Results of the implementation of the United Kingdom’s bovine tuberculosis eradication programme for 2013

AHW-CIC SCoFCAH
May 2014
Summary

- Epidemiology
- Summary of UK Programme
- Programme enhancements in 2013
- Programme results in 2013
- Conclusion and next steps
• Endemic in south west of England and Wales: reservoir of infection in cattle and in wildlife (badgers). Multiple epidemic clusters.

• Slow spread from endemic area.

• North and east of England (55% land area) ‘low risk’ with prevalence around 0.1%.

• Scotland declared OTF region in October 2009.
Great Britain – Epidemiology
• Cattle infection is not geographically regionalised.
• Herds small and land parcels considerably fragmented.
• Traditionally high cattle movement both within herds and to other herds.
• Badger distribution is widespread across Northern Ireland.
Summary of the UK Programme in 2013

Measures deployed in accordance with Council Directives 64/432 and 78/52/EEC.

1. Surveillance

Slaughterhouse surveillance; routine cattle herd testing (six-monthly: Intensive Action Area of W; annual: E, W, NI; 4-yearly: Low Risk Area of E); surveillance in non-bovines.

2. Breakdown management

Herd movement restrictions; isolation, removal and slaughter of reactors; intensified surveillance testing (+/- interferon-gamma) in herd and surrounding herds; tracing; epidemiological investigation e.g. genetic typing of *M. bovis*. 
3. Measures to control risk from badgers
Local injectable badger vaccine deployment projects (Several in E; Intensive Action Area of W – year 2/5); pilot culling trials (E); on-farm biosecurity measures (E, W, NI).

4. Other measures
Pre-movement testing (E & W); Approved Finishing Units (E & W); advice, guidance, sanctions.

5. Ongoing R&D to develop new interventions – cattle vaccine, oral badger vaccine, diagnostics.
Great Britain – Programme Enhancements in 2013

England

• Enhanced quality assurance for Official Veterinarians carrying out TB testing.
• Strengthened controls on cattle movements to/from breakdown herds.
• Phased out Approved Quarantine Units.
• Extended annual TB herd testing on county-basis throughout High Risk Area and Edge Area between endemic area and Low Risk Area.
• Introduced 3km radial testing around breakdowns in Low Risk Area (on 4 year testing).
• Introduced voluntary risk-based trading scheme.
• Strengthened TB testing and controls in Edge Area.
• Completed two badger culling pilot trials in High Risk Area.
Wales

• Enhanced quality assurance for Official Veterinarians carrying out TB testing.
• Strengthened controls on cattle movements to/from breakdown herds.
• Phased out Approved Quarantine Units.
• Increased focus on epidemiological investigation to inform development of local approaches.
• Launched *Cymorth TB* pilot to increase role of Official Veterinarians in supporting farmers during a TB breakdown to achieve herd OTF status at the earliest opportunity.
• Launched new Badger Vaccination Grant to encourage private badger vaccination projects.
• Completed a further review of the remaining Pre-Movement Testing exemptions.
Northern Ireland

- Strengthened procedure for Private Veterinary Practitioner approval to TB test.
- Maintained high level of TB test audits.
- Ongoing training of Veterinary Officers.
- Updated staff instructions.
- New TB Implementation Team established to monitor delivery of the programme at Divisional Veterinary Office level and individual breakdown level through audit of decision making and field processes.
- Continued to develop TB/ biosecurity communications.
Great Britain (E&W) – Results in 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herd Incidence rate (OTFW as % of tests on OTF herds)</td>
<td>4.85%</td>
<td>4.60%</td>
<td>-0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New OTFW herd incidents</td>
<td>3,438</td>
<td>3,217</td>
<td>-221 (-6.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests on OTF herds</td>
<td>70,845</td>
<td>69,875</td>
<td>-970 (-1.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reactors</td>
<td>36,642</td>
<td>31,630</td>
<td>-5,012 (-13.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note - Short term changes should be considered in the context of long term trends.

**Great Britain – Results in 2013**

**Herd incidence rate** of bovine TB in (whole) GB between January 2003 and January 2014. Monthly series showing new Tb breakdowns resulting in OTF status withdrawn (OTFW) as a percentage of all tests carried out in OTF herds.
# Northern Ireland– Results in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herd Incidence</td>
<td>7.34%</td>
<td>6.44%</td>
<td>-12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Incidence</td>
<td>0.663%</td>
<td>0.511%</td>
<td>-22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakdowns</td>
<td>1,695</td>
<td>1,479</td>
<td>-216 (-12.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reactors</td>
<td>10,896</td>
<td>8,271</td>
<td>-2,626 (-24.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note - Short term changes should be considered in the context of long term trends.

Northern Ireland– Results in 2013

TB Herd and Animal Incidence
12-month moving average: January 2000 to December 2013
Conclusion and next steps

- Bovine Tuberculosis is the most pressing animal health problem in the UK.
- We continued to strengthen the Eradication Programme in 2013; the EU financial contribution provides valuable support.
- We have seen a reduction in key indicators in 2013 although it is not possible to draw conclusions from short term changes.
- We are making good progress on implementing the commitments in the Programme for 2014: removing pre-movement testing exemptions; removing links on the Cattle Tracing System between holdings in different risk areas; and phasing out partial de-restriction of breakdown holdings.
- Defra has published a new Strategy for achieving OTF status for England.
- We have submitted an application for ongoing financial support for our multi-annual Eradication Programme in 2015.
Thank you