

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 22 June 2009 07:39
To: DEFRA (E-mail)
Subject: Cost of TB testing in England and New Zealand

Dear Sir/Madam,

I see that in Great Britain in 2006/2007 the cost of testing was 47% of the total 79.71 million pound spend on bovine TB.

I would be grateful if you could advise me if DEFRA has an awareness of the cost of testing for bovine TB in New Zealand and if you ever compare the average cost of a test in New Zealand with the average cost in England. I understand that recently we have been making greater use of the ancillary gamma-interferon (γ -IFN) diagnostic blood test and this may be making a small adjustment to the average cost in England. Also New Zealand injects just beneath the base of the tail where no hair clipping is necessary. Their average herd size is also bigger. However I have found that in 2008 by dividing the total test cost by the number of tests performed that the average cost of a test in New Zealand was 0.89 pounds whereas in England it was 2.68 pounds. (These costs exclude Animal Health staff costs.)

I was not expecting this 3 fold difference and would be grateful if this finding is at odds with any comparative studies carried out by DEFRA..

I hope this is clear. Obviously please let me know if clarification is required.

If you are unable to reply promptly, a confirmation of receipt would be much appreciated.

All responses by email will be fine.

Yours faithfully,

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