

Assignment - Developing Farm bTB Biosecurity

The aim of this assignment is to develop an on farm bTB biosecurity plan using the measures within the Defra five point plan as a framework. The resulting bTB biosecurity plan will either be assessed by your lecturer as part of your course work or used by a farmer, working with his/her vet, to implement and manage bTB biosecurity measures on farm.

Each part of the five point plan needs to be considered in relation to the farm you are looking at so that you can identify the current situation, build an understanding of the level of risk faced, and decide which biosecurity measures need to be implemented to protect the farm from bTB:

- Identify the current situation
- Assess the risk
- Make recommendations on biosecurity measures to be implemented

It is recommended that you refer back to the training materials and also review the latest research and guidance on the TB Hub www.tbhub.co.uk to further build your knowledge and understanding of how to implement effective bTB biosecurity on farm.

1. Identifying the current situation

We recommend that you assess the situation on the farm by completing the following activities. It is recommended that you develop/obtain a map of your farm to summarise your findings.

1. Using www.tbhub.co.uk identify which bTB risk area the farm is located in and identify the location of the nearest bTB breakdown.
2. Spend time on the farm looking for signs of badgers. You should look to identify the location of any badger setts, latrines, runs and feeding areas. You should use active surveillance measures if necessary to confirm any suspicions you may have about possible badger presence.
3. Review the farm buildings, feed stores, cattle sheds and yards and determine their status with respect to being secure against badger access.
4. Review how cattle are fed and watered throughout the year. This should include a review of facilities and equipment used to provide food and water.
5. Identify potential contact points or boundaries with neighbouring herds where cattle to cattle contact may occur.
6. Identify the current biosecurity measures followed by farm staff, delivery and collection vehicles, contractors and visitors. This should include the measures followed in respect to equipment and machinery.
7. Review how cattle are obtained and then brought onto the farm. If the herd is closed find out how this is maintained. This may require talking to the farmer if you are a student.
8. Describe the on farm isolation facilities and the steps taken to isolate cattle coming onto the farm.
9. Identify how manure is stored, spread and managed on the farm.

2. Assessing the risk

Once you have completed steps 1 to 9 you are in a position where you can now assess the bTB risks faced by the farm. Analyse the information you have collected and identify the potential risk that the farm faces in the following areas.

1. The farm location relevant to TB risk area and proximity to breakdown farms
2. Badger and cattle contact at pasture
3. Badger and cattle contact in farm buildings
4. Neighbouring cattle herds
5. Cattle feeding and watering
6. General biosecurity linked to farming practices
7. Bringing cattle onto the farm
8. Farm visitors and contractors
9. Muck handling, storage and spreading

3. Develop your Biosecurity plan

Once you have completed your risk assessment you are now in a position to to develop your five point plan. Before doing so we recommend that you explore a range of ideas, ideally with your **vet** or college lecturer to ensure that you have a practical working solution to control the risk of bTB on your farm.

Provide your recommendations on the biosecurity measures that could be implemented on farm to limit the potential impact of bTB. You should list your recommendations in order in of priority.

My recommendations are: