test results.

Requirements for bison, farm-raised deer and elk, and goats have also been loosened.

There will still be exemptions for cattle from herds that have been certified TB-free by a testing program, those going directly to slaughter, and those going to one of about 20 specially approved feedlots in the state. Veal calves are also exempt under some circumstances.

For complete information on current import requirements, check [online](#) or call 800-224-4879. Import requirements often change with little notice as disease outbreaks occur in other states, so we strongly recommend that importers always check them -- well before the animals are shipped -- to avoid surprises.

## Accreditation deadline extended

If you think you missed the deadline to apply for accreditation under the USDA's new system, you're wrong. The deadline, originally in early August, has been extended indefinitely due to the volume of forms to be processed.

To date, about 50,000 veterinarians have sent in the paperwork to be accredited and another 10,000 are expected to do so. Verifying data has been more time consuming than anticipated, a press release from the USDA says.

The bottom line: If you already sent in your "election to participate" forms, you don't need to do anything further. If you have not sent them yet, do so as soon as possible.

Accreditation is required to perform regulatory veterinary work. Learn more about the new National Veterinary Accreditation Program [online](#).

### **Reminder: Oct. 8 is deadline to comment on dog seller rule**

This Friday, Oct. 8, is the last day to comment on the proposed administrative rule that lays out standards for facilities and care of dogs under Wisconsin Act 90, the new law that will require licensing and inspection for many dog sellers, shelters and rescues.

There are several ways to comment other than by attending a hearing:

- Online at <http://AdminRules.Wisconsin.gov>, search for "dog sellers"
- Email to [melissa.mace@wi.gov](mailto:melissa.mace@wi.gov)
- Mail to:  
DATCP-DAH  
ATTN Melissa Mace  
PO Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708-8911

The deadline for comments is **4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8**. To read the proposed rule and for more information about Act 90, visit us [online](#).

### **We'll be at WVMA**

**TB recertification seminar** This will be your last chance this year to get recertified for TB testing. We'll offer the seminar at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, in the Mendota Room at the Madison Marriot West. If you're registering for the WVMA convention, just check the box on the registration form to also register for the seminar. If you want to attend only the recertification seminar, you can do so on a walk-in basis. You will have to stop at the WVMA registration booth to get a badge, however. There's no cost for attending the seminar only. Three continuing education hours available.

**WARC** You can learn about the Wisconsin Animal Response Corps at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, in the Geneva Room, we'll have a Q & A about WARC. WARC is a group of veterinary professionals and animal handlers we can call on in emergencies.

**Dog sellers/shelters** This information session will immediately follow the WARC session in the same room. Get up to date on the new dog sellers licensing and inspection program that takes effect June 1.

You can receive 1.2 non-scientific CE credits total for the WARC and dog sellers sessions combined.

WARC will also share a booth at the convention with the Wisconsin Medical Reserve Corps and the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry.

Need for info about the convention? Visit [WVMA](#).

### **Training opportunity: Large Animal Rescue Techniques**

The UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine will offer this one-day course twice, on Friday, Oct. 15, and Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Black River Falls. The course runs 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and will feature hands-on work with ropes and knots, slings, manipulating the animal-patient, and halter training with live horses. Cost is \$150, including breakfast, lunch, and 9.6 continuing education hours. For more information and registration, visit [UW-SVM online](#).

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