

LIVESTOCK



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Calls for BVD status of all cattle to be declared in Scottish marts

► Final phase of eradication scheme

THE Scottish Beef Association (SBA) has called for the BVD status of all cattle passing through auction mart store sales to be declared.

Scotland's BVD eradication scheme moves into its final phase this year, with new measures beginning to penalise producers with a not negative status.

Herds without a valid negative status by June 1 are expected to face movement restrictions on untested animals and reduced testing options.

The SBA insist full transparency at auction markets is required and urges anyone without a negative status to immediately address the issue.

Chairman Scott Henderson says: "As the BVD eradication scheme moves forward we would strongly advise producers to have their BVD testing status



The SBA is asking for full transparency on BVD status at marts.

up to date otherwise they will be in breach of the regulations and their default status will be not negative.

Negative status

"At this stage, anyone who fails to achieve a negative status must work with their vet to ensure

that is not the case come June 1.

"The only way the problem will be completely eradicated is if the BVD status of all store cattle sold at auction marts is declared.

"This is something that is feasible and will give farmers added confidence when buying stores."

Scotland's BVD eradication scheme

■ Enhanced mandatory testing requirements will come into effect this year along with a reduction in approved testing options and a requirement to test cattle moving from an untested herd

■ The Scottish Government has confirmed animals from a breeding herd which does not have a negative status will only be allowed to move direct to slaughter unless they have been individually tested

negative for BVD

■ Livestock moving to a breeding herd from a herd without an official BVD status will result in the receiving holding being suspended until the new stock have been found to be free of BVD. During this suspended status the herd will face the same restrictions as a not negative herd and be unable to move animals off the holding other than direct to slaughter

Holstein bull Toystory dies

THE Holstein bull Toystory has died after breaking record sales for a dairy sire of 2.4 million doses.

Bred in Wisconsin, Toystory was progeny tested through Genex Co-operative Resources after joining the stud in 2001. Used widely in the US, the bull was in high demand worldwide. Semen from Toystory was sold in more than 50 countries. He has sired an estimated 500,000 daughters.

Available in the UK through Bullsemen.com, there are now 4,852 of his daughters in British milking herds, based on December 14 proof figures.

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QMS scheme recruitment drive launched

A MAJOR recruitment drive is being launched this month to increase the membership of Quality Meat Scotland's quality assurance schemes.

Currently, more than 90 per cent of Scotland's breeding cattle

population and 80 per cent of the breeding sheep flock are from farms covered by quality assurance, along with almost 100 per cent of significant pig farming businesses.

Jim McLaren, chairman of

QMS, urged livestock farmers and others in the industry to get behind the campaign which highlights the importance of quality assurance to the future of the industry's brands and the profitability of livestock farming in Scotland.

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