

## How you can help

Landowners can help by removing feed bales from fields by mid-October or earlier to discourage deer and elk from feeding. You can also fence hay storage sites and allow deer and elk hunters access to your land.

Hunters can help by participating in the surveillance of elk and deer and submitting samples of all carcasses for testing.



## For More Information:

Manitoba Conservation

Ph.: (204) 945-6784

Toll-free: 1-800-214-6497

[www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/disease/bovine.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/disease/bovine.html)

Manitoba Agriculture, Food  
and Rural Initiatives

[www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/anhealth/jaa04s00.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/anhealth/jaa04s00.html)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

[www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

(Search keywords: bovine tuberculosis)

Parks Canada–Riding Mountain National Park

Ph: (204) 848-7272

Toll-free: 1-800-707-8480

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Ph: (204) 772-4542

E-mail: [mcpa@escape.ca](mailto:mcpa@escape.ca)

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

[www.mwf.mb.ca](http://www.mwf.mb.ca)



Canada

Manitoba



# BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS (TB) Management



## Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

**B**ovine tuberculosis is a contagious disease caused by the *Mycobacterium bovis* bacteria. Cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats and other species, including humans, can get the disease. Symptoms include lesions in the lungs, lymph nodes and other tissue as well as weight loss and general deterioration. Bovine TB is chronic and eventually leads to death.

In the Riding Mountain area over the past 12 years, bovine TB has been found in 11 cattle herds, 22 elk and two white-tailed deer. Because of this, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) now requires all potential breeding cattle and bison, raised in Manitoba for export, to have a bovine TB test. This excludes steers and animals for direct slaughter.

Bovine TB in the Riding Mountain area is a serious problem. It threatens the province's livestock industry and the region's elk and deer herds which have significant social, ecological, cultural and economic value to Manitobans.

Livestock and members of the deer family can get bovine TB disease from saliva or airway secretions transferred directly from one animal to another. They can get the disease indirectly from eating contaminated feed. The disease spreads more rapidly when livestock and members of the deer family are frequently in contact, such as when feeding on the same hay bales.



## IN THE RIDING MOUNTAIN AREA

Protecting  
& Managing  
our Future

Manitoba  
Building for the Future



The disease originated from the Old World and was imported in cattle during European settlement in Canada. The Riding Mountain area had outbreaks of bovine TB in cattle in the 1960s and 1970s that were eventually eliminated and controlled until 1991.

## Bovine TB Management

There are no effective vaccines available at present. The most effective control is to eliminate contact with infected livestock or wildlife, and by destroying infected and exposed animals.

To improve control and eliminate bovine TB, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has split Manitoba into two areas:

- Riding Mountain TB Eradication Area (RMEA), the area where the disease has been found
- Manitoba TB Eradication Area (MTEA), the rest of the province outside RMEA where the disease has not been found.

The province has also set up the Duck Mountain TB Surveillance Area to monitor the disease.

A task force for bovine tuberculosis was created in 2000. It funds and co-ordinates the Bovine TB Management Program to eliminate the disease and includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Parks Canada Agency. The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association and Manitoba Wildlife Federation provide consultation to the group.



### The programs goals:

- to eliminate bovine TB in domestic livestock and wildlife that may pose a risk to other domestic livestock
- to reduce wildlife contact with domestic livestock in the Riding Mountain region
- to minimize the unnatural deer and elk herding that occurs when they eat harvested feed bales

Surveillance – All elk and deer hunters, hunting in the Riding Mountain TB Eradication Area and the Duck Mountain TB Surveillance Area (see map) must submit the head, upper neck and lungs of harvested elk and deer to be tested for bovine TB. Samples from harvested elk and deer should be taken within 24 hours to:

- any Manitoba Conservation office
- the Riding Mountain National Park office
- surveillance program check stations

Non-resident hunters hunting in the area must submit carcass samples to their outfitters for testing. The CFIA requires testing of all cattle and bison herds in the RMEA at least once every three years.



Prevention – Elk and deer numbers are being reduced and maintained at a lower level with attempts being made to target older male elk. Barrier fences to protect hay are being built around stored forage sites, to reduce contact between livestock and wildlife. As well, deer and elk feeding is prohibited in the RMEA. Bans on using bait to hunt elk and deer are being strictly enforced. Natural elk forage areas are being renewed to keep elk within the park boundary. Prevention information is being distributed to landowners and hunters.

Research – A study is being done to determine elk movements in RMEA and how they may affect disease transmission. Two other studies will be done soon, one on the association between farm management and the presence of elk and deer; and the other on the existence of bovine TB in other wildlife.

Disease Control – The provincial cattle tracking system has been improved. The CFIA requires permits to track animals leaving the eradication area and ensure that others meet TB test requirements before they can be moved out of the RMEA.

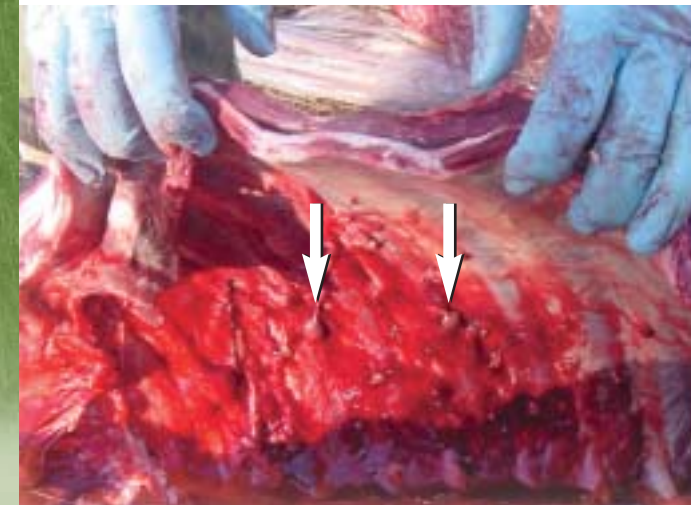


### Risks


Bovine and human TB are different diseases. The risk of getting bovine TB when field dressing or eating the meat of an infected animal is minimal.

Hunters can reduce personal risk by wearing rubber gloves when dressing an animal and by washing immediately afterwards. Thoroughly cooking the meat (until juices run clear and there is no pink colour) will kill the bacteria.

When field dressing animals, hunters should look for tan or yellow, pea-sized lumps or larger in the lungs and ribcage wall. If lumps are found, hunters should contact Manitoba Conservation or Riding Mountain National Park staff. It is important the required samples of all elk and deer harvested be submitted to Manitoba Conservation, park staff or the surveillance program check stations, because wildlife may have growths that aren't visible and can only be detected by laboratory tests.



# Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Management

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITY	RIDING MOUNTAIN ERADICATION AREA
<b>Canadian Food Inspection Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance and control of reportable diseases; liaison with USDA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing and special program testing of domestic herds</li> <li>• Analysis of tissue samples</li> <li>• Communication and awareness</li> </ul>
<b>Riding Mountain National Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining the ecological integrity of the national park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elk and deer management within the park</li> <li>• Elk and deer population surveys</li> <li>• Lab operations</li> <li>• Communication and awareness</li> <li>• Elk ecological research</li> </ul>
<b>Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining the sustainability of the livestock industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vet Lab Operations</li> <li>• Barrier fencing to reduce cattle/elk and deer interactions</li> <li>• Communication and awareness</li> <li>• Liaison with Manitoba Crop Insurance Agency</li> <li>• Liaison with CFIA on testing protocols and zoning</li> </ul>
<b>Manitoba Conservation</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing wildlife on a sustainable and ecosystem basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease surveillance in elk and deer</li> <li>• Barrier fencing to reduce cattle/elk and deer interactions</li> <li>• DNA analysis of TB positive elk</li> <li>• Communication and awareness</li> <li>• Participation in ecological research</li> <li>• Hunting season regulation and elk and deer population management</li> </ul>

## For More Information:

Manitoba Conservation

Ph.: (204) 945-6784

Toll-free: 1-800-214-6497

[www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/disease/bovine.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/disease/bovine.html)

Manitoba Agriculture, Food  
and Rural Initiatives

[www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/anhealth/jaa04s00.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/anhealth/jaa04s00.html)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

[www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

(Search keywords: bovine tuberculosis)

Parks Canada–Riding Mountain National Park

Ph: (204) 848-7272

Toll-free: 1-800-707-8480

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Ph: (204) 772-4542

E-mail: [mcpa@escape.ca](mailto:mcpa@escape.ca)

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

[www.mwf.mb.ca](http://www.mwf.mb.ca)



Canada 



Manitoba 

