

Bovine TB Herd Accreditation



Reduce Risk. Improve Rewards

- Sell animals with an accredited Herd Status
- Buy animals with less chance of bringing in bTB
- Build on existing CHECS disease control programmes
- Protect and promote your low bTB risk status
- Systematically reduce bTB risk

Cattle farmers who take a proactive approach to controlling bovine TB (bTB) can now get recognised for their efforts.

Introduction

From November 2016, bTB Herd Accreditation will be available through participating cattle Health Schemes accredited by Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHECS).

With CHECS already providing frameworks to control Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Leptospirosis, Johne's Disease and Neospora, it is well-placed to recognise on-farm efforts to reduce risk of a bTB breakdown. This is because good biosecurity practice is central to existing CHECS programmes, as is a planned approach to disease reduction with the herd vet.

Who Benefits?

If you are...

In a high risk area with a low-risk holding:

- Selling livestock and want your low-risk status recognised
- Buying livestock and want to minimise risk of introducing bTB

Already using other CHECS programmes:

- Looking for a systematic, supported way to reduce the risk of bTB in your herd
- Or keen to complement Government and industry efforts to control infection

...this voluntary programme could suit you.

Herd Accreditation Approach

A similar approach is already being used to help control bTB in New Zealand. However, this CHECS scheme adds biosecurity as a factor. The scores run from 0 to 10, and are awarded from a combination of compliancy with CHECS standards and years since the last herd breakdown, with each year being signified by the score awarded. The difference between a breakdown in the herd and a breakdown among added animals in quarantine is also recognised.

How it works

The farmer or cattle owner first finds a participating CHECS-accredited Health Scheme and works with the herd vet to biosecurity CHECS requirements on farm.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) co-ordinates the centralised statutory testing regime for bTB. So rather than testing animals themselves, the Health Schemes, with the agreement of the famers involved, will access test results data direct from APHA. Accessing the last 10 years of test data will allow the Health Scheme to award the farm a starting Herd Status. This means homebred animals marketed from these herds can then be sold with that status, subject to a signed declaration from the herd vet.

To move up through the scores within the programme, herds must meet the requirements of the statutory scheme and be deemed to be adhering to CHECS standards.

For the purposes of this programme, the different scores are:

- 10 (Minimum risk):** 10 years or more since the last bTB breakdown within the herd
- 9 - 1** The score corresponds to the number of years since the herd regained OTF status after a breakdown
- 0 (High risk):** The herd is Officially TB Free but has had a bTB breakdown within the past year
- Unclassified (Maximum risk):** Not participating, or the animal is bought-in and cannot use the herd status

How is CHeCS different?

The CHeCS programme differs from statutory bTB control in several ways. It is recommended that all added animals are placed in quarantine upon arrival; if any then fail the bTB skin test, this should not affect the CHeCS bTB Herd Accreditation – although APHA will still record an official breakdown. Added biosecurity measures apply, such as preventing nose to nose contact with cattle of a lower health status over fences or walls. Some additional pre-and post-movement testing may also be required. A summary of those requirements is in the table below.

Please note, CHeCS bTB Herd Accreditation can only be applied at sale to homebred animals. Bought-in animals will not affect the Herd Status but they cannot be re-sold with that Status.

Originating from a...	Seller has a CHeCS bTB Herd Accreditation of...	Moving to an area which...	Pre-movement testing by seller	Post-movement testing by buyer
Six-monthly or annual testing area	None/not in programme	Test six monthly or annually	✓	✓
		Test four-yearly or is OTF	✓	✓
	0-10	Test six monthly or annually	✓	✓
		Test four-yearly or is OTF	✓	✓
Four-yearly area but not OTF (Officially TB-Free)	None/not in programme	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)	✓*	✓
	0-9	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)	✓*	✓
	10	Test six monthly or annually	†	
		Tests four-yearly	†	
is OTF (Scotland)		✓*	✓*	
OTF (Scotland)	None/not in programme	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)		✓
	0-9	Test six monthly or annually	†	✓
		Tests four-yearly	†	✓
		is OTF (Scotland)		✓
	10	Test six monthly or annually	†	
		Tests four-yearly	†	
is OTF (Scotland)				



Remember: It is illegal to knowingly sell or move an animal that has tested positive for bTB to an Officially TB Free (OTF) herd. However, no test is 100% accurate and a negative test does not guarantee that an animal is free from the disease. CHeCS Herd Accreditation can help you communicate the genuine risk presented by or to your herd and make informed purchasing choices, but it does not eliminate that risk.

- ✓ Statutory ✓ CHeCS
- ✓* Statutory pre-movement unless animal has spent whole life in 4-yearly test or OTF area
- † CHeCS pre-movement testing if animal has spent any time in annual or 6-monthly testing area.
- ✓* CHeCS post-movement if animal has statutory pre-movement testing

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Speak to your vet today

www.checs.co.uk www.tbhub.co.uk