Bovine Tuberculosis in the UK

SCoFCAH 5 March 2007

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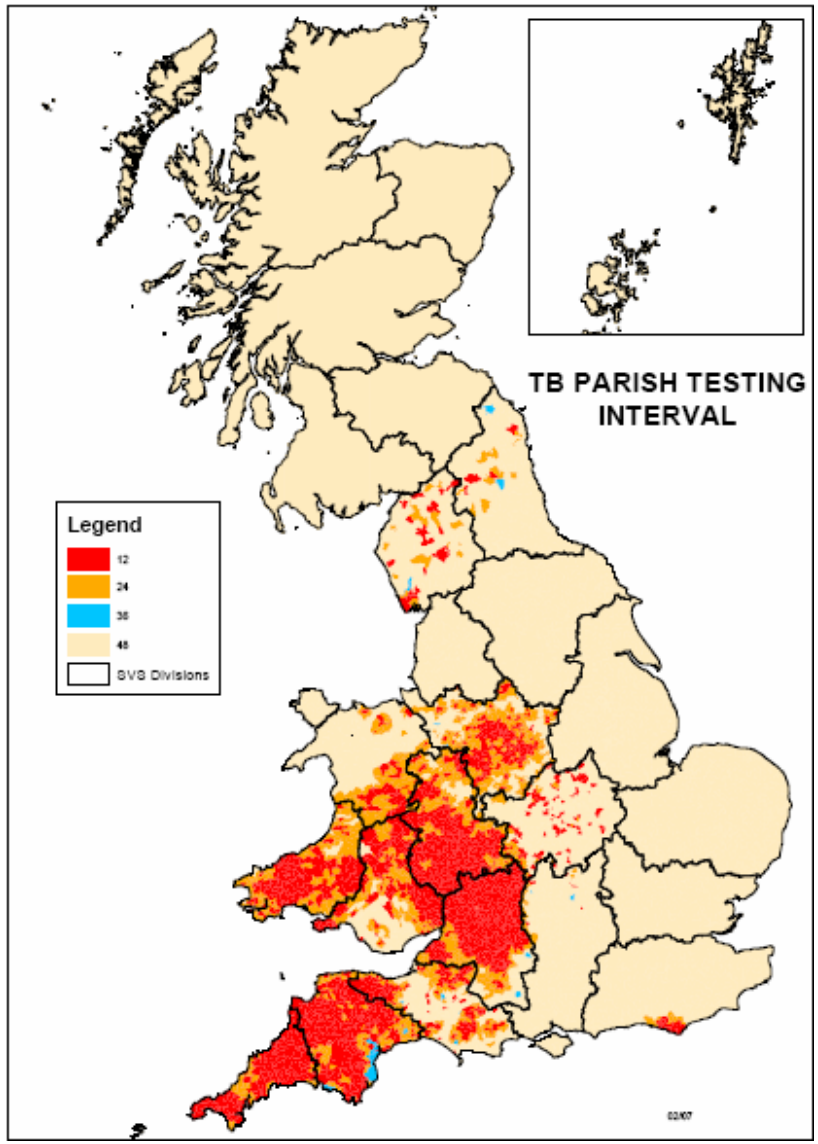
GB 2006

- 5.5m cattle tested in 89k registered herds
- 19,845 reactor animals slaughtered from 5,787 herd incidents
- Significant geographical variation in incidence and surveillance
- Cost to the UK taxpayer of €140M in 2005/2006



Source: SVS

TB statistics (GB)

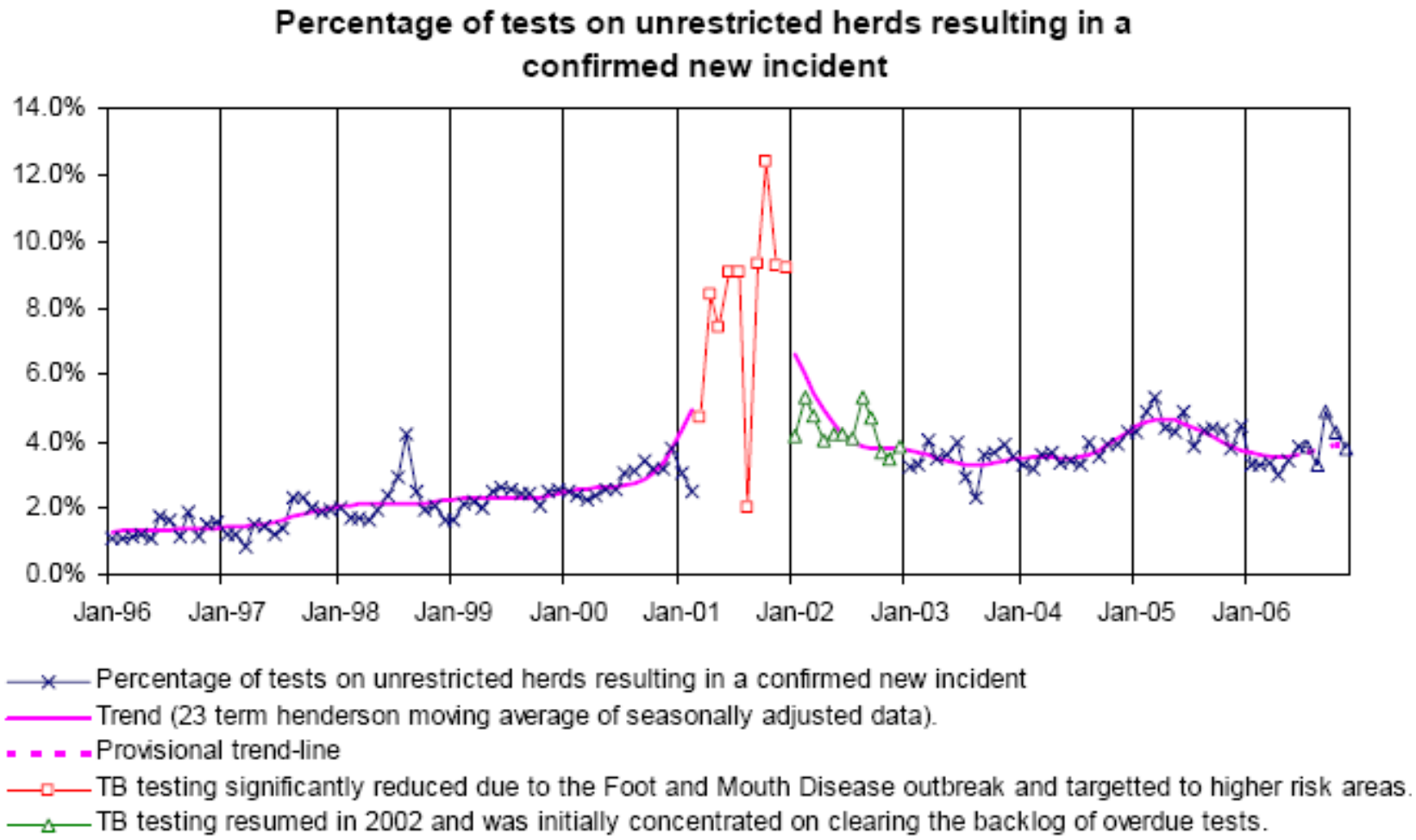
	GB Total 2006 (provisional)	GB Total 2005
Registered cattle herds	89,134	90,732
Herd tests	50,236	43,626
Cattle tested	5,470,070	4,849,196
New herd incidents (of which confirmed)	3,450 (1,926)	3,673 (2,083)
Herd incidence (confirmed incidents only)	6.2% (3.4%)	7.9% (4.5%)
Reactors Slaughtered	19,845	25,770
Other cattle slaughtered	2,249	4,312

Northern Ireland

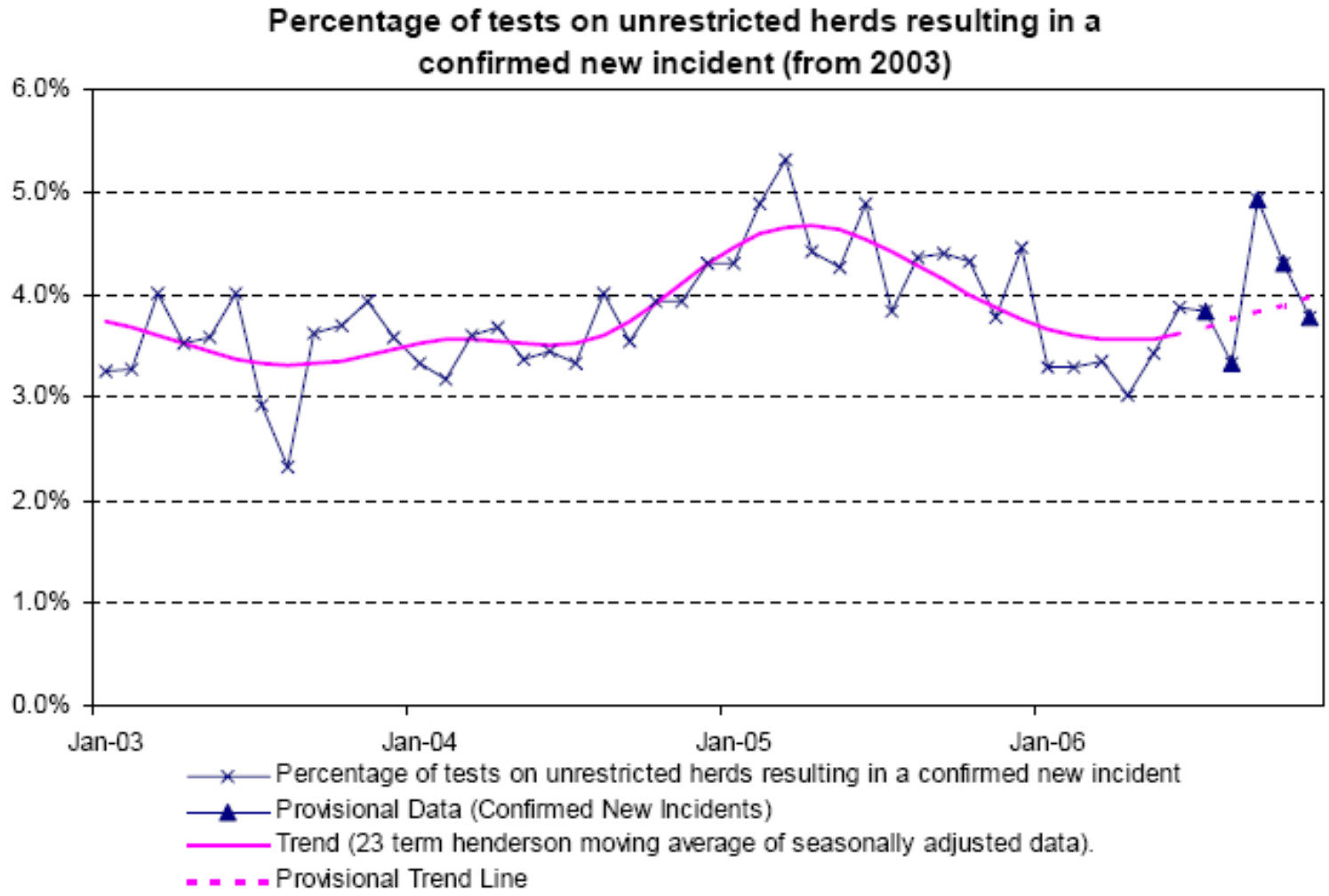
- Increasing trend in TB incidence that was evident from 1997 to 2002 halted in 2002/03.
- A decrease in herd incidence achieved during 2003 continued into 2004 (9.17%) and 2005 (7.20%)
- Decrease in herd incidence has been maintained in 2006 (6.13%), levelling off recently,
- Number or reactors continues to fall.

Year	No of reactors	No of herds
2003	16062	2356
2004	15082	2324
2005	10479	1792
2006	9380	1513

Long term trend (GB)



Confirmed herd incidence (GB): 2003 - 2006



FVO Missions

- November 2003- NI
- November 2004 – UK (GB + NI)
- Review mission October 2006 – UK
- Next mission planned for September 2007- UK
- Main recommendations implemented and IR protocol under review
- Eradication plan to be developed this year

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Gamma Interferon Testing

- Use of gamma interferon (g-IFN) diagnostic blood test in England, Wales and Scotland was extended in October 2006

- Using gamma interferon as a parallel test to speed up the resolution of confirmed TB breakdowns

- 50, 000 parallel tests per annum

- Applied mainly in 3 and 4 yearly testing parishes to ensure that infection in such areas does not become established in cattle or wildlife.

- Used at first re-test of inconclusive reactors from high risk herds

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Pre-movement testing

- **In spring 2006, statutory pre-movement testing was introduced in England and Wales, for cattle over 15 months of age from high risk herds**
- **Phase 2, extending the policy to cattle over 42 days old came into effect on 1 March 2007.**
- **Too soon to draw firm conclusions on impacts. Evidence to date is encouraging. (In England, over 187,606 pre-movement tests have been carried out. 279 reactors and over 456 inconclusive reactors identified)**
- **This policy has been controversial with the farming industry who pay for the tests**
- **Compulsory pre- and post- movement testing was introduced in Scotland in September 2005 for cattle over 42 days of age.**

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Badgers

- TB is endemic in the badger population
- Evidence on culling is complex
- The Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) began in 1998.
- Proactive culling of badgers in response to a herd TB breakdown reduced disease incidence by 20% while the incidence in neighbouring herds increased by 30%
- Public consultation on badger culling published in December 2005. Over 47,000 responses received. 95% were opposed to a badger cull.

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Badgers

- Culling not ruled in or out
- No simple answer – evidence is complex
- Scientific and organisational questions:
  - How to practically address reservoir in badgers?
  - How to manage risk of any action spreading disease?
- Any policy must be evidence based, cost-effective, practical, sustainable and humane

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Current developments

- Significant policy changes in the last 12 months- reviewing impact
- Ministers considering way forward on wildlife
- Cattle vaccine -BCG based vaccine in neonatal animals being tested experimentally-developing differential diagnostic antigens
- Badger vaccine-Field study and challenge experiments using injectable BCG underway.
- Development of oral bait formulations ongoing with NZ and Republic of Ireland.

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Publications

- GVJ Bovine TB Special Edition 2006
- Strategic Framework 2005
- Annual Reports of Independent Scientific Group
- Independent audits of humaneness of badger culling in trials
- Vaccination of cattle and wildlife
- Current data on outbreaks
- Biosecurity guidance

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TB in cattle

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is one of the most difficult animal health problems currently facing the farming industry in Great Britain. The Government is committed to tackling the disease, working in partnership with our stakeholders. This website gives more information on what measures the Government is taking to combat bTB and what further work is being carried out to better understand the disease.

What is bovine TB (bTB)?

- What is bTB?
- How is it spread?
- What can you do to protect your herd?

What is the Government doing to control bovine TB?

In December 2005 the Government announced new measures to tackle the spread of bTB in England, including the pre-movement testing of cattle, changes to compensation procedures and a consultation on the culling of badgers for control of bTB. Further action to improve the testing of cattle for bovine TB was announced on 10 August 2006, including wider use of the gamma interferon blood test. The new measures build on the Government's TB Strategic Framework, published in March 2005, which aims to bring about a sustainable improvement in control of bTB in Great Britain over the next 10 years. The framework sets out a vision for the future, along with 12 strategic goals, new commitments and principles that will be applied to achieve these.

What testing and controls are in place?

- TB testing and controls
- Pre-movement testing
- Gamma interferon
- TB legislation


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