



AHVLA Briefing Note 05/13

Launch of bovine TB risk-based trading scheme

Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing note is to inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of the launch of a new scheme designed to help farmers protect their herds from TB. The risk based trading scheme is a new tool in the fight against the spread of bovine TB which encourages farmers to share details about the disease history of cattle they are selling at market.
2. This history includes the date of the animal's last pre-movement test, the date of the seller's last routine herd test, and if the herd has ever had a TB breakdown, the date the herd achieved official TB Free status. This means farmers will be able to buy better and avoid the risk of bringing bovine TB onto their farm.
3. Some of this information is available on the test certificate (also known as a TB52). In future, farmers selling at market may therefore contact their local vet to request a copy of this form.
4. The risk based trading scheme will be in place for the first time at Chelford Market in Cheshire on 9 November.

Background

5. The industry-led Risk-Based Trading Group (RBTG) recommended that crucial TB risk information about cattle is shared at the point of sale. The Risk-Based Trading Group was set up by Defra in July 2012 to make recommendations to Government on helping farmers make informed decisions on the TB risk of cattle they want to buy.
6. While this scheme has initially been launched in England, OVs in Scotland and Wales will wish to be aware where their farmer clients are selling cattle at markets in England.

For further information

7. Further guidance is available on the risk-based trading leaflet, which is available online at www.tbfreeengland.co.uk.
8. Information about the Risk-Based Trading Group is available on Defra's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-risk-based-trading-empowering-farmers-to-manage-tb-trading-risks>

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