

parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 77

Animal diseases, Bison, Cattle, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Tuberculosis.

Accordingly, we are amending 9 CFR part 77 as follows:

PART 77—TUBERCULOSIS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 77 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 8301–8317; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

§ 77.7 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 77.7 is amended as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (a), by adding the words “New Mexico,” after the words “New Jersey,”.

■ b. By removing and reserving paragraph (b)(2).

§ 77.9 [Amended]

■ 3. In § 77.9, paragraph (b)(3) is removed.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of September 2011.

Gregory L. Parham,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–25687 Filed 10–3–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 77

[Docket No. APHIS–2011–0100]

Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; Minnesota

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the bovine tuberculosis regulations regarding State and zone classifications by reclassifying a zone in Minnesota consisting of portions of Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Marshall, and Beltrami Counties. We have determined that the zone meets the criteria for accredited-free status. Since

the remainder of the State is already classified as accredited free, the entire State of Minnesota is now classified as accredited free. This action relieves certain restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle and bison from the area of Minnesota that was previously classified as modified accredited advanced for tuberculosis.

DATES: This interim rule is effective October 4, 2011. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before December 5, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

• *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0100-0001>.

• *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2011–0100, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0100> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. C. William Hench, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Ruminant Health Programs, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building B–3E20, Fort Collins, CO 80526; (970) 494–7378.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Bovine tuberculosis is a contagious and infectious granulomatous disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. Although commonly defined as a chronic debilitating disease, bovine tuberculosis can occasionally assume an acute, rapidly progressive course. While any body tissue can be affected, lesions are most frequently observed in the lymph nodes, lungs, intestines, liver, spleen, pleura, and peritoneum. Although cattle are considered to be the true hosts of *M. bovis*, the disease has been reported in several other species of both domestic and nondomestic animals, as well as in humans.

At the beginning of the past century, tuberculosis caused more losses of livestock than all other livestock diseases combined. This prompted the

establishment in the United States of the National Cooperative State/Federal Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program for tuberculosis in livestock.

In carrying out the national eradication program, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues and enforces regulations. The regulations require the testing of cattle and bison for tuberculosis, define the Federal tuberculosis status levels for States or zones (accredited-free, modified accredited advanced, modified accredited, accreditation preparatory, and nonaccredited), provide the criteria for attaining and maintaining those status levels, and contain testing and movement requirements for cattle and bison leaving States or zones of a particular status level. These regulations are contained in 9 CFR part 77 and in the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules, 1999 (UMR), which is incorporated by reference into the regulations.

The status of a State or zone is based on its prevalence of tuberculosis in cattle and bison, the effectiveness of the State's tuberculosis eradication program, and the degree of the State's compliance with standards for cattle and bison contained in the UMR. The regulations provide that a State may request partitioning into specific geographic regions or zones with different status designations (commonly referred to as split-State status) if bovine tuberculosis is detected in a portion of a State and the State demonstrates that it meets certain criteria with regard to zone classification.

Request for Advancement of Modified Accredited Advanced Zone

In an interim rule effective and published in the **Federal Register** on October 10, 2008 (73 FR 60099–60102, Docket No. APHIS–2008–0117), we amended the tuberculosis regulations for cattle and bison by dividing Minnesota into two zones for tuberculosis. We classified the zone in the northwest corner of the State consisting of portions of Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Marshall, and Beltrami Counties as modified accredited, and the remainder of the State as modified accredited advanced.

Subsequently, in an interim rule effective and published in the **Federal Register** on October 1, 2010 (75 FR 60586–60588, Docket No. APHIS–2010–0097), we reclassified the modified accredited zone as modified accredited advanced, and the remainder of the State as accredited free.

We have received from the State of Minnesota a request to reclassify the modified accredited advanced zone as

accredited free. Based on the findings of a review of the tuberculosis eradication program in Minnesota conducted during June and July 2011, APHIS has determined that the zone meets the criteria for advancement of status contained in the regulations.

State animal health officials in Minnesota have demonstrated that the State enforces and complies with the provisions of the UMR. The State of Minnesota has demonstrated that the modified accredited advanced zone has zero percent prevalence of cattle and bison herds affected with tuberculosis and has had no findings of tuberculosis in any cattle or bison in the zone since the last affected herd in the zone was depopulated in January 2009. Therefore, Minnesota has demonstrated that the zone within the State previously classified as modified accredited advanced meets the criteria for accredited-free status as set forth in the definition of *accredited-free State or zone* in § 77.5 of the regulations.

Based on our evaluation of Minnesota's request, we are classifying the zone consisting of portions of Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Marshall, and Beltrami Counties as accredited free, which results in the entire State of Minnesota having an accredited-free classification.

Immediate Action

Immediate action is warranted to relieve restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle and bison from portions of Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Marshall, and Beltrami Counties in Minnesota. Under these circumstances, the Administrator has determined that prior notice and opportunity for public comment are contrary to the public interest and that there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 for making this action effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

We will consider comments we receive during the comment period for this interim rule (see **DATES** above). After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register**. The document will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This interim rule is subject to Executive Order 12866. However, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review under Executive Order 12866.

In accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, we have analyzed the potential economic effects of this action

on small entities. The analysis is summarized below. The full analysis may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site (see **ADDRESSES** above for instructions for accessing Regulations.gov) or obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Advancing the status of the former modified accredited advanced zone in Minnesota will reduce the interstate movement restrictions for cattle and bison originating from portions of Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Marshall, and Beltrami Counties. Herd owners in the area will no longer have to test their cattle and bison for bovine tuberculosis in order to move them interstate. Tuberculosis testing, including veterinary fees, costs about \$10 to \$15 per head. The annual cost savings associated with the removal of those tests for the 254 herds in the affected area is expected to be between \$110,280 and \$165,420, or from \$434 to \$651 per herd on average. In addition, tuberculosis testing costs represent no more than about 1.7 percent of the average value of the cattle tested, which was \$870 per head on January 1, 2010.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12372

This program/activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.025 and is subject to Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V.)

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule has no retroactive effect and does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

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■ b. By removing paragraph (b)(3).

§ 77.9 [Amended]

■ 3. In § 77.9, paragraph (b)(2) is removed and reserved.

Done in Washington, DC, this 30th day of September 2011.

Gregory L. Parham,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–25688 Filed 10–3–11; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Parts 104 and 109

[Notice 2011–13]

Interpretive Rule on When Certain Independent Expenditures Are “Publicly Disseminated” for Reporting Purposes

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Notice of interpretive rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Election Commission is issuing guidance on when independent expenditure communications that take the form of yard signs, mini-billboards, handbills, t-shirts, hats, buttons, and similar items are “publicly disseminated” for purposes of certain reporting requirements in Commission regulations.

DATES: Effective October 4, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Rothstein, Assistant General Counsel, Ms. Cheryl A.F. Hemsley or Mr. Theodore M. Lutz, Attorneys, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463, (202) 694–1650 or (800) 424–9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An independent expenditure is “an expenditure by a person for a communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that is not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate’s authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party committee or its agents.” 11 CFR