

Progress and implications of the additional cattle control measures Implemented in the Intensive Action Area (IAA)

- There are currently 321 cattle keepers in or grazing cattle within the IAA.
- Measures implemented in the IAA are in addition to those already in existence at a National level and have been reviewed by consultative groups representing the farming industry, veterinarians from the area and by Animal Health.
- All of the measures are in keeping with the key principles of infectious disease control and aim to reduce the risk of disease spread by cattle. These principles are based on:
 - Keeping the disease out of clean farms and the Intensive Action Area.
 - Rapid, early identification of infection
 - Containment of infection through immediate imposition of movement restrictions once disease is suspected.
 - Elimination and eradication of infection from cattle and other infected mammals acting as a reservoir of infection.

The additional cattle control measures introduced in the Area on the 1st May are listed below:

1. Testing cattle herds every six months.
2. Restricting cattle movements within and outside the area. All Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOA) in the area have been cancelled.
3. All British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) linkages between premises inside and outside the area, have been cancelled, requiring farmers to report all movements to BCMS and to comply with pre-movement testing requirements when moving cattle into and out of the IAA.
4. All breakdowns, whether or not “confirmed” on post-mortem examination, will require a clear test, 60 days after a positive test, followed by a further clear test after a further 60 days, before Official TB Free Status is regained and movement restrictions removed.
5. Allocation of holding numbers (CPH) & sub location numbers.
6. All breakdowns will be traced by Animal Health.
7. Greater use of gamma interferon assessed on an individual basis.

1. Testing cattle herds every six months.

Cattle keepers in the area are required to test the whole herd, including cattle in associated holdings outside the area at 6 month intervals. Animal Health wrote to all cattle keepers in the area notifying them of their testing schedule in May.

6 monthly testing	Positives	Negatives
Implications on disease control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid, early identification of infection. • Earlier removal of infection, reducing 	

in the area	opportunity for within herd spread	
Implication on the farmer/ business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The six month test qualifies as a pre-movement test for 60 days following the test. • The six month tests will be paid for by the Welsh Assembly Government. • The test can be done up to 2 months before the due date which could (if timed correctly) coincide with movements of stock to summer grazing/ sales/ winter tack. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burden of increased testing • Time consuming

2. Removal of Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOAs) and implementation of Pilot Area Sole Occupancy Authorities (PASOAs)

A Sole occupancy authority allows owners and keepers to move stock between premises in the same sole occupancy, management and control without triggering a 6 day standstill on premises listed on that authority, or a pre movement test for cattle moved.

- Animal Health contacted farmers in April to revoke 101 SOA's on the 30th April.
- Landowners can reapply for a Pilot Area Sole Occupancy Authority (PASOA) providing that the eligibility criteria are met.
- The main changes introduced as part of the PASOA are that all land must be within the area & must be within 16km of the main premises.
- Landowners with parcels crossing the area boundary are not eligible for a PASOA.
- As at 16 July, 40 new PASOAs have been approved (2 applications are pending).

Removal of SOAs/ Introduction of PASOAs	Positives	Negatives
Implications on disease control in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revoking the SOAs meets with the main principle to protect the area and minimise the risk of infection entering and leaving the area. • Cross border holdings are not eligible for a PASOA and must pre movement test cattle moving between premises. • 6 day standstill applies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre movement exemption currently exists for holdings with a PASOA (i.e. all land within 16km & within the area). • The exemption for SOAs and PASOAs from PrMT is under

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms have a chance to adapt to living without SOAs 	review
Implication on the farmer/business-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change for businesses with all land within the area & within 16km of the main premises as they can apply for a PASOA. Cattle farmers with land in the IAA will have an early opportunity to accustomise themselves with the rule changes to be introduced in 2011 as part of the CPH review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased reporting of movements and pre-movement testing for cattle keepers crossing the boundary. Additional cost of pre-movement tests Time consuming Implication of 6 day standstill for cross border holdings

3. Removal of all BCMS linkages between holdings inside & outside the area

A linked holding provides cattle keepers with an exception from reporting cattle movements to BCMS. A 'link' does not provide an exception to Pre Movement Testing.

- Holdings crossing the area boundary will no longer be eligible for a BCMS link. This means that all movements in and out of the area must be reported to BCMS.
- BCMS links between holdings inside the area boundary will remain eligible.
- 78 cross border links were identified. BCMS have contacted all cattle keepers to revoke their link.
- BCMS have implemented a process of checking the status of a holding with Animal Health, prior to issuing any new links.

Removal of cross border links	Positives	Negatives
Implications on disease control in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking cross border links will meet the main principle to protect the area and minimise the risk of infection entering and leaving the area. This will enable Animal Health & the Welsh Assembly Government to monitor cattle movements, and therefore compliance with pre- 	

	movement requirements and thereby, their effect on the bovine TB situation in the Area.	
Implication on the farmer/business-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is still possible to link locations wholly within the area. • Cattle farmers with land in the IAA will have an early opportunity to accustomise themselves with the rule changes to be introduced in 2011 as part of the CPH review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased reporting of movements and pre-movement testing for cattle keepers crossing the boundary. • Additional cost of pre-movement tests • Time consuming • Increased testing

4. Two Clear tests for all bovine TB herd Breakdowns in the Area.

- In the event of a bovine TB herd breakdown, the herd must have two clear tests (2x 60 days before official TB free status can be restored) before removing restrictions.
- As elsewhere in Wales, a “Notice Prohibiting Movement of Bovine Animals” (TB2) will be issued at the start of each breakdown, detailing the extent of the movement restriction.

Two clear tests	Positives	Negatives
Implications on disease control in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid, early identification of infection. • Earlier removal of infection, reducing opportunity for within herd spread • Reduces the risk of herds being released from restrictions where infection within the herd remains. • Potential to be implemented at National level to comply with EU regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of additional test
Implication on the farmer/business-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the risk of re-infection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased burden of testing. • Restricted from free trade for longer. • Time consuming

5. Allocation of holding numbers and sub holding numbers

- Cattle keepers with multiple locations run under 1 CPH pose a risk of spreading disease because cattle are moved without notifying BCMS or pre movement tested.
- A process of allocating new holding numbers or sub location numbers to land currently being run under one holding number and which crosses the area boundary has been introduced.
- A combination of removing these derogations & implementing new holding numbers/ sub location numbers means that farmers have to report all movements to BCMS and comply with pre movement testing requirements.
- 121 cross border holdings have been identified. BCMS have actioned just over 50% to date.

Allocation of new CPH/ Sub location numbers	Positives	Negatives
Implications on disease control in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing new CPH/ sub location numbers will enable Animal Health & the Welsh Assembly Government to monitor cattle movements, compliance with pre-movement requirements and thereby, their effect on the bovine TB situation in the Area. • Meets with the main principle of the area; to reduce the level of infection entering and leaving the area. • 6 day standstill applies 	
Implication on the farmer/ business-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle farmers with land in the IAA will have an early opportunity to accustomise themselves with the possible rule changes to be introduced in 2011 as part of the CPH review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased pre movement testing. • Time consuming • Implication of 6 day standstill. • Increased reporting of movements

6. Eligible animals from all breakdowns will be traced by Animal Health

- All breakdowns will be subject to tracing, unless a veterinary assessment determines there is no need for tracings in individual cases. This will generate additional testing for associated cattle herds.

	Positives	Negatives

Implications on disease control in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets with the main principle of the area; to reduce the level of infection entering and leaving the area. • Rapid, early identification of infection. • Earlier removal of infection, reducing opportunity for within herd spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource intensive for Animal Health
Implication on the farmer/business-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk of transmitting disease to other herds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased testing and restrictions for herds with traced animals outside the IAA • Time consuming

7. Greater use of gamma interferon (g-IFN) assessed on an individual basis

Gamma interferon is used widely throughout Wales and is seen as an important diagnostic tool to support the enhanced skin testing.

	Positives	Negatives
Implications on disease control in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets with the main principle of the area; to reduce the level of infection entering and leaving the area. • Rapid, early identification of infection. • Earlier removal of infection, reducing opportunity for within herd spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increase in compensation and related costs.
Implication on the farmer/business-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to remove infection and release herd from restrictions earlier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased testing and restrictions • Potential increase in reactor numbers • Time consuming

Communication

- All cattle keepers in the area received guidance in July outlining the additional requirements.
- Cattle keepers were invited to attend a meeting in March on the additional measures.

- Officials from Rural Inspectorate Wales, the Farm Liaison service, Local Authorities and Animal Health have received training on the additional controls.
- These processes will be reviewed as the Intensive Action Area progresses.