



APHA Briefing Note 10/17

CHeCS TB health schemes in England and Wales

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) accredited health schemes are now available for bovine TB in England and Wales.

Background

2. These new TB schemes require the private vet and farmer to work together on a number of biosecurity measures. Similar schemes have already helped farmers implement successful disease control programmes for five other cattle diseases. Farmers must first choose from one of two CHeCS accredited health schemes (see below) and then work with their private vet to implement the scheme biosecurity measures on-farm.
3. APHA will continue to organise TB testing and the scheme providers will have access to the test results with the agreement of the farmer. Using the last 10 years of test data the scheme provider will award the herd a starting status, from 0-10, to reflect the number of years the herd has been TB-free. This means homebred animals marketed from these herds can then be sold with that status, subject to a signed declaration from the private vet.
4. The herd's 'score' will increase each year it remains free from TB. The schemes will benefit farmers selling cattle that are located in a high TB incidence area and are free of the disease, those who wish to minimise exposure from bought-in animals, and those wanting to reduce the risk of TB in their herd.

Further Information

5. Farmers wishing to know more can visit www.checs.co.uk to read the technical standard, programme handbook and Q&A. If it sounds advantageous to their farm, they should discuss joining with their vet then

contact one of the participating CHeCS accredited health schemes listed below.

HiHealth Herdcare

- Tel: 0131 440 2628
- Email: hihealthherdcare@biobest.co.uk
- Web: www.hihealthherdcare.co.uk

Premium Cattle Health Scheme

- Tel: 01835 822 456
- Email: pchs1@btconnect.com
- Web: www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120112/premium_cattle_health_scheme

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