

FEBRUARY NEWS

TB Testing

Currently we are in a high TB risk area and all farms are subjected to annual testing. There has been a change to testing frequency but at the moment we are not included in the area that is required to have 6 monthly tests.

The below questions are taken from the APHA site:

Q1. Are there any changes to the TB testing intervals in England for 2018?

Yes. From 1 January 2018 herds in Cheshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and parts of Derbyshire (West), Berkshire (West) and Hampshire (North West) will be placed on six-monthly surveillance testing. All other Edge Area counties and part counties will remain on annual testing supplemented with 3km radial testing around lesion and/or culture positive TB breakdowns.

Q6. Are some TB breakdowns also subject to interferon gamma blood testing?

Yes, all herds in the Low Risk and Edge Areas affected by lesion and/or culture-positive TB breakdowns are subject to interferon gamma testing. In the HRA this test is applied more selectively in certain herds with lesion or culture-positive breakdowns that satisfy a number of criteria.

Q7. Will I be notified of my Testing Interval (TI) and Herd Testing Interval (HTI)?

Yearly statement letters will only be sent to cattle keepers if/when their TB testing interval has changed. The reasons for the change will be explained.

For all the other q&a please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bovine-tb-testing-intervals-2018>

We have found that the level of TB in our herds has increased over the last 3 years with more reactors and more farms affected. TB testing is under scrutiny with Vets having on farm audits, spot checks and a lot more paper work. As a result of this we have to ensure all tests are carried out correctly and consistently. Eartags have to be recorded on both days of the test and any cows missing will need to be explained. This unfortunately adds more time to testing especially on day two but if it is not done the test will be deemed void and the whole herd will be subjected to another test in 60 days time.

Please be patient with our vets as TB testing is not fun for anyone. We have found that the pressure on our vets has grown tremendously in the last couple of years and although it is tough for everyone our vets have to do this every week and it is definitely not a career aspiration to be upsetting farmers and condemning cows to slaughter because of TB.

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Don't forget our
**Antibiotic Awareness
Meeting**

Tuesday 20th Feb 7.30pm
Coombefield Meeting Room

Please ring to reserve a
seat and hot food.