

**Peter Cook
P & L Cook and Partners**



Buchan Monitor Farm

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Report on meeting held 10th December 2008

Provisional date of next meeting: 28th January 2009

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TOP TIPS FROM MEETING

- 1. All livestock producers should consider joining a high health scheme. The main benefit is improved health and performance, all of which increases profit margins.**
- 2. Livestock producers need to be careful when buying-in stock. Could be bringing in a host of diseases. Isolation and testing advised before mixing with herd.**
- 3. There is tremendous value in benchmarking livestock physical and financial performance with QMS average figures. It helps identify areas for improvement.**

Introduction

This was the fourth meeting of the Buchan Monitor Farm programme, which was attended by nearly 50 members of the Community Group.

Meeting Aims

1. Update from Monitor Farmer
2. Inspect lamb finishing
3. Update on livestock vaccines
4. Introduction to Hi-Health Cattle Scheme
5. Review enterprise Gross Margins

1. Housed lambs for finishing (North Camalynes)

The Group saw the final two pens of this season's lambs, which were being intensively finished on pellets. All the lambs were from Shet/Chev and LlyenX ewes to Llyen tups. These were the tail end lambs and were expected to be all away by 6 weeks time.

- A total of 7t of pellets purchased so far, for 300 lambs sold at £220/t; = av cost £5.13 /hd
- The lambs are averaging 19.8kg dwt and go to Woodhead Bros at Turriff.
- Lambs haven't done so well on grass this year. Only approx 30% fat off grass (expect 60%). Seems to be common this year
- The chicory mix didn't do well this season – av. growth rate only 179g /day
- Based on this year's experience, maybe should have housed the lambs earlier
- Find that lambs are heavier and kill-out well on pellets compared to concentrate and neeps
- 300 lambs away so far; grading: 85% R, 4.5% O, 10.5% U.

Discussion from Group

- Suggestion Lleyn X ewes need a good terminal sire. Finish 2kg earlier 40kg lwt vrs 42kg lwt
- Question whether worth intensively finishing lambs to 21kg dwt or better to finish off grass at lighter weights (18kg dwt) ?
- Currently the Dickson's operate a closed flock and breed own replacements, some questioned was it worthwhile with such a small flock (220 ewes) ?
- Comments on the variability between graders at different abattoirs. Clearly depends on the 'typical' lamb being presented at the abattoir and the number handled per day. Major differences on throughput between processors; 5,000 per week → 20,000 per day.

2. Housed Cows and Calves

The Group moved on to view the cows in the court at North Camalyne - 75 cows and in calf heifers. The current ration was undersown barley straw, which was tube line wrapped, 1.4 kg barley, and 1kg Invercrombies. Undersown straw very nearly used up. Now started the ammonia treated straw along with about 10-12kg silage, will stop giving barley and Invercrombies.

- Tube lined straw used up first as cows were picking holes in the plastic. The bales weighed 450kg for 5 ft bales.
- Cows due to calve 5th March, heifers 3wks earlier
- Cows fed ammonia straw and silage until calved, then go to ad lib silage
- All cattle have had their first blue tongue vaccination
- Patrick currently looking for a 2nd hand forage wagon; tub type with back door so could feed either side.

Discussion from Group

- Group questioned whether worthwhile getting a forage wagon for the cows. Recognised added flexibility for different feeds however, thought can't be justified just for cattle on slats.
- Could consider chopping straw through a baler to allow it to be used on slats – problem getting slurry out with long straw

3. Main cattle Vaccination. (Douglas Barnes)

The farm's vet, David Barnes, Deveron Vets, gave a quick overview of vaccinations for the main cattle diseases. For a copy of Douglas' presentation see Appendix 1.

- Vacc'ns available for; respiratory, enteric, reproduction and clostridial diseases
- Respiratory diseases incl; IBR, PI 3, RSV, and Pasteurelosis
- Enteric diseases incl; BVD, Johne's, Rotavirus, E Coli
- Reproductive diseases incl ; BVD, Leptospirosis
- Clostridial diseases incl; blackleg, tetanus, braxy, black disease
- Misc vaccines; ringworm and E Coli mastitis
- Two cattle health schemes; HI-Health and SAC's Premium Health. Both cover the 4 main diseases; BVD, Johne's, IBR & leptospirosis
- Vaccines can be used in animals of unknown disease status e.g. buying cattle from the marts

4. Overview HI-Health Ltd Orkney (Karen Tait)

Karen Tait travelled down from Orkney to describe the HI Health Scheme that is available to all livestock producers in Scotland. The Dickson's have now achieved Johne's accreditation and are aiming towards BVD accreditation for their cow herd under the scheme.

Main points

- HI Health Ltd is a farmer led, non-profit health scheme for cattle and sheep.
- Also includes the promotion of healthy accredited livestock
- 80% of Orkney's cattle now BVD accredited.
- Only requires one blood test to examine all the diseases within the scheme.
- The main diseases are BVD, Johne's, IBR and Leptospirosis. You don't have to go for accreditation for all, can eradicate one
- Need to establish current status of herd first
- Annual members cost at two levels. Level 1 is basic service; advice & health plan via own vet cost from £25 to £55 depending on number of livestock units. Level 2 is next stage progressing to eradication and accreditation programmes – cost £50. Blood lab test fees vary from £2.95 - £20 per sample.
- BVD Screen: test 10 young calves (9-18mth old); If positive may have a PI. Further testing then required to identify PI animal(s) and these should be removed from the herd. Breeding cattle should be vaccinated after removal of PI's.
- BVD accreditation need to have 2 clear tests, a year between each.
- Johne's screen: test all cattle over 2 yrs old. Cull all reactors and do not retain progeny for breeding. Accreditation follows two clear tests or three if reactors have been identified previously.
- Farmers need to be careful when buying-in stock. Could be bringing in a host of diseases. Isolation and testing advised before mixing with herd.
- Commercial breeders see most benefit from eradication of BVD and Johne's, while pedigree breeders want to eradicate all 4 main diseases.
- See www.hi-health.co.uk for further information.

5 Introduction to Biobest Labs (Ian MacDougall)

Biobest Laboratories Ltd are contracted to provide to bovine diagnostic testing and veterinary advice on results and bio security to HI Health and their members. Ian MacDougall, Business Development Manager, gave a brief overview of Biobest.

Main points

- A privately owned specialist veterinary lab, based at the Bush Estate near Edinburgh established in 1995.
- Provide a range of diagnostic testing and research support for infectious disease for small and large animals.
- One of the major providers of Rabies testing in Europe.
- Offer a growing range of tests and services for the cattle industry in the UK and Ireland which accounts for 25% of the business.
- All testing done at one site allowing vet team to liaise closely with laboratory team on tests and interpretation.

- A licensee of CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) along with HIH, SAC, NWL (Leeds) and AFBI (NI).
- CHeCS schemes cover BVD, Johnes, Lepto and IBR
- Can choose to address any number of the four.
- Worked with HI Health since 2005 and are contracted until 2011. Operate several other cattle schemes in addition to the support of HI Health
- Strength of cattle health schemes is good communication between, the farmer, their vet and the veterinary team at the testing laboratory.
- Each farm is individual in its requirements and must be treated as such whilst adhering to the guidelines of CHeCS
- Always assess status of herd health prior to undertaking a vaccination policy. Areas to consider are farming system, bio security, blood test results.
- Cost of testing is a combination of vet sampling and the actual test. A number of tests can be carried out on one sample.
- First aim of joining a scheme or testing within the herd should be improved health and performance which affects the bottom line. The secondary benefits from this may be increased sale values.
- See www.biobest.co.uk for further information.

6 Enterprise Gross Margins 2007-08.

The Dickson's have pulled together the gross margins for all their enterprises. Benchmarking and producing good financial figures is at the heart of the Monitor Farm programme.

The results for the suckler cow herd and ewes gross margins were presented with QMS figures for comparison. The cereal crop gross margins for the 2007 harvest were also presented. See Appendix 2 for full figures.

Comments from the Group on the figures

Suckler cows

- The GMs are very good, and comparable to top third QMS data
- On an acre basis; cattle and cereals similar. Cattle higher output, but high costs.
- QMS don't include 'contract work' so Dickson's figs even better.
- Always difficult to ensure making a valid comparison with benchmark data. Will depend a lot of cow type, the system, land capability, etc
- Dickson's have higher vet & med compared to QMS figs. May be due to higher costs of aiming for high health status.
- There was discussion and concern were we comparing the same years? Cattle systems always awkward as last longer than year so involve valuations at transfer

Ewe Flock

- Compared to QMS, Dickson's have higher output but high costs so GM slightly lower than QMS
- Feed costs are nearly double – due to intensive lamb finishing
- Lower GM/ac than cattle or crops

- Discussion of whether ewe flock do need 40ac – only graze 25ac over the summer then spread out over more acres

Crops GM

- Crop GMs are higher than livestock
- Sp. barley had best GM due to malting price and yield
- OSR had lowest GM, the yield was disappointing
- Noted, fertiliser costs per acres will be more than double for 2008

Allocating overheads to enterprises

The Group then looked at the allocation of overheads (fixed costs) to enable enterprise margin to be calculated. This is notoriously difficult to estimate for farm businesses with a number of enterprises.

The Group came up with the following shares:

	CATTLE	SHEEP	CROPS
Area (acres)	85	40	225
GM	£238	£181	£278
Total	£20,230	£7,240	£62,550
	%	%	%
Labour	60	20	20
Machinery	30	10	60
Capital	60	10	30
Buildings	80	10	10
Management	60	20	20

Points:

- Need high output for 2 drawings from the business
- Cattle without SFP not leaving much margin – if any
- The livestock leave a lot of fertility for the crops
- Lots of beneficial linkages between the enterprises
- Mixed farming does reduce risks
- Is sheep the best?

We are very keen for other members to prepare their cattle and sheep performance records (discussed at the last meeting) and gross margins. These would only be presented anonymously. Blank forms and assistance are available –give us a call.

APPENDIX 1

Slide 1

Disease Control

Vaccination

Herd Health Schemes

This slide features a background image of a pair of scales of justice. The text is centered on the slide.

Vaccination

- Respiratory Disease
- Enteric Disease
- Reproductive Disease
- Clostridial Diseases
- Miscellaneous

This slide features a background image of a pair of scales of justice with a golden cow standing on the right pan. The text is on the left side.

Slide 2

RESPIRATORY DISEASE

- IBR
- PI 3
- RSV
- Pasteurellosis
- *H. somnus*
- *M. bovis*
- *A. pyogenes*

This slide features a background image of a pair of scales of justice. The text is on the left side.

ENTERIC DISEASE

- BVD (Mucosal Disease)
- Johne's Disease
- Rotavirus
- Corona virus
- *E. coli* – K99, F41, 31A & Y antigens
- Salmonella – dublin & typhimurium

This slide features a background image of a pair of scales of justice. The text is on the left side.

Slide 3

REPRODUCTIVE DISEASE

- BVD
- Leptospirosis

This slide features a background image of a pair of scales of justice. The text is on the left side.

Clostridial Diseases


- Blackleg
- Tetanus
- Braxy
- Black Disease
- Etc.

This slide features a background image of a pair of scales of justice. The text is on the left side.

Slide 4

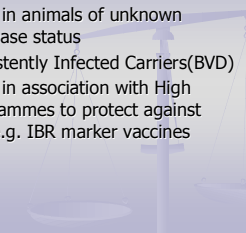
Miscellaneous Vaccines

- Ringworm
- E. coli mastitis



Vaccines and Herd Health


- Can be used in animals of unknown immune/disease status
- Risk of Persistently Infected Carriers(BVD)
- Can be used in association with High Health Programmes to protect against breakdown e.g. IBR marker vaccines



Slide 5

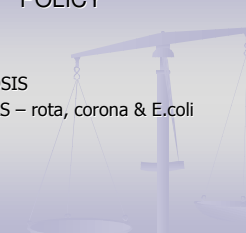
Cattle Health Schemes

- HI Health
- SAC Premium Health
- BVD
- Johne's
- Leptospirosis
- IBR



REVIEW ACRESTRIPE VACCINE POLICY

- IBR
- BVD
- LEPTOSPIROSIS
- CALF SCOURS – rota, corona & E.coli



APPENDIX 2

Cattle Gross Margin 2007/08 (calves born spring 2007)

	£ per cow (81 cows to bull)	£ per acre (125 acres)	<i>QMS 2007 per cow Average</i>	<i>QMS 2007 per cow Top third</i>
OUTPUT				
Sales, Transfers, Calf Scheme	1,030	667	713.52	728.25
Less Replacement heifers	148	96	54.68	56.39
Less Bull value	28	18		
Gross Output	854	553	658.84	671.86
VARIABLE COSTS				
Purchased feed and mins	54	35	117.69	79.62
Homegrown concentrate	156	101	72.68	72.79
Forage area fertiliser	72	47	59.34	58.46
Forage area lime	4	3		
Share of grass seed	6	4		
Straw	77	50	41.60	35.27
Vet & Med	56	36	34.61	26.11
Sundries	18	12	33.42	30.32
Contract	42	27		
Total Variable Costs	485	315	359.34	302.57
GROSS MARGIN	369	238	299.50	369.29

Notes:

Value of 12 in-calf heifers @ £1,000/head included in output and replacement cost.
16 beef heifers not yet sold, so given current estimated value of £850 per head.

Bull value is estimated; £4,000 to buy a bull, lasts 4 years, sell for £1,000, so depreciation per year is £750 (£3,000/4 years). Multiply by 3 bulls.

Homegrown barley fed 98t, valued at average barley sale price.

125 acres grassland used for cows (grazing and silage).

Two thirds grass seed cost allocated to cattle.

Straw used 1,250 bales @ £5/bale

Share of lime 125 acres @ £2.99 per acre

Contract is silage (£3,024) and muck spreader hire (£360)

QMS figures are for "Non LFA rearer finishers".

Sheep Gross Margin 2007/08 (lambs born 2007)

	£ per ewe (212 to tup)	£ per acre (40 acres)	<i>QMS 2007 per ewe Average</i>
OUTPUT			
Sales and Retained	91.2	484	71.89
Less purchased and homebred replacements	12.4	66	8.56
Gross Output	78.8	418	63.33
VARIABLE COSTS			
Purchased feed	17.8	95	8.62
Homegrown feed	2.6	14	0
Straw	0.4	2	0.37
Forage area fertiliser	7.2	38	4.81
Forage area lime	0.4	2	
Share of grass seed	1.1	6	
Stubble neeps fert & seed	1.5	8	
Vet, Med and sundries	13.6	72	11.18
Total Variable Costs	44.6	237	24.98
GROSS MARGIN	34.2	181	38.35

Notes:

All-season grazing used by sheep is 25 acres. Lambs use another 20 acres aftermaths. Ewes graze 2 neighbours in backend, then back on to own winter grazing. The sheep “scavenge” on left over cow grass, but if the cows did not exist, then the estimate is that 40 acres of grass would be required to sustain the sheep.

34 ewe lambs retained valued at £45 per head. Also 25 gimmers and 1 tup bought-in.

Homegrown barley fed 4.5t. Rest of concentrate purchased.

Purchased feed includes winter grazing on neighbouring farms.

QMS figures are for 11 Non LFA flocks averaging 591 ewes.

Crop Gross Margins 2007 harvest

	Spring Barley	Winter Barley	Winter Wheat	Winter OSR
Yield (t/ac)	2.62	3.28	2.87	1.2
Average Price (£/t)	140	121	128	305
OUTPUT				
Grain	367	397	367	366
Straw	37.50	50	30	10
Total Output	404.50	447	397	376
VARIABLE COSTS				
Seed	15.75	17.76	16.34	12.80
Fertiliser	30.78	48.79	49.65	54.35
Sprays	21.39	48.72	60.06	48.24
Share of lime	3	3	3	3
Contract	34	40	40	38
Total Variable Costs	104.92	158.27	169.05	156.39
GROSS MARGIN per acre	299.58	288.73	227.95	219.61
VC per tonne	40	48	59	130

Notes:

Mix of homesaved and purchased seed.

Contract is combine and spraying.

Straw yield and price estimated (SB 1.5t @ £25/t, WB 2.0t @ £25/t, WW 2.0t @ £15/t, OSR 1.0t @ £10/t).

Home fed barley valued at average of barley selling prices.

Grain prices are net of deductions.

APPENDIX 3

Source: Biobest Laboratories Ltd. www.biobest.co.uk

BVD

The Disease

BVD virus interferes with reproduction, detrimentally affects the unborn calf, contributes to calf pneumonia and other diseases by reducing their ability to fight off disease, and can cause severe diarrhoea. The most important effect is on pregnant cows, which may abort the foetus, or cause calf deformities. If the cow is infected during the first third of the pregnancy, the calf may become persistently infected with the virus (a 'PI' calf). The PI calf will shed the virus throughout its life, sometimes developing a severe fatal disease called mucosal disease (but often appearing healthy).

The Effect in Your Herd

BVD will cause reproductive problems, failure to conceive, abortions and calf abnormalities. These cause economic losses but are not always immediately obvious to the farmer. BVD infection results in poor calf health because it affects their immune system making them vulnerable to pneumonia and other diseases. Estimated financial losses are around £45,000 for a 100 cow beef herd over ten years, and larger amounts for a similar sized dairy herd.

The Route of Transmission

The most important route is through the respiratory secretions from persistently infected (PI) calves, so screening for these and removing them is important. Farmers can separate cattle with 3 metre fencing to eliminate nose-to-nose contact from neighbouring farms or between separately managed groups, and/or vaccinate the herd to prevent pregnant animals from becoming infected. Infected bulls can shed the virus in semen for up to 10 weeks during the acute infection phase. If the level of BVD infection in a herd is very high, vaccination may be a useful additional tool to control disease.

Disease & Status	Animals to be tested	Action required
1. BVD: First herd test	Ten animals from each separately managed group of cattle of 9-18 months old, or at least 6 months of age if sold before this time.	If this group is clear, the test is repeated after 12 months to gain Accreditation (test 2). If positive samples are found, the virus positive animals are removed, and the next test is 3.
2. BVD: Second herd test (if the first test is clear).	Ten animals from each separately managed group of cattle of 9-18 months old, or at least 6 months of age if sold before this time.	If this test is clear again, the herd becomes Accredited for BVD.
3. BVD: Further herd tests (if the	The whole herd (over 4 months of age) is tested,	If all the young stock tests are clear, the herd can

first test showed active BVD infection)	and then virus positive animals are removed. All calves born during the 12 months after the removal of the virus positive animals are then tested.	proceed towards Accreditation with a screen of ten young animals in another 12 months time (test 2)
4. BVD: Maintenance of Accreditation	Ten animals from each separately managed group of cattle of 9-18 months old, or at least 6 months of age if sold before this time (plus a quarterly bulk milk test for dairy herds).	Repeat yearly to maintain Accreditation.
5. Dairy Milk Monitoring scheme	Bulk milk tank sample; if more than one tank is present, a sample must be taken from each one.	Repeat at 3 months

Johne's Disease The Disease

Johne's disease is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*. Infection is targeted to the intestine wall, causing damage which results in a slow wasting disease characterised by loss of condition, scouring and death (or culling). Young animals are most susceptible, but the disease has a long incubation period and is not usually noticed until the animals pass 18 months of age.

Biobest also offer a (non CheCS) [Johne's Risk Assessment Programme](#), designed to provide vets and farmers with a first step towards understanding and managing Johne's in a herd.

The Effect in Your Herd

In heavily effected herds a high rate of wastage is seen in cattle at 2-4 years of age. Average annual losses are estimated at £2,600 in a 100 cow dairy herd, and £1,600 in a similar sized beef herd.

The Route of Transmission

The bacterium is shed in large quantities in the faeces of infected animals, and the calves of affected animals are nearly always positive and require to be culled. The slow development of the disease means that spread of infection occurs before an animal can be detected as positive, and makes it hard to eradicate. Vaccination may prevent some clinical disease, but does not prevent re-infection of the herd. Pasture becomes contaminated and ideally should be left for a year before cattle are allowed to graze.

Disease & Status	Animals to be tested	Action required
1. Johne's Disease: First herd test	The whole herd over the age of 2 years is tested.	If this test is clear, the test is repeated after 12-24 months to gain Accreditation**. If the test

		shows positive animals, these are removed*, and the next test is 3.
2. Johne's Disease: Second herd test (if the first test is clear).	The whole herd over the age of 2 years is tested.	If this test is clear, the herd becomes Accredited for Johne's**. Test as per 4 to maintain Accreditation.
3. Johne's Disease: The whole herd, over the age of 2 years, is tested.	Further herd tests (if the first test showed active Johne's infection).	If the test shows positive animals, these are removed*, and the next test is a repeat of 3, to be repeated yearly until a clear test is achieved.
4. Johne's Disease: Maintenance of Accreditation	The whole herd over the age of 2 years is tested.	Repeat annually to maintain Accreditation.
5. Dairy Milk Monitoring scheme	Bulk milk tank sample; if more than one tank is present, a sample must be taken from each one.	Repeat at 3 monthly intervals.

*if too many animals require removal, there are other options, e.g. vaccination, which may be used, and this will be discussed in detail when the results are reported.

Leptospirosis

The Disease

Leptospirosis is caused by infection by two bacteria called *Leptospira interrogans* serovar hardjo, and *Leptospira borgpetersenii* serovar hardjo. These cause abortion, stillborn or very weak calves, poor fertility, and fever and milk drop. Leptospirosis can also affect humans, occasionally causing fatal meningitis.

The Effect in Your Herd

Your herd may experience reproductive problems such as failure to conceive and abortions, and calves born to infected animals are often sickly and weak.

The Route of Transmission

The bacteria are present in the reproductive tract and kidneys, and are shed in the urine of infected animals, in the semen and can pass into unborn calves. The organisms often pass into streams and other water sources in contaminated pasture; therefore piped water is safest for health scheme cattle. Vaccination may prevent some clinical disease, but does not prevent infection of the herd.

Disease & Status	Animals to be tested	Action required
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1. Leptospirosis: First herd test	The whole herd over the age of 12 months is tested.	If this test is clear, the test is repeated within 1-12 months to gain Accreditation test 2. If positive animals are found, these are removed*, and the next test is 3.
2. Leptospirosis: Second herd test (if the first test is clear).	The whole herd over the age of 12 months is tested.	If this test is clear, the herd becomes Accredited for Leptospirosis. Test as per 4 yearly to maintain Accreditation.
3. Leptospirosis: Further herd tests (if the first test showed active Johne's infection).	The whole herd over the age of 12 months is tested.	If positive animals are found, these are removed, and the next test is a repeat of 3, to be repeated yearly until a clear test is achieved.
4. Leptospirosis: Maintenance of Accreditation	A statistical sample (see Appendix B) of breeding animals 12 months of age or older must be tested, including the bulls (plus a quarterly bulk milk test for dairy herds).	Repeat yearly to maintain Accreditation.
5. Dairy Milk Monitoring scheme	Bulk milk tank sample; if more than one tank is present, a sample must be taken from each one.	Repeat at 3 monthly intervals.

*if too many animals require removal, there are other options, e.g. vaccination, which may be used, and this will be discussed in detail when the results are reported.

IBR

The Disease

IBR virus causes a severe respiratory disease, which may progress to a fatal pneumonia. Once an animal has been infected, it remains a carrier for life, with periods of stress (such as movement, starting a bull in work or bringing in for the winter) triggering shedding of virus. Several different strains exist which also cause reduced fertility/abortions, a drop in milk yield and inflammation of the vulva/prepuce.

The Effect in Your Herd

Your herd may experience reproductive problems such as failure to conceive and abortions, as well as severe pneumonia outbreaks amongst calves. In addition many European countries are IBR free, and animals exported to the EU will generally have to come from Accredited-free herds.

The Route of Transmission

The virus is spread by respiratory tract and eye secretions, and also by semen. Separate cattle with 3 metre fencing to eliminate nose-to-nose contact from neighbouring farms or between separately managed groups. Infected bulls can shed the virus in semen. Vaccination can be an option; as a marker vaccine has been developed which is distinguishable from wild IBR infection.

Disease & Status	Animals to be tested	Action required
1. IBR: First herd test	The whole herd over the age of 12 months is tested.	If this test is clear, the test is repeated within 1-12 months to gain Accreditation test 2. If positive animals are found, these are removed*, and the next test is 3.
2. IBR: Second herd test (if the first test is clear).	The whole herd over the age of 12 months is tested.	If this test is clear, the herd becomes Accredited for IBR. Test as per 4 yearly to maintain Accreditation.
3. IBR: Further herd tests (if the first test showed active IBR infection).	The whole herd over the age of 12 months is tested.	If positive animals are found, these are removed, and the next test is a repeat of 3, to be repeated yearly until a clear test is achieved.
4. IBR: Maintenance of Accreditation	A statistical sample (see Appendix B) of animals 12 months of age or older must be tested. Breeding bulls must also be tested, along with any animals that are not home-bred (unless they have come from an IBR Accredited herd). Dairy herds must also conduct a quarterly bulk milk test.	Repeat yearly to maintain Accreditation.
5. Dairy Milk Monitoring scheme	Bulk milk tank sample; if more than one tank is present, a sample must be taken from each one.	Repeat at 3 monthly intervals.

Biosecurity

Please contact your vet or the Biobest Herdcare team for further information.

Biosecurity Measures	BVD	IBR	Johne's	Lepto.
Farm boundaries must be secure and prevent cattle straying onto or off the property. Nose-to-nose contact over fences should be minimised; for BVD and IBR double fencing with a gap if at least 3m is required.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Animals which have strayed off the farm, or come in contact with animals which have strayed onto the farm, must be kept in quarantine and tested as per purchased animals.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purchased cattle must be quarantined unless from a herd of the same health status. Quarantined animals must be kept separate, including separate airspace (for BVD and IBR), drainage and dung storage. They must be tested at the beginning and at the end of an appropriate quarantine period (usually 28 days) before release into the herd. Also cattle which have been to a show or sales should be quarantined on their return (except for Johne's testing).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Equipment, trailers and handling facilities which are shared with other herds of lower or unknown health status must be cleaned and disinfected before use by health scheme cattle. Ideally such sharing should be kept to a minimum.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Limit farm access to essential personnel and provide protective overalls. Delivery and pickup points should be away from cattle buildings. Where possible drivers should remain in their cabs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Embryos and semen must be from donors of disease-free status.	✓	✓		
Use piped water supplies where possible. Prevent access to water that has flowed through another farm.			✓	✓