

Consultation on changes to TB National Statistics¹¹

February 2015

These are my suggestions for enhancing the value of the TB tables and reports in the regularly published national TB statistics.

Table improvements

- (a) Include the number of animals. (This is currently held in another DEFRA dataset which is updated each year and goes back to 1866¹)
- (b) Include the number of herds for all years and regions.
- (c) Exclude herds with less than 10 animals. (A large proportion of 'hobby' herds exist with one or two animals.² These herds skew the statistics.³)
- (d) Extend county data back to 1996 (Such data currently only exists back to 2008.⁴ Such data existed on VETNET⁵ back to 1998 and proved to be extremely valuable.)
- (e) Include on, off and inside-only cattle movements for all regions.⁶
- (f) Include the sizes of all regions in square kilometres.
- (g) Include the proportion of restricted herds in England, Wales and Scotland back to 1986 which are plotted in the annual surveillance reports.⁷
- (h) Include separate cattle TB tables in badger vaccination areas during years leading up to, during, and after their completion.¹⁰

Report improvements

- (a) Show graphs of simple and standard prevalence⁸, another words the proportion of animals and herds in the population which test positive.
- (b) Show prevalence maps to reveal where hotspots are forming in edge areas.
- (c) Include data quality issues as raised in the latest IAA report⁹ and include updates on what is being done to address these issues.

www.bovinetb.info

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References

1. DEFRA. Key Crop Areas and Livestock Numbers. UK and Country Level Data. 1866 - 2014.
2. Bovine tuberculosis: Infection status in cattle in GB. Annual surveillance report for the period January to December 2013. Commissioned by DEFRA, Scottish Government and Welsh Government under Project SB4500.
3. http://www.bovinetb.info/docs/dairy_herds_england_reply.pdf
4. Latest statistics on the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in cattle in Great Britain. National statistics. DEFRA. First published: 17 April 2013.
5. <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/stats/country.htm>
6. Cattle movements in Great Britain in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Fol request to AHVLA. ATIC0148. 2 August 2013.
<http://www.bovinetb.info/docs/cattle-movements-in-great-britain-in-2010-2011-and-2012.pdf>
7. Fig 3.2a, 3.2b and 3.2c on Pages 33 and 34 of Reference 2.
8. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prevalence>
9. Section titled "Source data quality statement " on Page 6 and Section titled "OTF-W-2 " on Page 7 of Differences between bovine TB indicators in herds in the IAA and herds in the Comparison Area (Project OG0142): First three years, 1st May 2010 to 30th April 2013. Commissioned by the Welsh Government.
10. www.bovinetb.info/docs/my-views-on-content-of-the-statistical-publication-on-incidence-of-tb-in-cattle-in-gb.pdf
11. Consultation on changes to statistics on TB in cattle. DEFRA. APHA. First published: 11 February 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/consultation-on-changes-to-statistics-on-tb-in-cattle>