



APHA Briefing Note 13/15

Launch of joint Defra-industry campaign to improve bovine TB biosecurity

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) in England of the launch of a TB Information Hub and a biosecurity five point action plan to help farmers protect herds from bTB.
2. OVs are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the TB Information Hub and the five point action plan, and to actively encourage their clients to consider biosecurity measures appropriate to their premises. OVs are also encouraged to display biosecurity poster material in their surgeries where appropriate.
3. To also inform OVs of the rolling publication of epidemiological reports covering the low bTB risk areas and the edge areas of England.

Background

4. On 12 November 2015 Farming Minister George Eustice announced the availability of new tools and advice to help farmers protect their herds from bTB.
5. Advice from government, farming experts, leading vets and agriculture colleges is now available on a single website (www.TBhub.co.uk).
6. A new bTB biosecurity five point action plan has also been launched (<http://www.tbhub.co.uk/biosecurity/protect-your-herd-from-tb/>). The five recommended actions that all farmers are encouraged to take are to:
 - Restrict contact between badgers and cattle
 - Manage cattle feed and water
 - Stop infected cattle entering the herd
 - Reduce risk from neighbouring herds

- Minimise infection from cattle manure
7. More detail is available on the TB Information Hub, where OV's can download and print posters featuring these industry-endorsed actions.
 8. These new tools and advice are part of a cross-industry campaign bringing together Defra, APHA, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, the National Farmers' Union, the British Cattle Veterinary Association and Landex.
 9. OV's will also wish to be aware of the rolling publication of epidemiological reports covering the low bTB risk areas and the edge areas of England. Reports covering the first six months of the 2015 calendar year are now available on GOV.UK. These reports can be used in conjunction with ibTB, an interactive tool which shows the location of bTB breakdowns in England, to advise farmers on disease risk.

For further information

- Defra news story: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bovine-tb-biosecurity-plan-and-information-hub-launched>
- TB Information Hub: www.tbhub.co.uk
- TB biosecurity five point action plan poster: <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/biosecurity/protect-your-herd-from-tb/>
- Epidemiological reports covering the low bTB risk areas and the edge areas of England:

2014 reports: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/bovine-tb-epidemiology-reports-2014>

2015 reports: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-epidemiology-reports-2015>
- ibTB, the interactive tool which shows the location of bTB breakdowns in England: www.ibtb.co.uk
- The strategy for achieving Officially Bovine Tuberculosis Free status for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-strategy-for-achieving-officially-bovine-tuberculosis-free-status-for-england>

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