



APHA Briefing Note 16/17

Wales TB Eradication Programme from 1 October 2017

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that the legislative changes of the Welsh Government's refreshed TB Eradication Programme come into effect on 1 October 2017

Background

2. The Welsh Government's strengthened TB Eradication Programme commits to a more regionalised approach to eradicating TB in Wales with Low, Intermediate and High TB Areas being established from 1 October 2017.
3. Enhanced measures will be applied in each TB area tailored to protect the Low TB Area and reduce disease in the Intermediate and High TB Areas. [Link to map](#)
4. All existing cattle keepers have been informed of the TB area their holding is within. [Link to CPH checker](#)
5. The Regionalised TB Eradication Programme combines a new system of geographically dividing Wales using spatial units instead of counties.
6. Spatial units are areas that cover several complete parishes and are standardised on herd numbers. Typically each spatial unit contains 225 herds, offering resolution between parish and county level.

7. The 59 spatial units making up Wales were evaluated according to the epidemic curve of bovine TB in each area over at least the last six years (the supervisory period defined in the relevant legislation), to establish a sufficiently long-term disease trajectory. Each spatial unit was then assessed against certain criteria to establish which TB area it falls within.
8. All spatial units will be reviewed annually to decide if their presentation of disease remains consistent with the criteria
9. The enhanced disease control measures introduced on 1 October 2017 include :
 - (i) Exemptions to the requirement to pre-movement test cattle moving within or from the Low TB area
 - (ii) Introduction of post-movement testing of cattle moving into the Low TB Area from areas of higher disease incidence. This will also be introduced in the Intermediate TB Area in 2018.
 - (iii) Enhanced control measures to tackle disease in chronic breakdown herds including:
 - compulsory slaughter of inconclusive reactors (IRs) if part of the agreed Action Plan for that herd;
 - breakdown clearing test can no longer be used as a pre-movement test
 - changes to compensation following within herd moves
 - introduction of biosecurity requirement notices (BRNs)
 - options to reduce the risk of disease spread where there is evidence of infection in the badger population, including cage-trapping, testing and where necessary humanely killing infected badgers.
 - (iv) The badger found dead survey will continue across Wales

Further information

- Further information on these changes, including on the exemptions to pre-and post-movement testing, is available in other OV briefing notes and on the Welsh Government website:

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

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