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John R. Stulp, Commissioner



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Memorandum

To: Colorado/New Mexico Cattle Commuters

From: Keith A. Roehr DVM, Colorado Acting State Veterinarian
David Fly DVM, New Mexico State Veterinarian

Date: 10/9/2008

Re: Colorado/New Mexico Commuter Agreements and New Mexico's Modified Accredited Advanced Tuberculosis Status

As you may already be aware, New Mexico's Tuberculosis (TB) status was recently downgraded from "Accredited Free" status to "Modified Accredited Advanced" status. When states are downgraded from free status there are additional testing and import requirements that become active to enable livestock to cross state lines. Commuter agreements by design allow flexibility in livestock disease testing in order to comply with a state's import requirements. The flexibility has to do with the location of livestock working facilities and normal cattle production processing times but must insure that appropriate testing is still completed according to requirements of the state animal health officials within both states. As in the past, the owners of cattle commuting between Colorado and New Mexico will be required to complete a whole herd TB test. That whole herd TB test will be valid in commuter agreements for a three year time period.

Cattle presently out of state on a previously signed commuter agreement may return to the state of origin where the whole herd TB test would be completed after their return. The timing of the whole herd TB testing will be determined on a case by case basis but will be required to be completed prior to the issuance of future commuter herd agreements

Future commuter agreements will likely require a whole herd TB test prior to movement. A producer may request a delay in the whole herd TB test if the potential timing of the testing is not in keeping with access to the location of livestock

working facilities or normal livestock production processing times. It is important to note that the whole herd TB test is required to be completed as outlined in the commuter agreement.