



FACTSHEET

Cattle Accreditation Schemes

There has been an effort by the cattle industry to work towards a system where herds can achieve a recognised “health status” that is officially monitored and should allow them to sell animals for a higher price as they are being certified as free from certain diseases. It is hoped that as this becomes more common place it may even lead to the eradication of certain diseases, such as BVD, from the UK.

The regulatory body itself is known as **Cattle Health Certification Standards** (CheCS), and this organisation sets the rules that the all the individual health schemes have to abide by.

The farmer becomes a member of one of the schemes and then has to follow a set of testing protocols to establish the presence or absence of disease within a herd. This testing is normally done from milk or blood samples from each individual cow. The farmer can decide which diseases they want to test and become accredited for.

It is important that all farmers read and fully understand the **rules of CHeCS**, which lay out disease testing protocols, biosecurity and quarantine procedures and the requirement to test any animal suffering an abortion.

We work with several different scheme providers including **Biobest’s Hi Health Herdcare**, and **SRUC’s Premium cattle health scheme**. Joining a health scheme is a good idea because although it represents an increased cost in terms of membership and testing, it should lead to reduced production losses as you control and eradicate these costly diseases from your herd as well as the potential to sell your stock for a premium. Increasingly; those buying cattle are looking to buy accredited animals that they know will be healthier and therefore more productive.

If you would like any further information then please call the surgery so we can discuss your individual set -up.

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