Anglesey vets pracice banned from testing for Bovine TB

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A VET'S practice has been banned from testing cattle against deadly Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) after it was found out it wasn't conducting the process properly.

The Mail understands it is the Gaerwen based vets Bennett-Williams. The practice sent out letters to farmers and farming unions explaining the disruption to TB testing.

Cattle farmers who use the practice for TB testing have been told by Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to make alternative testing arrangements after an audit of TB testing procedures identified the problems.

To regain the right to deal with TB, vets at the practice will need to be re-trained.

An angry farmer told the Mail: "There are deadlines and legal requirements about testing that we as farmers need to meet.

"If this is not done right then it could put the whole TB control plan in jeopardy.

"We could believe that our cattle are healthy and then find that they have to be destroyed, which would put you out of business."

Anglesey county executive officer for the Farmers Union Wales (FUW), Heidi Williams, said they had received a letter confirming the practice had been suspended from dealing with TB cases but that no farmers had contacted her about the issue.

A spokesman for the Animal, Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) part of government's DEFRA department said: "Following an audit of TB testing procedures, which identified a failure to follow standard operating procedures, AHVLA has suspended a private veterinary surgeon working in North Wales from operating as a panel 1a (bovine TB testing) official veterinarian, pending re-training.

"Owners of cattle served by the suspended practice have been notified and advised to make alternative testing arrangements."

The Mail contacted the Bennett-Williams practise about the issue and was told they were too busy to comment.