



APHA Briefing Note 20/17

Finishing Units for Cattle – Removal of Pre-Movement Test Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs) and Introduction of Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) in Wales

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that from 1 January 2018 EFUs will cease to exist in Wales. LFUs will be introduced in the Low TB Areas of Wales on 1 October 2017.

Background

Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs)

2. The removal of EFUs follows the Welsh Government's concerns about the risk of new TB breakdowns associated with EFUs. This measure was included in the consultation 'A Refreshed TB Eradication Programme' which took place from 1 October 2016 to 10 January 2017. The consultation sought views on a number of changes to the eradication programme and a summary of the responses is available on the Welsh Government's website: www.consultations.gov.wales/consultations/refreshed-tb-eradication-programme.
3. All existing EFUs in Wales will be required to transition from EFU to an alternative enterprise. One alternative is conversion to a conventional fattening/finishing enterprise. For units in the High TB Area only, conversion to an Approved Finishing Unit is another option.
4. All operators of EFUs in Wales have been contacted to inform them of the requirements for revocation of the units. All units will be revoked by 1 January 2018 and APHA will work with the operators to consider how they can transition from their current state.

Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs)

5. LFUs will be introduced into the Low TB Areas of Wales from 1 October 2017 at the same time that Post-movement Testing will also be introduced in the Low TB Areas. Cattle entering these units will be exempt from Post Movement Testing.
6. This exemption is aimed at beef finishers who, because of the frequency of movements in, may have practical difficulties in post-movement testing batches of animals on a regular basis.
7. Application for an LFU must be made to APHA. These units will be approved where they can meet the specified criteria and will be under TB02 restrictions whilst operating as an LFU.
8. LFUs will only be able to source cattle from Officially TB free premises and all Pre-movement testing requirements must be met before they move into the unit. No restricted cattle may enter these units.
9. Testing for LFUs will be every 6 months and tests will be scheduled by APHA. The cost of this testing will be at government expense.

Actions for OVVs

10. OVVs are requested to notify APHA immediately of any concerns regarding compliance of a unit with the terms and conditions of approval – see below for details.

Further information

- Guidance and conditions on the approval of LFUs can be obtained from APHA or GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-finishing-units-for-cattle-application>

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