

Feed management

Equipment Contamination

Regularly empty, clean and disinfect feed and water troughs.

Do not use equipment for handling feed for handling slurry as this may cause TB cross contamination. Consider colour coding equipment to make its use clear.

For example, a green shovel for pushing up feed and a red one for clearing slurry.



Picture A



Colour Coding Equipment

Red Tape: High Risk Area e.g. sick pen equipment

Blue Tape: Medium Risk e.g. adult housing

Green Tape: Low Risk Area e.g. equipment with calves



Sourcing

Where possible, avoid sourcing roughage, silage and hay, from other farms.
If it is necessary to purchase roughage, ensure that the source herd is officially TB free (OTF).

The bacteria responsible for causing TB is well adapted to surviving the fermentation process that occurs during silaging, which means silage can spread the infection.

Feed Contamination

Ensure tractor wheels are clean when driving through a feed passage as otherwise feed can be contaminated with manure.

Store feed in badger proof sheds or in secure bins and silos. Clean up any spilt or waste feed as this may attract badgers.

Maize and whole crop silage clamps should be well covered and made badger proof if there is risk of badger access.

Feed contamination can be a significant source of disease spread due to ongoing contact with a large proportion of the herd.
If cattle are fed on the outside of the building, place barriers to prevent contamination and wildlife access (Picture A).

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Protect your herd when grazing



Picture B



Picture C

Supplementary feeding at pasture may attract wildlife, including badgers.

Only use the amount of feed needed for the day and feed in the morning so that there are no leftovers for badgers at night. Raise feed troughs to at least 90cm. Ensure they have sheer sides with no footholds as badgers can climb.

If using mineral licks, these should also be raised above 90cm to prevent badgers accessing them (Picture B).

Do not place water/feed troughs or licks adjacent to structures that badgers can climb to gain access (Picture C).

Do not allow cattle to have access to natural water sources, such as streams or ponds.

Natural water sources may be contaminated with bacteria or viruses that can cause disease in your herd. This is especially true in high TB prevalence areas. Whenever possible, use mains water.



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