Results of the implementation of the United Kingdom’s bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication programme for 2014

AHW-CIC SCoPAFF

Presented by: Defra, UK
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Summary

- Epidemiology
- Summary of UK Programme
- Programme enhancements in 2014
- Programme results in 2014
- Conclusion and next steps
England and Wales – Epidemiology

- Endemic in the West of England and parts of Wales: two-host infection (cattle and badgers). Geographic clustering associated with local strains of *Mycobacterium bovis* (‘home ranges’)
- Slow spread from endemic areas.
- Low Risk Area – most of North and East of England (~55% land area, ~40% cattle herds), low and stable herd incidence (~0.1%)
- Scotland – OTF status since September 2009 (not included in the eradication programme)
Proportion of live herds under restriction as a result of a (OTF-W & OTF-S) bTB breakdown

- ▲ Prop herds under restriction in Scotland
- ▲ Prop herds under restriction in Wales
- ▶ Prop herds under restriction in HRA England
- ◀ Prop herds under restriction in Edge England
- ❌ Prop herds under restriction in LRA England

Year

0.0% 1.0% 2.0% 3.0% 4.0% 5.0% 6.0% 7.0% 8.0% 9.0% 10.0% 11.0% 12.0%
Northern Ireland - 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.
Measures deployed in accordance with Council Directives 64/432/EEC and 78/52/EEC.

1. Surveillance of cattle herds
   - routine cattle herd testing (6-monthly: Intensive Action Area of Wales & Cheshire (Edge Area); annually in E, W, NI; 4-yearly: Low Risk Area of England;
   - additional targeted risk-based testing of individual herds;
   - compulsory pre-movement testing (E&W);
   - slaughterhouse surveillance (post-mortem meat inspection)

2. Herd breakdown (incident) management
   Movement restrictions; isolation & slaughter of reactors; 60-day skin herd testing (+/- interferon-γ test); tracings; cleansing & disinfection; epidemiological investigation; genetic typing of \textit{M. bovis} isolates.
Summary of the UK Programme in 2014

3. Measures to control risk from badgers
Local injectable badger vaccine deployment projects (several in E; Intensive Action Area of W – year 3/5); two culling areas (E) – year 2/4; on-farm biosecurity measures (E, W, NI).

4. Other measures
Approved Finishing Units for surplus cattle from non-OTF herds (E&W);
Farmer advice, guidance, sanctions;
Passive surveillance in non-bovine domestic animals (E&W)

5. Ongoing R&D to develop new interventions – cattle vaccine, oral badger vaccine, diagnostics, Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) in NI.
England and Wales – Programme enhancements in 2014

• Reduced Common Agricultural Policy Scheme payments for overdue TB tests.
• Enhanced approach for dealing with persistent TB breakdowns.
• New contract for training and revalidation of Official Veterinarians (OV) delivering TB testing.
• Launched procurement exercise via Official Journal of the EU for provision of TB testing and other OV services.
• Tightened pre-movement testing rules by removing exemption for cattle moved between holdings that are part of the same Sole Occupancy Authority (SOA).
• Stopped the practice of de-restricting parts of TB-restricted holdings.
England – Programme enhancements in 2014

• Published a new Strategy for achieving OTF status for the Low Risk Area of England by 2025 and the rest of England by 2038.
• Continued to strengthen TB testing and controls in the Edge Area
  – mandatory parallel interferon-γ assay for lesion/culture positive (OTFW) TB breakdown herds; discretionary for other breakdown herds.
  – radial testing of all herds within 3km of an OTFW TB breakdown herd in the Cheshire and Derbyshire Edge Area.
• New powers to remove cattle which are unable to be tested.
• Tightened pre-movement testing rules by removing exemption for cattle movements to and from common land.
• New badger vaccination scheme in the Edge Area.
• Completed second year of two badger culls in High Risk Area.
• Published TB Biosecurity Action Plan.
• Enhanced statutory powers to control TB incidents in camelids & deer.
Wales – Programme enhancements in 2014

- Completed third year of the five-year Intensive Action Area (IAA) badger vaccination project with 1,316 badgers vaccinated.
- Launched a Badger Vaccination Grant (BVG) to promote badger vaccination in other parts of Wales.
- Extended the ongoing IAA Badger Found Dead Survey to the rest of Wales.
- Piloted the Cymorth TB initiative, to support OVs in ensuring their clients’ breakdown herds achieve OTF status at the earliest opportunity. A review of the pilot was undertaken and roll out of recommendations began.
- Piloted an Epidemiology Project in six study areas in Wales in 2013/14 in order to establish disease trends and ensure that specific epidemiological conditions are taken account of during the development of local approaches. Following review this was extended in 2014/15.
Northern Ireland – Programme enhancements in 2014

• Completed the first year’s field work for the Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) badger intervention project.
• Established the Government/Industry TB Strategic Partnership Group, set up to develop a long-term strategy to eradicate TB from NI and an associated implementation action plan.
• Maintained high level of TB test audits and TB Programme quality assurance.
• Staff instructions reviewed and updated.
• Publication of first TB Programme Annual Report.
• Development and publication of TB breakdown density maps (Heat Maps) to inform Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVPs) and farmers of disease distribution in NI.
• Continued to develop TB/biosecurity communications, including a web based training presentation for PVPs.
England & Wales – Results in 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herd Incidence rate (OTFW as % of tests on OTF herds)</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
<td>4.38%</td>
<td>-5.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New OTFW herd incidents</td>
<td>3,249</td>
<td>3,288</td>
<td>+39 (+1.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests on OTF herds</td>
<td>69,894</td>
<td>75,012</td>
<td>+5118 (+7.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reactors</td>
<td>31,621</td>
<td>31,511</td>
<td>-110 (-0.35%)</td>
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Note - Short term changes should be considered in the context of long term trends.
Provisional data as of 13 May 2015.
Herd incidence rate of bovine TB in (whole) GB between January 2003 and January 2015. 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 2014

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<tr>
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<th>Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herd Incidence</td>
<td>6.44%</td>
<td>6.03%</td>
<td>-6.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Incidence</td>
<td>0.511%</td>
<td>0.550%</td>
<td>7.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breakdowns</td>
<td>1,479</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>-82 (-5.54%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reactors</td>
<td>8,262</td>
<td>8,838</td>
<td>576 (6.97%)</td>
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Note - Short term changes should be considered in the context of long term trends.
Northern Ireland – Results in 2014

TB Herd and Animal Incidence
12-month moving average: January 2002 to December 2014

TB Herd and Animal Incidence:
(12 month moving average: January 2002 to December 2014)
Conclusion and next steps

- TB is the most pressing animal health problem in the UK.
- We continued to strengthen the Programme in 2014.
- EU financial contribution provides valuable support.
- Reductions in some key indicators in both 2013 and 2014 provide grounds for optimism.
- Implemented all the commitments in the Programme for 2014: abolished pre-movement testing exemptions; removed links on the Cattle Tracing System between holdings in different risk areas and phased out partial de-restriction of breakdown holdings.
- Positive FVO auditors’ report (September 2014, E&W).
- Further enhancements being rolled out in 2015.
- Have submitted application for EU financial support in 2016.
Thank you