

Bovine TB Biosecurity Technician

POSITION DESCRIPTION

A. INTRODUCTION

The *Bovine TB Biosecurity Technician* position is located in Alpena, Michigan. This position will provide livestock producers with educational, technical, and financial assistance to reduce the risks of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) spreading from wildlife to livestock in the northeast Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The Technician will work for the Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District (AMCD), under the guidance of the AMCD Board of Directors, AMCD District Manager, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and with direction from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

B. DUTIES

Visit cattle farms and monitor the effectiveness of risk mitigation practices in place to prevent transmission of TB from deer to cattle. Participate in team assessments of high risk cattle farms and provide recommendations for risk reduction. Work with landowners to plan and design projects that reduce deer access to cattle and feed storage areas. Inspect completed projects and follow up with compliance issues. Collaborate with partner agencies to develop and implement conservation plans and install conservation practices on-farm. Facilitate access to additional technical and financial assistance through application to federal and state private lands conservation programs. Disseminate program information to producers through individual and group meetings, presentations, and promotional activities. Perform program advocacy with agency and industry stakeholders and affected livestock producers.

Utilize available resources to complete work. Partner agency and organization staff expertise and training, including the USDA NRCS, MDARD, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services, and Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Access and use policies and procedures as outlined in NRCS Standards and Specifications, Field Office Technical Guide, and the latest Technical Releases.

Monitor program progress. Complete and submit required quarterly reporting to the AMCD, MDARD, and NRCS.

C. SKILLS REQUIRED

Knowledge of wildlife and livestock feeding and travel behaviors, Bovine Tuberculosis, and conservation principles of disease control.

Ability to determine risks and select or adapt solutions to resource concerns.

Ability to use ArcMap software.

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Knowledge of livestock farming practices and how a conservation plan and practices can mitigate risk.

Ability to work effectively with co-workers and the general public.

Ability to apply training.

Knowledge and skill in written and oral communication techniques and public relations, sufficient to explain technical specifications for various projects and programs to individual landowners, various agencies, local sponsoring organizations, and other conservation partners.

Ability to interpret data, plan stages of work, and select the most practical solution to address the problem.

Applicant must possess a four-year agriculture, wildlife, or natural resources related degree from an accredited college or university.

D. SCOPE OF WORK

The *Technician's* work involves treating a variety of conventional agricultural problems, questions, or situations (relating to the planning, design, and installation of conservation practices), in accordance with NRCS guidelines and with the purpose of reducing the spread of TB from wildlife to livestock.

E. WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Work requires personal contact with co-workers, construction contractors, landowners, and operators for the purpose of exchanging information, providing consultative services and obtaining experience in relating conservation practices to conservation programs.

Work performed in an office setting while seated at a desk and in the field. The normal work hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Some flexibility to accommodate producer schedules may be required. The employee frequently will make field visits that may involve walking on rough terrain, carrying equipment or climbing steep banks during all weather conditions. Contact with livestock animals is common. The position requires average agility and dexterity during field visits. Protective gear and clothing such as hard hat, boots and gloves may be necessary during field visits.