

Introduction

What is the Herdsure® Cattle Health Improvement service?

The Herdsure® Cattle Health Improvement Service provides a means of assessing and improving the health status of dairy and beef cattle. It aims to reduce the cost of disease to your business by improving the health of your cattle.

The service is very user-friendly and straightforward to implement. It is suitable for all types of cattle herd – dairy and beef, commercial and pedigree. It may be used alongside existing health plans without causing you any unnecessary extra record keeping.

Why use a service developed by AHVLA?

AHVLA has a worldwide reputation for expertise in the diagnosis of diseases in livestock. The Herdsure® programme of testing is designed to provide you with reassurance that the best approach is being taken towards improving the health status of your herd.

The service is based upon up-to-date knowledge and high quality reliable testing. It uses an approach that enables all dairy and beef farmers to know the health status of their herds and to take steps to improve this where necessary.

This sound approach will make the process of testing and monitoring simple and cost effective, with the overall aim of achieving greater economic benefits through improved cattle health. It will help you and your veterinary practitioner work together to achieve this.

Effective cattle health management

Health management means assessing the impact of disease on your farm and implementing a strategy to reduce it, in partnership with your veterinary practitioner. Effective health management is fundamental to reducing the cost of disease to your farm business. It also has positive benefits for animal welfare.

AHVLA will facilitate health management by offering a comprehensive and supportive health improvement service. Herdsure® enables you, together with your veterinary practitioner, to plan disease control on your farm. It can help you to progress as far along the path towards disease eradication as suits your business.

Accreditation of freedom from disease is not necessarily the priority for many commercial herds. Instead the priority may be disease control and reducing its impact on both animal health and welfare and the profitability of the farm business.

There is also the option to become accredited by Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS).

Cattle Health Certification Standards UK (CHeCS) accreditation

Herdsure® is licensed by the Cattle Health Certification Standards UK (CHeCS). Farmers

enrolling in Herdsure® have the option to become CHeCS-accredited as being free of disease for bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD), Johne's disease, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) and leptospirosis.

You will be eligible to apply for CHeCS accreditation and awarded certificates of health status provided you comply with strict CHeCS biosecurity rules and sample appropriate animals as specified by Herdsure®. You will be asked to fill in Form D (Appendix 2) Accreditation Application & Compliance Declaration, which is also to be signed by your vet. This form should be completed when you join Herdsure® (alongside form B) and should also accompany each sample submission.

Pen/sale cards can also be provided on request for individual animals. There will be a charge for these. Should you wish to apply for these please call the helpline and we will send you an application form. Please note that Herdsure® requires the following notice:

- 6 weeks notice when testing is required.
- 2 weeks notice if testing has already been completed.

otherwise we cannot guarantee they will be sent on time.