

Welcome! Well, after a spring where we longed for the rain to stop, it seems we were literally taken at our word! With England's 'green and pleasant' land now looking more 'brown and dusty', many farmers are having to provide supplementary feed to cattle at pasture. And it's not just cattle that are affected – the hot, dry weather means that earthworms, one of the key food sources for badgers, are also in short supply.

Badgers are more likely to visit farm buildings during the summer months, looking for food and water. As TB-infected badgers excrete the bacteria in their saliva, faeces and urine, taking steps to restrict badger-to-cattle contact is important to reduce the risk of a TB breakdown. Whilst evidence of badger activity, such as setts, runs or latrines, can often be seen in the field environment, knowing whether badgers visit your farm buildings can be more tricky, but installing a 'trail camera' is a quick, simple and relatively cheap. The cameras are triggered by movement, so no need to watch endless hours of video waiting for something to happen.

Here are some tips on where to place trail cameras.....

Do

- ✔ Focus on points where badgers may enter or exit buildings, e.g. doors or narrow gaps
- ✔ Place cameras low to the ground (ideally around 50cm)
- ✔ Avoid vegetation which may obscure or trigger the camera
- ✔ Place cameras 3m – 10m from the target area (if too close, the flash glare can obscure the picture)

Don't

- ✘ Site cameras where they can be triggered by livestock movement
- ✘ Place cameras where they may be damaged by gates or machinery



Click, Click, Who's There?

Installing a wildlife camera is a simple thing that farmers can do, to find out whether badgers visit farm buildings. NFU Farmer and Grower members can now save 25% discount off RRP on Bushnell trail cameras. Bushnell has been the industry leader in high-performance optics for more than 65 years.

Members will need to go to the member benefits page on the NFU website and enter their membership number and password to get the specific discount code, then follow the link to manfrotto.co.uk to order.



To find out more about the TB Advisory Service or to request advice, please contact us today.

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Did you know

.....Cattle farmers who take a proactive approach to controlling bovine TB (bTB) can now get the recognition they deserve through a CHECS licensed Cattle Health Scheme. Many farmers will be aware that CheCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) schemes cover endemic diseases such as BVD, IBR, Leptospirosis and Johne's disease, but there are now two organisations operating bTB Cattle Health Schemes – Biobest Laboratories (HiHealth Herdcare) and SAC Veterinary Sciences (Premium Cattle Health Scheme).



In order to take part in the scheme, cattle keepers must have a veterinary herd health plan in place, showing that the farm meets the CHECS biosecurity standards. The Health Scheme operator will then access TB testing data from APHA and award the farm a starting Herd Status - the longer the farm has been TB free, the higher the level, up to a maximum of 10, when the herd has been TB free for 10 or more years. Homebred animals marketed from these herds can then be sold with that TB status, subject to a signed declaration from the herd vet. It may be worth considering joining a CHECS bTB scheme if you are:

- In a higher risk area with a low-risk holding
- Selling livestock and want your low-risk status recognised
- Already using other CHECS disease control programmes
- Looking for a systematic, supported way to reduce the risk of bTB in your herd
- Keen to complement other Government and industry efforts to control bTB

Recently, Defra has also announced that, from 1st November 2018, compensation at 50% of the average market price will be paid for any animal that fails a TB test after entering a TB breakdown herd. Cattle keepers accredited under a CHECS scheme will continue to receive 100% compensation for all compulsorily slaughtered cattle, provided the herd is accredited at the time of the breakdown.

To find out more, visit www.checs.org.uk or speak to your vet.

Come and see us!

The TB Advisory Service will be attending a number of meetings and events during the coming months - please come and say hello!

- 8th Aug Ashover Show, Derbyshire
- 11th Aug Ringwood Show, Hampshire
- 13th Aug AHDB Dairy, Wiltshire
- 18th Aug Ashbourne Show, Derbyshire
- 26th/27th Aug Edenbridge and Oxted Show, Surrey
- 30th Aug Bucks County Show
- 5th Sept TBAS meeting, East Sussex

Don't forget to follow us!

To get the latest news from the TB Advisory Service, don't forget to follow us on Twitter and like our Facebook page!



@TBAdvisoryService



@TB_Advisory

Meet The Team

Ever wondered about the people involved in the TB Advisory Service?

Name: Susan Duthie

Role: Technical Board Member



Susan Duthie is the Veterinary Manager at Biobest Laboratories. Susan joined Biobest in 2003 and has daily involvement in the CHECS licensed HiHealth Herdcare cattle health scheme, providing reports and advice for members.

Susan has been involved in the administration of the CHECS bTB programme for HiHealth Herdcare clients since its inception in 2016. She is a member of the CHECS technical group, which reviews technical documents to ensure CHECS operates to best practice.

In her spare time, Susan enjoys playing squash, gardening and cycling and just generally being outdoors. Although two of her three children are now away at university, they all opted to come on a 3-week family holiday recently, which included a fortnight of camping. 'We all had a great time, particularly because we managed to survive without any major arguments!'