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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Progress Report submitted by the Minister for Rural Affairs on the bovine TB Eradication Programme

TB Eradication Programme	Aim	Activity	Achievements	Next Steps
<p>Governance</p>	<p>To ensure effective governance arrangements are in place to manage the TB Eradication Programme and associated activities.</p> <p>To ensure that the European Commission and others are informed of the development of, and progress with, the TB Eradication Programme in Wales.</p>	<p>Establish a TB Eradication Programme Board.</p> <p>Ensure regular and appropriate engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>Ensure the development and implementation of a regional approach through the introduction of Regional TB Eradication Delivery Boards.</p> <p>Submit to the European Commission a TB Eradication Plan for Wales as part of the GB Eradication Plan.</p>	<p>The TB Eradication Programme Board, which includes representation from the veterinary profession and farming industry, is well established having now met 14 times.</p> <p>The Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Steering Group and individual stakeholder meetings (agricultural, wildlife and welfare organisations) are regularly held to engage and update stakeholders.</p> <p>The Regional TB Eradication Delivery Boards were created in September 2008 and are actively developing region specific and all Wales initiatives.</p> <p>Draft GB TB Eradication Plan submitted to the European Commission in April 2009.</p>	<p>Continue with regular meetings of the TB Eradication Programme Board and with stakeholder organisations.</p> <p>Support the Regional TB Eradication Delivery Boards in the implementation of regional and Welsh initiatives.</p> <p>Final TB Eradication Plan to be submitted to the European Commission by September 2009 covering a Plan for 2010.</p>

<p>Cattle Surveillance and Controls</p>	<p>To continue to improve and intensify the cattle surveillance and control regime, effectively identify and remove infection and reduce transmission between susceptible species.</p>	<p>Complete an evaluation of veterinary capacity in Wales.</p> <p>Test all herds in Wales by December 2009 as part of the TB Health Check Wales to provide an improved disease picture.</p> <p>Work with Animal Health to reduce the number of overdue TB tests.</p> <p>Reduce the time taken to remove reactor cattle off farms.</p> <p>Review Pre-Movement Testing requirements for Wales.</p>	<p>Veterinary capacity review completed in August 2008 and findings used to design the TB Health Check Wales.</p> <p>TB Health Check Wales (an additional 3,500 cattle herd tests) started October 2008 and is on schedule for completion by December 2009.</p> <p>Overdue cattle tests have been reduced considerably. Of the 711 overdue in October 2008 only 48 remain by May 2009.</p> <p>Reactor removal times were reduced and Animal Health was on target (20 days) by the end of 2008.</p> <p>Animal Health target reduced to 10 days from 1 April 2009.</p>	<p>Complete all TB Health Check Wales tests by December 2009.</p> <p>Decision on cattle surveillance arrangements post TB Health Check Wales.</p> <p>Continue to actively resolve overdue cattle tests.</p> <p>Work with Animal Health to improve reactor removal time to meet the new 10 day target.</p> <p>Participate in a GB review of Pre-Movement Testing.</p> <p>Consult on a draft order to amend Pre-Movement Testing exemptions in Wales.</p>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>To consider, and where appropriate, assess the risk of transmission of bovine TB from wildlife in Wales.</p>	<p>Undertake surveillance of wild deer populations in Wales.</p>	<p>Data from the surveillance of wild deer in Wales by Deer Initiative was incorporated into GB research.</p>	<p>Extended surveillance of wild deer on several private estates in Wales by the Deer Initiative.</p>

<p>Cattle Compensation Arrangements</p>	<p>To award an appropriate level of compensation for diseased animals which is fair to both cattle keepers and tax payers.</p>	<p>To ensure that compensation is appropriate to the behaviour of the livestock owner.</p> <p>To continue to review the valuation process to ensure that it accurately assesses the market value of livestock removed.</p> <p>To ensure appropriate contracts are in place for the removal and slaughter of cattle.</p>	<p>A Consultation on bovine TB Compensation Arrangement in Wales closed on 10 April 2009.</p> <p>Quarterly review meetings held with the Valuer Associations.</p> <p>The role of Monitor Valuers was extended in June 2009 to allow random comparison of valuations to the cattle prior to slaughter.</p> <p>The automatic justification threshold for commercial cattle was reduced from £2,000 - £1,800 from 1 July 2009.</p> <p>Improved contractual arrangements with slaughter houses since May 2009.</p>	<p>Consult on a draft order to amend the compensation arrangements in Wales and then bring forward revised legislation.</p> <p>Continue engagement with the Valuer Associations.</p> <p>Review the revised automatic justification threshold for commercial cattle.</p> <p>Complete a tender exercise for the collection and disposal of cattle as part of TB controls.</p>
<p>Vaccination Programme</p>	<p>To support the development and introduction of bovine TB vaccines for badgers and cattle in Wales, in conjunction with the GB vaccination programme.</p>	<p>Support the GB vaccination research programme for cattle and badgers.</p> <p>Consider the introduction of vaccination in Wales as and when appropriate.</p>	<p>TB Eradication Programme Board has agreed in principle to the use of a badger vaccine in Wales to protect healthy badgers.</p> <p>Consultation on the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2009 under the Animal Health Act 1981: published on 24 April 2009 and due to run until 30 July 2009.</p>	<p>Continue to support the GB vaccination research programme.</p> <p>Review responses to the Consultation on the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2009 under the Animal Health Act 1981. Aim for Order to come into force in October 2009.</p> <p>Introduce the vaccination of badgers and cattle as and when appropriate.</p>

<p>Intensive Action Pilot Area</p>	<p>To implement, initially in one area, measures to effectively deal with all reservoirs of disease.</p>	<p>Ensure that appropriate legal authority is in place to deliver such a policy.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate delivery arrangements are in place.</p> <p>Identify all land-owners and livestock keepers within the Intensive Action Pilot Area.</p> <p>Define the simultaneous cattle surveillance, controls, movement restrictions and biosecurity measures necessary to support a badger culling strategy.</p> <p>Design an appropriate badger removal strategy for the area</p>	<p>Consultation on the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2009 under the Animal Health Act 1981: Published on 24 April 2009 and due to run until 30 July 2009.</p>	<p>Review responses to the Consultation on the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2009 under the Animal Health Act 1981.</p> <p>Subject to that review and subsequent Ministerial decisions: Make appropriate Order with a view to its coming into force in October 2009.</p> <p>Implement appropriate delivery arrangements for the Intensive Action Pilot Area.</p> <p>Undertake surveillance visits and define the additional cattle measures for the area.</p> <p>Introduce individual farm plans for keepers of cattle and susceptible animals in the area.</p> <p>Undertake badger culling activities within the Intensive Action Pilot Area.</p>
<p>Improved Husbandry/Biosecurity</p>	<p>To provide advice and assistance to allow cattle keepers to take appropriate action to reduce the risk of disease introduction and spread.</p>	<p>Implement the lessons learned from the biosecurity Intensive Treatment Area.</p> <p>Encourage adoption of biosecurity best practice.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the biosecurity Intensive Treatment Area in South West Wales published.</p> <p>Wales Regional Veterinary Centre established in Gelli Aur, by the Royal Veterinary College, to help evaluate bovine TB breakdowns in the region.</p>	<p>North Wales Regional Eradication Delivery Board to implement a biosecurity initiative in their area.</p> <p>Wales Regional Veterinary Centre to review breakdowns and provide regular feedback.</p>

<p>Enforcement of Cattle Controls</p>	<p>To ensure that an effective and co-ordinated TB enforcement regime is in place across the relevant authorities.</p>	<p>Establish an Enforcement Group involving appropriate policy and enforcement bodies.</p> <p>Review existing protocols and implement revisions where appropriate, particularly for non-compliance with testing and reactor removal requirements.</p>	<p>The established Enforcement Group has identified its priority areas for consideration.</p> <p>Revised enforcement protocol for TB testing implemented by Animal Health and Local Authorities in May 2009.</p> <p>The number of overdue tests has been significantly reduced using the revised protocols.</p> <p>Animal Health has enforced testing through the use of contracted labour and equipment.</p> <p>Successful prosecution by Local Authority.</p>	<p>Enforcement Group to continue to revise enforcement protocols.</p> <p>Continue to communicate legal and best practice requirements to livestock keepers.</p> <p>Continue to actively resolve overdue cattle tests including the use of contracted services where appropriate.</p> <p>Welsh Assembly Government and Local Authorities to continue to take forward prosecutions as appropriate.</p>
<p>Camelids and other non-bovine species</p>	<p>To have an appropriate framework for preventing and managing incidents of bovine TB in camelids and other non-bovine species.</p>	<p>Consult on options for preventing and managing bovine TB in camelids.</p> <p>Co-ordinate policy on bovine TB in milking goats.</p>	<p>Following Consultation, the Tuberculosis (Testing and Powers of Entry) (Wales) Order 2008 came into force in October 2008</p> <p>Consultation on a Framework for Preventing and Managing Incidents of bovine TB in Camelids in Wales closed November 2008.</p> <p>Food Standards Agency are leading on a working group involving Welsh Assembly and Defra to develop a bovine TB control plan for milking goats.</p>	<p>Develop a Wales Action Plan for bovine TB in Camelids.</p> <p>Agree and implement a GB TB Control Plan for milking goats.</p>