

Dairy UK (NI) Position on Bovine TB

Healthy dairy cows and a healthy wildlife population should be the goal in seeking to eradicate bovine TB through the implementation of a carefully managed science-led programme.

If the disease is allowed to continue to spread, the result will be many more wildlife suffering a debilitating and painful death, and many more dairy cows will have to be culled.

Urgent and effective action needs to be taken to address this disease which impacts on the health and welfare of wild and farmed animals alike. We would support a science based approach to tackling Bovine TB.

Bovine TB is one of the most serious problems facing the dairy industry at present. It results in the slaughter of dairy cows and inflicts severe damage on the financial and emotional well-being of dairy farmers and the rural communities they are part of.

Dairy UK (NI) welcomes the Committee's intention to carry out a thematic review of bovine TB. The failure to control the disease has resulted in unnecessary financial losses to the sector and considerable psychological stress to farmers affected by TB outbreaks. The resulting lack of confidence about the future has reduced the willingness of some farmers to invest in their businesses.

Dairy UK (NI) applauds the Committee's willingness to address this problem. Dairy UK (NI) would like to see a control policy that finally eradicates the disease, gives confidence to farmers and ensures a healthy environment for both dairy cows and wildlife.