



APHA Briefing Note 18/18

Additional TB Control Measures in the Wales Intermediate TB Area North from 13 November 2018

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of additional TB control measures that are being implemented in the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN) of Wales from 13 November 2018.

Background

2. In response to the sustained and significant increase in the incidence of new TB breakdowns in the ITBAN, seen since late 2016, from 13 November 2018, the Welsh Government is introducing additional TB control measures in this area. These measures will support the Welsh Government's TB Eradication Plan and will provide further protection for the adjoining Low TB Area of Wales from the spread of bovine TB.
3. The introduction of additional contiguous testing within the ITBAN aims to enhance surveillance and the provision of bespoke advice to cattle keepers will enable them to reduce the risk of TB entering the herd, to detect infection quickly and slow the rate of new TB incidents.

Additional Contiguous Testing in the ITBAN from 13 November 2018

4. Cattle herds neighbouring a TB breakdown herd will be subject to additional contiguous testing. Following the initial contiguous test (CON test), the herd will be subject to a contiguous (CON6) test, six months after the initial CON test, followed by another CON6 test after a further six months. This will be followed by a final contiguous (CON12) test, twelve months after the second CON6 test.

Cymorth TB ‘Keep it Out’ visits

5. Cattle keepers in the ITBAN, whose herd has carried out and passed a CON test, will be offered the chance to have a Cymorth “Keep it Out” visit from their OV. Those whose herd did not pass the CON test will continue to be offered the normal Cymorth TB breakdown visits. The Cymorth “Keep it Out” visit can be accessed once within the eighteen month period from the initial scheduling of their qualifying CON test. OVs are encouraged to discuss the benefits of the Cymorth “Keep it Out” visit for the keeper at the CON test and subsequent CON6 tests if the visit has not been actioned by that point. The aim is to ensure that as many cattle keepers as possible receive bespoke advice on how to protect their cattle, their businesses and ultimately their area from TB infection.

Communications

6. Cattle keepers in the ITBAN have been sent a letter from the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales explaining the measures. They were also sent a booklet with information about the enhanced surveillance, Cymorth ‘Keep it Out’ visits and informed purchasing.
7. OV Cymorth ‘Keep it Out’ visit training is being held on 7 November 2018 at Coleg Cambria Llysfasi, Ruthin (LL15 2LB) from 09:30 – 16:15
8. An open meeting for farmers is being held at Holt House Hotel, Wrexham, LL13 9SW on 13 November 2018, from 19:30 - 21:30.

Further Information

9. The booklet sent to farmers ‘Bovine TB – Reducing the risk in the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN)’ is available here:

<https://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/181016-bovine-tb-itban-booklet-en.pdf>

An FAQ on the new measures can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/181022-bovine-tb-itban-faq-en.pdf>

10. Further information on the Welsh Government Bovine TB Eradication Programme is available here:

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

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