



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 13/25

Bovine TB Vaccination Programme – Recruitment of herds for Phase 3 of the field trials

Date issued: 30 April 2025

This Briefing Note is an updated version of 08/25.

Background

In March 2024, a decision was made by all GB administrations to move to a further phase (Phase 3) of the cattle bTB vaccine field trials. The purpose is to gather additional data on the specificity of the new Detecting Infected amongst Vaccinated Animals (DIVA) skin test and explore options to optimise its performance.

Phase 3 will assess the companion DIVA skin test on a broader cohort of BCG vaccinated animals in selected herds to further inform our collective planning for delivery.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will lead the delivery of the on-farm aspect of the field trials in Phase 3.

Action

As part of the project, APHA is seeking the support of interested veterinary practices to consider suitable farms to be included in the Phase 3 trials. These farms must meet the following inclusion criteria:

Officially TB Free (OTF) herds in the Low-Risk Area (LRA) of England or the Low TB Area (LTBA) of Wales that:

- have been in existence for 8 years or more
- are not in a currently enhanced surveillance testing regime, such as radial or contiguous TB testing
- are not in an active TB hotspot (as defined by APHA)
- *have been OTF for a minimum of three continuous years with a routine Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Test (SICCT) having been completed within **12 months before the enrolment date**

- *have not purchased cattle from a higher TB risk area in the 12 months prior to the enrolment date

* If one or both of these criteria are not met by an otherwise eligible herd we would ask that contact with APHA is still made and have the keeper's/owner's interest in participating registered.

If you are interested in supporting this crucial research project, and have farms under your care that you believe would be willing to participate and which meet the inclusion criteria listed above, please discuss this opportunity with the relevant keeper/owner and encourage/help them to get in touch with APHA by emailing TB.Advice@apha.gov.uk or by filling in the [Expression of Interest](#) form, available on the TB Hub.

Details of contractual arrangements and [financial remuneration](#) associated with taking part will follow, after an enquiry is made.

Further Information

Further information is available on the [TB Hub](#), or by contacting TB.Advice@apha.gov.uk.

Issued on behalf of the APHA TB Cattle Vaccination Programme.