Regional Office:
North East of England – comprising the counties of Northumberland (31), County Durham (12), Cleveland (4) and Tyne & Wear (30)

Year and Quarter:
2015, Quarter 1 (1st January to 31st March)

1. Cattle Industry in the Region

Local cattle industry and trade patterns

This area is highly diverse, from the urban centres at the coast, with arable production on lower ground, to extensive hill ground in the Western bounds. There are around 2500 registered cattle herds in the North East region, the vast majority being in Northumberland and County Durham. Most are beef production, mainly suckler breeding herds, with around 400 being fattening enterprises. There are only around 120 dairy herds in the region.

Local movement of breeding / fattening animals is important, but there are also large numbers of fattening animals bought in from the West of England / Wales. A relatively small number of breeding cattle are brought in from Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Similarly, some fattening cattle come from Northern Ireland in particular.

Outward trade in cattle of all classes to Scotland is important, particularly slaughter and fattening animals. These move relatively freely due to the whole region being on background 4 yearly TB testing.

There are currently no Approved Finishing Units in the region.

Number of cattle premises by size band in the division at 1 January 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cattle per premises</th>
<th>1 - 50</th>
<th>51 - 100</th>
<th>101 - 200</th>
<th>201 - 350</th>
<th>351 - 500</th>
<th>501+</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of premises</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cattle breed purpose - numbers and percentages at 1 January 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of cattle</th>
<th>Beef</th>
<th>Dairy</th>
<th>Dual purpose</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>208,996 (85%)</td>
<td>30,898 (13%)</td>
<td>4,773 (2%)</td>
<td>90 (0%)</td>
<td>244,757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Density of cattle and cattle premises at 31st December 2014:

(a) Head of cattle per square km:

(b) Number of premises per 100 square km:
2. Geographical Distribution of Bovine TB Breakdowns in the Region

Legend
- ▲ 2016 OTFW
- ▼ Pre 2015 OTFW
- ▲ OTFS 2015
- North East

Holdings/100km²
- 0
- 0 - 25
- 25 - 50
- 50 - 75
- 75 - 100
- 100 - 136

Creator: IMT GIS
Source: Sam
OTFW data as at 18th of May 2015
OTFS data as at 18th of May 2015
Ref: 20150526_NE
Product No.: 25

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Ordnance Survey 1000541110
3. Summary of the Regional Headline Cattle TB Statistics

2015 began with one purchased-origin OTFW breakdown ongoing since October 2014 at Haswell Moor (Co. Durham). After a second negative severe interpretation short-interval test in February, restrictions were lifted from this herd on 20/2/15. Enhanced surveillance radial testing involving 37 holdings around this breakdown has to date, after 74 tests, disclosed no additional breakdowns. The final round of radial tests in this zone, initiated by a previous TB incident on the same holding in 2013, will be completed during 2015.

An eleven year old homebred slaughterhouse suspect, identified on 2/12/14, was finally declared culture negative on 25/3/15, on which date movement restrictions were lifted from the farm.

An inconclusive reactor disclosed at a routine herd test at Morpeth on 1/12/14 became a reactor when retested on 16/2/15. The animal was born at Wooler on 8/3/10 and moved on 21/4/11. Thereafter, it twice moved between two of three premises at Morpeth, but never set foot outside Northumberland in its life. At slaughter it was NVL, with a negative culture result received during the second quarter. At the herd’s first short interval test, carried out on 9/3/15, three inconclusive reactors were disclosed, with retest scheduled for May 2015.

On 10/3/15, a slaughterhouse suspect, was identified from Durham, with the carcase condemned due to lesions found in both the retropharyngeal and broncho-mediastinal nodes. The farmer who runs a 200-head beef finishing unit in County Durham, sending 8-10 cattle per week direct to slaughter. The suspected bovine was born in North Yorkshire on 2/4/13 and sold to the farmer via Darlington market on 6/10/14. The farm has a clean TB history back to 1991, with its last herd test, on 87 of 160 cattle, carried out on 29/11/11. Following receipt of a positive culture result, this case became OTFW in May and will be discussed in more detail in the next quarterly report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herd-level statistics</th>
<th>Northumberland</th>
<th>County Durham</th>
<th>Tyne &amp; Wear</th>
<th>Cleveland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period</td>
<td>1136</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing at the end of the period (any reason)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Total number of herd tests carried out in the period</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds TB tested during the period for any reason</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (i.e. herds not under any type of TB2 restrictions)</td>
<td>1135</td>
<td>1026</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB breakdown at the end of the report period</td>
<td>1135</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Total number of new TB breakdowns detected in cattle herds during the report period</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OTF status suspended (OTFS)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OTF status withdrawn (OTFW)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Of the new OTFW herd breakdowns, how many:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• occurred in a holding affected by another OTFW breakdown in the previous three years?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• could be considered secondary to a primary breakdown based on current evidence?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• were triggered by skin test reactors or 2xIRs at routine herd tests?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• were triggered by skin test reactors or 2xIRs at other TB test types (forward and back-tracings, contiguous, check tests, etc.)?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• were first detected through routine slaughterhouse TB surveillance?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(i) Number of new breakdowns revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTFW herds

- OTFS
- OTFW

(j) Number of OTFW herds still open at the end of the period (including any ongoing OTFW breakdowns that began in a previous quarter)

(k) New confirmed (positive M. bovis culture) incidents in non-bovine species detected during the report period (indicate host species involved)

Animal-level statistics (cattle)

(a) Total number of cattle tested in the period (animal tests)

(b) Reactors detected:

- tuberculin skin test
- additional IFN-gamma blood test reactors (skin-test negative or IR animals)

(c) Reactors per breakdown

(d) Reactors per 1000 animal tests

(e) Additional animals identified for slaughter for TB control reasons (DCs, including any first-time IRs)

(f) SLH cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by FSA

(g) SLH cases confirmed by culture of M. bovis

4. Suspected Sources of M. bovis Infection for all the New OTFW Breakdowns Identified in the Report Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most likely origin</th>
<th>Provisional</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction (e.g. purchase of infected animal(s))</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local - lateral spread from neighbouring holdings:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- exposure to infected wildlife</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- other farmed species</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- recrudescence of residual infection from a previous TB breakdown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- infected human source</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined/obscure</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (explain)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Probability of isolated, sporadic ('one-off') breakdown, without secondary local spread
Likely (no secondary breakdowns detected) | Possible (no secondary breakdowns detected, but dataset incomplete) | Not likely (secondary spread has occurred) 
--- | --- | --- 
Definite | 0 | 0 | 0 
Likely | 0 | 0 | 0 
Possible | 0 | 0 | 0 
Not likely (indigenous infection in the locality) | 0 | 0 | 0 

List the CPHs of those herds with OTFW breakdowns categorised as definite or likely introduced cases with no evidence of local spread (greyed-in boxes): None

5. Overview of the bTB Control Programme in the Region

- All four counties in this region are on background 4-yearly TB testing. Not all cattle herds are routinely tested, however, as some (e.g. beef fattening units) are exempt.
- A small number of herds – e.g. dealers, Irish importing herds, heifer rearers – are tested every year. The majority have been under annual testing for a long time and this has identified no particular problems.
- An enhanced radial bTB surveillance zone containing 37 herds remains in place around the now-resolved OTFW breakdown at Haswell. To date, 74 enhanced surveillance herd tests have disclosed no additional breakdowns.
- No known confirmed or suspected cases of zoonotic (human) *M. bovis* infection.
- No suspected cases of non-specific and fraudulent skin test reactors.
- No breakdowns involving producer-retailers and unpasteurised cheese makers or open farms have been detected.
- No significant risks or issues concerning the delivery of bTB control policies in the region. As long as the high prevalence of disease in the HRA remains, however, the region will remain vulnerable to sporadic cases caused by the movement of cattle with undisclosed infection.
- Liaison with local NFU representatives is ongoing.
- The conversion to AFU status of potentially suitable beef finishing units is being encouraged.

6. Wildlife

No known involvement or infection in the region. No convincing pattern of sustained bovine infection in local areas has been detected.

7. Other susceptible species

No confirmed cases of *M. bovis* infection were detected in other species. An incident involving 4 of 15 llamas in Northumberland proved to be caused by *M. microti*.

8. Individual summaries of new OTFW breakdowns detected in the region during the report period and ongoing breakdowns from previous years still open at the end of the report period, grouped by county.

None in this quarter.

Below: map showing current status of all NE 2012-2014 OTFW incidents in regards to RAD testing:
The Animal and Plant Health Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs working to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.