

APHA Briefing Note 09/19

Optional OV Attendance at DRF Pilot (Wales)

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of a pilot activity being carried out by APHA with Welsh Government support.

Background

This pilot is in response to a request to explore different ways to encourage greater OV engagement in the TB Eradication programme.

In an effort to encourage OV engagement and involvement in the management of TB breakdowns on their clients' farms APHA are conducting a limited pilot in Wales, offering OVs the opportunity to accompany APHA Veterinarians when they carry out a Disease Report Form (DRF) visit on their clients' farms.

A DRF visit is undertaken shortly after a TB incident begins, either when a TB reactor is disclosed or when a suspect slaughterhouse case is identified. Its purpose is to carry out an epidemiological investigation of the disease outbreak, to identify risk pathways for infection and to provide advice to the farmer.

Specific details of the OV attendance at DRF pilot

1. The pilot is voluntary for the farmer. They will be asked if they are content for their OV to attend the DRF visit. If they are, they will be entered into the pilot.

2. The option of a visit is offered to the OV via the Delivery Partners (DP). The DP will be notified of the date and time of a scheduled DRF visit with reference to a particular holding.

3. The pilot is voluntary for the OV. Each OV is able to attend a **single** DRF visit as part of the pilot. This will ensure the maximum number of OVs can participate. On receipt of notification from the DP informing them of the DRF visit details, the OV is **required to confirm their intention to attend the DRF to APHA** if they will be attending. The OV will **not** receive payment if their attendance is not confirmed in advance with APHA.

APHA will not be able to alter the prearranged time and date of the DRF visit.

4. The purpose of the shared visit is to give the OV an opportunity to better understand the TB breakdown and its management, its control strategies and the principles behind them.

5. On completion of the visit the OV is expected to complete and return a feedback form to APHA.

6. On receipt of a completed feedback form APHA will create and forward a Cymorth OTF work schedule activity (WSA) to the appropriate DP which the OV can close to generate a 3 hour payment for the OV practice.

7. Welsh Government have provided funding for 20 OVs to attend DRF visits. These visits will be shared between the DPs. The visits will continue to be offered on a first come first served basis until the respective number of visits have been attended on behalf of the DPs.

8. The pilot began on 4th March 2019 and will run until all the allocated visit slots have been filled.

9. A process map detailing the procedure for the pilot are attached to this briefing note.

Further Information

9. For further information on this pilot contact
APHAWalesCymorthTB@defra.gov.uk

10. Further information on the Welsh Government Bovine TB eradication plan is available here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=en>

Issued: 12th March 2019

OV Attendance at DRF Pilot - Process Map

