

New Tuberculosis Testing Option NOW AVAILABLE for Cervid Producers

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will now be accepting the new Cervid TB Stat-Pak Antibody Test as an official screening test for tuberculosis (TB) in captive elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, fallow deer and reindeer. The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently introduced the Cervid TB Stat-Pak Antibody Test as a primary test, and the Dual Path Platform (DPP) Test as a secondary test, for official TB program use in the above-mentioned species. The TAHC is working to make all necessary changes to its policies and procedures so that producers may take advantage of these new tests, which have the advantage of decreased animal stress and handling while maintaining the ability to ensure that livestock entering and moving in Texas are TB-free.



Historically, the single cervical tuberculin skin test (SCT) and the comparative cervical tuberculin skin test (CCT) have been the only approved official tests for tuberculosis in captive cervids. The availability of a more rapid testing option that requires only one handling event not only benefits the cervid industry, but also promotes additional testing, providing the TB program with new information on the identification and control of TB.

The newly approved testing methods are based on serological testing, and therefore a blood sample must be collected from the animal. Only Designated Accredited Veterinarians (DAVs), who have received training specific to sample collection and submission are authorized to submit samples for testing. If your veterinarian is not already a DAV, they can become a DAV through additional training from their regional TAHC office.

Effective February 4, 2013, testing for cervid samples using the Cervid TB Stat-Pak at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory will begin. The TAHC will begin accepting the Cervid TB Stat-Pak as an official test effective today.

As always, check with the state or country of destination before shipping or moving animals, to determine if their animal health regulations allow the use of the Cervid TB Stat-Pak Antibody Test as an official test for tuberculosis in captive elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, fallow deer and reindeer.

USDA APHIS-VS Frequently Asked Questions for the Cervid TB Stat-Pak® (Stat-Pak) and the Cervid Dual Path Platform (DPP) tests for tuberculosis

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tuberculosis/downloads/stat-pak_faq.pdf

Link to USDA's Bovine Tuberculosis page (scroll down the page for cervid TB information) http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tuberculosis/

