

FAO Stella McArdle  
Clerk to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Further to your recent correspondence to the Livestock & Meat Commission (LMC) regarding the Committee's preparations for undertaking a thematic review of Bovine Tuberculosis I would like to submit a few comments on behalf of LMC, following consideration of the matter at our Board meeting on 18 April 2012

1. Bovine TB has a very significant disruptive effect on the movements of livestock and this can impede the ability of farmers to capitalize on livestock trading opportunities not only within Northern Ireland but also in live export markets.
2. Northern Ireland is heavily dependant on the export of its animals and animal products throughout the UK, the European Union and increasingly into Third Country markets and it is imperative from the point of view of marketability of our industry and it's products that Bovine TB is effectively controlled in this region.

LMC fully endorses the Committee's terms of reference for the review. Our vision is for 'a sustainable and profitable future for the Northern Ireland beef and sheep meat industries at all levels of the supply chain' and any additional measures that can be taken towards a general improvement in the Bovine TB position will be very helpful in achieving that vision.

Thank you for communicating with LMC on this matter and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us again

Regards  
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