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Update to TB Testing Requirements: Post-Movement Testing from 1 August 2023

Update from APHA:

Any cattle moved to herds located in annual surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area from higher TB incidence areas of England and Wales, will require compulsory Post Movement Testing between 60-120 days after their arrival.

When is Post-Movement Testing (PoMT) required?

Higher TB incidence areas:

- Six-monthly surveillance
- High Risk Areas of England (including herds who test annually)
- Wales



Edge Area:

- Annual surveillance

NB: Arrow denotes cattle movements from a holding in a Higher TB incidence area to a holding in the Edge area on annual surveillance.

Key Points:

- Testing must occur 60-120 days after arrival.
- Must be arranged and paid for by the keeper.
 - If animal is tested as part of an annual surveillance test within the 60–120 day PoMT window, this will count.
- Includes direct movements of cattle between farms, and indirect movement via markets and shows.
- Cattle requiring a PoMT cannot be moved off the holding until the test has been completed with negative results.

Which Animals are exempt from PoMT?

- Cattle slaughtered within 120 days of arrival in the herd
- Cattle moved solely for veterinary treatment
- Cattle moved to an exempt agricultural show
- Cattle moved directly to one of the following:
 - A market from which all animals go direct to slaughter
 - An exempt market
 - An approved collecting centre
 - An approved finishing unit
 - An exempt finishing unit
- Cattle moved under the authority of a movement licence issued by APHA



The Farming Community Network (FCN) is conducting some new research to better understand the impact of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) on UK farmers' health and wellbeing. As part of this research, they are running a survey until mid-August, which can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3HG5YFG>

The survey has been designed with input from colleagues and academics and FCN would like as many farmers as possible to fill it in so that they can gain a wealth of data from across the whole of the UK. It should take no more than ten minutes to complete. The results of the survey will help FCN to better understand how farmers and farm families perceive the threat of bTB, helping them to support those at risk or affected by a bTB breakdown. The research builds upon a study conducted by FCN in 2009: 'Stress and Loss – a report on the impact of Bovine TB on farming families'.



Events and Courses

Sheep and Goat Abortions

At Gastons Farm, Nether Wallop

Monday 17 July, 2pm

When to investigate, how to prevent and the risk to humans

Free for Flock Health Club

members, £10 for non-members

Smallholders

At Watership Alpacas,

Thrupton Down

Monday 17 July, 6-8pm

Hear about their herd, their fibre business and how they manage their land sustainably to provide nutrition for the animals and support wildlife.

Free for Smallholder Club

members, £10 for non-members

MilkSure

Online Course

Wednesday 12 July, 11.30am

Wednesday 15 November,

11.30am

£350 incl VAT per farm

AI Course

Salisbury

7 and 8 August, 9.30am-4.30pm

£450 incl VAT per person

Responsible Use of

Medicines

Online Course

Tuesday 19 September, 12pm

£25 incl VAT per person

Foot trimming

Location TBC

Thursday 19 October, 10am-4pm

£250 incl VAT per person

If you would like to attend any of these, please ring the office to book your place (01722-333291, option 1).

Changes to Export Requirements for Declaration of Health Visits

Any farm whose livestock may be exported to the EU, either as live animals or Products of Animal Origin (eg: meat), must declare that they have regular veterinary visits. At least some portion of most carcasses is exported meaning that most farm businesses will need to ensure compliance.



What is changing?

Currently, farmers can self-declare, however from 13 December 2023, the declaration must be signed by a vet. A regular veterinary visit means that a vet has visited in the last twelve-months.

What are we doing?

We will now make the declaration a standard part of our health planning process for commercial clients, eg: as part of the annual Red Tractor review or the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Review. The declaration must be renewed every twelve months!

What do you need to do?

Please inform your vet or phone the office if you require a declaration. If your health plan is due before December 2023, we will include the declaration in the review.

Once you have it, retain a copy of the completed declaration for your records. If you sell any livestock, the market/abattoir may ask for a copy of the declaration as assurance of regular veterinary visits.

Faecal Egg Count Testing

We have recently invested in an OvaCyte™ machine to carry out in-house faecal counts for sheep and cattle in our office at Endless Street.

As a result of the prevalence of parasitic infection, faecal egg testing is one of the most frequently performed laboratory tests in veterinary medicine. Until recently, laboratory or in-practice testing using an experienced technician and a microscope was the only way to determine the type and number of parasites in the animal host. By contrast, the OvaCyte™ technology involves preparing the faecal specimen in less than two minutes and simply injecting the prepared sample into the proprietary consumable cassette. The rest of the process is fully automated and only takes a few minutes.

OvaCyte™'s highly advanced, patented cassette features a trapezoidal inner channel that allows for geometric flotation and concentration of parasite eggs onto an upper surface. This concentration of parasite eggs allows the OvaCyte™ automated microscope to capture up to 186 images from one sample, scanning for parasite eggs and then referencing the images against a superior digital parasitology cloud-based reference library.

Artificial Intelligence-powered image recognition software then identifies and assesses the level of the parasitic infection or negative result in the sample tested with high accuracy and delivers the results on the device and to a web application in minutes. OvaCyte™ has the ability to identify both helminth eggs as well as oocysts from certain protozoa. Helminth eggs identified include both nematode and cestode eggs.

In the next few weeks an upgrade will become available so we will also be able to test for fluke using our OvaCyte™ machine too.

Please note that the laboratory at Endell Equine Hospital is no longer accepting samples for us, so please bring any samples that you require to be tested to our farm office at Endless Street or to our Newton Wood office. We get the best results from the freshest samples, so please aim to have samples with us in the morning if possible. Thank you!



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