

DEALING WITH TB IN YOUR HERD

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What happens if bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been detected in your herd?





Detection of bovine TB in your herd is called a 'breakdown'. If bovine TB has been detected in your herd, your case will be referred to Animal Health who will arrange a visit to your premises by a veterinary officer or inspector. At this visit you will be advised of how the breakdown will be managed and what action you need to take. This leaflet provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Why has your herd been put under restrictions?

Your herd has been put under restrictions for one of the following reasons:

- at least one animal in your herd has failed the tuberculin skin test or any other diagnostic test for TB, such as the Gamma Interferon test
- an animal from your herd has been reported as having lesions which are suspicious of TB, when inspected by the Meat Hygiene Service in a slaughterhouse
- inconclusive reactors (IRs) have been found in your herd and bovine TB has been confirmed on your holding within the last three years
- an animal from your herd has been identified as a reactor after being moved to another herd and it has not been possible to rule out the risk that the infection may have come from your herd.

What will the inspector do?

The role of the inspector is to advise you and to complete a Disease Report on the breakdown in your herd. In order to complete this, the inspector will require information on livestock movement both on and off your premises.

The inspector may also value your reactors on this visit.

What do you need to do?

The visit is to assess the situation and to give you the best advice to help you reduce the risk of spread of bovine TB and eventually free your herd from TB and the restrictions that come with it.

Please remember that all the premises listed on the restriction notice (TB2) are under restriction and you may move between them without the need for a licence for TB purposes, though other legal requirements for movements still apply such as pre-movement testing and livestock movement standstill requirements.

You should have ready the following information:

- livestock movement records, going back at least two months before the last clear bovine TB test
- any local information that may help to establish the source, and the possible spread, of the disease.

It is important that:

- you do not move cattle either on to or off the premises without first applying for and receiving a movement licence issued from your local Animal Health office
- you ensure that milk from animals identified as reactors does not enter the human food chain
- until movement restrictions are lifted you must not sell unpasteurised milk to consumers or for use in the manufacturing of unpasteurised milk products
- you inform your milk purchaser as soon as reactors are identified in the herd.

What advice should you expect from the inspector?

The inspector will answer your questions as far as he is able and, in particular, should offer you advice on any or all of the following, where appropriate:



- outline the public health issues and implications of the breakdown
- offer advice that will reduce the impact of the restrictions on your business
- advise on managing the risk of infection spread in your herd and to other herds
- advise on restricting wildlife access to your premises.

The inspector will further:

- assess the possible sources of infection
- note any essential movements that are necessary to manage your enterprise effectively whilst under restriction
- advise you on any licences that can be issued or any additional conditions that may be necessary, to allow you to manage your

livestock and your business effectively during the restriction period

- establish the boundaries of your holding and any possible contact with adjacent and other herds
- establish if there are other TB-susceptible species on the farm
- explain the testing regime and how this may vary depending on the outcome of the post-mortem examinations and laboratory tests on reactors.

Establishing the TB2 restrictions

Once the assessment of your breakdown has been completed, you will be issued with a TB2 that states the extent of the restrictions in place.



The initial assessment will ensure that all areas that need to be placed under restriction are included in the restriction notice.

How can you release some of your herd from restrictions?

The primary concern of Animal Health inspectors is to ensure disease control.

It may be possible to release discrete groups of cattle from restrictions if they have been kept independently from the main affected holding. It will be essential that a discrete group tests clear to two tuberculin tests (if the breakdown is confirmed) within a 120 day period, i.e. two clear tests (no reactors or IRs), 60 days apart.

Separating groups of cattle for release from TB2 restrictions must follow a formal and auditable procedure. Therefore, the release of groups of cattle from restrictions will only be considered where cattle are located:

- at separate premises and where there can be no direct or indirect contact for a minimum 120 day period; or
- in a formally-approved isolation unit, located within the premises that remain under restrictions.

You should seek the advice and guidance of your veterinary officer or inspector on the approval of the isolation premises you wish to use, the high standards of bio-security needed and what further testing will be required.

Further information

Contact your local Animal Health office for further practical advice and guidance or visit the Animal Health website:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth

Since devolution, the responsibility and powers in regard to animal health legislation has meant that there are significant differences in the policies regarding bovine TB in England, Wales and Scotland. The Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government websites providing up-to-date detail on these policies can be accessed from the Animal Health website.

If you farm on the border of England and Wales or England and Scotland, you should be aware that the location of your animals at the time of the test would influence which protocols are relevant to you.

This leaflet is one of a series about dealing with TB in your herd. The leaflets are structured so that you should clearly be able to find the information you need, depending on the location of your farm.

DEALING WITH TB IN YOUR HERD leaflets are:

- 1 Bovine tuberculosis (TB): What is it? Why do we test for it? How do we detect it?
- 2 What happens if bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been detected in your herd?
- 3 Reactor animals
- 4 Inconclusive reactors
- 5 Valuation, slaughter and compensation
- 6 Movements on and off restricted premises
- 7 What further testing will be required?
- 8 Cleansing and disinfection
- 9 How to reduce the risk of bovine tuberculosis (TB) on your premises
- 10 Understanding the risk of bovine tuberculosis (TB) to cattle from wildlife
- 11 How to manage your milk quota
- 12 Legislation and enforcement of tuberculosis (TB) restrictions
- 13 Tuberculosis in deer
- 14 Tuberculosis in mammals
- 15 Tuberculosis in camelids

The Health Protection Agency, in association with Animal Health and others, has produced a leaflet providing information on the human health risks associated with bovine TB: Reducing the risk of human *M. bovis* infection: information for farmers.



This leaflet has been produced by Animal Health in association with:



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