

Quick Reference Guide

A guide to SAC's Premium Cattle Health Scheme for Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)

Why is IBR important?

- IBR virus affects the upper respiratory tract and can lead to fatal pneumonia.
- IBR virus causes a severe and prolonged drop in milk yield.
- IBR virus can result in permanent infection with reactivation and release of virus at times of stress.
- IBR is a barrier to the export of live cattle to other regions or countries within Europe, where the disease has already been eradicated. In future, herds will have to prove freedom from IBR to export to these markets.

How is IBR transmitted?

- IBR is spread through the introduction of carrier animals to the herd.
- IBR is spread across boundary fences by contact with infected cattle.
- IBR virus is shed from the respiratory tract through coughing and nasal discharges
- IBR is spread in the semen of infected bulls.



How can you control IBR?

For herds that show no evidence of IBR there is an accreditation programme that safeguards freedom from disease. For herds where the disease is present there is a control and eradication programme to remove the disease from the herd. Vaccination can be used effectively to control the disease, but unless the marker vaccine is used vaccinated herds cannot become accredited.

Key facts

- IBR is an important cause of financial loss to British beef and dairy farmers.
- IBR infection in a herd will prevent exports to IBR-free regions and countries.
- SAC provides a cost effective IBR Screening and Eradication Programme for infected herds
- The IBR Accreditation Programme provides assurance and the status "accredited free of IBR"
- The Scheme is licensed by CHecs and all tests are accredited by UKAS to ISO17025.

Note that this document is a guide to the disease and the testing programmes. It does not cover all testing outcomes or variations in testing programmes for the control and eradication of IBR.



To determine the best approach for your herd we recommend that you discuss your objectives for the herd with your veterinary surgeon. At this meeting the herd biosecurity can be reviewed and upgraded to meet with the scheme requirements and a testing schedule drawn up to determine the disease status of the herd.



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Please send me the Premium Cattle Health Scheme membership pack.

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