

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: To: "xxxxxxxxxxxx@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK" <xxxxxxxxxxxx@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>  
Sent: 12/07/2010 11:28:11  
Subject: Snapshots of bovine TB restricted herds between 1990 and 2009

Dear Paula,

Please provide me with a snapshot of the proportion of herds restricted in England as referred to in xxxxxxxxx's email below. Please do this for the end of December in each year from 1990 to the end of 2009. If you are unable to do this for the end of December, please specify the month for which you are able to do this, and specify to me what this month is.

If you can, please do this by providing the number of herds restricted and the total number of herds. I will use the two figures to work out the proportion of herds which were restricted for each year. I will do this as follows

Proportion (%) = Number of restricted herds \* 100 / Total number of herds.

If you can, please repeat the above steps for Wales.

All responses by email will be fine.

Yours faithfully,

xxxxxxxxxx,  
xxxxxxxxxx,  
xxxxxxxxxx,  
xxxxxxxx,  
xxxxxxxx,  
xxxxxxxx.  
xxxxxxxxxx

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

From:xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB) [SMTP:xxxxxxxxxxxx@defra.gsi.gov.uk]  
Sent: 13 May 2010 12:03  
To:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Cc:xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB);xxxxxxxxxxxx@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK  
Subject: RE: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxxxx,

The problem is that the VetNet system dates from the early 1980s, and has limited storage space. So the 'number of herds under restriction' is overwritten each week, meaning you can have a snapshot of the proportion of herds restricted, which we publish each month - as you say, it is a good indicator of the impact on the industry - but not track which herds became restricted and unrestricted over time.

It is indeed less than ideal, not least because of the time it takes my team to extract and manipulate all the data each month. We're currently testing a new automatic reporting system which should make querying VetNet much easier and eliminate human error. The Animal Health agency are working on a successor to VetNet - some modules are in place but the TB module is the most complex and work has only recently started on that.

Regards,  
xxxxx

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

From:xxxxxxxx [mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx]

Sent: 13 May 2010 11:50  
To: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB)  
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB); 'xxxxxxxxxxxx@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK'  
Subject: RE: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxxxxx,

This answer is disappointing in that I now understand that you are unable to give the number of herds restricted each year - you are only able to give the number of incidences. I am a little surprised at this because knowing the proportion of herds restricted would be something worth knowing as it gives another indication of how this disease and its implications are impacting on the industry. From my experience of working with relational databases and joins I would have expected supplying this statistic to be fairly straightforward.

Thank you however for clarifying what data has been sent to me.

Regards,

xxxxxxxxxx.

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

From: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB)  
[SMTP:xxxxxxxxxxxx@defra.gsi.gov.uk]  
Sent: 13 May 2010 10:30  
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx; xxxxxxxxxxxx (RA - OCVO)  
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB)  
Subject: RE: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxxxx,

xxx and I have both looked at this.

Re your query " I would like clarification on the issue of whether you sent to me  
(a) the number of herds which were restricted one or more times during each 12 month period or  
(b) the number of times a herd was put under restriction during each 12 month period."

We can confirm that you have received (b).

The 'number of herds under restriction' in 2009, given as 6189 for England and 2114 for Wales, is a cumulative figure representing the number of times a herd has been flagged up as being put under TB2 restrictions. We currently have no way to weed out the occasions where a herd has previously been restricted.

"When I look at the figures which xxxxxxx has sent to me the total is extremely close to the total in the attached dataset (6192 herds instead of 6189 herds for 2009). xxx sent to me figures which sum up to a total (2114 herds) which matches that from the attached dataset for 2009." The 6192 rather than 6189 is purely down to the date on which data was downloaded.

These numbers will be higher than the number of herds affected by

restrictions, because some herds may suffer two (or on rare occasions three) breakdowns in a year AND any herds suffering a TB breakdown that spans two consecutive years (e.g. from Dec 2007 till March 2008) will be counted in both years as two restriction events.

Furthermore, a proportion of these herds will have been under restrictions because of an overdue TB test (rules tightened in 2002-04 with the 'zero tolerance' regime finally coming into force in Feb 2005), a suspect slaughterhouse case or IRs in the 3 years following a confirmed TB breakdowns, i.e. not all of the herds listed as restricted were so as a result of a TB breakdown.

Now that a new Government is in place, the Defra website should be updated soon with the 2009 year end statistics for future reference.

Regards,  
xxxxx

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

From: xxxxxxxxx [mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx]  
Sent: 12 May 2010 21:16  
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB); xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (RA - OCVO)  
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG-BTB)  
Subject: RE: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxxxxx,

I do not appear to have received a reply to this.

Have you been able to find out what was sent to me i.e. (a) or (b)?  
Please see my email below for details.

Regards,

xxxxxxxxxx.

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

From: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG) [SMTP:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@defra.gsi.gov.uk]  
Sent: 27 April 2010 12:25  
To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (RA - OCVO); xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxx (FFG)  
Subject: RE: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxxxx,

I'm looking again at the data both on the website and that we've sent you,  
and hope to get back to you by the end of this week.

Regards,  
xxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Bovine TB Programme  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

6E Millbank  
c/o Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

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

From: xxxxxxxxxxxx (RA - OCVO) [mailto:[xxxxxxxxxxxx@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK)]

Sent: 27 April 2010 11:31

To: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Subject: RE: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxx,

Thank you for your e-mail.

I am liaising with colleagues at Defra on the issues you've raised and will aim to respond to your e-mail by the end of the week.

Kind regards

xxx

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

From: xxxxxxxx [mailto:[xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)]

Sent: 23 April 2010 16:22

To: 'xxxxxxxxxx@defra.gsi.gov.uk'; xxxxxxxxxxxx (RA - OCVO)

Subject: Extent of bovine TB restrictions up to 31Dec09

Dear xxxxxx and xxx,

Thank you for your efforts when sending to me data as requested in RFI 3234

and Reference 4078 respectively.

However I am afraid I would like confirmation on what you have sent to me.

I would like clarification on the issue of whether you sent to me

- (a) the number of herds which were restricted one or more times during each 12 month period or
- (b) the number of times a herd was put under restriction during each 12 month period.

xxx on behalf of Wales.GSI.Gov.UK appears to be saying that (a) was sent to me and xxxxxxxx on behalf of defra.gsi.gov.uk (England) appears to be saying that (b) has been sent to me.

As I said in my email to xxx, I would not like to interpret figures which reflect the number of times a herd is restricted (which is (b) above) to be the number of herds restricted (which is (a) above). Indeed the number of times a herd is restricted would be expected to be larger than the number of herds restricted due to a number of herds testing positive, then negative and then positive within a 12 month period. Such herds would then be counted twice and this would significantly increase the figures.

When I look at the figures which xxxxxxxx has sent to me the total is

extremely close to the total in the attached dataset (6192 herds instead of 6189 herds for 2009). xxx sent to me figures which sum up to a total (2114 herds) which matches that from the attached dataset for 2009.

If you can, please confirm to me whether you sent to me (a) or (b). I apologise for drawing your attention to this once again as you have already gone to the trouble (in fact great lengths in the case of xxx) to clarify what you have sent to me.

Regards,

xxxxx.