

## **Governor Bill Richardson Reacts to USDA Decision on Bovine Tuberculosis Status**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson released the following statement in reaction to an announcement by the USDA that spares most counties from strict requirements that had been place on the cattle in New Mexico. The latest move by the USDA, prompted by requests from Governor Richardson, Senators Jeff Bingaman Tom Udall, will now require bovine TB tests only for cattle shipped from Curry and Roosevelt counties.

“Keeping cattle in New Mexico free of the threat of Bovine tuberculosis helps protect the economic viability of our state’s dairy and beef producers, and continues to protect the American public from this serious and debilitating disease,” Governor Richardson said. “At a time of economic uncertainty, this decision will save millions of dollars for the New Mexico Dairy and beef industries in the state, while continuing to assure the consuming public of safe, wholesome food products.”

Governor Richardson also credited the New Mexico Livestock Board and its State Veterinarian staff for their relentless efforts on behalf of this state’s livestock industry. Much credit should go to Assistant State Veterinarian Dr Tim Hanosh for providing yeoman’s service as the Team Leader and Coordinator for achieving Split State Status.