

HEALTHY HERD? CHECK.

THE INITIATIVES

- **Compulsory Health Testing for Society Sales**

From January 2009 all Beef Shorthorn Cattle entered for society sales must be individually blood tested no more than 3 months prior to the sales for BVD, IBR and leptospirosis - unless they come from a herd which has accredited status for the relevant disease.

The results of the blood tests must be displayed at the sale on a health pen card supplied by a CHeCS licensed scheme provider such as Biobest.

It is the responsibility of the vendor to ensure their animal is accompanied by a correctly completed health pen card.

Your herd does not have to be a member of a health scheme although this will help you take your herd towards accreditation for relevant diseases.

A guidance leaflet for you and your vet is available from the Beef Shorthorn Society office or from Biobest.

In 2008 the Board of the Beef Shorthorn Society reviewed their approach on the health status of the cattle put forward for sale by the membership. This led to a commitment to compulsory health testing for cattle presented at society sales from January 2009. Frank Milnes highlighted the initiative in the December 2008 newsletter as “a huge step forward for the Beef Shorthorn breed as it is advantageous for both vendor and purchaser, giving people the confidence that cattle bought at society sales are of a known health status”. He noted that the “cost of a blood test is small in comparison to the potential damage an infected animal could cause to a herd”.



CAN BIOBEST HELP? YES!!

- **Herd Health**

“Biobest HerdCare” is a CHeCS licensed cattle health scheme. Diagnostic testing, veterinary interpretation and advice is provided as part of the service. BVD, IBR, Johne’s and leptospirosis are covered under CHeCS and further testing is available for other parasites and disease (e.g. Liver Fluke and Neospora).

- **Individual Pen Cards**

Biobest will produce pen cards based on the information provided by the herd owner and individual sample testing for relevant diseases. Herd status for BVD, IBR, leptospirosis, and TB will be included.

WHO ARE BIOBEST

THE COMPANY

Established in 1995, Biobest is the UK's leading privately owned business providing infectious disease testing for animals. A range of tests is provided for cattle, dogs, cats, horses, pigs, birds and fish with a particular emphasis on virology, DNA testing and serology. As a specialist laboratory we have the skills to make the best use of commercially available diagnostic tools and develop cost effective in-house assays to provide a flexible and cost effective service for our customers.



Our services are used in the commercial and public sector throughout the UK and world wide. Our customer base ranges from individual animal owners to farmers, vet practices, general veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and the research, technical and product support divisions of the pharmaceutical companies.

BIOBEST CATTLE TEAM

The team ensure members of Herdcare and our farming, veterinary and industry customers receive an efficient, professional and friendly service. They provide advice and support on testing with interpretation of results to farmers and vets.

Cattle Health Scheme Manager David Kay facilitates all aspects of the business from sample receipt to reporting of results. Veterinary Manager Susan Duthie oversees the support, advice and test interpretation provided by the team.



(B) Paul Burr, Katie Mellanby, David Kay & Pia Formisano

(F) Kate Turner-Haig & Susan Duthie

CATTLE SERVICES

- **Herdcare Cattle Health Scheme** for dairy and beef herds.
- **Individual Animal Testing & Sales Certificates** for private and auction sales.
- **Johne's Risk Assessment** for dairy and beef herds.
- **Diagnostic Test** range for pharmaceutical companies, vets and their customers.

In addition to offering **Herdcare** to producers throughout the UK and Ireland Biobest provide diagnostic and veterinary support to the members of **HI Health** the Scottish farmer led business which provides health planning for cattle and sheep and disease accreditation for cattle. To find out more go to www.hi-health.co.uk



CHeCS, HERDCARE & TESTING

Cattle Health Certification Standards (UK), **CHeCS**, is a self regulatory body for cattle health schemes in the UK. It was established by the cattle industry for the control and eradication of non-statutory diseases by a set of standards to which all licensed schemes must adhere. A CHeCS cattle health scheme is a set of management rules and a disease testing programme. www.checs.co.uk



The **Biobest Herdcare** cattle health scheme provides a means to improve the disease status of your herd. This will **reduce animal loss**, **increase productivity** and **increase the sale value** of breeding animals, because they can be accredited as 'disease free'.

Herdcare is a partnership with you (the farmer), your practice vet and Biobest's veterinary and scientific team. Together we work within the guidelines of CHeCS to:

- improve **bio-security** on your farm.
- **eliminate** BVD, Johne's, IBR and leptospirosis from your herd and obtain **accredit for disease free** status.
- **prevent** any re-introduction of the four diseases into your herd.

Samples for **testing** must be collected by your veterinary surgeon. You and your vet will need to complete an accompanying membership declaration form which covers questions on bio-security and herd health status. The table below summarises the process for achieving accreditation. To discuss the testing stages and requirements in more depth please contact the cattle health team.

DISEASE	HOW TO BECOME ACCREDITED
BVD	A check test is carried out on 5 calves from each management group (9-18 months) . A 2nd check test is carried out 12 months later. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative.
JOHNE'S	Subject to herd history 2 or 3 herd tests are carried out on all animals 2 years of age and older at intervals of 12 months. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative.
IBR	2 herd tests are carried out at an interval of between 4 weeks and 12 months. All animals 12 months of age and older, plus non homebred younger animals must be sampled. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative.
LEPTO	2 herd tests are carried out at an interval of between 6 and 12 months. All animals over 24 months plus any stock of 12- 24 months that are intended for breeding must be tested. Accredited status is obtained if all results are negative.



WHY CHOOSE HERDCARE?



Experience: over 12 years health scheme experience

Value: the most competitive charges available

Speed: rapid test turnaround & results, typically 4-5 days from sample receipt

Service: friendly, efficient and professional

Quality: UK's leading private veterinary virology and serology laboratory, all tests approved by CHECS

Inclusive: a working partnership with you and your vet practice

“Herdcare will help you improve the health and profitability of your herd”

NEXT STEPS - Your Choice

Contact **David Kay** or one of the vet team at Biobest to discuss the approach you would like to take to ensure the health and profitability of your herd.

Ask for one of our full information packs or browse our website to find out more about the diseases and test protocols.

Discuss your needs with your own vet and then contact the office to arrange sending samples for testing.

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Photographs courtesy of the Beef Shorthorn Society

to find out more:
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