South Dakota Wildlife Surveillance for Bovine Tuberculosis

<u>Update: March 28, 2017</u>

A public meeting was held on March 23rd, 2017 at the high school in Buffalo, South Dakota.   The primary purpose of this meeting was for South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) to present a wildlife surveillance plan to the landowners and producers of Harding County in response to the recent discovery of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle.   Approximately 100 members of the public attended the meeting and many more watched the presentation over a live video stream feed.   SDGFP staff members from SDGFP and the South Dakota Animal Industry Board were present and answered many questions.

On March 27, 2017, SDGFP initiated its short-term wildlife surveillance effort.   A "field laboratory" was established at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Camp Crook, South Dakota and a small sampling of wildlife was taken to test the processes. A U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) fixed-wing aircraft conducted flights and removed 11 coyotes for testing. SDGFP staff conducted removal of wildlife from the ground and sampled 15 pronghorn, 11 mule deer, and 2 raccoon for TB testing.   The goal of working through the collection and sampling process and streamlining the laboratory protocol was successful. All samples collected from this day's activities were shipped to the USDA-APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa for testing.

Aerial removal of mule deer, white-tailed deer, and pronghorn will begin on March 28, 2017, with a contracted helicopter on areas within the sampling area where landowner permission has been obtained. Removal efforts will continue through the rest of this week until the desired sample size has been reached.   An evaluation of any further short-term wildlife surveillance for TB will be conducted once laboratory test results have been received in approximately 6-8 weeks. All salvageable deer and pronghorn removed from this surveillance effort will be processed and stored until test results become available.