



SHROPSHIRE FARM NEWS

Another way to fight TB

Last May CHeCS introduced a UK wide TB Entry Level Membership (ELM), focusing on biosecurity 'basics' to help farmers reduce the risk of TB breakdowns in their herd.

TB is the UK's most challenging animal health and welfare issue costing farms on average £18600/ breakdown.

CHeCS TB herd accreditation was launched in 2016. This 'full' TB herd accreditation has some challenging measures that don't suit all farms and businesses so CHeCS and the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) developed the TB Entry Level Membership which bridges the gap and makes an accessible scheme that anyone can approach at their own level.

The aim is that farmers can adopt a baseline standard of "no regrets" achievable biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of a TB breakdown.

The CHeCS TB ELM is administered through participating cattle health schemes and licensed and quality controlled by CHeCS. In this case the BCVA BATVA programme.

CHeCS TB ELM is a stand alone standard but since 1 august 2021 also forms the biosecurity basis for the "full" CHeCS TB herd accreditation.

Farmers that wish to become CHeCS TB ELM must comply with at least one biosecurity option from each of the six different biosecurity Risk Factors.

The 6 Risk Factors are:

Risk Factor 1: minimise TB risk from purchased cattle

Risk Factor 2: minimise TB risk from contact with animals from other herds

Risk Factor 3: minimise TB risk from your own animals

Risk Factor 4: Minimise the spread of TB through muck or slurry

Risk Factor 5: Reduce TB risk to and from badgers

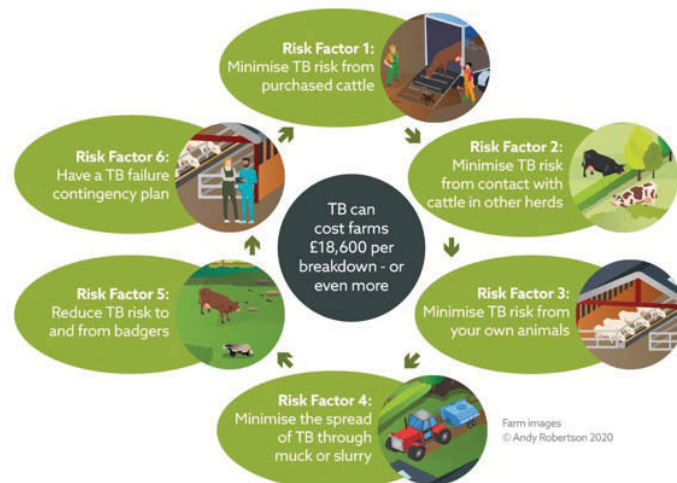
Risk Factor 6: Have a TB failure contingency plan



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TB: know your biosecurity basics



✓ **NEW CHeCS TB Entry Level Membership**
Find out more at www.checs.co.uk/tb

Currently we have 1 BATVA at the practice: **Roel Driesen**

Key Points of CHeCS TB Entry Level Membership

- TB is an infectious disease like any other and so risk can be reduced using the right biosecurity measures.
- CHeCS TB ELM starts the process of taking control by initiating biosecurity and disease pathway discussions between farmer and vet.
- CHeCS TB ELM is flexible and simple, its measures are achievable; there really are 'no regrets'.

Please contact the office to book an appointment or call Roel for more info.

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Some useful figures regarding TB testing.

Skin test (The routine TB test)

The TB skin test sensitivity is 81% at standard interpretation.

This means if you test a herd of 1000 animals of which 100 are TB-infected you will only find 81 animals on day 2 of the skin test that are positive. This also means that 19 positive animals remain in the herd. (i.e. false negative)

The TB skin test has a 99.98% specificity.

This means that of the 900 animals that are non-infected, only 0.18 animals will test positive to TB test (1/5000 false positive).

Gamma IFN blood test

Has a sensitivity of >90%

which means on the same 1000 animal test it will find more than 90 positive animals and leaves nearly 10% less positive animals behind in the herd. Still, nearly 10 positive animals stay behind in the herd.

Has a specificity of 96.6%

Which means that the blood test has 3.4% false positives which are actually non-infected animals. i.e. out of the 900 non-infected animals 30 test positive.

Conclusion: No test is 100%. Both tests leave potential positive animals in the herd and there is always a danger of these animals infecting other animals. Be it in your own herd, another herd or badgers that cross their path. It emphasises that all the risk pathways need to be addressed and we should reduce the risks to reduce the chance of another TB breakdown. Just doing TB tests and removing the positives isn't going to cut it!

A useful website that will answers to a lot of TB related questions you might have: www.tbhub.co.uk

And if you fancy doing some TB related MI5 work you can have a look at: www.ibtb.co.uk Here you can find information regarding TB breakdowns in England and Wales. The updates can run 2 weeks behind but are still useful when buying animals from an area you don't know too well. Also useful are the locations of Approved Finishing Unit marked with a square on the map.

Roel





Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma

You may have heard us talk about 'iceberg' diseases – diseases that are much more prevalent than the smaller number of clinical cases we actually see. One such disease is OPA in sheep (standing for Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma, also known as 'Jaagsiekte'). This is a contagious lung tumour that is caused by a viral infection, and is ultimately fatal.

Why is OPA important?

It has been suggested that OPA may be the third most common cause of on farm death in sheep after mastitis and liver fluke, with mortality rates having the potential to reach 10%. In flocks where the disease is present, up to 80% can be infected, and 5 - 17% of these will go on to develop tumours.

What signs do we see?

Clinical signs are a soft cough, heavy breathing especially when moved, and chronic wasting. Fluid accumulates in the lungs which can be seen coming out of the nose when the head is lowered. Sometimes no signs are seen at all and the animal is simply found dead.

How does it spread?

Spread to other members of the flock is through droplets in the breath and nasal fluid of infected sheep, most commonly occurring when feeding together from troughs. Most clinical cases are seen in 3 – 4 year-old sheep, but they are often first infected as lambs from their mother's colostrum and milk, and cases can be seen in younger animals where tumours

have grown faster. Bought-in sheep are a particular risk as the prevalence of OPA in the flock of origin is likely unknown.

What can we do about it?

There is no cure or vaccination for OPA, so biosecurity and screening by ultrasound scanning are our best tools currently available. The aim of intervention is to identify sheep at risk of having OPA, to prevent further spread through the flock or introduction from another farm, and to allow cull choices to be made before affected animals become ill or die. We can do this by scanning both sides of the chest to look for tumour lesions. This is a simple, quick and easy test that can be done on farm. We cannot say for certain that the sheep has OPA, but we see lesions they are higher risk and would be good choices for culling from the flock – and the cull price will likely cover the cost of scanning! If necessary, any sheep that are inconclusive can be separated and scanned again in 2 – 3 months to confirm.

We can help!

Annual screening can help to assess the disease risk on your farm and to make informed choices for your next breeding season. Scanning barren ewes can be a great way to start looking for signs of suspect lesions as these animals may be more likely to be positive and could point to wider disease within the flock.

Ask at the practice about screening your flock for OPA.

Sarah



 **We'd like to wish all of our clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!** 

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Please be aware of the following office closures over the festive period:

Monday 27th December:	Office Closed (Christmas Day Bank Holiday)
Tuesday 28th December:	Office Closed (Boxing Day Bank Holiday)
Friday 31st December:	Office Closes Early (4pm)
Monday 3rd January:	Office Closed (New Year's Day Bank Holiday)

As usual, our 24/7 emergency service remains available throughout the Christmas closures.

Down cow – don't forget the phosphorus

There are a few different reasons for a cow to be down, from metabolic (low calcium, low magnesium, low phosphorus, etc) to an injury like dislocated hip, broken leg, spinal injury or other issues which can include toxic mastitis, toxic metritis or calving paralysis. In this article I am going to focus only on phosphorus and not write about all the other different reasons why a cow is down.

So, what is phosphorus?

It's a chemical in the body that helps with the production of energy, muscle contractions, has important biological functions such as a buffer for acid-base balance and it's a major component of the bone.

What are the signs and when are you going to see low phosphorus?

Most commonly it occurs around calving because in the early stages of lactation and colostrum production there is a sudden increased demand for phosphorus and it may look like milk fever or the cow may look like what is called a 'crawler cow', where she is unable to get up fully and drags herself across the ground in a low crawl.

How to diagnose and treat low phosphorus?

The easiest way to diagnose is through a simple blood test. When it comes to treatment, because cows that are low in phosphorus tend to be experiencing milk fever as well, treating the milk fever will sometimes resolve low phosphorus as correcting calcium levels helps to correct gut motility, therefore allowing dietary absorption of phosphorus to resume. But that's not always the case so oral or injectable phosphorus should be administered as well.

Mihail

TB UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER

Last month we TB tested 12958 animals over 80 tests. There were 53 reactors and 76 inconclusive reactors.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

ALISTAIR MACPHERSON	07909 517184	CRISTINA SAN AGUSTIN	07734 420878
TIM O'SULLIVAN	07909 517479	ALEX CORNEA	07765 157263
ROEL DRIESEN	07813 833385	ALEX BEZMAN	07934 330559
JAMES MARSDEN	07876 443950	CALIN BOGDAN	07425 314090
NATHAN LOEWENSTEIN	07815 543546	LIZ BUCKLEY	07954 110440
JOHN HEMINGWAY	07496 305412	KATE MARTIN	07534 812696
SEAN HUGHES	07973 567367	MATT ASHLEY	07377 043596
MIHAIL STOICA	07948 475669	CHRIS SHINGLER	07903 864086
SARAH BRUCE	07852 289271	DREW PLUSE	07376 617477
CHLOE DAVIES	07506 251926	ISSY WILLIAMS	07534 812989
		RYAN LUNT	07534 813024

Please keep a note of the mobile numbers for the vets should you ever need them

Find us on social media



www.facebook.com/ShropshireFarmVets
www.twitter.com/ShropFarmVets

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