YOUR GUIDE TO
Rules, policies and advice across England, Wales and Scotland for helping farmers prevent and, if necessary, cope with bTB
Bovine TB has been described by Farming Minister George Eustice as the worst animal disease problem facing the UK. And it is not hard to see why.

Caused by a slow-growing bacterium which is difficult to detect, attempts to control it are hampered by imperfect diagnostics, complex methods of disease spread among cattle and wildlife, financial constraints and deeply political disagreements over how to address the problem.

Farmers who suffer TB breakdowns can often lose tens of thousands of pounds, particularly where outbreaks are sustained for long periods.

There is the loss of productive and prized animals and their milk and calves, and the restrictive movement controls and trading restrictions, which sometimes devalue the rest of the herd. Then there is the grind and cost of regular testing and all the other paperwork and requirements which accompany a breakdown.

On top of all of this comes the emotional frustration, anger and uncertainty surrounding a disease which has, in different ways, placed enormous stresses on families over the years.

This guide is intended to bring all the information you need about the disease and its rules, regulations and policies, including where to find out more, to one place.

We hope it will go at least some way towards helping to cope with the disease – and provide tips about keeping it at bay.

ALISTAIR DRIVER
CHIEF POLITICAL ANALYST
Where to find out more about bTB
WHAT IS BOVINE TB?
Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is a chronic, infectious disease which affects cattle and other mammals, including badgers, humans, camelids, deer, goats, pigs, dogs and cats.

It is caused by the slow-growing bacterium Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis).

**HOW DO CATTLE BECOME INFECTED?**

It is mainly, but not exclusively, a respiratory disease caught by breathing in droplets of sputum (mucus coughed up from the lower airways) containing M. bovis.

Cattle pick up infection from other cattle and from infected wildlife, mainly badgers.

Cattle can become infected through close contact with infected cattle and wildlife but also through eating feed or grass contaminated with sputum, milk, urine, faeces or pus from infectious animals.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASE**

Bovine TB is a notifiable disease. If you suspect it you must:

- Tell the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) immediately.
- Isolate suspected animals
- Not allow animals, equipment, carcases or animal milk to leave your farm
RISK TO HUMANS

Bovine TB is a zoonotic disease, which means it can be naturally transmitted from animals to humans under certain conditions.

Humans can catch bovine TB through:

➔ Unpasteurised milk or dairy products from an infected cow, buffalo, goat or sheep
➔ Inhaling bacteria breathed out by infected animals
➔ Inhaling bacteria released from the carcases of infected animals or from their excretions (such as faeces)

But since the pasteurisation of milk, the risk of infection is described as ‘very low’. A handful of cases have been recorded in the UK over the past decade, including some linked to infected animals.

More information on TB in humans can be found on the Public Health England website.
ENGLAND’S 25-YEAR TB STRATEGY

Defra’s approach to tackling TB in England is outlined in its 25-year TB eradication strategy, published by former Defra Secretary Owen Paterson in 2014.

The strategy addresses various aspects of the disease including:

- Reducing cattle-to-cattle spread of bTB by tightening cattle controls
- Reducing infection from wildlife through badger culling in areas where disease is rife and badger vaccination
- Improving biosecurity on farms to prevent spread from cattle and wildlife
- Addressing the governance and funding of TB, including forging of closer relationships between Government and the farming and veterinary industries
- Outlining priority areas for research to improve disease control in future

For our analysis of what the strategy means for farmers, click here.
For the first time, the strategy divided England into three distinct areas of TB risk, with each region having its own rules, objectives and goals.

**WORKING TOWARDS TB-FREE STATUS IN ENGLAND**

**EDGE OF HIGH-RISK AREAS**

1. Slaughterhouse surveillance: annual herd testing (six-monthly in Cheshire)
2. Resolving infected herds includes movement restrictions, isolation, slaughter and compensation, epidemiological investigation, tracing, additional skin testing and mandatory or discretionary blood testing; additional skin testing in neighbouring herds (and within three-mile radius in Derbyshire)
3. Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme (licensed injectables)
4. Biosecurity measures: risk-based trading; compulsory pre-movement testing

**TYPES OF MEASURE**

1. Surveillance
2. Breakdown management
3. Reduce risk of TB from badgers
4. Other disease prevention

**LOW-RISK AREAS**

1. Slaughterhouse surveillance: four-yearly herd testing (annual testing for high-risk herds)
2. Resolving infected herds includes movement restrictions, isolation, slaughter and compensation, epidemiological investigation, tracing, additional skin testing and mandatory or discretionary blood testing
3. Biosecurity measures: risk-based trading

**HIGH-RISK AREAS**

1. Slaughterhouse surveillance: annual herd testing
2. Resolving infected herds includes movement restrictions, isolation, slaughter and compensation, epidemiological investigation, tracing, additional skin testing and discretionary blood testing; additional skin testing in neighbouring herds
3. Licensed badger culling; licensed injectable badger vaccination
4. Biosecurity measures: risk-based trading; compulsory pre-movement testing
LOW-RISK AREA (LRA)

Covering large parts of the north and east of England, it has a low incidence of bTB and no recognised significant reservoir of the disease in wildlife.

The objective is to continue to protect it from disease through the movement of cattle and the possible resulting infection of wildlife vectors.

The intention is to achieve Officially TB-Free (OTF) status for individual counties (or groups of counties) within the LRA from 2018 and the entire LRA by 2025.

In March 2016, Farming Minister George Eustice said: “We are on track for the LRA – more than half of the country – to be declared officially free of the disease by 2019.

EDGE AREA

Stretching from Cheshire in the North West, through much of the north and east Midlands to Hampshire on the south coast, the Edge Area is the buffer zone between the High-Risk Area (HRA) and the LRA.

It is managed to contain and reverse the spread of bTB from the HRA to the LRA.

The aim is to achieve OTF status for the lowest prevalence counties in the edge area by 2025.
HIGH-RISK AREA (HRA)
Covering the South West and much of the West Midlands, plus West Sussex, it covers a high proportion of affected farms (about 9 per cent herd prevalence), including a high proportion of repeat cases. It is also home to a ‘recognised reservoir of infection in badgers’.

The objective is to halt then reverse the increasing prevalence of bTB and ultimately to achieve OTF status for this geographical area. The Government will set targets for individual counties within the HRA, but the overall aim is to achieve OTF status for England by 2038.

WALES’ TB ERADICATION PROGRAMME
Wales also has a TB eradication programme with the long-term goal of eradicating the disease. Its approach to the disease is to:

➔ Find it
➔ Deal with the source of infection
➔ Stamp it out
➔ Stop it from coming back

Key elements include:
➔ Annual TB testing across the country
➔ Badger vaccination and tighter cattle controls in a 288sq km Intensive Action Area
➔ The introduction of an online TB dashboard to provide clear information about the disease
Support for **veterinary visits to farms after a TB breakdown**

Measures to address the disease in animals other than cattle and badgers

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**TB-FREE SCOTLAND**

Scotland achieved [OTF status in September 2009](#).

This was recognition of the low and stable incidence of TB found in Scottish herds.

It means Scottish farmers face less burdensome cattle controls and trading restrictions than those in place in England and Wales.
The way TB statistics are presented in England and Wales changed towards the end of 2015. A regularly updated summary of GB TB statistics can be seen here on Defra’s website.

Wales’ TB dashboard, giving a statistical and visual overview of disease trends can be seen here.

The latest GB figures showed during 2015:

- 36,270 cattle were slaughtered as a result of TB across GB, 10 per cent up on 2014
- 28,033 were slaughtered in England, 6 per cent up on 2014
- This included 24,746 (+9 per cent) in the HRA, 2,746 (−9 per cent) in the Edge Area and 611 in the LRA
- 8,103 cattle were slaughtered in Wales, 27 per cent up on the previous 12 months
- 134 cattle were slaughtered in Scotland, a 42 per cent drop

3,766 herds were under restriction as of October 31, 2015
This included 3,131 in England, 612 in Wales and 23 in Scotland.

Up to the end of September 2015, 12.3 per cent of herds in England’s HRA were under restriction, compared with 3.2 per cent in the Edge Area and 0.3 per cent in the LRA.

5.2 per cent of Welsh herds and 0.2 per cent of Scottish herds were under restriction.

**RISE OF TB IN THE PAST 20 YEARS**

The graphs shown here highlight the extent to which bovine TB has spread over the past 20 years.
For example, in 1997, less than 1 per cent of herds in England’s HRA were under restriction, compared with more than 12 per cent in 2015. In Wales, the figure rose from about 0.5 per cent in 1997 to more than 5 per cent in 2015.

**TREND OF LAST 10 YEARS**

335,417 cattle have been slaughtered across GB because of bovine TB in the 10 years up to 2015.

The annual peak was fewer than 39,675 cattle slaughtered in 2008. Since then, the figure has fluctuated between about 32,000 and 38,000, averaging about 35,000.

In the six years before, the average figure was about 24,000.
ROUTINE TB TESTING

All cattle herds are subject to routine testing. The main screening test for TB in cattle in GB is the single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin test. This is commonly known as the tuberculin skin test, which is used throughout the world in various formats.

Rather than detect the bacterium itself, tests for bovine TB in live animals generally detect and measure the immunological response to the bovine TB bacterium in an infected animal. Studies have shown the tuberculin skin test in GB is about 80 per cent sensitive at standard interpretation and slightly higher at severe interpretation.

INTERFERON GAMMA BLOOD TEST

The interferon gamma (IFN-γ) blood test is a laboratory-based supplementary test for the diagnosis of TB in cattle. It is approved in the EU for use in conjunction with the skin test in specific circumstances where it is needed to increase the overall diagnostic sensitivity (usually in known infected herds under TB restrictions).

Intervals are reviewed annually to ensure they reflect regional risks of bovine TB and comply with EU legislation. There are different approaches to TB testing intervals in England, Scotland and Wales.

To find out the testing interval which applies to your area, you can use APHA’s TB testing interval search tool or download the lists of counties and parishes for England, Scotland and Wales.

A GB map of the TB testing intervals for 2015 is also available.
New TB testing intervals were introduced in England in January 2013 and these have largely remained the same, with the exception of the Edge Area part of Cheshire.

**Low-Risk Area:** Herds in the LRA are tested every four years. However, any individual herds in the LRA which are considered to be at a higher risk of infection (due to management practices or recent disease history), will still be placed on annual testing.

Herds which are within a 3km radius of, or are epidemiologically linked to, a new breakdown in the LRA are placed on an increased TB testing regime.

This consists of an immediate herd test, followed by two more herd tests at six- and 12-month intervals.

If this enhanced surveillance fails to detect further evidence of infection in the vicinity of a breakdown, herds will revert to background four-yearly testing within 18 months of the first test triggered by the breakdown.

**High-Risk and Edge Areas:** Herds in the HRA and Edge Areas are tested annually, except the Edge Area part of Cheshire, which has been on six-monthly whole-herd testing since January 1, 2015.

Annual testing is in place for the HRA part of Cheshire.

Intensive 3km radial testing is in place around herd breakdowns in the Edge Area part of Derbyshire and Cheshire. This consists of an immediate herd test, followed by one more herd test after six
months, before the herd goes back to its default annual testing frequency. As this guide was published, Defra was considering expanding six-monthly testing and radial testing to new parts of the Edge Area. From April 6, APHA started offering the option of private Interferon Gamma blood tests to diagnose under certain conditions.

Click here for APHA epidemiological reports (covering the LRA and Edge Areas of England).
WALES

Herds across most of Wales have been tested annually since 2010. Herds in the Intensive Action Area (IAA) in South West Wales are tested twice-yearly as part of the additional cattle controls in place in this area.

SCOTLAND

Scotland has been designated OTF since September 2009. The default routine-testing interval is four years, but changes have been introduced to exempt low-risk herds from this requirement.

Low-risk herds must fully comply with one of the following:

- Herds with fewer than 20 cattle which have had fewer than two consignments of cattle moved on from high incidence TB areas (including Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) in the previous four years
- Herds which slaughter more than 25 per cent of their stock annually and have had fewer than two consignments of cattle moved on from high incidence TB areas (including Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) in the previous four years
- Herds which slaughter more than 40 per cent of their stock annually
IN spring 2015, the arrangements for TB testing in England and Wales changed.

Rather than contacting their vet, farmers now have to contact their regional Delivery Partner. The five English regional contracts were awarded to:

- **SOUTH WEST ONE**: XL Farmcare
  Devon and Cornwall, email
  phillip.leighton@xlfarmcare.co.uk

- **SOUTH WEST TWO**: XL Farmcare Wessex, email
  andrew.davies@xlfarmcare.co.uk

- **SOUTH EAST**: XL Farmcare South East, email
  bill.pepper@xlfarmcare.co.uk

- **MIDLANDS**: XL Farmcare Midlands, email
  rob.henderson@xlfarmcare.co.uk

- **NORTH**: XL Farmcare North, email
  bridget.taylor@xlfarmcare.co.uk

All five XL companies can be contacted through the same number: 0800 612 5289

For more information, see

www.xlfarmcare.co.uk
HOW TO ARRANGE TB TESTS IN WALES

In Wales, the contracts went to:

- **WALES NORTH**: Menter a Busnes, email gia@menterabusnes.co.uk, or call 01248 668 639
  
  Welsh site: [www.menterabusnes.co.uk/cy](http://www.menterabusnes.co.uk/cy)
  or [www.menterabusnes.co.uk/animalhealth](http://www.menterabusnes.co.uk/animalhealth) services

- **WALES SOUTH**: Iechyd Da (Gwledig), email info@i-da.co.uk, or call: 01970 636 688
  
  Website: [i-da.co.uk/index.php/en](http://i-da.co.uk/index.php/en)

The Delivery Partner is responsible for allocating testing work, which continues to be undertaken exclusively by qualified vets.
To provide sufficient coverage, Delivery Partners have sub-contracted local veterinary practices.

If a farmer’s preferred practice is contracted to work for their regional Delivery Partner, they can continue to use them for Government-funded testing.

If the preferred practice is not contracted and the farmer wishes their TB testing to be Government-funded, they need to select a practice from the Delivery Partner’s list of contracted practices.

Farmers retain the right to pay privately for their TB tests to be undertaken by a preferred practice outside the Delivery Partner’s list of practices. Farmers need to inform APHA of their intention to pay privately.
PRE- & POST-MOVEMENT TESTING
Pre-movement testing was introduced in England and Wales in 2006. All cattle keepers with an annual or six-monthly testing interval must comply with pre-movement testing requirements, unless an exemption applies to the animal being moved or the type of movement.

Herd owners must also pay for their pre-movement tests, though cattle can be moved following a clear Government-funded surveillance test.

Pre- and post-movement tests can only be done with the skin test.

Clear TB test charts (TB52c) provide confirmation tested cattle can be moved.

Farmers are required to keep these charts for three years and 60 days as evidence of TB testing. You are also advised to keep evidence for at least three years if cattle have been moved without
a test, because the herd or movement is exempted from pre-movement testing rules

In Wales, owners of cattle eligible for a PrMT in Wales use a sticker, which is applied to the passport, with the date of the last clear TB test on the individual animal

EXEMPTIONS

As well cattle from four-yearly tested herds and calves under 42 days, other exemptions to pre-movement testing include cattle moving directly to:

- Slaughter
- A market from which all animals go direct to slaughter
- Pre-movement Exempt Finishing Units (EFU)
- Pre-movement Exempt Markets (EM)
- Approved Finishing Units (AFU) in annual or more frequent testing areas
- Approved TB collection centres
- For veterinary treatment (provided the animal is returned to the premises or origin or moved direct to slaughter)
- To an exempt agricultural show (provided the animal is moved to its origin or direct to slaughter). A show will be classed as exempt if:
  - No cattle are to remain on the showground for a period of 24 hours or more
  - No cattle are to be housed, including a marquee
Cattle at an artificial insemination (AI) centre

In England, cattle can sometimes move under specific written exemption granted by APHA.

Similarly, in Wales, cattle can be moved under specific written exemption granted by a Welsh Minister ‘in exceptional circumstances’.

**COMMONS EXEMPTIONS**

In England, all cattle aged 42 days or over, moving to and from common land in the annual testing area, must be pre-movement tested. However, the following exemptions may apply:

- For movements back from the common, farmers can carry out a post-movement test instead to reflect the fact that in most cases, TB testing on common land is impractical.
- AHVLA will consider licensing some cattle movements without pre-movement testing where veterinary judgement is that an agreed TB ‘control plan’ for the whole common gives at least the same level of assurance as testing would provide.
- In Wales, cattle moving between their registered holding and common land to which their keeper has grazing rights. This exemption is currently subject to review.

To find out more, see APHA’s guide to pre-movement testing.
POST-MOVEMENT TESTING IN ENGLAND

From April 6, 2016, Defra introduced compulsory post-movement testing for cattle entering England’s LRA.

Post-movement testing will be required for cattle entering, either directly or via a market, England’s LRA from the HRA and Edge Areas and from Wales.

Herd owners will be responsible for arranging and paying for post-movement tests (skin tests).

The window for completing a post-movement test will be between 60-120 days after an animal arrives at a farm.

The test must be performed on the holding cattle first arrive at in the LRA. Restrictions will be placed on the receiving herd until all the moved animals have been skin tested with negative results.

EXEMPTIONS

Cattle will not have to undergo post-movement testing if they are slaughtered within 120 days of arriving in the LRA.

Additional exemptions include animals moving to:

➡ A market from which all animals go direct to slaughter
➡ An exempt market
➡ A ‘Licensed Finishing Unit’ specifically approved by APHA

Also exempt will be:

➡ Cattle moving to a show in the LRA, or returning from a show outside the LRA – as long as the stay is no more than 24 hours, the
cattle are not housed at the show and the movement is not via any other holding.

Movements to and from a place of veterinary treatment, provided the animal is returned direct to its premises of origin after the treatment or is killed or goes directly to slaughter

**LINKED HOLDINGS**

*From 1 October 2014, the pre-movement testing Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOA) exemption was removed in England and Wales.*

But in England, to ensure TB controls were proportional and consistent with planned changes to the structure of holdings in England, pre-movement testing is not required for moves between holdings within SOAs which only include holdings within 10 miles of the main farm.

Such movements are permitted under the terms of a general licence issued by Defra available here.

As this guide was published (in early 2016), Defra was considering changes to the rules to allow cattle to move to/from rented grazing within a 10-mile radius of the herd owner’s home premises without pre-movement testing.

In the past, farmers could achieve the same end by creating a new SOA.

Defra said there should be ‘a presumption in favour of such
moves without pre-movement testing’, but there will be exceptions – for example, when rented grazing is adjacent to land on which TB-restricted herds are grazed.

It has not been possible to establish a new SOA or add a new holding to an existing SOA since July 2012. SOAs were created to permit livestock keepers to link different holdings which fall under their sole management and control.

Wales

In Wales, cattle keepers who already possess an SOA are able to apply for an Interim Land Association Management (ILAM) agreement allowing them to move cattle between premises within the ILAM without having to have a pre-movement test. To apply for an ILAM, contact your local vet.

A number of criteria apply to the granting of an ILAM, the main one being the boundary of land in the destination premises must be within 10 miles of the boundary of the main farm premises.

This is an interim measure designed specifically to bridge the gap between the removal of PrMT exemption for movements within SOAs and the completion of the ongoing County Parish Holding (CPH) review process when new arrangements will be introduced.

Generally, if TB is disclosed on a holding which forms part of
an SOA, eligible cattle held on all holdings within the SOA must complete the specified number of short interval tests before restrictions are lifted and OTF herd status is restored.

**PRE- & POST-MOVEMENT TESTING IN SCOTLAND**

This was introduced in Scotland in September 2005.

All cattle 42 days old and over in a yearly testing area must be pre-movement tested before they move from or enter any Scottish herd.

All cattle moving from a yearly testing area must be post-movement tested between 60-120 days of their arrival in a Scottish herd.

Cattle imported from Northern Ireland must also be post-movement tested between 60 and 120 days of their arrival in a Scottish herd unless they will be slaughtered within 120 days of import. All pre- and post-movement tests must be arranged and paid for by the herd owner.

However, routine TB surveillance tests paid for by the Government count as pre- and post-movement tests for 60 days in a Scottish herd.

Cattle movements to shows and exhibitions will not be affected if animals return from the show or exhibition to the farm of origin, although some show organisers may request cattle are TB tested before going to the show.
Cattle in an annual or more frequent testing area going to a market should be pre-movement-tested if there is a possibility they could then be moved to a different holding in Scotland. Purchasers are advised to make enquiries at the point of sale.

For more information, see the Scottish Government website.

**CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS**

Cattle moving to Scotland from England or Wales require a clear pre-movement test within 60 days prior to movement. This includes cattle from the four-yearly testing area of England.

Post-movement tests are required for cattle moving to Scotland from an annual testing area in England or Wales no fewer than 60 days and no more than 120 days after their arrival in Scotland.
CROSS-COMPLIANCE PENALTIES
If your herd is required to have a TB test, you must ensure the test is conducted within the required period, otherwise you risk being financially penalised through cross-compliance penalties – reduction to Basic Payments.

At the start of 2014, Defra introduced cross-compliance penalties in England for overdue TB surveillance tests, which it said had resulted in a drop of about 60 per cent in late tests.

TB tests covered include:

- Routine and whole herd tests in all three TB regions
- Contiguous and follow-up tests required one month after them
- Tests carried six and 12 months after clear short interval tests
- Test carried out when a new or reformed herd has been identified, within 12 months of arrival of the first animal, and follow-up tests

From January 1, 2015, this approach to late TB tests was extended to include all types of TB tests, except those which result from tracings of animals following a TB breakdown elsewhere.

Additional tests covered include:

- Inconclusive reactor retest
- Short interval test
- Radial herd test
- Post-movement test
- Post-import test
The only exceptions are tests resulting from tracings of animals following a TB breakdown elsewhere.

The level of Basic Payment reduction depends on by how long the test is overdue, and other relevant criteria, such as repeated instances of late testing.

➔ Where a test is overdue by between one and 10 days, a 1 per cent reduction will generally be applied

➔ Where a test is overdue by between 11 and 30 days, a 3 per cent reduction will generally be applied

➔ Tests overdue by more than 30 days will generally result in a 5 per cent reduction

**WHAT IF I’M NOT AT FAULT?**

You must speak to your local APHA office as soon as you think you will not be able to carry out your TB tests by the due date.

If there are extenuating circumstances, you should write explaining what these are. APHA will take them into account when assessing which cases are referred to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

Should any cattle keeper feel they have had reductions applied incorrectly, RPA operates an appeals process for CAP scheme issues.

For more information, see Defra’s guidance notes.
**TB STATUS**

TB status of herds in England, Wales and Scotland is defined in three ways:

**Officially TB-free (OTF):** All herds will be classed as OTF provided they are up-to-date with their TB testing and there is no suspicion of TB infection.

**OTF suspended (OTFS):** Once there is suspicion of TB in any animals within the herd, it will be put under restrictions and its OTF status will become OTFS. This can happen if:

- At least one animal has failed the tuberculin skin test
- At least one animal has had two inconclusive skin test results consecutively
- The slaughterhouse, knacker’s yard or hunt kennel you sent cattle to reports carcase lesions typical of TB
- One or more animal has had an inconclusive skin test result and your herd’s TB-free status has been suspended or withdrawn at any time in the last three years
- Your routine TB test is overdue
- One of your live animals shows possible signs of TB and tests positive to a skin test, or is slaughtered before testing, and lesions typical of TB are found in the carcase
**OTF withdrawn (OTFW):** APHA will withdraw your herd’s TB-free status when:

- The post-mortem of a reactor finds lesions typical of TB, and/or
- Tissue samples taken from an animal test positive for M. bovis in a laboratory

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN OTF STATUS IS SUSPENDED?**

When your herd’s TB status is suspended, APHA will:

- Apply movement restrictions, which means you must not move cattle on/off your site unless your local APHA office has given you a licence
- Arrange slaughter of any animals which test positive to the skin test
- Arrange for a post-mortem examination of slaughtered reactors
- Withdraw your herd’s TB-free status if post-mortem analysis finds lesions typical of TB or tissue samples test positive for M. bovis
- Instruct you to cleanse and disinfect areas of the farm after the reactors have been removed
- Provide you with a form to complete to confirm you have completed your cleanse and disinfect
- Require further testing in most cases, while keeping restrictions in place
WHAT HAPPENS IF TB-FREE STATUS IS WITHDRAWN?

When TB status is withdrawn, APHA will:

- Maintain movement restrictions and require more testing of your herd
- Consider slaughtering other animals in your herd which it considers to be at high risk of being infected with TB
- Consider slaughtering all the cattle in your herd if it decides the infection is severe or extensive (very rare cases only)
- Instruct you to cleanse and disinfect areas of the farm following the removal of all reactors and provide a form for you to confirm this has been done
- Share post-mortem results with your local health and environmental health authorities if your herd produces milk
- Trace any animals moved from your herd during the time APHA assesses infection could have been present on your premises
- Test any neighbouring herds, or herds in your locality, which it thinks could be infected

DEALING WITH TB RESTRICTIONS

If APHA applies movement restrictions on your herd in the form of a TB2 notice, you must:

- Notify anyone who sources milk from your herd – this milk must be heat-treated before it can be used for human consumption
- Make sure milk from reactors does not enter the human food chain
Never sell unpasteurised milk from TB-restricted herds directly to consumers or for use in making other products

**INSPECTION AFTER A TB BREAKDOWN**

An APHA inspector or vet will visit your farm as soon as possible after your TB-free status is suspended or withdrawn.

The inspector or vet will:

- Check your farm, talk to you and try to identify what triggered the TB incident
- Check if your animals may have had contact with local herds
- Check if there are other TB-susceptible species on the premises and whether they need to be tested
- Explain what further testing might be needed
- Write a report on the outbreak – they will ask you questions about how you run your farm
INCONCLUSIVE TEST RESULTS

If an animal’s routine skin test result is neither clear nor positive, the affected animal is called an inconclusive reactor (IR). These must be isolated from the rest of your cattle.

When an IR is found, TB restrictions applied on the herd will depend on the herd’s TB-free status at the time when the IR was found.

If your herd’s OTF status has been suspended or withdrawn and inspectors find IRs in it:

➔ APHA will keep movement restrictions in place
➔ IRs will be retested 60 days from the start day of their test – this may be at the same time as any other herd test which may be required
➔ If the IR tests clear, APHA will lift the restrictions on the animal and it can rejoin the herd – restrictions will only be lifted on the herd if no further testing of the whole herd is needed
➔ If the IR does not test clear, it will be slaughtered in the same way as a TB reactor animal
➔ On some occasions, in herds where OTF status has been withdrawn, an IR may be slaughtered as a direct contact

If your TB-free status was OTF, but had been withdrawn at any time in the past three years, APHA will suspend your OTF status and movement restrictions will be applied to the whole herd.
Otherwise, APHA will apply movement restrictions to IRs and your herd will keep its OTF status.

- IRs will be tested 60 days from the start day of the test which found them to be IRs
- If these tests are clear, APHA will lift movement restrictions and the animal can rejoin the herd
- If the IR does not test clear, the animal will be slaughtered and your herd’s TB–free status will be suspended if this has not already happened

**REGAINING OTF STATUS**

After cattle are slaughtered for TB reasons, all cattle in the herd except calves younger than 42 days, will be tested at least once every 60 days from either:

- The date the last infected animal left your herd
- The date any infected animals or inconclusive reactors were isolated from the rest of the herd

In some exceptional cases, APHA may allow you to exclude some animals from short interval testing, for example a beef bull in a biosecure unit.

**ENGLAND - HIGH-RISK/EDGE AREAS**

In April 6, 2016, Defra announced a ‘more robust approach’ to dealing with TB in England’s HRA.
All new breakdowns in the HRA, regardless of post-mortem or laboratory culture results, are now required to get through two consecutive short interval herd tests, read under severe interpretation, before restrictions are lifted.

Any further tests will be read under standard interpretation provided no post-mortem or laboratory evidence of TB is found.

This policy already applies in England’s TB Edge Area.

Previously in the HRA, OTFS herds in which all the TB reactors had no visible lesions and were negative on laboratory culture only needed one clear skin test

**ENGLAND - LOW RISK AREA**

In the LRA, TB breakdown herds with no post-mortem evidence of disease will continue to require one short interval skin test with negative results at standard interpretation before restrictions are lifted.

There are some exceptions to this rule. Herds requiring two negative short interval tests include:

- Herds contiguous to another TB breakdown herd with post-mortem evidence of TB
- Herds with a history of TB breakdown in the previous three years
- Herds permanently subject to annual TB testing by virtue of their business pattern – for example, hirers of bulls, dealer herds and regular importers of Irish cattle
WALES

As this guide was published, the policy was:

- OTFS needs one clear short interval test following removal of any reactors, and clear tests for any IRs
- OTFW herds will need two clear consecutive short interval tests following removal of any reactors, and clear tests for any IRs
- Severe interpretation is applied at the disclosing test, any immediate herd check test and the first short interval test following disclosure of reactors where lesions are detected
- The interpretation of second and subsequent short interval tests will depend on the risk of infection in the herd

SCOTLAND

A similar policy is in place in Scotland.

OTFS herds need to complete one complete clear test.
OTFW herds need to complete two clear consecutive tests – severe interpretation is used.
COMPENSATION & SLAUGHTER
PHA will arrange valuation and slaughter of any reactors, repeat IRs or direct contacts, provided they have the correct eartags and passports.

No compensation will be paid for any animal which is due for slaughter for TB reasons, but dies while still on-farm, regardless of the cause of death.

APHA will contact you or visit your premises before animals are slaughtered to confirm how much compensation you will be paid.

**ENGLAND**

Defra uses market prices to decide how much compensation is payable for cattle compulsorily slaughtered to control bovine TB.

At the start of each month, it publishes a table showing the compensation rates, based on average market prices, for the month in each of 51 cattle categories.

You can see the tables here.

Cattle categories are based on an animal’s age, sex, pedigree and non-pedigree status and whether they are beef or dairy.

**REDUCED COMPENSATION FOR OVERDUE TESTS**

If you failed to get your cattle tested on time and the test becomes 60 days or more overdue, you will receive less compensation for any cattle which have to be slaughtered for TB reasons.
COMPENSATION WILL BE REDUCED AS FOLLOWS:

- Delays of more than 60 days but no more than 90 days – 25 per cent less compensation
- Delays of more than 90 days but no more than 180 days – 50 per cent less compensation
- Delays of more than 180 days – 95 per cent less compensation

WALES

In January 2016, Deputy Welsh Food and Farming Minister Rebecca Evans confirmed the Welsh Government had decided against switching from individual valuations to a tabular valuation system similar to the one in place in England.

But she announced new stricter measures, coming in from April 1, to penalise farmers in the form of reduced compensation (up to 95 per cent), for what are considered ‘risky practices which can contribute to the spread of TB’.

Rules were already in place for reduced compensation in the following circumstances:

- A failure to test animals as required by the Order
- A failure to comply with the requirements of a Veterinary Improvement Notice issued by APHA
- Where there has been a breach of the Order
- Where tests are overdue (penalties same as England)
The new legislation includes reduced compensation where an animal has been slaughtered because of TB after it had been brought in, under licence, to a restricted herd. Other situations where compensation will be reduced include:

- Breaching the conditions set out in the approval of an Approved Finishing Unit
- Moving an animal under movement restrictions without a licence
- Letting an animal under movement restrictions stray
- Interference with the TB test
- Hiding or failing to present an animal for testing, valuation or removal
- Failure to co-operate with the removal of an animal to be slaughtered, delaying it for longer than 10 working days
- Breaching conditions of an isolation notice or cleansing and disinfection notice
- Feeding unpasteurised milk from a reactor animal to another animal
- Failure to comply with the requirements of a Biosecurity Improvement Notice
- Use of an unauthorised vaccine
- Treating an animal for TB
The compensation reductions will vary depending on whether it is a first or subsequent offence.

**SCOTLAND**

In Scotland, compensation is paid at market value, defined as ‘the purchase price which might reasonably have been obtained for it at the time of valuation from a purchaser in the open market if the animal was not affected with TB’.
SLAUGHTER ARRANGEMENTS
In most cases, APHA will arrange for TB-affected cattle to be collected and slaughtered.

APHA’s contracted haulier will contact you and agree a date to remove your cattle.

You must ensure:

➔ Any cattle to be slaughtered have eartag numbers which match their documentation
➔ You present the right cattle for collection or slaughter – you will not get compensation if you send the wrong animal for slaughter
➔ Your cattle are clean enough to slaughter as per food hygiene regulations
➔ Your cattle are spray-marked with an orange stripe along the back
➔ You present the correct documents to the haulier as instructed by APHA

ARRANGE SLAUGHTER YOURSELF
Alternatively, you can choose to arrange the slaughter and removal of animals yourself.

You will not get any compensation, but you may keep any salvage payments from the slaughterhouse. These are payments for the carcase if it is fit for human consumption.
MOVEMENT
RULES & OPTIONS
The default position when TB2 notices are issued is no movements will be allowed from TB-restricted herds, but in certain low-risk situations, movements may be authorised under a licence issued by local APHA offices.

**MOVING CATTLE OFF TB-RESTRICTED PREMISES**

A licence may be issued, providing the risk of disease spread is low, for movements off your premises.

**MOVEMENTS BETWEEN TB-RESTRICTED HOLDINGS**

Subject to a satisfactory Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA), APHA may license cattle to move from one TB-restricted holding to another, provided the TB status at the holding of destination is the same or a higher risk than that at the farm of origin.

Cattle must have tested clear in the previous 30 days or be calves under six weeks of age.

**MOVING CATTLE ONTO A TB-RESTRICTED HOLDING FROM AN UNRESTRICTED HOLDING**

Once a TB breakdown herd has had its first short interval test, and subject to a satisfactory VRA, APHA may license cattle to move from an unrestricted holding to a TB-restricted holding.

You should contact APHA if you need replacement suckler calves or a breeding bull. APHA will normally issue a specific licence for
these classes of animals unless there is a high disease risk or your TB testing is overdue.

**MOVEMENTS TO SLAUGHTER**

To facilitate the movement to slaughter of clear tested cattle from TB breakdown herds, APHA may issue a general movement licence.

The herd owner would then not need to apply for a movement licence every time cattle needed to go to slaughter.

In higher risk situations, where a general licence cannot be permitted, herd owners would need to apply for a specific movement licence.

You must apply for this licence at least five days before the planned movement and it must stay with animals during transport.

**SLAUGHTER GATHERINGS OR ‘RED MARKETS’**

Must be approved and licenced by APHA. Cattle moved to a ‘red market’ can then only be moved to slaughter.

‘Red markets’ can be licensed to accept:

- Cattle from TB-restricted premises which have tested clear within the previous 90 days
- Untested calves of 42 days of age or under from TB-restricted premises
Untested cattle from Approved Finishing Units without grazing
Untested cattle from non-restricted premises

Click here for APHA guidance for holding a slaughter gathering in England and Wales.

APPROVED FINISHING UNITS (AFUS)

AFUs provide a route for rearing, fattening or finishing cattle from TB-restricted and unrestricted farms.

AFUs must be approved and licensed by APHA. There are two options available, with or without grazing, depending on your area.

AFUs without grazing:

- May be approved in the annual testing area
- Can source cattle from TB-restricted herds and unrestricted herds
- Cattle sourced from restricted herds must have had a clear test within 90 days preceding their movement, with the exception of calves under six weeks old
- May be approved in the four-yearly testing area – however, cattle may only be sourced from unrestricted herds, with cattle subject to pre-movement testing when moved from annually tested unrestricted herds
- Can source cattle from multiple premises
- Default position is no surveillance testing of cattle is carried out
in the unit. However, APHA have the option to test in exceptional circumstances, such as high numbers of lesioned carcases identified at slaughter

- Strict biosecurity requirements must be in place, including wildlife proofing
- The movement of cattle from an AFU directly to another AFU may be allowed under licence. Cattle must have had a clear test within 90 days preceding their movement
- Cattle held in an AFU can only move to slaughter or to another AFU

**AFUs with grazing:**

- Will only be approved in annual testing areas where breakdowns with post-mortem or culture evidence of disease have been identified and the source seems likely to be from wildlife
- Can source cattle from TB-restricted and unrestricted herds and from multiple premises
- TB testing of cattle will be at 90-day intervals
- Strict biosecurity requirements must be in place, including well-defined boundaries
- Cattle held in a grazing AFU can only move to slaughter or to another AFU
- A grazing AFU must be a discrete and self-contained unit with robust biosecurity controls in place
To tighten up the rules, Defra announced in December 2015 it wanted all grazing AFUs to use contiguous grazing only by December 31, 2016.

It will work with the small number of AFUs affected. If the change will have a ‘significant impact’ on business and it can show non-contiguous grazing does not pose a disease risk, it might get an extension.

Click here for APHA AFU application form and guidance notes (England and Wales).

Click here for a list of AFUs in England and Wales.

Defra also confirmed it was phasing out the seven Exempt Finishing Units, which can accept cattle which would normally need pre-movement testing without the animals being tested, in the LRA over a 12-month period.

It is inviting owners of these units to consider applying to become ‘Licensed Finishing Units’ without grazing.

‘ORANGE MARKETS’ FOR SALES OF TB-RESTRICTED CATTLE

Approved dedicated sales for TB-restricted cattle must be licensed and approved by APHA. These sales are only held in England and cattle cannot be moved from the sale to a holding within Wales other than direct to a slaughterhouse.
‘Orange markets’ provide farmers with a trading option for clear-tested animals from TB-restricted herds. Cattle over six weeks of age must have had a clear TB test within the 90 days preceding the sale. Cattle enter the market under licence and after the sale can be licensed to move to an AFU or direct to slaughter.

**Calf Collection Centres**

Calf collection centres operate in the same way as ‘orange markets’. If over six weeks of age, calves entering the collection centre must have had a clear TB test within the previous 90 days. From the collection centre, calves can be licensed to move to an AFU or go direct to slaughter.

**Dispersal Sales**

Dispersal sales for TB-restricted herds may be approved, subject to a satisfactory risk assessment and licence from APHA, at a dedicated sale site or on-farm. Cattle sold at an on-farm dispersal sale can be moved to slaughter, to an AFU or to another TB-restricted holding, providing they satisfy certain criteria, as set out in the APHA guidance. Cattle movements from these sales must generally be within England, although movements to slaughterhouses in Wales can be permitted.

From April 6, Free pre-sale TB tests will be available to many herd owners in the LRA selling 20 or more cattle in a single purchase.
ISOLATION UNITS

TB isolation units can enable the isolation and testing of TB-restricted cattle from a single source, potentially allowing them to be derestricted in a controlled way before movement restrictions on other cattle groups in the herd are lifted.

**TB isolation units in England:**

- Must be licenced and approved by APHA and have a separate and unique county parish holding (CPH)
- Can only source cattle from a single TB-restricted holding, not from multiple premises
- Strict biosecurity protocols must be in place, including wildlife proofing and protocols for movements of personnel and equipment between the unit and other cattle under the same ownership
Grazing may be allowed in TB isolation units in annual testing areas in England, but only if APHA considers there is a low risk of local spread of infection

Cattle over six weeks of age must have had a clear TB test within the previous 30 days

Must be filled in a six-week period

Once the TB isolation unit has been closed, testing within the unit will be at 60-day intervals

After two clear consecutive tests have been completed, and providing the last test is at least 120 days after the date the unit was closed, restrictions may be lifted

For more information on movement rules and trading, see Defra and APHA’s TB Hub.
Defra, APHA and farming and veterinary organisations have come together to issue biosecurity advice to farmers in the form of a five-point plan. For more information, see the biosecurity section of the TB Hub. The key points of the plan are:

- Restrict contact between badgers and cattle – for example, introducing barriers to restrict badger access to cattle and keeping cattle away from badger setts and latrines
- Stop infected cattle entering the herd – for example, by asking for TB history information before you buy new cattle and isolating all higher risk cattle before they enter the herd
- Reduce risk from neighbouring herds – for example, checking local TB breakdown data on Defra’s online map, putting in place effective barriers between neighbouring herds and avoid sharing cattle grazing, as well as equipment, with other herds
- Manage cattle, feed and water – restrict badger access to feed stores, troughs and mineral licks, do not put feed on the ground at pasture, clean up spillages and only feed waste milk to calves if it has been boiled or pasteurised
- Minimise infection from cattle manure – for example, store manure for a long period before spreading, only spread manure on arable land or pasture which is not going to be grazed by cattle for at least two months and do not spread manure from other farms

Click here for a ‘Protect your herd from TB’ poster.

Click here for a ‘Protect your herd from TB’ explanatory guidance.
RISK-BASED TRADING

Defra is urging farmers to try to obtain a full TB history of herds from which they purchase cattle to assess the level of risk involved. This includes asking for:

➤ Date of the animal’s pre-movement TB test
➤ Date of the seller’s last routine herd test
➤ Date the herd achieved OTF status

Risk-based trading in the form of the provision of information about the TB history of vendors’ herds has been deployed at some markets over the past year or so.

Defra is keen to formalise the principle of risk-based trading. APHA has developed a system which enables a TB risk rating score to be derived for every cattle herd in the country, on a scale of one to five (with one being the lowest risk).

ANALYSES

This is based on analyses of TB history (time since last breakdown) and cattle movement history. These scores could potentially be used by farmers to support risk-based trading, particularly to distinguish between higher and lower risk herds in the HRA.

Defra is planning to run a pilot scheme in two distinct counties in the Edge Area and HRA.

Building on feedback from the pilot, it is aiming to roll out risk scores across England in 2016.
In December 2015, Defra Secretary Liz Truss announced badger culling would be rolled out to new areas in 2016. In 2015, badger culling took place in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Dorset, with 1,467 removed during six-week culls across the three areas.

All three areas reached their targets, leading Defra’s Chief Veterinary Officer to advise the results show industry-led badger control can deliver the level of effectiveness required to be confident of achieving disease control benefits.

Industry leaders suggested about 12 new areas could be licensed over the next two years, in places where TB was rife in cattle and badgers. Dorset became the third area to be licensed in 2015, following the establishment of the Somerset and Gloucestershire pilot areas in 2013.

**HOW BADGER CULLS ARE ORGANISED**

Badger culls are organised by companies set up by farmers and landowners who fund it by paying an upfront fee, based partly on their land and the number of cattle they keep.

Companies cover the cost of the culling operation, while areas such as policing and monitoring, a big cost of the 2013 pilots in Somerset and Gloucestershire, are covered by Defra. The public cost of the culls has been a source of criticism from opponents of the cull, although Defra has said much of this has stemmed from monitoring the first year of the pilots.
Cull companies require licences from Natural England, which set out a number of conditions to be complied with.

Following a consultation, the following changes to badger cull licence conditions were announced in December 2015:

- The requirement for culls to be carried out for a maximum of six weeks each year has been removed
- The minimum area required has been reduced from 150sq.km to 100sq.km
- The requirement for at least 70 per cent of land in cull areas to be accessible has been replaced with a requirement for about 90 per cent of land to be either accessible or within 200m of accessible land; flexibility will be accepted on a case-by-case basis

In addition, other conditions include:

- Participating farmers must comply with statutory TB controls
- Reasonable biosecurity measures must be implemented
- The area must be composed wholly of land within an annual routine TB testing area

Culling is carried out by contractors using a combination of controlled and cage trapping and shooting, with strict conditions applying, including training requirements and closed seasons.

The British Veterinary Association has expressed concerns over the Government’s plans to continue allowing controlled shooting to be used. It said the first two years of culling in the pilot areas failed to
demonstrate conclusively controlled shooting could be carried out effectively or humanely.

CONTROVERSY

The merits of badger culling remain hotly disputed:

➔ The English badger cull has been successfully challenged in the courts a number of times

➔ Protestors have targeted cull areas, in some cases intimidating farmers and disrupting culling activities. The NFU has secured an injunction against such activity

➔ The subject has divided the main political parties and has been regularly debated in Parliament

➔ It has also been the subject of a high-profile media campaign, often led by Queen guitarist Brian May

The Government remains committed to the policy and farmers in TB hotspots are determined to see the policy rolled out nationally, according to NFU president Meurig Raymond, who described the 2015 badger culls as a ‘huge success’.

The two sides of the debate have argued over claims and counter-claims about whether the current culls will be a success. The only official data about the cull published by APHA covers just the first year, which the report said was too early to provide any clear indications. Defra and APHA said it might take years for data to show the extent of any benefits.
Initial monitoring of the 2013 pilots by an Independent Expert Panel showed they failed to meet some of the criteria set.

Ministers subsequently delayed roll-out of the cull in 2014 and made changes to the policy, including the way targets of badger numbers are calculated and steps to ensure contractors are better trained.

WALES

The Welsh Government came close to implementing a proposed policy of culling badgers across 288sq.km mainly in Pembrokeshire, known as the Intensive Action Area. But plans were eventually rejected following a legal challenge and then a change of Government in 2012. Ahead of the Welsh elections in May 2016, farming unions were calling on the political to revisit culling policy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

In Northern Ireland, a five-year ‘test, vaccinate or remove’ policy is underway. Over a 100sq.km area around in Co Down, badgers are tested and if clear they are vaccinated, but if infected they are culled.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

The Republic of Ireland has been culling badgers as part of a wider TB control strategy for many years. Irish Ministers have pointed to the current record low levels’ of TB cattle incidence in Ireland, which has fallen by 40 per cent since 2008, as evidence the policy works.
VACCINATION
Towards the end of 2015, a global shortage of BCG vaccine resulted in the suspension of vaccination programmes across the UK.

**WALES**

The Welsh Government implemented what was meant to be a five-year badger vaccination policy in the 288sq.km Intensive Action Area (IAA), mainly in Pembrokeshire, in 2012.

Funded and organised by the Government, more than 5,000 doses of vaccine have been administered to badgers inside the IAA. The five-year project cost £2.8m to administer over its first three years.

During the third year of the project in 2014, 1,316 badgers were vaccinated, slightly down on previous years, at an overall cost of £929,540.27.

*A report from the third year of the trial can be seen here.*

Wales has introduced other measures alongside vaccination in the IAA, including stricter cattle controls, improved biosecurity measures and testing all goats and camelids.

The Welsh Government also launched a £1.25m badger vaccination grant in 2015, providing funding of up to 50 per cent of eligible costs of badger vaccination over the next five years.

But in December 2015, *the Welsh Government announced it was suspending its badger vaccination project after four years,* due to a global shortage of the BCG vaccine.
ENGLAND

Various vaccination projects have taken place, backed by a combination of Government grants, wildlife groups and individual farmers and landowners.

In summer 2015, Defra awarded funding for six schemes under its Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme (BEVS), which provides long-term financial and other support to privately led vaccination projects in England’s TB Edge Area.

Taken together, the schemes have the potential to vaccinate badgers in about 200sq.km over four–year periods.

**Funding was provided to:**

- Wirral and Cheshire Badger Group for a badger vaccination campaign in and near the Adlington Estate, Cheshire
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust for a badger vaccination campaign in West Berkshire
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for a badger vaccination campaign in the Peak District
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for a badger vaccination campaign near Nottingham
- West Cheshire Estates for a badger vaccination campaign which brings together a number of estates in Cheshire
- WildCRU (University of Oxford) to vaccinate badgers in the Wytham Estates area
Each scheme is responsible for obtaining its own licence to vaccinate badgers from Natural England.

In December 2015, Defra confirmed it would be following the Welsh Government in suspending sourcing of the BCG badger vaccine, meaning it would not be taking more applications for funding in the foreseeable future.

Defra Secretary Liz Truss subsequently stressed vaccination would resume once the vaccine became available again.

**Other past and ongoing vaccination schemes include:**

- The National Trust carried out a four-year badger vaccination project at its Killerton Estate, Devon. In the final year of the trial in 2014, it cost £45,000 to vaccinate 186 badgers.
- A badger vaccination project has been underway in the Penwith area of Cornwall since 2013. Prof Rosie Woodroffe, from the Zoological Society of London, said up to 1,000 badgers could be vaccinated over seven years. The project is costing about £1m and is being funded by the Badger and Cattle Vaccination Initiative, the National Trust and through fundraising, with Defra providing the trial with vaccinations for free.
- Defra conducted a field study over four years in Gloucestershire. It found vaccination resulted in a reduction in the proportion of wild badgers testing positive to blood test for TB, although there was no evidence of the impact this had on cattle disease.
Various Wildlife Trusts and the Badger Trust have also set up and funded badger vaccination projects.

Badger vaccination is currently carried out using the injectable BCG vaccine. At the point of publishing this guide (early 2016), projects showed the process to be time-consuming and expensive. The badger vaccination has also shown to be of limited value in heavily infected areas, as vaccination does not help badgers which already have the disease.

**ORAL BADGER VACCINE**

An oral badger vaccine may be a more practical, cheaper option, but is still at the research stage and there is no indication yet as to when, or if, it will be available.

*Work underway includes:*

- Formulation and bait development
- Efficacy and safety studies
- Field deployment studies

**CATTLE VACCINATION**

There is hope cattle vaccination could be a useful tool in the future. However, at the time of publishing this guide (early 2016), there were no licensed cattle vaccine available for use against bovine TB. BCG–based cattle vaccine is banned in the EU because it interferes with the tuberculin TB skin test and there is currently no validated
test to differentiate infected from vaccinated animals (known as a ‘DIVA test’).

In January 2013, the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy wrote to Defra Secretary Owen Paterson setting out a tentative timeline for possible use of a TB cattle vaccine, which suggested it would take until 2023 to go through all the necessary steps.

Defra has been currently working on the design of large-scale, long-lasting field trials which would be needed to prove how effective a cattle vaccine would be.
TB IN OTHER SPECIES
Bovine TB can affect a wide range of mammal species, including other farm animals. The number of premises placed under movement restrictions in the first six months of 2014 in England, due to suspected TB or a confirmed incident of M. bovis infection included 19 camelid, three sheep, 12 goats, 13 pigs and three deer premises.

The disease was detected in 20 cats in 2014 and has been found in dogs and a seal.
Click here for statistics on bovine TB in non-bovine species.

It is likely the official statistics under-estimate the true level of infection.

➔ If TB is suspected in non-bovine farmed animals, you must immediately notify APHA if you or your vet suspect a carcase of a non-bovine animal is infected with TB. Suspicion of TB in a live deer is also notifiable

➔ If TB is confirmed or strongly suspected, movement restrictions will be imposed and will remain in place until APHA is satisfied, through testing, that all TB infected animals have been identified and removed

➔ Additionally, APHA will TB test any cattle present on breakdown and neighbouring premises

**ENGLAND**

In August 2015, Defra consulted on measures to improve disease controls in non-bovine farmed animals. It aimed to:

➔ Ensure proportionate measures were in place to address the risk posed by TB in non-bovine species

➔ Enhance the sensitivity of TB surveillance in non-bovines

➔ Introduce stricter measures for TB breakdowns non-bovines

Click here for Defra guidance on managing TB in non-bovine animals, including movement restrictions and compensation.
WALES

Wales’ TB eradication programme is also aimed at dealing with TB in other animals, such as camelids and wild deer.

The Welsh Government has introduced legal powers to control TB in camelids as it would in cattle. It also monitors the level of bTB in culled wild deer.

SCOTLAND

In October 2015, Scotland introduced new legislation covering TB in non-bovine animals.

It introduces a TB controls regime covering various species and provides a framework of compensation values for those animals which are removed as TB reactors.

It makes provision for the notification of disease in these specified animals, and in the carcases of wild deer, where they are affected or suspected of being affected with TB.
The TB Hub, a Defra and APHA initiative bringing together all information on bTB, including rules and policy, trading options and biosecurity advice

Click here for the latest information from Defra on the disease

Click here for information on Government TB policy in England

This page summarises TB policy in Wales

This pages summarises TB policy in Scotland

The TB-Free England website provides information and first-hand personal experiences of various aspects of bTB

FG Insight regularly carries news and features on all aspects of bovine TB

The Bovine TB Blog provides hard-hitting comment and insight around TB policy
MAKE SURE YOU LOG ONTO FGINSIGHT.COM

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