

Dear Sir/Madam

I act on behalf of a number of Breed Societies and NBA and I refer to a number of previous submissions made on their behalf. It seems to my clients that the solution to the problem of Tb in cattle is perfectly straightforward and should be based on scientific evidence. The strategy should be twofold. Firstly in the longer term to pursue a vaccination policy and, secondly, in the shorter term to reduce the level of infection. In relation to the latter we can only proceed when there is scientific evidence on the causes of infection and the percentage of cases attributed to each cause, again based on scientific evidence. The Department has completely failed to address the issue. When that scientific evidence is obtained then the next stage is to create policies which will minimise the risk of each cause of infection. That approach again should be twofold. First of all what can be done to encourage measures of prevention by farmers and, secondly, what the Department can do by way of legislation to remove or reduce the sources of infection if these are outside the control of farmers.

It seems to us that the Committee should seek to hear evidence from the British Cattle Veterinary Association on the scientific aspects of the present difficulty.

Regards  
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