



CHeCS PROGRAMME TEMPLATES FOR HEALTH PLANS

Herds participating in the CHeCS accreditation programmes must be abiding by the rules of the scheme, as given in the CHeCS technical document, accessible on the CHeCS website: <http://www.checs.co.uk>. The general section should be completed by all herds using this plan. Thereafter, the appropriate disease-related sections should be used.

Completion of health plan is compulsory for the Neospora and Johne's schemes. These templates provide an outline of the basic rules of CHeCS and more detail is required for a completed health plan.

Farmer name and farm :
Holding number :

Veterinary surgeon :
Veterinary practice :

1. CHeCS Programme General

Mandatory Elements for Accredited Herds

1.1 Herd definition – are all cattle on the holding in the accredited herd?

If not, a description of herd management is required to document how the biosecurity rules of the scheme are met.

1.2 Farm boundaries – is there any contact with non-accredited cattle?

1.3 Quarantine facilities

Suitable facilities are required to allow the isolation of added/other stock whilst testing is carried out. All added/returning animals that have had contact with non-accredited cattle must be isolated and tested appropriately.

1.4 Feed, bedding & water supplies – what methods are employed to prevent the spread of disease through these sources?

N.B. Buying in colostrum from non-accredited sources is not allowed

1.5 Equipment & visitors - what methods are employed to prevent the spread of disease through these sources?

N.B. Disinfection against Johne's disease requires use of a product suitable for bTB; see <http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk>

1.6 Relevant test results & disease

All testing or disease over the last 12 months relevant to accredited diseases must be documented and reviewed.

2. CHeCS IBR Programme

Mandatory Elements for Accredited / VMF Herds

2.1 Has annual testing (herd test of all over 12 months in a qualifying herd; statistical sample in an accredited herd) been undertaken?

All breeding bulls, non-homebred animals and marker vaccinated breeding stock must be tested annually. In accredited dairy herds, the milking herd is monitored by quarterly bulk milk screening

2.2 Is the herd vaccinated with marker vaccine against IBR?

Optional for accredited free, mandatory for at least 95% of animals over 2 years in VMF herds.

2.3 Have all added & returning animals been isolated and tested appropriately?

2.3 Has there been any clinical disease suspicious of IBR or abortion incident?

If so, has this been investigated appropriately?

3. CHeCS Leptospirosis Programme

Mandatory Elements for Accredited / Monitored Free Herds

3.1 Has annual testing (herd test of all over 24 months & younger animals intended for breeding and any purchased animals in a qualifying herd; statistical sample in an accredited herd) been undertaken?

All breeding bulls must be tested annually. In accredited dairy herds, the milking herd is monitored by quarterly bulk milk screening.

3.2 Have all added & returning animals been isolated and tested appropriately?

3.3 Has there been any clinical disease suspicious of leptospirosis or abortion incident?

If so, has this been investigated appropriately?

4. CHeCS Johne's Programme

Mandatory Elements

4.1 Has annual herd testing (all animals over 24) been undertaken?

4.2 What happens to test positive animals and any calves at foot?

Is follow up testing carried out? Any calves at foot when reactors are identified must not be retained for breeding purposes. It is recommended that this is extended to include the dam's previous calf.

4.3 Have any animals been added / returned to the herd and have they been tested appropriately?

Blood and dung testing is required on all added animals, regardless of age unless they have come from a risk level 1 herd.

Advisory Elements

4.4 Hygiene and calf management.

What measures are undertaken to prevent infection of young calves via faecal contamination?

4.5 Slurry management.

How is slurry / manure managed? Spreading on calf pasture to be avoided. Slurry / manure from non-accredited cattle must not be spread on pasture.

4.6 Food and water supplies.

What measures are undertaken to prevent contamination of food and water supplies?

4.7 What is the policy on co-grazing?

Cattle should not co-graze with other ruminants. Rabbit populations should be controlled.

4.8 Additional notes

5. CHeCS BVD Programme

Mandatory Elements for Accredited / VMF Herds

5.1 Has annual testing (check test of each management group or calf virus test) been undertaken?

5.2 Is the breeding herd vaccinated against BVD?

Optional for accredited free, mandatory for VMF herds

5.3 Have all added & returning animals been isolated and tested appropriately?

The calves born to seropositive pregnant added animals must be screened for BVD virus.

5.4 Has there been any abortion, or clinical disease where BVD was suspected?

If so, has this been investigated appropriately?

6. CHeCS Neospora Programme

Mandatory Elements for Accredited Herds

6.1 Has annual testing (herd test of all female animals of 2 years and over and any females between 12 and 24 months intended for breeding) been undertaken?

6.2 Have any test positive animals been identified?

Test positive animals and calves born to test positive cows must not be retained for breeding.

6.3 Have all added animals been tested appropriately?

6.4 Have all abortions and clinical cases been investigated?

The minimum requirement is that the aborting dam is tested for antibodies to neospora.

Advisory Elements

6.5 Are placentae, stillborn calves and carcasses removed to a secure location where dogs cannot access as quickly as possible?

6.5 Are feed storage facilities dog and vermin proof?

6.6 Have you had assurance from feed suppliers that there has been no contamination by dog faecal material?

6.7 Are dogs restricted from accessing pasture for cattle grazing or producing cattle forage (advisory requirement)?

6.8 Additional notes

7 CHeCS bTB Programme

Mandatory Elements

7.1 Testing

Has all appropriate & statutory testing has been carried out as required?

7.2 Test positive animals & their offspring under 12 months

Have any test positive animals been identified in the herd? All test positives and inconclusives must be isolated until culled or follow up testing is clear. Calves under the age of 12 months that have been reared by test positive animals must be skin tested at least 60 days after weaning.

7.3 Added and returning animals.

Quarantine advised and post-movement testing required for cattle not coming from CHeCS score 10 herds. Pre-movement testing may also be required

7.4 Isolation facility (see also section 1.3).

No shared air space, drainage or manure storage allowed with other cattle.

Advisory Elements

7.5 Is there any contact with non-accredited cattle?

In the high risk or edge area, cattle must not be grazed on land used by non-accredited cattle or spread with manure from non-accredited cattle within the last 2 months and there must be no nose-to-nose contact with non-accredited cattle.

7.6 Water supply.

Mains water should be supplied and ponds fenced off wherever possible.

7.7 Co-grazing

Co-grazing with other ruminant species should be avoided.

7.8 Cattle housing, feeding practices and feed stores

Facilities should be designed to minimise the risk of infection. Over-stocking should be avoided and badgers and other wildlife prevented from access to feed stores and farm buildings.

7.9 Locations of badger activity

Cattle access to badger runs, latrines and sets and woodland should be avoided.

7.10 Slurry and manure

Slurry and manure from other farms must not be used. Spreading equipment must not be shared

7.11 Transport

Livestock vehicles and trailers must not be shared without suitable disinfection.

7.12 Badger carcasses

Please advise APHA of any found carcasses.

7.13 Additional notes

Farmer signature:

Date:

I have discussed the general CHeCS requirements and the control of specific appropriate diseases with the farmer as covered in the sections above.

Vet Signature:

Date:

