



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE

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Tuberculosis Found in South Dakota Cattle Herd

PIERRE, SD. – Bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been confirmed in a cow/calf herd in Kingsbury County, South Dakota. According to State Veterinarian Dr. Beth Thompson, the infected herd was identified by the traceback efforts on a Hamlin County feedlot steer. The infected Hamlin County feedlot steer was initially identified in late October 2024 by meat inspectors during routine inspection at a Wisconsin packing plant and confirmed in early December 2024 by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

Sale records linked the Hamlin County steer to a Kingsbury County herd where the steer was born. Testing of this source herd confirmed the presence of bovine TB in multiple cows. The State Veterinarian's office worked closely with the herd owner as well as USDA officials to depopulate this herd. AIB staff continue to trace other animals which were sold from the Kingsbury herd in the past 5 years.

Necessary precautions are being taken to protect the health of South Dakota's cattle industry. Bovine TB is not currently a threat to food safety in the United States, thanks to milk pasteurization and comprehensive meat inspection programs.

Bovine tuberculosis is a chronic, slowly progressive respiratory disease of cattle. Infected animals may transmit infection to other animals when in close proximity for prolonged periods. Cattle rarely exhibit visible signs of illness. Testing of cattle herds is necessary to determine if animals are infected. The US has nearly eliminated bovine TB due to a cooperative eradication campaign and South Dakota has officially been recognized as free of the disease since 1982.