

DEALING WITH TB IN YOUR HERD

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What further testing will be required?





If bovine TB is confirmed, your herd will be placed under a TB2 restriction notice meaning that you cannot move cattle on to or off your premises except under licence. To remove these restrictions, your herd has to demonstrate that it is free from TB infection and this can only be done by further TB testing of your herd.

This leaflet explains the process of further TB testing for your herd and your responsibilities during this period of movement restriction.

What happens if bovine TB is confirmed in your herd?

If bovine TB has been confirmed in your herd, further tests will be required to detect any further infection in other animals and to release your herd from TB restrictions.

In order to lift the movement restrictions, your herd must have two consecutive negative tuberculin skin tests.

These tests, called short interval tests, cover all animals in the herd and are carried out 60 days apart.

The 60 day period, for short interval testing, is calculated from the date the last reactor left your herd or from the date any reactors or inconclusive reactors were satisfactorily isolated, in accordance with Animal Health instructions.

To ensure your herd is cleared of infection as quickly as possible, we usually apply a more **severe interpretation** than that used for routine tests at the first short interval test following confirmation.

What animals need to be tested?

If reactors are found in your herd, we will need to test all the cattle on your farm.

Occasionally, subject to a satisfactory risk assessment, we may agree not to carry out further tests on certain groups of animals, for example, housed fattening bulls. You should discuss this with your local Animal Health office before your test is carried out.

What happens if bovine TB is not confirmed in animals that are slaughtered?

If bovine TB cannot be confirmed by examining reactor animal carcasses and attempting to isolate *M. bovis* by tissue culture, your breakdown will be classed as an unconfirmed breakdown. Your herd will still need one further test using standard interpretation and not severe interpretation techniques.

When will the Gamma Interferon test be used within a TB breakdown?

As a part of ongoing efforts to improve the bovine TB testing regime following a herd breakdown, the Gamma Interferon test may be used.

This test does not replace the tuberculin skin test, which continues to be the primary screening test for bovine TB.

Animal Health will apply both tests to improve the chances of detecting infected cattle, thereby speeding up the resolution of TB incidents, in the following circumstances:

- on tuberculin test-negative animals in all confirmed new TB incidents in three or four-year testing parishes
- on tuberculin test-negative animals in severe confirmed TB incidents, to inform decisions around whole or partial herd slaughter
- on tuberculin test-negative animals in herds with persistent, confirmed infection that fail to resolve through repeated short-interval tuberculin tests and have taken basic herd bio-security precautions
- in Wales only: on all **severe interpretation** inconclusive reactors that fail to resolve at their first tuberculin re-test.

Are there legal powers in place to allow compulsory slaughter following a positive Gamma Interferon test?

The Tuberculosis Orders provide for compulsory slaughter of animals failing any diagnostic test for bovine TB, including the Gamma Interferon test. You are entitled to the same compensation arrangements for any Gamma Interferon test reactor.

In England, when a reactor has been disclosed as the result of a Gamma Interferon test, the 'relevant date' for valuation is the one on which the animal had the blood sample taken.

What happens after TB movement restrictions have been lifted?

After the movement restrictions have been lifted, your herd will still need to undergo two further tuberculin tests. These are to ensure that:

- no infected animals have been missed in previous tests; and
- no re-infection has occurred.

These tests cover all cattle over 42 days old.

The first one is due six months after the TB restrictions have been lifted and, if the test is negative, a second test will be due 12 months later.

If the second test is negative, your herd will return to the normal TB testing frequency for the parish, i.e. one, two, three or four years.

Will my herd be eligible for pre-movement testing?

All herds on one or two-yearly testing, including those on increased testing due to a

TB breakdown, are subject to pre-movement testing.

Where high-risk herd types are located within three or four-yearly tested parishes/areas, they will be subject to pre-movement testing until you are notified in writing that they have reverted to their three or four-yearly testing interval.

High risk herd types are:

- post-breakdown herds
- reformed herds, where depopulation was for TB control purposes
- herds within a potential new hotspot area
- herds within the immediate vicinity of a herd suffering a confirmed bovine TB breakdown.

Once your whole herd has tested clear and restrictions have been lifted, the negative TB test is valid as a pre-movement test for 60 days.

Pre-movement testing is also required for cattle moving to Scotland from all low incidence areas of England (three and four-yearly tested parishes). The cattle will have to test clear no more than 60 days before movement and no less than 60 days after any previous test. The exceptions to this are: cattle which can be shown to have spent their whole lives in low incidence areas, cattle being sent direct to slaughter in Scotland and calves less than 42 days of age; these will not require pre-movement testing.

Pre-movement testing is a control measure to help reduce the risk of spreading bovine TB through cattle movements. Additional information on pre-movement testing can be found on Defra's website:



www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/premovement/index.htm

or in the booklet, 'TB in cattle – Reducing the Risk, Pre- and Post-Movement testing in Great Britain'. Copies of this can be viewed on the Defra website:

www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/documents/premove-booklet.pdf

or obtained from your local Animal Health office.

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 pre-movement testing and other bovine TB 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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