 Saturday, December 20, 1986-D15
Illinois Declared Free Of

## Bovine TB

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently recognized Illinois as the 32nd state to be designated free of designated free
In order to be declared an free of bovine tuberculosis, a state must comply with uniform methods and rules for bovine TB eradication and remain free of the disease for five or more years, according to Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
The new designation for Illinois means the state can market its cattle more easily, since most buyers prefer to purchase cattle from states that have been designated free of the disease.
Bovine tuberculosis bacteria can be spread among cattle through inhalation or by coninhalation or by con-
taminated food and taminated food and
water sources. Humans water sources. Humans
can contract the disease can contract the disease
by drinking unpasteurized milk from infected cows.
Earlier in this century, bovine TB caused large-scale cattle losses in the United States. Since then, a cooperative state-federal eradication program has significantly reduced the incidence of the disease, but strict surveillance and testing of cattle will continue until the disease has been eliminated, Hawkıns said.


