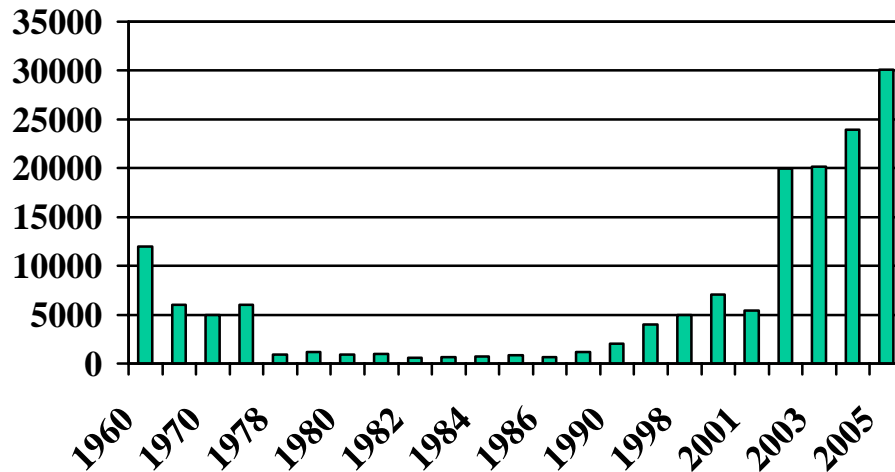


no. cattle slaughtered (TB reactors)



Chronology of events associated with bovine tuberculosis in the UK, 1960 to 2005

Note that the graph above should only be used to indicate the trend in the numbers of cattle slaughtered.

Events

1950-60s	Tuberculin testing progressively reduced the number of cattle reactors
late 60s	slope started to plateau – wildlife reservoir suspected
1971	TB first discovered in badgers
1973	Badger Protection Act - directed against badger baiting
1975-81	Thornbury badger clearance trial eliminated TB breakdowns in cattle herds
1980	Zuckerman report – Cyanide gassing procedure questioned on welfare grounds
1982	Proactive culling of badgers curtailed, clean ring policy adopted
1986	Dunnet report - Interim reactive culling policy adopted
1988	East Offaly trial confirmed results from Thornbury
1997	Labour Government elected, moratorium on all badger culling
1997	Krebs report – scientific validity of Thornbury and other trials questioned
1998	Randomised Badger Culling (Krebs) Trial started
2001	Foot & Mouth disease – tuberculin testing suspended
2005	Four Counties trial in Ireland confirmed results from Thornbury and East Offaly

The three reports quoted above all came to the conclusion that the badger was a significant reservoir of infection but although Krebs concluded the evidence to be “compelling” he advised Government to seek conclusive evidence and recommended a trial involving 10 matched triplets, the so called Krebs trial. This the Government seized upon and this is where we currently stand in the UK with the disease in cattle increasing 18-20% year on year.

L.H.T.
20.6.06