

Quick Reference Guide

A guide to SAC's Premium Cattle Health Scheme for Leptospirosis

Why is Leptospirosis important?

- Leptospirosis causes milk drop, infertility and abortion in cattle.
- Leptospirosis causes the birth of weak and undersized calves that have a poor survival rate.
- Leptospirosis causes flu-like symptoms and severe headaches in humans

How is Leptospirosis transmitted?

- Leptospirosis in cattle is caused by organisms collectively called *Leptospira* Hardjo
- The *L* Hardjo bacteria are shed in the urine.
- Some animals shed infection intermittently for life.
- Disease is usually introduced into a herd by the purchase of infected cattle.
- People working with cattle and exposed to cattle urine are at risk of being infected.



Key Facts

- Leptospirosis causes milk drop, infertility and abortion in cattle.
- Leptospirosis causes financial loss to British beef and dairy farmers.
- Leptospirosis causes illness in people.
- SAC provides a cost effective Leptospirosis Screening and Eradication Programme for infected herds
- The Leptospirosis Accreditation Programme provides assurance and the status "accredited free of Leptospirosis"
- 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 L Hardjo.

How can you control Leptospirosis?

For herds that show no evidence of Leptospirosis 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 vaccinated herds cannot become accredited. 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.

Name		
Address		
Telephone	Postcode	Mobile
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