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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

TB Herd History Risk Statement And Report

Frequently Asked Questions

Document Control

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Q1. What is the herd history risk statement and report about?

- A.** This document provides a simple individualised TB herd risk category and advice to farmers on how to reduce the risk of TB in their herd.

Not all herds have the same risk of a future TB breakdown. Much of this risk is based on the following;

- how long it is since your herd last had a breakdown,
- how severe that breakdown was,
- at risk animals in your herd,
- your purchasing history.

A TB breakdown is when a herd loses its officially TB free (OTF) status due to bovine TB being suspected or confirmed.

Q2. What do the TB herd risk categories mean?

- A.** Please see the table below.

The first part of the category, C means your herd is currently clear of TB, or INF means your herd is currently restricted for TB.

The second part indicates the number of years your herd has been clear of TB.

The third part indicates the number of breakdowns your herd has had in the last 10 years.

So for example a herd with category C 3 (1) means this herd is currently clear of TB for the last 3 years and has had 1 TB breakdown in the last 10 years.

Status Codes			
INF	Herds currently restricted	C5	Herds TB clear for 5 years
C0	Herds TB clear for less than 1 year	C6	Herds TB clear for 6 years
C1	Herds TB clear for 1 year	C7	Herds TB clear for 7 years
C2	Herds TB clear for 2 years	C8	Herds TB clear for 8 years
C3	Herds TB clear for 3 years	C9	Herds TB clear for 9 years
C4	Herds TB clear for 4 years	C10	Herds TB clear for 10 years or more

Q3. What does the National Herd History Risk Graph mean?

- A. On your individual statement this graph shows you where your herd is, in terms of TB risk, in comparison to all the other herds in the country. It also shows the number of herds in the country that fall into each risk category. Over 60% of the herds in the country are clear of TB for 10 years or more.



Q4. Do I have to take any action on this statement and report?

- A. No – however DAFM advises you should consider very carefully the TB risk of herds that you purchase cattle from – particularly breeding stock, including stock bulls. The longer a herd you buy from has been free of TB, the less likely it is that your herd will go down with TB from this source.

On your individual statement the table below will summarise the TB herd history risk of animals that have moved into your herd over the last 3 years and will give you an indication of the level of TB risk associated with those movements.

Purchasing History by Risk

% summary of movements into your herd over the last 3 years by current risk category of source herds

Movement Year	Higher Risk	Medium Risk	Lower Risk
	INF - C3 or D*	C4 - C6	C7 - C10
2019	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
2018	30% (6)	10% (2)	60% (12)
2017	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (5)

* Dealer

The number of animals is displayed in ()

(The above table is for illustrative purposes only).

Q5. Can I get the details of which herds I bought from in respect of the various risk categories they fall into?

A. The summarised data is set out in the Purchasing History by Risk table, but DAFM cannot release the details of any other herds risk category to you in line with data protection regulations.

Q6. My status has changed since the report date. Can I get an up to date statement of my TB herd history risk?

A. Yes. Contact your Regional Veterinary Office (RVO) who will provide you with an up to date statement of your TB herd history risk.

Q7. Will I be able to view and print my up to date TB herd history risk statement through Agfood.ie?

A. Yes, you are now able to access www.agfood.ie to view and print off the TB Herd History and Risk Statement through the Animal Health Computer System menu item.

Q8. I am already registered for Agfood.ie, is there anything further I need to do?

A. No.

Q9. How do I register for Agfood.ie?

A. You can register now on www.agfood.ie alternatively you may contact the Agfood Online Services Helpdesk in the Department's Cavan Office, by calling 0761 064424/email agfood@agriculture.ie.

Q10. What herds are Higher, Lower and Medium Risk?

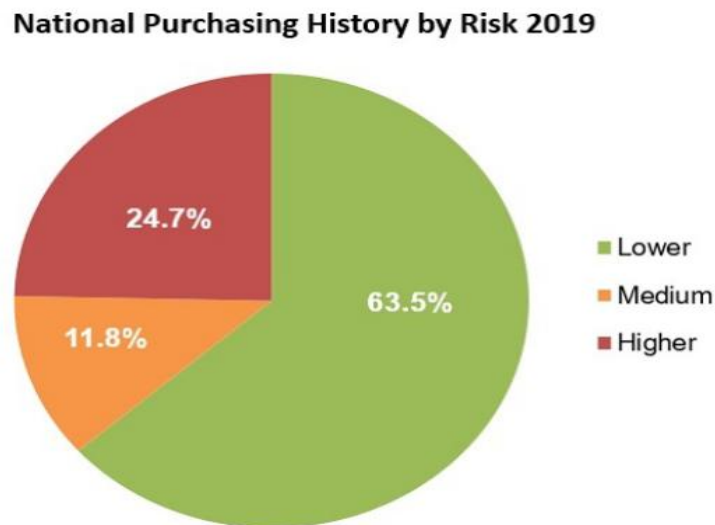
- A. The risk of a TB breakdown due to residual infection decreases the longer a herd is clear of TB. For this reason herds that are clear of TB less than 3 years or dealer herds are deemed to be higher risk, herds that are clear for 4 to 6 years are a medium risk and herds that are clear for 7 or more years are deemed to be a lower risk.

Q11. Why are dealers considered a higher risk?

- A. Dealers are considered to be a higher risk because they buy and sell animals from multiple herds of different risk categories and those cattle mix with each other while on the dealer premises.

Q12. What does the pie chart 'National Purchasing History by Risk 2019' represent?

- A. This pie chart shows nationally, for all the movements of cattle in 2019, how many moved from higher, medium and lower TB risk herds.



The above chart shows that, in 2019 63.5% of purchased cattle came from lower risk category herds, 11.8% originated from medium risk herds and 24.7% were from higher risk herds

Q13. Will my herd history risk be shared with other farmers?

- A. No, but you may wish to do so yourself.

Q14. Will my herd history risk be compulsorily displayed on mart boards?

- A. No.

Q15. How can I know the herd history risk of cattle I am buying?

- A. You could ask the seller about the TB herd history risk of the herd the animals are coming from.

Q16. Can I contact the RVO to find out the TB risk of a herd I intend to buy from in the future?

- A. No, in line with data protection regulations the RVO cannot disclose to you the TB Risk of another herd.

Q17. Does another farmer have to disclose the TB risk of their herd to me?

- A. You may ask the other farmer directly to disclose the TB Risk of their herd. The farmer is not obliged to disclose this information to you.

Q18. What does the Breakdown History table show?

- A. The Breakdown History table on your individual statement gives the TB breakdown history for your herd over the last 10 years. It shows how long the breakdown lasted, when it started and finished, the number of animals removed and separately if you had any other non-reactor cattle that showed up with lesions in the factory. It also sums up the number of these cases that were either home bred or moved in. This will give you an indication whether the TB in your herd possibly originated in your own herd or in another herd. If you have not had a breakdown in the last 10 years this table will not be displayed.

Breakdown History

TB breakdown and reactor history for your herd over the last 10 years

Duration of Breakdown (days)	Start Date	End Date	Number of Reactors Removed	Number of In Contacts Removed	Slaughter House Cases	Home Bred	Moved In
150	01 Nov 2019	30 Mar 2020	3	0	0	3	0

(The above table is for illustrative purposes only).

The next table ‘Sources of animals removed from your herd in the last year’ gives further information on the source of animals removed from your herd over the last year. Again this may give an indication as to the source of a TB problem in your herd. This table will not be displayed if there were no animals removed from your herd in the last year.

Source of animals removed from your herd in the last year

Test Date	Tag Number	Source of Animals Removed	Date Moved In	Via Mart
01 Nov 2019	372xxxxxxxxxxxx	Homebred		
01 Nov 2019	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	Homebred		
01 Nov 2019	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	Homebred		

(The above table is for illustrative purposes only).

Q19. What does the table ‘At Risk Animals in Your Herd’ represent?

- A. If there are animals alive in your herd that previously tested inconclusive and then on retest went clear these animals will be listed here. Although such animals are restricted to your herd for life, and can only move direct to slaughter or to a Controlled Finishing Unit, they are more likely than other clear animals, to spread TB within your herd and to go down as a reactor in the future. You should consider slaughtering these animals as soon as practical. If there are no such animals in your herd this table will not be displayed.

At Risk Animals in Your Herd
Inconclusive animals which have passed a retest

Tag Numbers		
IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx

Inconclusive animals that retested clear are at a greater risk of developing TB in the future. You should consider culling these animals as soon as practical

(The above table is for illustrative purposes only).

Q20. What about the table ‘Clear animals which were alive during a previous breakdown’?

- A. The animals listed on this table are animals which were alive during a previous TB breakdown, either in your herd, or another herd and tested clear during that breakdown.

Such animals are at a greater risk of developing TB in the future and you should consider slaughtering these animals as soon as practical. If there are more than 50 of these animals in your herd none of the animals will be listed here but you can contact your local RVO who will provide a full list for you. If there are no such animals in your herd this table will not be displayed.

Clear animals which were alive during a previous breakdown

Tag Numbers		
IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx
IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx
IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx
IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx
372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx	IExxxxxxxxxxxx
372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx
372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx
372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx
372xxxxxxxxxxxx	372xxxxxxxxxxxx	

Animals which were alive during a previous breakdown but tested clear are at a greater risk of developing TB in the future. You should consider culling these animals as soon as practical

Q21. Why are animals returned home from a mart unsold considered to be a higher risk?

- A. If you have animals in your herd that returned home unsold from the mart they are at higher risk of developing TB because while at the mart they will have come into contact with other animals from different herds of different risk categories. TB can be spread through close contact with other animals. If there are such animals in your herd they will be listed on your report and you should consider slaughtering these animals as soon as practical. An animal may be listed more than once if it has returned from the mart unsold more than once during the period.

Q22. Where did the details on movements into my herd come from?

- A. The details on movements into your herd come from the Animal Identification Movement System (AIM).

Q23. Why is there a table showing a summary of movements out of my herd in the last 12 months?

- A. If there have been movements out of your herd, recorded on AIM in the last 12 months they will be displayed in summary in the table below. This is for your own information.

Summary of outward movements in last twelve months

Mart Movements	6
Farm to Farm Movements	5
Factory	3
Abattoir	0
Export	0
Knackery	1

Q24. What can I do to protect my herd from getting TB?

- A. TB can be spread by;
- Purchasing infected animals,
 - Selling at risk animals on the open market (rather than sending them for slaughter),
 - Spread from infected neighbouring herds; contiguous spread,
 - Badgers,
 - Residual spread within a herd previously infected with TB,
 - Environmental contamination with the TB bacteria,
 - Inadequate on-farm bio security practices.

Bio security Advice

There are several things you can do to protect your herd from getting TB:

1. Reduce the risk from Badgers

- (i) If badger setts or latrines are present on grazing land, fence them off with electric fencing to keep grazing cattle away.
- (ii) Do not feed cattle concentrates spread on the ground and try and avoid spilling feed on the ground as badgers may consume it and contaminate any leftovers which cattle may subsequently eat.
- (iii) Feed cattle in raised troughs

- (iv) Ensure that water troughs are clean, particularly troughs that are in fields where silage has been cut.
- (v) Badger-proof farm buildings by covering the lower part of access gates to sheds so they can't get through.
- (vi) Advise the Department of any badger setts on your farm by contacting your local RVO.
- (vii) In the interests of disease control please inform the Gardaí and the RVO of any illegal interference with badger setts on your lands.

2. Reduce the risk of contiguous spread

- (i) Ensure boundary fences are well maintained, particularly if neighbouring land has a herd which has had TB in the recent past
- (ii) Avoid mixing groups of cattle which are normally managed on separate land fragments.

3. Reduce the risk of residual infection

- (i) Consider slaughtering any cattle which ever tested inconclusive, even if they subsequently tested negative on the re-test.
- (ii) Consider slaughtering any cattle which were in the herd during any previous breakdown, particularly older cows.

4. Reduce the risk of introducing cattle which are infected

- (i) If purchasing cattle, reduce the risk by sourcing cattle from a herd which has not had a TB breakdown in recent years
- (ii) If purchasing cattle at a mart, cattle with a more recent TB test date are more likely to be at less risk than similar cattle which were TB tested many months ago.

5. General Advice

- (i) Ensure good quality TB testing facilities are available and the vet receives any assistance needed
- (ii) When breeding, select bulls which are genetically more resistant to TB and avoid those more genetically susceptible. ICBF provides TB scores for bulls on their website, using a traffic light system.
- (iii) Effective cleaning and disinfection of any areas where reactors were kept is essential and will reduce the risk of environmental contamination infecting other cattle.

- (iv) Milk from TB reactor cows should be disposed into the main slurry tank.
- (v) Contents of slurry tanks attached to milking parlour and collecting yard should preferably be transferred and stored in main slurry tank.
- (vi) If sharing machinery, trailers, etc. with other farms, minimise the risk of TB spread through environmental contamination by cleaning and disinfection.

For practical advice and information on bovine TB, take a look at our advice videos, which can be found at:

www.bovinetb.ie

Q25. How often is my herds TB herd history risk updated?

- A.** Your TB herd history risk is updated on the anniversary of the end of the last breakdown in your herd or when your herd enters or exits a new breakdown.

Q26. Will the Department be re-issuing up to date statements and reports?

- A.** It is intended to re-issue the statements and reports on an annual basis. Up to date statements of your TB herd history risk are available from your RVO.

Q27. What supports are in place for farmers who suffer a TB breakdown?

- A.** There are a number of supports available to you through your RVO, including advice and support, the removal of and compensation for animals deemed reactor, other income supports such as the Income Supplement Scheme, Hardship Scheme and Depopulation Scheme. You can also seek advice from your local veterinary practitioner.

Further information is available directly from your RVO or at www.bovinetb.ie