

Introducing Cattle onto my Farm

Returning Cattle

Don't forget that cattle returning to the herd, for example from shows or markets, pose a risk to your herd.

The length of time away, the degree of mixing and the biosecurity procedures in place whilst off farm, all affect the magnitude of the risk that they pose when returning to your herd.

It is advisable to clean and disinfect the transport trailer or lorry prior to use, quarantine and privately TB test animals (subject to DAERA approval) on their return.



Bed and Breakfast

Using a contract rearer, or contract rearing for others, also poses a risk to your herd so consider...

Do they have an OTF TB status?

Do they B&B for multiple herds?

Will your cattle have shared airspace with other cattle, direct or indirect contact with other cattle, such as shared housing or grazing pasture after cattle from another herd?

When was their last TB test?
How long have they been TB free?
What is the TB prevalence in the surrounding area?
Perhaps ask if any were subject to lateral check tests (LCTs) in the previous 12 months?

If you are regularly introducing cattle, this poses a serious risk to your herd.
Find out what you can do to protect your herds when purchasing cattle



Phone: 0300 200 7855

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o' Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers



How can I reduce the risk of buying in cattle?

Frequency

Ideally, become a closed herd. If this is not feasible, buy as few animals as possible and segregate new animals from the existing herd until they return a clear TB test.

Avoid sharing bulls or buying high risk animals, for example, **pregnant animals, and older animals.**

Source

Buy from as few sources as possible.

When buying via marts, dealers, or auctions rather than direct from other farms, consider risk mitigating measures before mixing cattle with the rest of the herd, e.g. isolation and private TB test.
Consider sourcing from accredited free herds/closed herds.

TB History

- When was their last TB test? Ideally, within the previous 2 months.
- How long has the herd been officially TB free? Ideally, over 3 years.
- What is the next TB test type due? Ideally, an Annual Herd Test.
- Has the animal been pre-movement tested? Ideally, yes.
- Has the animal attended any shows, sales or events since the last TB test? Ideally no.

Quarantine and Testing

Consider quarantining and asking your vet to conduct a post-movement test. This is at the herd keeper expense and is subject to DAERA approval.
Ensure the quarantine prevents nose-to-nose contact and had a separate air space.

Transport

Ensure transport is cleaned and disinfected prior to use.
Avoid transporting your cattle alongside cattle from another herd.



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